



CONTACT:
Bobby Brock, President/CEO
Imperial Valley Community Foundation
1440 W. Main St., El Centro, CA 92243
bobby@ivcommunityfoundation.org
Office (760) 336-0055 Fax (760) 336-0066

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***New Imperial Valley nonprofit resource center gets fundraising jump start
with \$5,000 challenge gift from solar developer Tenaska***

EL CENTRO, Calif. (Nov. 20, 2013) – Imperial Valley Community Foundation has received a \$5,000 contribution from solar energy developer Tenaska to help establish a nonprofit resource center at the foundation’s offices at the Rabobank building in El Centro, CA.

Foundation President/CEO Bobby Brock made the announcement Wednesday at Imperial Valley’s inaugural National Philanthropy Day® Luncheon, presented by the Foundation, in Heber, CA with nearly two hundred community leaders in attendance.

The Tenaska gift provides initial funding for the center and was given to the foundation as a “challenge grant” in hopes it would spur additional contributions for the center.

Brock said local nonprofits are in dire need of support services and initially the foundation had planned to open a resource library; however, as a result of the Tenaska contribution and other donations, the foundation will be able to establish a one-stop resource center that will provide local nonprofits with tools and resources to assist with fundraising, grant research and writing, board and staff development, and understanding and complying with Internal Revenue Service regulations to maintain their tax exempt status.

The foundation will also be able to draw upon the expertise of its “professional advisors network” – a group of financial and legal professionals who meet on a quarterly basis to discuss topics related to charitable giving, advanced estate planning, and practice-related case studies – to help develop and deliver fundamental trainings and seminars.

“Our local nonprofits provide valuable resources and services to improve the quality of life in the Imperial Valley,” said Brock. “This grant by Tenaska will help the foundation build and leverage charitable assets that support our local nonprofits, increasing their sustainability and allowing each of them to devote more attention and energy on their important and respective mission-related activities.”

The foundation is dedicating a portion of its recently expanded office for the center. The foundation is currently planning to enlarge its board room to create a community meeting space which will be able to accommodate groups of up to 30-35 people. This room can be used for meetings, trainings, and collaborative efforts organized by local civic and community groups.

The foundation is aiming to open the center and begin delivering services in early 2014.

“We appreciate the welcome and support we have received since arriving in the Imperial Valley in 2010 to begin developing Tenaska Imperial Solar Energy Center South,” said Bob Ramaekers, Tenaska vice president of development. “Now, with the project in operation, we want to give back to the community by supporting the mission of the Imperial Valley Community Foundation and other nonprofits that serve the people and businesses of the Valley.”

Tenaska Imperial South, a 130-megawatt solar photovoltaic electric generating plant, began commercial operation Nov. 1 under a 25-year power purchase agreement with San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E).

The Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation (IVEDC) named Tenaska Imperial South 2013 Project of the Year for its work in maximizing benefits to the Imperial Valley workers and communities. Tenaska Solar Ventures (TSV), the solar development affiliate of Tenaska and developer of Tenaska Imperial South worked with IVEDC to establish a program to identify and hire qualified local vendors for solar projects in the Imperial Valley. Tenaska Imperial South awarded at least \$20 million in contracts to a number of local companies during construction. Of the more than 500 construction workers hired to build the solar field, approximately 70 percent were from Imperial County. The company also paid more than \$3 million in local sales tax by declaring Imperial County the point of sale for construction-related goods and services.

Construction is expected to begin in early 2014 on a second solar project that TSV has developed near El Centro. Additional projects are in development in the Valley.

“Tenaska is helping to turn a dream into reality,” Brock said. “Thank you for your support of the Imperial Valley Community Foundation and our work to champion effective philanthropy, make charitable giving easier, and to strengthen our nonprofit partners in Imperial Valley.”

About Imperial Valley Community Foundation

The Imperial Valley Community Foundation is Imperial Valley's leading philanthropic organization and facilitator of charitable giving and community needs. The organization encourages, supports and facilitates meaningful dialogue on issues affecting each of our Imperial Valley communities, and works with philanthropists to develop creative solutions to meet critical community needs.

Since its inception, the Imperial Valley Community Foundation has helped public-spirited citizens find ways to address community problems. We now manage nearly thirty charitable funds. Through them, our donors support numerous organizations and serve a variety of extraordinary causes. Our donors and funds all share a common purpose: to make Imperial Valley a better place to live, work and play. For more information, visit www.ivcommunityfoundation.org.