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For Immediate Release

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# Nation's First Solar 'SunFlower' to be Unveiled TODAY at SCUSD Campus

*Towering flower-shaped array to serve as 'learning laboratory' for School of Engineering and Science students*

**November 15, 2011 (Sacramento)** -- SMUD and the Sacramento City Unified School District will pull back the curtain today to reveal the future of energy learning—the "SunFlower" at the School of Engineering and Sciences.

The SunFlower is a towering, 400-watt, student-controlled solar array (visualize solar panels configured onto a large steel flower) that serves as an interactive learning laboratory, the first of its kind in the nation, to promote math and science.

Students can manipulate the panels to learn how to harness the sun's energy into electricity to operate or charge electronic devices and equipment. Information is also uploaded to the web, so students can monitor energy production, share it with other students and even teach their parents the value of alternative energy resources.

The SunFlower at the School of Engineering and Sciences is the first installation of the pilot class of similar projects at Sacramento area schools and will serve as a model for other school district partnerships throughout California. An energy curriculum that utilizes the SunFlower and can be shared across all state public schools is also in development.

**WHAT:** Unveiling of SMUD SunFlower at School of Engineering and Sciences  
**WHEN:** 10:30 a.m. today (Tuesday, November 15)  
**WHERE:** School of Engineering and Sciences  
7345 Gloria Drive, Sacramento  
**WHO:** Students, SMUD Board President Renee Taylor, SCUSD Superintendent Jonathan Raymond, School of Engineering and Sciences Principal Belinda Kirk

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