

Saving our Trees

Alameda's trees have long been considered a part of our community's unique quality of life. In the mid 1800s, Alameda was part of one of the largest coastal oak forests in the world, and at the time, our community also was known as the "Encinal (oak grove) Island." The name Alameda (grove of poplar trees or tree-lined avenue) was chosen for our city by popular vote in 1853.

We at Alameda Municipal Power value our community's trees, and their well-being is an important consideration in our operations. While approximately half of Alameda's electric system is underground, many neighborhoods are served by overhead lines. State law requires us to maintain specific clearances, depending on line voltage, between power lines and all vegetation. These distances have been established to ensure public safety and reduce outages.



During this past summer, it became apparent that heavy tree growth soon would engulf some electric distribution circuits along Benton Avenue, a residential neighborhood. We were faced with a dilemma, aggressively prune the street's tree canopy—an unpleasant option—or fall out of compliance with State law and potentially compromise safety—an unacceptable option. However, our engineering and line personnel developed a third alternative.

Two sets of lines ran along Benton Avenue, a standard 12,000-volt primary circuit and a typical 120/240-volt secondary circuit to serve a residential area. State law requires a 4-foot clearance around the standard primary line but only minimal clearance to prevent abrasion and loading of the secondary circuit. Reconfiguring the circuitry serving the Benton Street area would allow the primary lines to be removed and would reduce greatly the need to trim around secondary lines. The distribution system subsequently was reworked, and Benton Street trees now retain their majestic stature. 💡

Preparing for the Worst

Two decades have passed since the Loma Prieta earthquake. Alameda is not immune from disasters such as earthquakes, floods, fires, airplane crashes, chemical spills, pipeline leaks, and explosions. All have happened here.

A disaster may bring down electric lines. Live electric lines don't always arc or spark, so treat all electric lines as if they were live. Don't try to move a downed line, keep people away, and call

Special Needs—Special Services

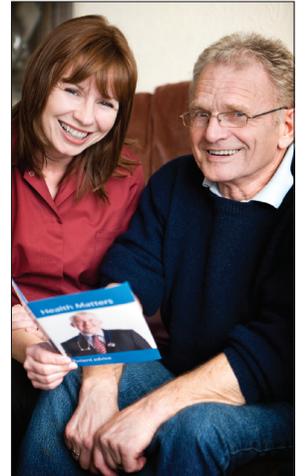
We're Here to Help!

Alameda Municipal Power is proud to be a participant and assist in producing our community's inaugural Special Needs—Special Services Resource Fair! Alamedans with special needs and caregivers are invited to the event to be held at the fully accessible "O" Club at Alameda Point on Saturday, October 24, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The City of Alameda's Commission on Disability Issues estimates that over 12,000 Alamedans may be able to take advantage of the special services, programs, and products provided by the participating organizations. AMP representatives will be available to discuss our medical discount program, free energy audits, energy-efficiency programs, and two low-income programs.

The Resource Fair is free and open to the community with a focus on special needs, both cognitive and physical. The event offers an opportunity for community members to meet the various local organizations providing free or sliding-scale accessible services.

The event is sponsored by the Commission on Disability Issues, in partnership with the Alameda chapter of the American Red Cross, Alameda Hospital, and Alameda's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). 💡



911. Our 24-hour emergency number for electric trouble during non-business hours is 748-3902. Please use this number to report outages, downed power lines, or the like.

CLIP and KEEP!

Important AMP contact numbers:

Customer Service	748-3900
After Hours/Emergency	748-3902
TDD (hearing impaired)	522-7538
E-mail	info@alamedamp.com
Internet	www.alamedamp.com

Your advance planning will go a long way toward helping you and your family survive a disaster. After a major earthquake, public resources such as police, fire, public works, and utilities could be unavailable for at least 72 hours. You should plan to be self-sufficient during that time.

Besides food and water, have some type of portable cooking equipment, sanitary needs, extra clothing (including shoes and gloves), cash, extra eyeglasses, shelter (such as a tent or tarps), blankets, sleeping bags, and any medicines you might need.

Include a fire extinguisher, first-aid kit, flashlights, utility shut-off tools, battery-powered radios, fresh batteries, and small tools.

Stock your supplies in containers for long-term storage, and place them where they are quickly and easily retrieved. Don't keep them in a basement. Your home could sustain damage that would make that area inaccessible.

