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March 3, 2003

PUC 110  
(R.01-08-027)

**ADVICE LETTER 1476-E**  
(U902-E)

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**SUBJECT: LOW INCOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY FUNDING FOR ASSISTANCE WITH COOL ZONE CENTERS**

**PURPOSE**

San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) requests the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) approve the use of low income energy efficiency (LIEE) public goods charge funds to assist with funding the 2003 Cool Zones in SDG&E's service territory as described in the attached proposal from the County of San Diego (County).

**BACKGROUND**

Over the past two years, the County has established a network of Cool Zone sites in San Diego's service territory where customers (especially low income, elderly and disabled citizens) can obtain relief from summer heat, particularly in areas where the summer temperatures can be extreme, with support from SDG&E and authorized funding from the Commission. While the 2002 Cool Zone program was in effect, the County expanded the number of Cool Zone sites to 169 locations and provided over 500 fans to seniors and disabled citizens.

As they did in PY2002, the County has submitted a proposal to SDG&E requesting funds to support the 2003 Cool Zone Program and the Summer Breeze/Fan Drive. Requested funds are to cover the following activities:

- Continue to provide community outreach, education, and public awareness of the Cool Zone sites, as well as provide information on energy assistance programs and essential information on avoiding heat-related illnesses.
- Provide transportation to Cool Zone sites for low income and elderly customers who do not have a means of transit.
- Purchasing fans to distribute to low income, homebound seniors and persons with disabilities.
- Expanding the hours of operation at selected Cool Zone sites

SDG&E would like to continue support of the County's efforts to assist the low income and elderly customers and would like to provide the funding requested for 2003. Last year, SDG&E was authorized by the Commission to provide funds to the County for the Cool Zone sites from the one time appropriation of LIEE funding granted by Senate Bill (SB) X1 5. Since the SB X1 5 LIEE funding was exhausted in 2002, SDG&E is requesting Commission approval to fund the County's proposal described in Attachment A from SDG&E's 2003 LIEE budget for electric measures. Approving this advice letter will assist low income and elderly customers to better cope with summer temperatures and to save energy through reduced air conditioning use.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

In accordance with Section V.A. of General Order 96-A, SDG&E respectfully requests that this filing become effective on April 12, 2003, which is 40 calendar days after the date filed.

**PROTEST**

Anyone may protest this Advice Letter to the California Public Utilities Commission. The protest must state the grounds upon which it is based, including such items as financial and service impact, and should be submitted expeditiously. The protest must be made in writing and must be received within 20 days of the date this Advice Letter was filed with the Commission. There is no restriction on who may file a protest. The address for mailing or delivering a protest to the Commission is:

Energy Division - IMC Branch  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 4002  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Copies of the protest should also be sent via e-mail to the attention of both Jerry Royer (jrr@cpuc.ca.gov) and to Honesto Gatchalian (jnj@cpuc.ca.gov) of the Energy Division. A copy of the protest should also be sent via both e-mail and facsimile to the address shown below on the same date it is mailed or delivered to the Commission.

Attn: James Frank  
Regulatory Tariff Manager  
8330 Century Park Court, Room 32C  
San Diego, CA 92123-1548  
Facsimile No. (858) 654-1788  
E-mail: jfrank@semprautilities.com

**NOTICE**

In accordance with Section III-G of General Order 96-A, a copy of this filing has been served on the utilities and interested parties shown on the attached list, including interested parties in the Low Income Assistance Program Rulemaking 01-08-027, by either providing them a copy electronically or by mailing them a copy hereof properly stamped and addressed.

Address changes should be directed to Susanne Schmelter by facsimile at (858) 654-1788 or by e-mail to [sschmelter@semprautilities.com](mailto:sschmelter@semprautilities.com).

