



Recap of Meeting October 20, 2011

HOA Members Represented

Aldea – The Vistas	Cathedral Canyon #17
Candelwood Villas II	Cathedral Canyon #18
Canyon Shores	Date Palm Country Club
Cathedral Canyon #2	Montage at Mission Hills
Legal Counsel: Jennifer James, Attorney at Law – Epstein, Grinnell & Howell	

Speakers Present

Kirk Weiss – Director of Sales-System Design, Solar Distributors, Inc.
Jill Weiss – Renewable Energy Specialist, Solar Distributors, Inc.
Maria Kylis - Community Outreach Coordinator, Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District
Jennifer James – Attorney at Law, Epstein, Grinnell & Howell

Welcome: Al Hallinan, Co-Chair

Treasurer's Report – To be distributed

Guest Speaker – Kirk Weiss – Director of Sales-System Design, Solar Distributors, Inc.

Jill Weiss – Renewable Energy Specialist, Solar Distributors, Inc.

Kirk began with the fact that Solar Distributors, Inc. has installed approximately 8,200 solar energy systems installed in the Coachella Valley, of which approximately 6,000 are thermal systems.

He provided a handout from Solar Distributors, Inc. indicating that they are the valley's premier residential and commercial solar contractor. And another handout briefly explaining the benefits of Solar Photo-Voltaic Electric System, Solar Pool & Spa Systems and Solar Hot water Systems.

He stated that the average 800 SF commercial pool in Cathedral City consumes the following energy:

- 10,000 Kilowatt-hours of electricity per year at a cost of approximately \$1,750
- 15,000 therms per year at a cost of approximately \$12,000

Electric Savings – Replacing the existing pumps with the new variable speed technology offers huge savings:

10,000 kilowatt-hours usage, old pumps
<u>1,000</u> kilowatt-hour usage, new pumps
9,000 kilowatt-hours saved with new pump



\$1,750 annual cost, old pump
\$175 annual cost, new pump
\$1,575 annual savings on an annual basis

Natural Gas Savings – Installing a Solar Pool Heater can save on your natural gas consumption by as much as 60% (uncovered pools) and as much as 90% (covered pools):

15,000 therms of usage, without solar
6,000 therms of usage, after solar
9,000 therms saved

\$12,000 cost of natural gas, without solar
\$4,800 cost of natural gas, after solar
\$7,200 cost savings on an annual basis

Solar Cost & Return on Investment:

System Cost (pump + heater)	\$9,600
1 st year savings	\$7,200
Return in Investment	1.3 years

HOA Expectations

- Solar cannot heat your pools and spas in Dec-Feb, can only assist – it needs natural gas assistance when temperatures drop below 70 degrees.
- Solar generally will raise water temperature about 10 degree F. Note: If pumps run at night during the summer, it will cool the pool.
- Solar can offer up to 60% energy savings annually
- Solar heaters need to be sized properly (800 SF pool needs 800 SF of solar collectors, or 1 SF of collectors per each SF of pool area to be heated)
- Solar heater needs to be located on proper roof areas.
- Solar needs to be maintained.

Extended Service Plan:

- Annual system maintenance, cleaning & conditioning
- No charge for service calls
- No charge for replacement parts
- Cost \$480 per year

In answer to questions Kirk said:

- He only recommends Solar heating systems be installed on roofs of structure (ground mounts are very unsightly). If you do not have a nearby carport roof, consider constructing a shade structure that would accommodate the size of the needed system.



- The Solar heating system may be installed on a nearby condo, but if that resident ever wishes to install solar electric, the HOA will have to provide him with sufficient roof space to install the system.
- The Solar heating systems are installed with sensors that monitor the temperatures and will shut the system down if temperatures get too high.
- The Solar heating systems they install are made of space age materials guaranteed to last much longer than earlier systems.
- The Maintenance service they provide includes cleaning three times per year in October (after reseeding), in February and in June. They check all components and apply an Armoral type conditioner to the collectors.