Keep a list of emergency phone numbers in your survival kit. Choose an out-of-state contact, and have family members call to report their status and location if separated. Conduct practice "duck, cover, and hold" drills. Have locations for your family

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Great White Light Sale

Save Electricity. Save Money. As Easy as Changing a Light Bulb.



Did you know that a compact fluorescent light bulb uses 75% less electricity than a regular incandescent one? Or that it lasts an amazing 10 times longer—up to 10,000 hours?

Just clip this coupon to save \$2.00 on the purchase of an ENERGY STAR® qualified compact fluorescent light bulb. For additional coupons, stop by the Alameda Municipal Power Service Center or one of the local retailers listed below, or visit www.alamedamp.com.

CFLs contain a small amount of mercury and require special recycling. You can recycle your expired CFL bulbs at Pagano's or Encinal Hardware.

\$2
off one compact fluorescent

Switch to ENERGY STAR® Compact Fluorescents and Save.

The Alameda Public Utilities Board is proud to sponsor this program and to promote energy efficiency. One bulb per coupon, three coupons per customer. Hurry! Offer expires November 30, 2009!



Participating Merchants

CVS Drug Store (Longs), 2314 Santa Clara Avenue
Pagano's ACE Hardware, 1100 Lincoln Avenue
Walgreens Drug Store, South Shore Center



ALAMEDA MUNICIPAL POWER

A Department of the City of Alameda

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POWER CONTENT LABEL

ENERGY RESOURCES	ALAMEDA SYSTEM AVERAGE (2009 projected)	2008 CA POWER MIX* (for comparison)
Eligible Renewable	63%	2%
-Biomass & waste	17%	0%
-Geothermal	38%	1%
-Small Hydroelectric	1%	<1%
-Solar	<1%	0%
-Wind	7%	1%
Coal	6%	34%
Large Hydroelectric	20%	18%
Natural Gas	10%	42%
Nuclear	1%	5%
Other	0%	0%
TOTAL	100%	100%

81.2% of Alameda System Average is specifically purchased from individual suppliers.

*Percentages are estimated annually by the California Energy Commission based on the electricity sold to California consumers during the previous year.

Note: Values may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

For specific information about this electricity product, contact Alameda Municipal Power. For general information about the Power Content Label, contact the California Energy Commission at 1-800-555-7794 or www.energy.ca.gov/consumer.

Explanation of the Fourth Quarter 2009 Power Content Label

As shown on the label, 83% of the power you receive from Alameda Municipal Power is generated using carbon-free, renewable resources, including hydroelectric. This percentage is a projection for calendar year 2009, and actual percentages will vary depending on weather conditions, hydrology, power plant availability, energy usage patterns, and local economic activity.

The label shows that 63% of Alameda's power mix is expected to be sourced from green eligible renewable resources, as defined by the California Energy Commission (CEC). This percentage estimate for 2009 is slightly less than the 64% estimate prepared in the third quarter of 2009 and significantly higher than the 55% level of actual renewables reported for Calendar Year 2008. The difference between this current estimate and the third quarter estimate is attributable to an accounting change implemented by the CEC for counting the renewable content on nonspecific power purchases, as well as to the State's ongoing dry hydrologic conditions, which has resulted in lower hydroelectric deliveries for Alameda. The increase over the 2008 actual level is due to the addition of two new landfill-gas-to-energy projects to Alameda's supply mix. The Ox Mountain facility in Half Moon Bay began commercial operation on April 1, and the Keller Canyon project in Pittsburg became operational in July.

While 81.2% of the Alameda System Mix is specifically purchased from individual suppliers, the remaining 18.8% of energy is purchased from the CA Power Mix, and therefore, includes biomass and waste, coal, and nuclear-fueled resources, as well as additional renewable resources.

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members to meet, and decide places to reunite, if family members are not home.

Develop a neighborhood self-help network, including a list of skills and resources. Note neighbors who have special needs and will require special attention during those first 72 hours.

Learn how to safely shut-off your home's water, gas, and electricity. Train all family members to shut off utilities.

The FLASH is published as a service to the customer-owners of Alameda Municipal Power. Readers are invited to submit ideas, suggestions, comments, or questions by writing to the editor at

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or by email to mccabe@alamedamp.com.

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