

## CLARUM OPENS CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST ZERO ENERGY HOME COMMUNITY

### Enviro-Home™ at Vista Montaña is Designed to Reduce Homeowner Energy Bills by up to 90%

PALO ALTO, CA — August 28, 2003 — Clarum Homes announced today that it is opening California's largest Zero Energy Home community. Every home in the builder's Vista Montaña community in Wastonville, CA is an Enviro-Home,™ Clarum's state-of-the-art energy-efficient and environmentally friendly home. The Enviro-Home™ is designed to reduce homeowner energy bills by up to 90%.

Clarum Homes has partnered with several program partners in the development of the Enviro-Home™, including AstroPower, Inc. of Newark, DE, with its SunLine™ solar electric home power systems, Rinnai Corporation, with its Continuum tankless water heating system, and ConSol of Stockton, CA, through its ComfortWise™ energy-efficiency program.

Featuring the Zero Energy Home designation from the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), each Enviro-Home™ has been professionally designed, certified, and inspected to reduce energy consumption and use sustainable resources while improving comfort.

Each Enviro-Home™ in the Vista Montaña community features an AstroPower solar electric home power system, a Rinnai tankless on-demand water heater, and a high-efficiency furnace as standard features. The homes also feature a foam-wrapped building envelope, increased insulation, radiant roof barrier, advanced HVAC technology, tightly sealed ducts, and low-E energy-efficient windows. Ceiling fans, fluorescent light bulbs, water conserving plumbing fixtures, and water conserving landscaping are also incorporated, providing homeowners further utility savings.

The Enviro-Home™ features that are included as standard equipment will provide more than \$20,000 of added value to homebuyers at no cost, says John Suppes, Vice President of Clarum. The Zero Energy Home is no longer a concept. It is a reality today thanks to the collaboration of several partners. With a combined goal of bringing the value of solar electric power, green-building products, and energy efficiency to homeowners, Clarum, AstroPower, and ConSol designed and built a home that will serve as a benchmark within the community and within the industry.

AstroPower's solar electric power system enables homeowners to generate their own electricity, reduce their utility bills, and protect the environment. The systems range in size from 1.2 to 2.4 kilowatts, and are available for upgrade should homeowners wish to generate even more electricity.

In addition to its energy-efficient features, the Enviro-Home™ incorporates sustainable building materials, such as engineered lumber, recycled decking material, fiberglass doors, and offers recycled content carpet, bamboo flooring, cork flooring, environmentally friendly paint as optional items.

The Enviro-Home™ has earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR® seal, ConSol's ComfortWise™ designation, and the California Building Industry Institute's California Green Builder certification. These are all in addition to the Zero Energy Home designation from NREL.

(more)

Vista Montaña is located in Watsonville at East Lake Avenue and Bridge Street. When completed, the community will consist of 177 single-family homes, 80 townhomes, 132 apartments, a 14-acre City park and the Ann Soldo Elementary School. Prices range from \$379,000-\$499,000. Homebuyers who are interested in learning more about the Vista Montaña community should call the Sales Center at 831-763-9484. The Sales Center and decorated model homes are open Thursday - Monday from 11am-5pm.

#### About Clarum Homes

Headquartered in Palo Alto, California, Clarum Homes is a family-owned company devoted to building quality and innovative communities. Clarum constantly seeks the newest and the best building materials and products to accommodate homebuyers changing tastes and desires and is always in touch with customers in an effort to further enhance its homes and services. Clarum Homes was the first builder in Northern California to provide solar electric systems as standard equipment in their homes and they are now taking the concepts of green building to a new level with the introduction of zero energy and environmentally friendly features as standard equipment in all the homes they build. For more information, please visit [www.clarum.com](http://www.clarum.com).

#### About ConSol

ConSol, energy consultants, has been working for builders since 1981 providing a full range of services to improve quality control of energy-related features in new homes. ConSol created ComfortWise<sup>SM</sup> from its experiences developing successful resource-management programs and training more than 200 builder companies on quality construction. ConSol is heavily involved in the building industry at the local, state and national levels and won the Energy Star Homes Ally of the Year award in 1997. ConSol is committed to assisting the builder in cost-effectively achieving the highest level of quality. For more information, please visit [www.ComfortWise.com](http://www.ComfortWise.com).

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