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MAYOR JERRY SANDERS FACT SHEET

SOLAR-BATTERY SYSTEM TO PROVIDE INDEPENDENT POWER SOURCE FOR FIRE, POLICE DURING EMERGENCY

Mayor Sanders today launched an innovative energy system using solar panels and batteries to power a city building independent of the electrical grid.

If the grid goes down during an emergency such as wildfires, the Scripps Ranch Community Recreation Center can supply its own electricity and serve as an “islanded” command center for fire and police.

The pilot system consists of a 30-kilowatt solar array with a 100-kilowatt lithium-ion battery energy storage bank. When electricity is lost to the building, the advanced system automatically switches to the batteries, which are kept charged by the solar panels.

The solar-battery system has reduced the recreation center’s energy bill to near zero from \$2,000 monthly using clean, renewable energy provided by the solar panels.

The \$545,000 project is funded by a \$345,000 grant from the California Public Utilities Commission and \$200,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy.

The U.S. Department of Energy has highlighted this pilot project as a “top priority” for its ability to be replicated nationwide, and the DOE has provided valuable technical assistance as well as funding.

“The solar-battery project will be the first in Southern California, and one of the nation’s first, to integrate solar with an innovative battery backup system of this size and scale,” said Mayor Jerry Sanders. “We anticipate this project will serve as a learning platform for the rest of the nation.”

A partnership consisting of the city, the California Center for Sustainable energy and SDG&E will test the system for the U.S. DOE and the state Public Utilities Commission for anticipated nationwide adaptation.

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