



SOLON Corporation Begins Construction on 460kW Solar Project in Gila Bend, Arizona



Fixed-tilt System by SOLON Expected to Reduce the Town of Gila Bend's Water Treatment Facility's Energy Usage by 86%

Press Release

TUCSON, Ariz.--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--[SOLON Corporation](#), one of the largest providers of turnkey solar power plants and photovoltaic (PV) products in the U.S., today announced it has begun construction on a 460 kilowatt (kW) photovoltaic (PV) system for the Town of Gila Bend's Reverse Osmosis (RO) Water Treatment Facility in Arizona.

"This project further exemplifies Gila Bend's continued leadership in the emerging solar industry. Already a world leader in utility scale solar, Gila Bend continues its innovative policy making by extending its efforts to distributive energy"

SOLON will engineer, design, construct and commission the fixed-tilt system, expected to be completed later this year. As a full-service system provider, SOLON will continue to operate and maintain the system on behalf of the town once it is operational.

The project development and system ownership is being financed through a State of Arizona grant – part of the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) grant awarded to the Town of Gila Bend for drinking water infrastructure improvements. Once completed, the system is expected to provide an 86% energy usage offset to the town's RO Water Treatment Facility, resulting in significant annual electricity cost savings.

"Energy costs associated with operating a water treatment facility can account for a large portion of its total operating budget. These facilities also tend to have surrounding areas of land that are otherwise unusable," said Jared Schoch, Vice President and General Manager,

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Power Plants for SOLON Corporation. "SOLON's proven experience building systems for water and wastewater treatment facilities combined with solar being an extremely efficient use of land is a winning combination and a great way to lower a facility's operating costs."

"This project further exemplifies Gila Bend's continued leadership in the emerging solar industry. Already a world leader in utility scale solar, Gila Bend continues its innovative policy making by extending its efforts to distributive energy," said Fredrick Buss, Town Manager for Gila Bend. "Through highly qualified partners like SOLON, this project will not only enable the town to provide clean, renewable solar energy, it will also enable the town and its customers to save money on electricity costs, thereby significantly reducing the need to adjust water rates. This is a big win for our community."

In October 2011, SOLON completed a 21 MW single-axis tracking system in Gila Bend, Arizona.

National Voter Registration Day

August 2012



September 25th is National Voter Registration Day. There will be a huge nationwide effort to register eligible voters. The Gila Bend Care 1st Resource Center will be participating by providing assistance to residents wanting to register to vote. Let your voice be heard by voting. Register to vote because your vote counts!

For more information, contact the Gila Bend Care 1st Resource Center at 928-683-6502.

Community Calendar

DROWNING IMPACT AWARENESS MONTH "PLEASE, WATCH YOUR KIDS AROUND WATER"

- 08/13 – Left-Hander's Day
- 08/14 – Council Meeting-Work Session/Regular Meeting(5:00pm)
- 08/28 – Council Meeting – Regular Meeting (6:00pm)



National Park Service Passport Stamps

August, 2012



The two stamps made available at the Town's Visitor Information Center through the NPS.

For over 25 years the National Park Service (NPS) has had a National Park Passport Program where visitors get their NPS 'Passports' stamped as a reminder of their visit. According to the National Park Service, "the passport program has an enthusiastic following. "

The Town of Gila Bend's Visitor Information Center now offers visitors two stamps for their NPS passports. One stamp is for the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and the second one is for the trail but includes the Sonoran Desert National Monument. This designates Gila Bend as one of the 'go to' places for those wishing to fill their passport books.

Clerks Corner



The Clerk's office is gearing up for the upcoming election. We will also be assisting with National Voter Registration Day on September 25th.

The AZ League of Cities and Towns will be holding their Annual Conference August 28th through the 31st. Several members of the Gila Bend Town Council will be attending the conference. Some of the programs offered to attendees include: How City and Town Officials Can Impact the Legislative Process, Councils Going Paperless, Open Meeting Law, Smart Growth, Sustainability and Transit: The Future of Our Communities, Ethics for Local Elected Officials, Mexico, Arizona's #1 Trading Partner and an opportunity to participate in the development of the League's Policy Statement.

Gila Bend is featured in this month's AZ League of Cities and Towns Newsletter. (See insert)

Donation to AZ Senior Center Association

July 26, 2012



The tag (l) sewn on the inside of the quilt (r) gives the quilts name, "A Bed of Flowers"

The Gila Bend Senior Citizens donated their hand-crafted quilt to the AZ Senior Center Association (ASCA) to be sold as part of a fundraiser by the Association.

The ASCA advocates for Arizona seniors issues and seniors rights. In a future newsletter, we will let you know how much the quilt was able to raise for the Association.

New Playground Equipment

July 26, 2012



Parks & Rec Director Colby Turner stands in front of some of the new playground equipment.

Thanks to the AZSTA Grant, Gila Bend's children get to play on brand new playground equipment at the Rotary Centennial Park. The large central unit is covered and there are some new interesting additions that the kids will enjoy.

Pack up a snack or some hot dogs to grill, load up the kids and head to the park so they can enjoy the new equipment while you relax in a grassy, shaded area. Enjoy!

What's Happening: CAP, Senior Center and Resource Center

August, 2012

The Senior Center will be expanding the 'clothing room' by moving it to one of the rooms at the Center.

Manpower continues to see job seekers every Thursday at the Resource Center.

For more information on available programs and dates, contact the Resource Center at 928-683-6502. 6502.

August 14th Work Session

The Town Council will hold a work session on August 14, 2012 to discuss street addressing. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. The Work Session will begin at 5:00pm prior to the regular Council meeting.