



TEXAS MUNICIPAL LAW BULLETIN

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Webberville Solar Project

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On Friday, January 6th, Alan and Jill attended the Grand Opening Ceremony for the Webberville Solar Project. The facility features 127,728 ground-mounted panels with a 30 megawatt capacity, and produces enough electricity to power 5,000 average-size homes annually. Austin Energy will purchase all power produced from the site for 25 years.

The firm guided the Village of Webberville through Economic Development negotiations with FRV AE Solar, L.L.C. (now SunEdison Utility Solutions, L.L.C.), which resulted in the execution of an agreement under Texas Local Government Code Chapter 380. The development is a 380-acre solar farm partially located in the Village's City Limits, in Travis County, Texas. The deal includes payments from the Village to the developer in an amount equal to a portion of the Ad Valorem Tax paid on the property. It also provides for: (a) the facility to bear the Village's name, (b) a safer entrance to the development, and (c) solar panels to power Village Hall. Most importantly, the deal resulted in a land use that is beneficial to the community, preserves the area's natural resources, and promotes renewable energy. Previously, the site had been slated for a coal-burning power plant, regional landfill, gravel mine, and sewer sludge land application site.



A view of the project from 125' up.



Webberville Mayor Hector Gonzales was joined in the ceremony by (L-R) Austin Energy GM Larry Weis, Austin Mayor Lee Leffingwell, and Austin Councilman Chris Riley.



Jill and Alan with the ceremonial throwing of the switch.