

For immediate release

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Solar Energy Powers Condor Research Station

SunWize® Power Stations with Shell Solar modules provide 1.76 kW to monitor the California Condor

Kingston, New York, March 20, 2003— Shell Solar and SunWize Technologies announce completion of a 1.76-kilowatt solar power system for the US Fish and Wildlife Service at the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge in Southern California. The system uses Shell Solar 110-watt solar modules to operate a variety of loads for the research station located at the preserve.

Situated in the rugged, mountainous terrain of Ventura County, the refuge was set up to maintain the area's unique habitats and to contribute to the recovery of the endangered California condor. It is home to over forty of the rare birds. The Nature Conservancy and the US Fish and Wildlife Service purchased the Hopper cattle ranch in 1974 to protect the nesting and feeding areas for the condors that were released from captivity. The research station, a converted ranch house, provides a base of operation for the personnel who monitor and care for the condors. The ranch house was never connected to utility power lines and had a very small solar electric system for a few reading lights. A small gasoline generator was also on-site to provide a few hours of electricity in the evenings for additional lighting and a television.

SunWize designed and manufactured a prepackaged system to operate the household loads for the four to six researchers stationed at the site. The PV array of Shell Solar modules and balance of system components are mounted on two steel skid-based structures. The system was simple to install and commission with minimal site preparation. The researchers are now able to use lights and computers without operating the generator. A system monitor allows the researchers to check the battery charge and acts as a reminder to turn off any unneeded loads. An 8.5 kW propane generator provides backup power in the event of extended cloudy weather.

SunWize Technologies, a solar technology company, specializes in the design and manufacture of integrated solar power systems, and associated project development and product distribution. The company operates a manufacturing/distribution facility in Kingston, NY and a distribution center in Oxnard, CA.

Shell Solar is one of the world's largest manufacturers and marketers of photovoltaics. The company has extensive experience on the design and installation of solar power systems. Shell Solar is part of Shell Renewables, the business established by Royal Dutch/Shell Group of Companies to develop commercial opportunities in renewable energy. Shell Solar has cutting edge research, development and production facilities throughout the world. Shell Solar employs about 1,100 people and has partners for its products in over 90 countries.

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