(cc list enclosed)

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J. STEVE RAHON  
Director – Tariffs & Regulatory Accounts

# **PROPOSAL FOR SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC**

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
AGING & INDEPENDENCE SERVICES  
9335 HAZARD WAY  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92123  
(858) 495-5885**

# PROPOSAL FOR SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC

## Introduction

San Diego County has established a network of Cool Zone sites to provide a location for older adults and persons with disabilities to escape extreme summer heat. The Cool Zone project has successfully completed two years of operation. Cool Zone sites are designated, air-conditioned public buildings, identified by a Cool Zone logo, that welcome senior citizens and persons with disabilities, who otherwise may be at risk for exposure to excessive heat, and heat related illnesses. There are currently 169 designated locations that provide service to all geographic regions in San Diego County. The County has worked with SDG&E to provide over five hundred (500) fans to low-income, homebound seniors and disabled persons. We plan to serve a similar number in Cool Zone Season 2003.

The purpose of the Cool Zones is:

- To provide a respite from the summer heat to those elderly persons who do not have air-conditioning or any other means to maintain a cool, livable temperature in their dwelling place.
- To decrease peak electricity usage by providing designated spaces where energy consumption can be optimized, averting the need for individuals to utilize the cooling systems in their home.
- To provide a means for elderly persons to decrease their energy costs by utilizing public places for a means to maintain a livable temperature, enabling them to minimize use of energy in their dwelling places.
- To ensure that elderly persons have a safe place to go to during power blackouts.

The purpose of the Summer Breeze/Fan Drive is:

- To provide fans to low-income elderly and disabled persons who do not have a fan and cannot afford to purchase one.
- To reduce the risk of heat related health issues in the low-income, homebound elderly and disabled population.

## Summary

This proposal seeks to continue to enhance the implementation of the Cool Zones project by:

- Procuring funding for transportation to Cool Zone sites for those persons who do not have a means of transit.
- Providing community outreach, education, and public awareness of Cool Zone sites, as well as essential information for avoiding heat-related illnesses.
- Increasing the hours of operation at some Cool Zone sites.
- Purchasing fans through the Summer Breeze project and distributing them to appropriate recipients.

The County of San Diego, Health & Human Services Agency requests the amount of \$65,122.00 to provide these services. These services will be coordinated through the Department of Aging & Independence Services.

## **Aging & Independence Services**

Aging & Independence Services (AIS), is a state designated Area Agency on Aging. Aging & Independence Services is one of 33 planning and service areas designated by the California Department of Aging, and part of a nationwide network of nearly 700 area agencies on aging. The agency is the regional focal point for services to older adults, and persons with disabilities. The mission of the agency is to improve the quality of life of seniors and individuals with special needs in San Diego County. The agency fulfills its mission by providing access to information, case management, advocacy, and community services in a caring and supportive manner.

The agency is now part of the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, employing 700 persons, utilizing the volunteer time of 1,700 individuals, and provide or contracting for services and programs with a budget of \$125 million dollars.

Services provided by Aging & Independence Services or through contracts with community-based organizations include five areas of focus:

- Information Services-the gateway to assistance;
- Homes based Services-bringing care to the door;
- Protection and Advocacy Services-ensuring the right to safety and dignity;
- Health Independence Services- promoting wellness;
- Community Enrichment-enhancing quality of life.

## **Community Need**

San Diego County is experiencing an influx of calls from fixed-income seniors who fear for their health and safety during California's on going electricity crisis. Utility rate cost increases has discouraged the use of air-conditioning. There is a special concern for the vulnerable seniors who live in the inland areas of San Diego County, where summer temperatures often reach 100 degrees. Seniors may be especially vulnerable to the effects of summer heat. These effects included dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, heat cramps and in extreme cases, brain damage and death.

For example, in 1995, a week of summer heat in the city of Chicago killed 525 residents, mostly seniors. The city was hit with power outages during an extreme heat wave; therefore many vulnerable elderly persons did not have the means to keep their home cool. Some seniors could create their own power outages and problems by not using their fans and air conditioners as a result of high-energy costs.

