California Polytechnic State University

Sept. 22, 2004
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly Receives State Grant for Campus Conservation Projects

SAN LUIS OBISPO – The California Public Utilities Commission has awarded Cal Poly a $300,000 matching grant to perform energy efficiency retrofit projects on campus.

Cal Poly is one of only six CSU campuses approved for funding in this program, and the university received the second largest award, said Vice President for Administration and Finance Larry Kelley. The campus retrofit projects will save an estimated $190,000 per year in utilities costs, Kelley said.

This grant is part of an innovative $15 million Energy Efficiency Partnership Program between the CSU, UC and California’s investor-owned utilities: Pacific Gas and Electric, San Diego Gas and Electric, Southern California Edison and the Southern California Gas Company.

Cal Poly energy conservation projects funded by the grant include adding energy efficient lighting fixtures and controls, vending machine “energy misers,” variable frequency drives for pumps and fans and HVAC retrofits. Design and planning on the renovations are already under way and work is scheduled to be complete by Dec. 31, 2005, said Cal Poly Facilities Services Director Mark Hunter.

These retrofit projects constitute the first of three phases of the partnership program. Cal Poly also hopes to receive funding for monitoring-based commissioning and training and education, Hunter said.

The university’s Facility Services department is always looking for ways to conserve energy, improve systems and support a more sustainable environment on campus, Hunter stressed. Some examples of projects completed since June 2000 include:

- Facilities Services has completed more than 50 in-house energy conservation projects and HVAC controls upgrades, saving about $100,000 per year in energy costs;
· The campus Electric Shop is continually replacing old light fixtures with energy-efficient fluorescent fixtures and ballasts; and
· In the new Cerro Vista housing complex, the university retrofitted and improved the lighting fixtures and controls for more than 300 fixtures, generating $5,500 per year in energy savings.

For more information about ongoing programs for energy conservation, sustainability and recycling at Cal Poly, visit: http://www.facilities.calpoly.edu/.

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