



# Yolo County Housing

**Lisa A. Baker, Executive Director**

147 W. Main Street  
WOODLAND, CA 95695

Woodland: (530) 662-5428  
Sacramento: (916) 444-8982  
TTY: (800) 545-1833, ext. 626

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DATE: October 2, 2008  
TO: YCH Board of Commissioners  
FROM: Lisa A. Baker, Executive Director  
SUBJECT: Authorize Staff to Investigate a Community Outreach Contract Partnership with PG&E and Authorize the Executive Director to Execute Appropriate Agreements

### **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

1. Authorize Yolo County Housing to research the opportunity for a Community Outreach Performance-Based Contract Partnership with PG&E for the CARE program; and
2. Authorize the Executive Director to submit an application to serve as a Community Outreach Contractor and authorize the Executive Director to execute appropriate agreements with PG&E under the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) Program as appropriate.

### **BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION**

The California Alternate Rates for Energy Program (CARE) provides to qualifying low-income consumers in California a 20% discount on their gas and electricity bills. To qualify, a residential customer must be income eligible. The discount will be applied for two years, after which a customer will be asked to re-apply.

To qualify:

- The PG&E bill must be in the family's name
- The family must live more than half of the year at the address where the discount will be received (not for second homes).
- The family may not share an energy meter(s) with another home.
- Only the spouse can claim the head of household as a dependent on a tax return.
- The household must meet the CARE income eligibility requirements.
- The household must notify PG&E if their income changes.
- Tenants of sub-metered mobile home parks, apartments and marinas must receive their PG&E bill from their landlord in their name

Three months before the discount expires, the family will receive a letter and re-certification application from PG&E giving them the opportunity to re-apply if they still qualify under the most recent income guidelines.

PG&E is sponsoring a campaign in 2008 to educate its residential customers about the CARE Program, its benefits, requirements and application procedures. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is especially interested in increasing CARE enrollment among those communities that are the lowest income and most seriously under-enrolled, in addition to rural and isolated communities. These communities include African Americans, agricultural workers, Asian Pacific Americans, California Indians, Latinos, mobile home dwellers and senior citizens of all backgrounds.

As part of its campaign to reach these populations, Pacific Gas and Electric Company is contracting with organizations, institutions, groups and other agencies to conduct grassroots, community-based outreach.

**Performance-based contracts** are awarded to entities that wish to receive compensation from Pacific Gas and Electric Company on a per-application basis. Pacific Gas and Electric Company will pay a capitation fee per completed and qualified application. This fee is currently approximately \$25 per household.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

If the YCH submits a successful application, it will help staff enroll additional underrepresented households within the County in the program. The capitation fee would offset the staff cost of providing this service.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Yolo County Housing serves extremely low-income and low-income families in Yolo County. This type of program will serve to lower the costs of utilities for those families. Staff recommends approval of the item.

Attachments: FACT Sheet for CARE Program



## **California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) Fact Sheet**

### **What is CARE?**

The CARE Program provides qualifying low-income consumers in California a 20% discount on their gas and electricity bills. To qualify, a residential customer must have an annual income of less than \$29,300 for a household of 1 or 2 persons, \$34,400 for 3 persons, \$41,500 for four persons and \$7,100 for each additional household member. The discount will be applied for two years, after which a customer will be asked to reapply.

### **How Can a PG&E Customer Apply?**

To apply, residential customers of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) must complete a CARE application form that is available in English, Spanish, Chinese or Vietnamese. Applications are available at Customer Service Centers of Pacific Gas and Electric Company, at many community centers and organizations, and online at [www.pge.com/care](http://www.pge.com/care).

Information and application forms for CARE are also available to Pacific Gas and Electric Company customers in English, Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese by calling the CARE toll-free phone line at 1-866-PGE-CARE. Phone representatives are available weekdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Customers also may receive referrals to dozens of local community centers and organizations that offer free personal assistance with applications to CARE and other financial assistance services and energy efficiency programs of Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

### **What is the CARE Education and Outreach Campaign by PG&E?**

Pacific Gas and Electric Company is sponsoring a campaign in 2008 to educate its residential customers about the CARE Program, its benefits, requirements and application procedures. Pacific Gas and Electric Company is especially interested in increasing CARE enrollment among those communities that are the lowest income and most seriously under-enrolled, in addition to rural and isolated communities. These communities include African Americans, agricultural workers, Asian Pacific Americans, California Indians, Latinos, mobile home dwellers and senior citizens of all backgrounds.

As part of its campaign to reach these populations, Pacific Gas and Electric Company is contracting with organizations, institutions, groups and other agencies to conduct grassroots, community-based outreach.

### **Who are CARE Community Outreach Contractors?**

Pacific Gas and Electric Company is awarding CARE contracts to increase the enrollment of its low-income residential customers who qualify for the CARE Program.

Contracts are being awarded to nonprofit organizations, not-for-profit associations, private and public institutions and other groups to conduct education and outreach activities in low-income neighborhoods and communities within Pacific Gas and Electric Company service area. Community Outreach Contractors may include charitable and civic organizations, health and social service agencies, membership associations, social clubs, schools and educational institutions, churches, and other entities. They may apply individually for as a “team” under one lead organization with tax-exempt status.

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### **How Can an Organization Apply for a Contract?**

Applications for Community Outreach Contracts are available by contacting the following:

- Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
Tel. 1-800-239-5170 or online at [www.pge.com/care/education](http://www.pge.com/care/education)

**Apply today to be a Community Outreach Contractor**