

Morrison helps secure record funding for California solar project



Morrison & Company Consultant Stacy Kennedy (center), Jane Roberti (left), and Dave Roberti, celebrating the installation of the Roberti's 500 kilowatt solar project.

Dave Roberti and his family run a cattle operation in Loyalton, California, and were looking for a way to decrease the cost of powering their nine 100-horsepower irrigation pumps.

For Roberti Ranch, solar energy seemed a viable option and Dave came to Morrison & Company seeking help with a Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) loan guarantee and grant, in hopes of receiving financial assistance for the 500 kilowatt project.

REAP is a USDA program that offers grants and loan guarantees to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to help offset the cost of alternative energy and energy efficiency projects. The program is extremely competitive and requires an independent feasibility study to accompany grant and loan guarantee applications. Along with grant writing services, Morrison & Company's staff includes several highly-experienced CPAs, allowing us to complete complex feasibility assessments in-house.



The Roberti Ranch 500 kilowatt solar project in Sierra County, California.

Our experience with REAP grant applications (and 100% award success rate with the program) ultimately benefitted Roberti Ranch and in late summer 2011, we learned that the Roberti's application was successful. Roberti Ranch secured the largest REAP grant award in California at \$204,000 and the largest REAP loan guarantee in the nation at \$1.4 million.

In October, Morrison & Company staff traveled to Loyalton to celebrate the ribbon cutting for the solar project, the first in the Plumas Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative District. Sharing in the festivities allowed us to see the tangible result of hours of research, analysis, number crunching, and writing. We were honored to have a part in helping secure the financial and environmental sustainability of Roberti Ranch.

The Rural Energy for America Program is just one of many energy and agribusiness programs Morrison & Company specializes in. To learn more about our grants practice, visit www.morrisonco.net/Grants.htm or our grants website at www.morrisongrants.com.