According to Dr. George Flores, San Diego County Public Health Officer, "...people in frail health can easily be impacted by high temperatures and they may not know they're in trouble until it is too late." It is essential for elderly person to have easy access to places with livable temperatures when San Diego County is faced with the problem of extremely hot temperatures. For many persons in San Diego County, access to a Cool Zone or fan during hot days may be a matter of life and death. Individuals who cannot afford the additional expense of purchasing a fan can benefit from the gift of a fan from the Summer Breeze project.

## **PROJECT GOAL**

The goal of the Cool Zones and Summer Breeze/Fan Drive projects for Cool Zone Season 2003 is to continue to help vulnerable individuals prevent heat-related health problems, while reducing energy use in the community.

### **Program Objectives:**

1. Maintain and enhance a network throughout San Diego County of air-conditioned public buildings where senior citizens can find respite from the summer heat. By encouraging people to congregate in air-conditioned settings, there will be less individual usage during the hottest part of the day.
2. Maintain a public information campaign that promotes the Cool Zone project, so that all citizens of San Diego County are aware of the available Cool Zone sites.
3. Provide a means of transportation for those low-income elderly persons or disabled persons who need assistance to a Cool Zone site. This will maximize energy efficiency by congregating people in places already using air-conditioning.
4. Aging & Independence Services will continue cooperating with the utility to provide information to elderly persons on methods for staying cool when experiencing extreme heat, as well as warning signs for heat-related illnesses. Cool Zones will be encouraged to provide information and education on energy assistance programs.
5. Expand the hours of operation at Cool Zone sites, especially senior centers and nutrition sites, where the hours of operation may currently be truncated due to financial and staffing limitations
6. Provide fans to low-income, homebound seniors and persons with disabilities.

**BUDGET**  
Cool Zones Program 2003

PART I, Promotions

Item	Quantity	Cost	Objective Reached
Promotions	120 60 second radio spots at \$100 each	\$12,000.00	#2
	100 30 second spots on TV at \$190 each	\$19,000.00	
<b>TOTAL COST</b>		<b>\$31,000.00</b>	

Part II, Additional Hours of Operation at Cool Zones

Item	Quantity	Cost	Objective Reached
Increase staffing and operating Costs at Senior Centers and/or Nutrition Sites for 90 days.	3 to 6 additional hours a day as needed. These negotiations will begin with the Senior Centers when we know the funds are available. We have no way of knowing at this time which Centers will choose to participate and/or which will be in operation. Some Centers are in financial difficulty and some have closed.	\$10,000.00	#5
<b>TOTAL COST</b>		<b>\$10,000.00</b>	

PART III, Transportation

Item	Quantity	Cost	Objective Reached
Purchase monthly bus passes and taxi scrip.	740 Bus Passes at \$13.50 each for four months, 185 passes per month. Taxi scrip in the amount of \$20 per book, for 25 books per month for four months.	<u>Bus Passes</u> \$9,990.00  <u>Taxi Scrip</u> \$2,000.00	#3
<b>TOTAL COST</b>		<b>\$11,990.00</b>	

Part IV, Fan Drive

Item	Quantity	Cost	Objective Reached
Fans	450 fans at \$11.00 each.	\$4950.00	#6
<b>TOTAL COST</b>		<b>\$4950.00</b>	

PART V, Temporary Cool Zone Staff

Item	Quantity	Cost	Objective Reached
Aging & Independence Services staff person, duties to include: * Answer calls for Cool Zone Sites, fans and transportation; * Maintain records of all calls and transactions. * Maintain database of sites. * Maintain records of fans delivered. * Maintain records of bus passes and taxi scrip mailed.	1 part-time temporary employee for July, August, September and October.	At \$9.45 per hour for 760 hours or approximately 19 weeks.	#6
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$7,182.00</b>	

# TOTAL BUDGET FOR COOL ZONE PROJECT

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Part I. Promotions	\$31,000.00	
Part II. Additional Hours of Operation at Cool Zones	\$10,000.00	
Part III. Transportation	\$11,990.00	
Part IV. Fans	\$ 4950.00	
Part V. Temporary Staff	\$ 7182.00	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$65,122.00</b>	