

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **Duran & Venables Races like the wind to Grade Roads for Shiloh Windmill Project**

Milpitas, Calif.—As 2005 comes to a close, miles of two-story windmills on remote farmland in Bird's Landing generate 150 megawatts (MW) of energy—a scarce resource in dire need in California. Over the last couple of months, multiple contractors have worked on what is called the Shiloh Windmill Project for PPM Energy to meet an unprecedented deadline to take advantage of a federal Production Tax Credit. The company driving the critical path to success is Duran & Venables—any slip on its part risks slowing down the entire project.

Working as a subcontractor, Duran & Venables began grading the roads for the prime contractor M.A. Mortenson. The site's location required 25 miles of access-road construction to allow other subcontractors to drive in on heavy equipment, including big crawlers, cranes and other equipment, to assemble and erect the turbines.

As the work began last August, the goal was clear—work quickly, efficiently and effectively to stay ahead of the other contractors coming in from behind. Duran & Venables' six different crews worked at breakneck speeds to stay ahead of the other contractors. Through effective communication, efficient project management, and precise coordination, the Duran & Venables team established a tightly managed job site.

"We worked hard to get the key people in the field to do the work," said Matt Bowen, superintendent. "We had to hire some folks, but for the most part we shifted some people around; however, the presence of the right people really helped speed up the process."

From sunrise to sunset, crews rotated shifts to systematically grade the roads section by section (the job was broken into sections to identify where a team might be working). Each day, the right materials and equipment—from bulldozers and motor graders to scrapers and excavators—arrived on site to ensure each person, from foremen to laborers, could get right to work.

After all of the grading and paving work ended in late October, other subcontractors remained on site to finish assembling and erecting the windmill

towers. After the project is finished, the roads will remain for maintenance purposes to provide access to the windmills; however, the shoulders will be deconstructed back to farmland to help preserve the environment.

**About Duran & Venables, Inc.**

Duran & Venables is a leading provider of grading and paving construction services in Northern California. For more than 25 years, Duran & Venables has been providing quality service and products to its customers, while offering an excellent working environment for its employees. Winning the California Prospector Award for Excellence and the Engineering and Utilities Contractors Association's Excellence in Safety Award two years in a row reflects its long-term commitment and dedication to its customers, employees and community.

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