



◆ 827 North Main ◆ Cottonwood, Arizona ◆ 86326  
Phone: 928-634-5526

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Cottonwood Arizona 6-17-2013—The City of Cottonwood Recreation Center's new Solar Thermal System is now operational. The Grand Opening is scheduled for Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am at the Cottonwood Recreation Center at 150 S 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Cottonwood Arizona, in the employee parking area.

On February 21, 2012, the City Council accepted, through the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) selection process, Emcor Services Arizona as the contractor to engineer and install the solar thermal system, which will significantly reduce utility costs to the center.

The system consists of 96 flat solar panels mounted on the roof of the Recreation Center, as well as circulation pumps, storage tanks and heat exchangers in the Recreation Center's mechanical room. This system provides heat to the indoor pool, the spa and the domestic hot water system which includes the showers and sinks.

It is expected to produce 460,000Kwh of energy annually, the equivalent of \$23,500 worth of natural gas per year. Calculations estimate this system will "break even" in 10 years and once this break-even point is reached, the solar thermal system will provide nearly zero cost energy for the rest of its expected 25-year life cycle. This results in a savings of \$388,000 over the systems lifetime.

Mayor Joens stated, "The City of Cottonwood is committed to conserving resources by reducing, recycling and reusing whenever possible. The solar panels recently installed at the Cottonwood Recreation Center will help save the environment, energy and natural resources, and the solar panels will reduce city costs in the long run."

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