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improve the quality of life for all San Diegans*

NEWS RELEASE

Groundbreaking Recycling Project to Begin in San Diego

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Councilmember Kevin Faulconer and Mayor Jerry Sanders announced today a groundbreaking environmental project that will use existing SDG&E fuel lines to transport excess methane gas from the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. The gas will be recycled and used as renewable electricity.

"This is a significant win for the environment, Point Loma and the city," Faulconer said. "It wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and collaboration of several Point Loma residents."

The Mayor said: "This is an example of what we can accomplish when everybody works together. We've come up with a solution that benefits everybody – the city, the residents of Point Loma, SDG&E and BioFuels. I'd particularly like to thank Council President Pro Tem Faulconer for his diligent efforts on this issue."

On Dec. 8, the San Diego City Council voted unanimously to amend a contract between the City and BioFuels Energy LLC that calls for recycling methane gas from the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. The contract has been in place for a while. What changed is how the gas will be transferred once this project begins in 2011.

The original plan called for using trucks to haul compressed natural gas – 85 percent methane and 15 percent carbon dioxide – from the treatment plant to two local sites where it would be used to supply ultra-clean fuel cells. Numerous residents expressed concern about the safety of the trucks.

Faulconer worked with Point Loma residents to develop a better plan, which took effect with last week's council action. Under the new plan, trucks will not be used.

Citizens for a Green and Safe Point Loma released the following statement: "Point Loma residents are very pleased with the revised outcome for the handling & distribution of excess methane gas from the Point Loma Wastewater facility. Utilizing the existing SDG&E pipeline to transport the gas instead of trucking through our residential neighborhoods is a practical, green and safe solution. We are grateful for all the community support. This new solution gives us hope and reaffirms the notion that we can make a difference in our community when residents become involved along with our elected officials. Thanks to all who took the time to get involved, and a special thank you to Kevin Faulconer for his leadership, courage and dedication to finding a win-win solution for our community."

This first-of-its-kind project is expected to eliminate the release of 1.1 million cubic feet of global warming gases each day and generate a small amount of revenue for the City.