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The Future of Residential Solar Energy in the Bay Area

Avignon – The 1st Zero-Energy New Homes Community in Alameda County

Avignon from Centex Homes is the first all-solar, zero-energy community to be built in Alameda County.

Avignon's solar installation, planned by Consol energy consultants (based in Stockton) and using SunTile® from PowerLight is a state-of-the-art look at the future of solar energy for homes in the Bay Area.

On-Site Story Interviews and Visuals:
Workmen installing SunTiles on Avignon homes.

On-site interviews are available with:
Jeff Jacobs, Director of Community Development, Centex Homes (Bay Area Division) is available to talk about homeowner demands for more energy-efficient homes and the growth of residential solar installations in the Bay Area. His office number: (925) 415-1636; jjacobs@centexhomes.com

Howard Wenger, Executive VP of PowerLight (based Berkeley) is available to talk about this unusual solar technology, efficiency, costs. Offsite contact through - Susan DeVico, PR: (415) 434-8220; susandv@aol.com

Matt Sullivan, Vice Mayor for the City of Pleasanton is available to talk about the growth in "green" building and solar energy in residential homes.

Rob Hammon, Ph.D., ConSol, principal is available to talk about how builders and homeowners can plan for their solar energy needs. Offsite contact – Shery Hoellwarth, Marketing Director, (209) 473-5000; shoellwarth@consol.ws.

DIRECTIONS:
Merge onto I-580 E toward CA-24 / DOWNTOWN OAKLAND / HAYWARD-STOCKTON.
Take the AIRWAY BLVD exit toward COLLIER CANYON RD / CA-84.
Turn RIGHT onto AIRWAY BLVD / CA-84 W.
Turn RIGHT onto KITTY HAWK RD / CA-84 W. Continue to follow CA-84 W.
Turn RIGHT onto VINEYARD AVE.
Turn LEFT onto MACHADO PL.
End at 1201 Machado Pl

About Avignon and SunTiles®
An enclave of distinctive estate-style homes, Avignon features SunTiles from PowerLight that generate electricity for each of the homes, each of which ranges in size from 3,671 to 4,035 square feet with Base Plan Prices from \$1,499s - \$1,684s. SunTiles are remarkable for their ability to generate significant quantities of electricity while blending into almost any roofline and architectural style.

Construction is well underway and SunTiles will be installed on Avignon homes during this renewable energy news event.

Quote
"We are pleased and excited that Centex Homes and PowerLight have chosen the City of Pleasanton to build this Zero Net Energy Home community. Pleasanton has been a leader in Green Building and Community Energy for many years, and we welcome this as another example of how cities and business can work together to improve the environment, stimulate economic growth and provide for the needs of the community."

- Matt Sullivan, Vice Mayor - City of Pleasanton

"We commend Centex's vision in providing solar electric systems as a standard feature on all of their new homes at the Avignon community in Pleasanton. Solar seamlessly powers homes and dramatically reduces a homeowner's electric bills, while producing completely emissions-free energy. High quality, newly built homes provide the absolute best time to install solar. Communities like Pleasanton get a great deal of sunshine. Harvesting that resource on the roofs of these homes contributes to California's movement towards energy independence. It's good for the homebuyer, good for the environment, and good for California. We expect, thanks to California's forward looking renewable energy policies that many will follow Centex's lead and thousands of solar-powered homes will be constructed in California."

- Howard Wenger, Executive Vice President of PowerLight, Berkeley

About Centex Homes

Dallas-based Centex Homes (www.centexhomes.com) is one of the nation's leading home builders, operating in more than 90 U.S. markets in 25 states. Its brands include Centex Homes, entry-level builder Fox & Jacobs Homes, on-your-lot builder Wayne Homes and resort/second home builder Centex Destination Properties. Centex Homes delivered 33,387 homes in the United States in its most recent fiscal year, ended March 31, 2005. The company is a subsidiary of Centex Corporation (NYSE: CTX), a Fortune 250 company. Centex Corporation (www.centex.com), founded in Dallas in 1950, is one of the nation's premier companies in home building, financial services, home services and commercial contracting. Centex ranks No. 1 in its industry on FORTUNE magazine's 2005 list of "America's Most Admired Companies."

About PowerLight

PowerLight Corporation is a leading global provider of grid-connected solar electric power systems. PowerLight's turnkey solutions for commercial, government and residential customers feature a full line of proprietary solar products and technologies designed to optimize energy output and project economics. Recognized by Inc. Magazine for five consecutive years as one of the 500 fastest growing privately held companies, PowerLight designs, builds and operates many of the largest solar electric systems in North America and Europe. For more information about PowerLight and its products and services, please visit www.powerlight.com.

About ConSol

Based in Stockton, ConSol is celebrating 25 years as the leading developer of energy solutions for production builders. Their services include mechanical engineering, energy code compliance, ComfortWise® products, and energy consulting. ConSol's residential construction partners have increased their profitability and quality while reducing their risk through services provided by ConSol.

STORY BACKGROUNDER – Technical Aspects

Reducing energy bills by up to 70% each year and the possibility of a Federal Tax Credit of \$2000 are monetary benefits of purchasing a Zero Energy New Home. Avignon is the first Zero Energy New Home community by Centex Homes in San Ramon.

By first constructing the most energy efficient homes and then adding state-of-the-art renewable resources each home in Avignon will be constructed to be 25% more energy efficient than required by the strict California energy codes; have a 70% energy savings on the annual electric bill; and draw no more than 1kW from the utility during summer peak time (the hottest time of the day). The California Energy Commission, PowerLight, ConSol, and Centex Homes are partnering to commercialize Zero Energy New Homes communities.

The homes at Avignon meet the rigid energy efficient guidelines of the ComfortWise® program with mechanically designed heating and air conditioning systems, Andersen 400 Series HP Low-e spectrally selective glass windows and tightly sealed air ducts. The homes are then independently inspected for quality and performance of the insulation, caulking and sealing, windows, and heating and cooling ductwork. Inspections and tests are performed by ComfortWise home energy raters who are certified and monitored by either CalCerts or the California Home Energy Efficiency Rating System (CHEERS), both certified by the California Energy Commission.

A 3.5-kW DC photovoltaic integrated roofing system from PowerLight™ should provide most of the home's electricity. The homes are hooked up to the local utility grid so homeowners can draw electricity when they need it. Any excess, electricity produced by the system is sold back to the utility for homeowner credit.

Additional energy-saving features at Avignon include:

- R-49 attic insulation with R-30 above garage/cantilever
- R-15 wall insulation
- Two on demand tank-less water heaters with .82 energy factor – produces up to 8.5 gallons of hot water per minute, which saves up to 30% in energy costs per year while giving homeowners endless supply of hot water.
- 3 Ton and 3.5 Ton 14 SEER AC with TXV
- .92 AFUE Furnace

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Centex Homes is pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal opportunity housing throughout the nation. Centex Homes reserves the right to change floorplans, specifications and prices without prior notice. All rights reserved Centex Homes 2005. *Centex Homes received the highest numerical score in San Francisco Bay Area in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2005-2006 New Home Builder Customer Satisfaction Studies (sm). 2006 study based on 60,927 total responses in 34 markets, measuring 16 builders in San Francisco Bay Area (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Solano Counties) and measures opinions of consumers who purchased a new home in 2005. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers surveyed in March-July 2006. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. Website design by [One Eighteen Advertising](#).