



City of
OAKLAND
California

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News from: Oakland Public Works Agency

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PG&E and City of Oakland Begin Energy-Efficient LED Streetlight Upgrade

New Lights Will Improve Public Safety and Reduce Energy Costs

Oakland, CA – Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is working with the City of Oakland to upgrade 241 City-owned streetlight fixtures in four areas of East Oakland: major thoroughfares at Seminary Avenue and International Boulevard, International Boulevard near 98th Avenue, MacArthur Boulevard near 73rd Avenue, and International Boulevard near 73rd Avenue. The areas were selected based on public safety considerations and community input. The older, high-pressure sodium (HPS) streetlights will be changed out with new, energy-efficient, light-emitting diode (LED) streetlights. The new streetlights will provide brighter, more natural light to help improve public safety and lower the City's energy costs.

“Good lighting is an important element of an environment that enhances safety and is a fundamental concept in crime prevention; PG&E's supportive role in these lighting improvements highlights a second fundamental concept – community involvement,” stated Chief Howard A. Jordan.

Last September at the City Council's Public Safety Committee meeting, Councilmember Desley Brooks and a group of concerned community members asked the Council to support two initiatives to help address public safety in their neighborhoods: reactivate Shot Spotter and increase lighting in crime hotspots. Thanks to their efforts, the group was successful in getting full Council approval of both initiatives.

“Oakland doesn't always have the resources to fully fund all the great ideas we have percolating throughout our City,” Mayor Quan said. “What I find exciting about this pilot project is its potential to maximize the good our dollars can do, by tackling three goals at once: improving public safety and comfort by giving residents and business owners brighter streets on which to live and work; saving us money by reducing energy costs; and furthering our national reputation as a green city by reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.” Mayor Quan added, “Depending on the results we see and the community feedback we get, we will also be considering expanding the program, and could upgrade as many as 30,000 streetlights in the future.”

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As a result of this project, the City will save \$19,367 in annual energy costs and remove the equivalent of 79,768 pounds of greenhouse gases from the environment per year. The City will also receive more than \$34,000 in PG&E incentives. In addition, LED lights help make streets safer with higher quality light and offer a significantly longer lifespan.

“Some of the community members who worked on these initiatives had never been inside City Hall and had never participated in any City Council process. It was great seeing how empowered they felt by the process,” said Councilmember Brooks. “They identified the problem, found a solution and worked it through the legislative process. Thanks to these residents, we will now see improved lighting across the City, be energy efficient and save money,” continued Brooks.

“PG&E is proud to work with the City of Oakland to upgrade existing street light fixtures with energy-efficient lighting,” said Steve Malnight, vice president of customer energy solutions for PG&E. “We will continue to collaborate with the City to provide Oakland residents with energy efficiency solutions that help save money, improve public safety and reduce the City’s carbon footprint.”

PG&E will work with Oakland-based Summerhill Electric to upgrade the fixtures through the end of 2012. Following an extensive competitive bidding process, PG&E selected Summerhill Electric because they are a Very Small Local Business Enterprise (VSLBE) that put forth the most cost-effective proposal. The project is expected to provide work for six qualified and certified Summerhill Electric employees, including four journeyman electricians and two apprentices.

Since late 2009, more than 65 Northern and Central California cities have enjoyed the benefits of PG&E’s LED Street Light Turnkey Replacement Service. It provides a one-stop solution for local communities that want to take advantage of PG&E’s LED Street Light program to save energy, while minimizing the public cost of managing and implementing lighting retrofit projects. By participating in the program, customers are eligible for new, lower energy pricing and utility-provided energy efficiency incentives.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation (NYSE:PCG), is one of the largest combined natural gas and electric utilities in the United States. Based in San Francisco, with 20,000 employees, the company delivers some of the nation’s cleanest energy to 15 million people in Northern and Central California. For more information, visit www.pge.com/about/newsroom.

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