

** A Message From the CEO **

Pine Tree Whoosh Is a Very Big Deal

by **John Hawkins**
President and CEO, The Club

I wish everyone could see – and especially *hear* – what I experienced in Jawbone Canyon 14 miles off Highway 14 in April. I experienced the future.

I thought I was prepared for it, but it was way beyond that. It was awesome. It was our City's -- it is, and will be, ours.

It's the Pine Tree Wind Project.

I'm no stranger to sophisticated energy technology. Like most every Club Member, I grew up on energy created by fossil fuels. But then, in my early 20s, I served for the U.S. Navy on a nuclear submarine. I went along for the ride for months at a time living right next to that incredible power source. But that wasn't green.

In the last few years, I built my own photovoltaic power mini-system in my backyard, using the sun to juice a few bulbs in my family's house. It's fun to learn how to be self-sufficient and energy-independent, even in a beginner's way.

But Pine Tree is different. It's green, it's huge, and it's serious. A big investment? Sure. But the fuel – the wind – is free, and it doesn't pollute a thing. And there's no way to measure how much the City is going to learn by generating green power on this large a scale.



Richard Whites, John Hawkins and Louis Ting look at a turbine high above them.

By the time you read this, the DWP will be ready to open Pine Tree in all its glory. We got an exclusive sneak preview, lead by **Louis Ting** and **Richard Whites** and arranged by **Carol Tucker**. I hope you get a chance to see it close up, because there simply is no way to describe it. Even with the great *Alive!* photography in this issue, we still quite can't capture it in its glory.

And even more than the visuals, the thing that's impossible to capture is the sound of those enormous turbines and blades. When I first stood underneath a tower, the blades cutting through the stiff breeze made this deep *whoosh* that stopped me in my tracks. Powerful and physical – I could feel it on my chest – that sound told me instantly what a smart decision this is, for the City to move forward in such a positive and spectacular way. A big shoutout to all involved: Pine Tree is a very big deal.

Well, let's see what else is going on in May. Congratulations to **Mike Fong** of the City Council Office for being named the next president of the Los Angeles City Employees Asian American Association ... I want to thank **Luis Aguilar** for sending us the materials of the Convention Center's Earth Day celebration. Luis is one great Club Member, always keeping us up on all the news at the Convention Center ... Now that it's spring, there are lots of car shows, golf tournaments, walk-a-thons, picnics and so forth being scheduled. Get out there and have some fun.

Speaking of which, have you checked out the latest *Alive!* fun activity, "**Find Your Number?**" You can win a nice prize if you find your Club Member number printed somewhere in each issue. Start looking!

And finally, it's Mother's Day. Where would be without our mothers? I've included my message with the others in this issue (it's become a great *Alive!* tradition). But let me also wish a very happy Mother's Day to my wife, Kelley, an amazing mom. Between Pine Tree and Mother's Day, I am humbled!

See you next month!

JOHN

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