

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 12, 2019 | El Dorado County, CA

### **El Dorado Union High School District Partners with ARC Alternative & ENGIE for Solar PV Project**

EL DORADO, CA, March 12, 2019 - **El Dorado Union High School District** (EDUHSD), located 50 miles east of Sacramento, California is partnering with ARC Alternatives and ENGIE to implement a Solar PV Project at its four comprehensive high schools. The installations are part of a program that will save the District money, enhance the learning environment, reduce an environmental impact and help teach science topics to students.

Families, staff, and community members were invited to attend Community Forums at each of the comprehensive high schools on February 27 & 28, 2019 to discuss and answer questions on solar program goals, design approach, individual site discussions (schedule, layouts, tree removal, savings), a STEM Education Program as well as a District-wide Program Summary.

A Community Forum was held at Ponderosa High School on February 27, 2019 where attendees had a chance to have questions answered by ENGIE experts. Topics of interest included a lack of parking at the school as well as safety concerns regarding student drop-off and pick-up.

To address the lack of parking at the site, ENGIE representatives stated that their team will be removing 20 trees for a parking lot expansion that will provide parking canopies as well as shade structures. To address the student safety concern, the team commented that they would be reconfiguring an improved drop-off zone to increase the safety for everyone dropping off students and/or picking them up from school. In addition, approximately 35 additional parking spaces will be added to reduce parking alongside Ponderosa Rd. increasing safety. The first stage of the project entails cutting down the existing trees which will allow for the safe drop-off zone to be possible. Trees will be replanted after this stage of the project is complete. The project is set to be completed in August 2019.

The Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) allows the District to benefit from reduced energy costs through solar generation with ZERO investment for upfront costs, installation and ongoing maintenance over the 25 year life of the program. The Solar PV Project will provide a fixed utility rate for the next 25 years which is lower than is currently in place with PG&E. The 4.78M kWh of energy produced will remove 718 cars from the road annually, enough energy to power 400+ homes for a year, and will offset the electrical consumption of the EDUHSD by 77%. ENGIE expects EDUHSD to generate a net benefit of \$12.87M dollars over the 25 year life of the program.

For more information about site specific facts, visit: [www.eduhsd.k12.ca.us/news](http://www.eduhsd.k12.ca.us/news).