

Neighborhood Weatherization in the Avenues

Community Resource Project

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On April 28, 2010 a Sacramento neighborhood along with representatives from Community Resource Project, Inc. (CRP), Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), Naildown Construction and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)



celebrated an innovative pilot program called the Avenues Neighborhood Weatherization Project, designed to help income-qualified families improve energy efficiency in their homes. This project focused on a South Sacramento neighborhood called The Avenues, with the goal of weatherizing all of the eligible dwellings within that neighborhood.

This unique pilot program combines federal Recovery Act weatherization funds awarded to CRP with funding from PG&E and SMUD. The project will help families lower their monthly utility bills by providing free weatherization services and energy efficient appliances. By joining efforts, CRP, PG&E and SMUD help to ensure that eligible families in the neighborhood obtain the maximum benefits from existing energy efficiency programs.

The project began at a home on 43rd Avenue with a press conference and in-home demonstration. Special thanks to Councilwoman Lauren Hammond, Commissioner Dian Grueneich, CSD Director Lloyd Throne, SMUD Public Affairs Officer Elisabeth Brinton, and PG&E Vice President of Customer Operations Al Torres for speaking at the press conference. Representatives from the City and County of Sacramento, local elected officials, the California Public Utilities Commission, the Department of Community Services and Development, as well as PG&E and SMUD observed crews from CRP and Naildown Construction in the first weatherization installations at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Navarro. During the project it is expected that hundreds of homes will receive similar installations for free.

The partnership formed between CRP, PG&E, SMUD and Naildown Construction is crucial in completing a project of this size. Leveraging resources from all four agencies ensures that work is done as efficiently as possible and that clients receive the maximum allowable benefit. CRP is one of the first non-profit organizations in California to embark on a neighborhood-wide weatherization project with Recovery Act funding. Such high levels of cooperation ensure that our tax dollars are spent wisely.

Following the press conference, residents of the neighborhood surrounding the 43rd Avenue block turned out for a block party where they enjoyed hotdogs, face painting and balloon animals provided by two clowns, and received information about local community services available in Sacramento. At the center of the event was the home weatherization project, available to income qualified residents. The block party was

made possible by kind donations from PG&E and SMUD. Local agencies and community-based organizations present were La Familia Counseling Center, Opening Doors, Asian Resources, Inc., My Sister's House, the Hmong Women's Heritage Association, Sacramento County Code Enforcement, and the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors.