

SERVING THE TURLOCK AREA SINCE 1904

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PITMAN SOFTBALL FALLS VICTIM TO SONORA; SWIMMING NAILS FIRST WIN EVER

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Hundreds march through
San Francisco streets to
protest Iraq war

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Groundbreaking for Walnut Energy Center Tuesday

*TID's power plant will
serve 16 communities*

By Kimberly Horg
TURLOCK JOURNAL

The groundbreaking ceremony for Turlock Irrigation District's largest power-production project ever is scheduled for 2 p.m. Tues-

day. Walnut Energy Center will serve 16 communities in Stanislaus County and a portion of Merced County.

State, local and district officials will be speaking about their knowledge on energy issues and offer their thoughts on important energy subjects that affect consumers in the district. State Senator Jeff Denham (R-Merced) will be the keynote speaker of the ceremony.

Mayor Curt Andre, TID Board President Phil Short and TID assistant general manager of power generation, Randy Baysinger, will each be giving speeches about the power plant.

"Each speaker is from a different area of expertise so they will each offer different aspects concerning the subject," said Tammy Wallenburg, department assistant of communication and government relations for TID.

Walnut Energy Center is scheduled to be operational in late 2005 or early 2006. The plant will have a new electrical switchyard, transmission facilities, a 3.6-mile natural gas service line and a one-mile pipeline from the wastewater treatment plant in Turlock to provide recycled water for the plant's

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GROUNDBREAKING

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operational needs. Recycled water will reduce the amount of treated water.

"It is a zero liquid discharge facility so every bit of water we take will be used," said Steve Boyd, department manager of communication and government relations. "This is better for both parties because the city won't have to find a home for the waste water and we won't have to drill a hole and look for it," Boyd said.

The city of Turlock also partnered with TID in order to save on costs.

"We are very proud to have a partnership with the city. The two agencies will work together for the benefit of the community," Boyd said.

In November of 2002, TID filed an application with the California Energy Commission to certify Walnut Energy Center.

The Calpine Corporation was asked by the district to manage the construction of

the plant. Calpine is an energy development company that is located in San Jose.

The project will employ 277 people at its peak in various trades and it will average 114 employees during the course of construction. After the plant is built, it will provide around 20 full-time jobs for the community.

"We are excited about this plant being constructed. It will create new jobs for the district which is especially important right now because of how bad the job market is," Wallenburg said.

"The city of Turlock is proud to partner with TID. This plant will increase the quality of life in Turlock," said Turlock Mayor Curt Andre.

The ceremony is open to the public. Refreshments will be served, including a large cake with a power plant on it, and keepsake mementos will be handing out to remember this big event for the city of Turlock.

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