

2/23/2017 UCR Solar Conference critique---from Ruth

Overall.... The conference was both informative of leading edge technology and predictive of the future for both distributed and utility scale renewable energy.

Lots of talk about the duck curve and solutions to spreading use and load.

Learned about the innovative new PV panels in the works.

Learned about UCR's research and a pilot project example of a micro-grid installed at the Rancho Cucamonga City's Civic Center.

Learned about various versions of battery storage including salt water batteries.

Heard about the next version of NEM (Net Energy Metering) for residential customers.

Jim Woodruff, Vice President, First Solar

First Solar has installed 175,000,000 PV panels mostly in the desert. *This is the # I believe I heard.*

Pat and I quizzed him at the intermission about lessons learned. He suggested that desert soils are a problem (duh). He thought we'd be interested to know that they'd be turning their attention to Central Valley agriculture lands.

Bottom line for me is that this conference for the second year in a row gives MBCA access to important lines of continuing communication with a broad spectrum of information that we may call on in the future.

Specifically: Alfredo Martinez-Morales told us as we left..."Stay in touch". He mentioned the info that he has from Marina West he may follow-up on.

While Bernadette Del Chiaro, ED of Solar Energy Industries Assn was missing again this year one of her managers, Carter Laven, reached out to me to share that here is an organization monitoring what happens with future and existing residential PV owners.

Notes on 2018 UCR Solar conference shared at MBCA's Directors' meeting 3/2018

Steve Bardwell gave a report on the conference noting this year's topic was focused on integrated approaches like micro-grids with battery storage being the next step. Ruth Rieman added that CCA's are limited by the expertise of the buyer, how power is bought and how power is regulated. Today 27% of CA power comes from solar.