Other energy savings opportunities for HOAs:

Converting lighting to Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology:

- Incandescent bulbs converted to LED > 90% energy savings
- Compact Fluorescent bulbs converted to LED > 70% energy savings

Solar Photo-Voltaic:

- There is about a 5 year payback on new systems (\$15 – 20K investment)
- They do not attempt to provide all of a homeowner's electrical demand, only the SCE tier 3, 4 & 5 demands.
- SCE has requested a 17.5% rate increase this year to offset increased costs. Also, a 9% rate increase to replace natural gas lines that supply their power generation plants.
- Costs are only getting higher and rebate programs will be ending in the future.

Guest Speaker – Maria Kylis - Community Outreach Coordinator, Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

Maria said the agency was first established in 1928 due to an infestation of eye gnats. They were so bad many schools were closed due to spread of Pink Eye. In 1933 the mission of the agency was expanded to include controlling mosquitoes. In 1995 the mission was again expanded to include full vector control.

There service area is 2,400 square miles. They are the largest such agency in the State.

The utilize Integrated Vector Management:

- Physical Control – actual capture
- Surveillance & Quantitative Control – Setting & monitoring traps to assess degree of infestations
- Biological Control – e. g. planting mosquito fish in decorative ponds and abandoned pools.
- Microbial & Chemical Control – with environmentally safe materials
- Public Outreach – educational presentations



Today their principal targets are:

Mosquitoes

Red Imported Fire Ants

Flies/Eye Gnats

Rodents

Mosquitoes:

- A female will lay 3-400 eggs at a time, about 1,200 in a lifetime.
- Only females bite, males get nutrients from flowers.
- They are attracted by Carbon Dioxide when we exhale
- They inject saliva that contains an anti-coagulant and an anesthetic
- West Nile Virus: mainly between birds & mosquitoes, not very harmful to humans or livestock because we are so big and individual dose is so small we easily develop antibodies.
- Important do locate and dump any standing water weekly – this will not allow life cycle to come full circle. Biggest contributor to standing water is over watering – make sure to adjust watering times by season.
- There is a problem with abandoned pools – their treatment ability has become significantly easier since they were provided a standing court warrant that allows them to enter and treat on discovery.

Red Imported Fire Ants (RIFA)

- There are various sizes in the nest
- They are aggressive in nature; they bite and hang on while stinging repeatedly.
- The CVMVCD will treat at no cost every 3 – 4 months, water needs to be off 12 hours before and 12 hours after each treatment (water destroys the potency of the bait used). They have no system for scheduling follow-up calls, so call Abby at 760.342.8287 to schedule each service.

Flies

- Main sources rotting vegetation and pet droppings.

Rats

- Two species in the Valley – roof rats (most common) & Norwegian rats (bigger, hairier)
- CVMVCD mainly provides education to control
- On request, will provide glue boards (issue only - they do not pick up)
- Rule of 5 – They inspect 5 homes surrounding the caller's home. Caller's home, one each side and two behind.

Maria provided the following brochures from the CVMVCD:

“What You Should Know About Integrated Vector Management”



“What You Should Know About Mosquitoes?”
“What You Should Know About West Nile Virus”
“What You Should Know About Flies and Eye Gnats”
“What You Should Know About Red Imported Fire Ants”
“What You Should Know About Rodents”

Guest Speaker – Jennifer James – Attorney at Law, Epstein, Grinnell & Howell

Jennifer provided a handout copy of her PowerPoint presentation.

Community Forum

Handouts – in addition to those mentioned above:

3 brochures from the State of California, Contractor’s State License Board:

“What Seniors Should Know Before Hiring a Contractor”

“Owner-Builders Beware! Know Your Responsibilities as an Owner-Builder”

“10 Tips – Make Sure Your Contractor Measures Up”

Flyer” 6th Annual Healing Field November 6th – 13th Patriot Park Cathedral City”

www.healingfield.org

Website – <http://hoapresidentscouncil.com> , Click on “Cathedral City”

Next Meeting – Thursday, November 17, 2011 at the Cathedral City – City Hall

Tom Tousignant, Recorder