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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MUNICIPAL UTILITIES COMMIT \$489 MILLION TO PUBLIC BENEFIT PROGRAMS

PASADENA, CA — Nearly half a billion dollars in five years have been committed to benefit the residents and businesses of eleven Southern California cities and one irrigation district, according to the Southern California Public Power Authority (SCPPA) in a report issued today.

State law requires California electric utilities to commit a portion of their revenue to Public Benefit Programs, which focus on the four areas of: energy efficiency; renewable energy; research, development and demonstration; and low-income customer assistance.

The municipal utilities of Anaheim, Azusa, Banning, Burbank, Cerritos, Colton, Glendale, Los Angeles, Pasadena, Riverside, and Vernon and the Imperial Irrigation District are all members of SCPPA. Unlike the large investor-owned utilities that are regulated by state agencies, the SCPPA utilities are locally controlled by their respective city councils or governing boards and have a tradition of low electric rates and tailoring service to match customer preferences. Their aggregate amounts total \$489 million since January, 1998.

The Public Benefit Programs are another example of how consumer-owned utilities deliver what customers want and need. Each SCPPA member customizes its Public Benefit Programs to serve its customers and help them make efficient use of the electricity provided by the utility.

Additionally, utility policy makers allocate the available funds among the four authorized Public Benefit categories, based on the needs of each community. For example, an all-industrial city, such as the City of Vernon, does not have a demand for

low-income assistance, but its commercial customers do have a need for energy efficiency to reduce energy costs and remain competitive in their respective industries.

Utility customers benefit from rebates and incentives for energy efficiency measures such as high-efficiency lighting, appliances, air conditioners, and motors; tree planting for shading purposes; energy management systems to passively turn off lighting and air conditioning when not in use; and LED traffic signals.

In addition to monetary incentives, member utilities conduct education and communication programs designed to educate customers about reducing energy consumption and bills without sacrificing utility or comfort.

A long-term benefit of the utility-sponsored programs is that once the new products are accepted by the public and are readily provided by vendors, the new products become the norm and are incorporated into state and local building codes. For example, the LED traffic signals provide superior light while using less energy, and they were adopted into the Title 24 energy-efficiency standards.

In the renewable energy category, SCPPA member utilities have installed 3.8 megawatts of solar-electric panels throughout their service territories. Photovoltaic panels have been installed at many locations, including residential and commercial rooftops, to reduce the net load consumed at the site, generate electricity for adjacent buildings and as carports to provide shade for parked cars. In addition to the local solar installations, SCPPA members have expanded the use of bulk power renewable resources including wind, geothermal, small hydro, landfill gas and sewage digester gas.

Prior to the statutory requirement to provide customers with Public Benefit Programs, SCPPA member utilities traditionally assisted their customers with the wise use of electricity and were well-organized to implement additional peak reduction measures during the state power crisis of 2000 and 2001. Energy efficiency and demand-reduction efforts reduced loads up to 20 percent and allowed the state to minimize mandatory blackouts due to supply shortages.

The SCPPA Public Benefit Program report is available on SCPPA's Web site at www.scppa.org. The report includes a comprehensive program list for each utility as well as a discussion of overall goals and objectives for their respective programs.