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Sheep, emus to make local OCI Solar Power field their temporary home

SAN ANTONIO, TX (April 1, 2019) – More than 200 sheep along with two emus will be on the move Tuesday morning, heading for OCI Solar Power’s Alamo 2 solar farm at 8203 Binz-Engleman Road.

“It sounds a little strange, funny even, but we are once again going to put sheep to work for us as part of our landscaping plan,” said Robby Barriga, Supervisor of Operations & Asset Management for OCI Solar Power. “Having them graze in our solar field is an extremely effective and affordable way to control vegetation.”

OCI Solar Power has employed sheep before, first in 2014 and again in 2016. This time around, adult and baby Katahdin sheep, also known as “hair sheep,” will be used to graze on the 45-acre field for two weeks. They will move to another site then return every 30 days.

“This is the perfect combination. Alamo 2 provides the perfect environment for these low-maintenance sheep,” said Ely Valdez, owner of EVA Ranch which is providing the sheep. “They will have food, shelter, shade, and water; the size of the field is just right; and the native grass is exactly what they like to eat.”

A fence around the solar farm will help contain the sheep, and to help protect them, EVA Ranch is also going to drop off two emus. Although unusual, emus are considered guard animals because they can grow up to 6-feet tall, run up to 31 miles per hour, and kick with their three-toed feet if threatened.

All the field animals will arrive aboard three trucks and trailers on Tuesday, April 2, 2019, and the media is invited to shoot video and/or take photos beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Alamo 2, which includes nearly 18,000 solar modules, began operating in March 2014. It produces 5.38 MWdc and services more than 1,000 CPS Energy customers.

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***OCI Solar Power** is a leader in the solar power industry. Headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, OCI Solar Power develops, constructs, finances, owns, and operates solar photovoltaic (PV) facilities, specializing in utility-scale and distributed generation solar projects throughout the U.S. OCI Solar Power was the first company to bring utility-scale solar project to Texas and we are the largest developer in the state to date, having completed 650 MWdc.*