



**meline engineering** specialists in sustainable energy systems

October 2012

## In the News



On September 27, 2007, Governor Brown signed AB 2339 (Williams) Energy Geothermal Technologies, into law directing the California Energy Commission to lead an evaluation of policies and implementation strategies to promote widespread deployment of geothermal heat pump and geothermal ground loop technologies as a key component of a clean California energy future.

AB 2339 has prompted key discussions including:

- The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) went on record stating geothermal heat pump (GHP) technology qualified as both an energy efficiency technology and a distributed generation technology and the industry would be welcome in the Commission's DG and EE proceedings.
- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) initiated a program on July 1, 2012 to establish borehole Standards replacing the 1999 draft standard that has caused so much confusion. The DWR program is schedule to complete and issue the Standard by June 30, 2013.
- Geothermal heat pumps and geothermal ground loop technologies will be included, for the first time, in the California Energy Commission's (CEC) 2013 Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR).

Newly-formed CaliforniaGeo (officially the California Geothermal Heat Pump Association) sponsored AB 2339, whose passage was made possible by the efforts of a committed group of volunteers led by Phil Henry and Lisa Meline with assistance from California geo heat pump industry leaders Meline Engineering, Gaia Geothermal, Air Connection and All Year along with industry members from around the country and organizations including Environment California, Planning and Conservation League, Sierra Club and Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative.

## Highlighted Project

On Thursday, October 4, 2012, the U.S. Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program honored the National Park Service Intern Center project at their thirty-first annual Federal Energy and Water Management Awards ceremony.

The National Park Service Intern Center at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area was completed in June 2010 and is the first newly-constructed facility in the National Park System to meet the NPS 'net zero'

standard, which is required for all new government buildings beginning in 2020. Meline Engineering provided geothermal HVAC design and construction support for the project.



To eliminate the project's carbon footprint, avoid impacts to climate change, and achieve a high level of energy efficiency, numerous sustainability features were integrated into the \$2.1M design-

build project. Site location, building orientation, roof design, a 36 kW photovoltaic system, no incandescent lamps, a geothermal heat pump system, solar hot water heating, extensive daylighting, natural ventilation, window shading, minimal outdoor lighting, and selected landscape features all minimize the use of energy to strategically move this building towards meeting a significant NPS 'net zero' first.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy's website, the awards "recognize the commitment made by federal agencies to invest in efficiency measures that save taxpayer money and increase U.S. energy security. This year's award winners saved a total of six trillion Btu of energy, nearly two billion gallons of water, and almost \$165 million during fiscal year 2011".

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## **Making a Difference**

Meline Engineering is happy to announce that construction is underway for the rHouse project located in Elk Grove, CA. Meline Engineering donated engineering hours to the cutting edge project undertaken by the Elk Grove Unified School District and the Cosumnes Oaks High School's Architectural Design and Engineering Academy.

According to the projects website the rHouse (which stands for Resource House) "will function as a day-to-day classroom and as an active learning tool for construction techniques of the future. rHOUSE features green construction technologies including photovoltaics, ground-source heating and cooling, a solar-hybrid water heater, and a super-efficient building envelope. "Peel away" construction provides learning opportunities for students."

To learn more about the rHouse please visit the website at <http://blogs.egusd.net/rhouse/>.

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Meline Engineering Corporation  
PO Box 276665  
Sacramento, CA 95827  
(916) 366-3458  
[www.meline.com](http://www.meline.com)