



## Alameda Receives \$640,600 Stimulus Grant

The City of Alameda has been awarded a \$640,600 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant to further energy-efficiency and conservation initiatives in Alameda. The City and AMP are partnering in the administration of the ARRA grant and implementation of the projects.

In accepting the monies, AMP General Manager Balachandran commented, "Both AMP and the City are excited about this grant award, which will not only create jobs for the community but also enhance our energy-efficiency and conser-

vation efforts and further reduce our carbon footprint."

The various projects funded by the grant include a 66-kilo-watt solar system on the Main Library, energy audits of City facilities and a City Hall lighting project, energy-efficiency audits for Alameda Unified School District facilities, the Webster Street smart corridor project to reduce traffic congestion and improve overall traffic flow, and an energy



audit training program.

The City has up to three years to complete the work, which will begin in 2010. Project

status updates and budget expenditures will be posted on the federal government's ARRA website, [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov). Look for updates as the projects progress both in The FLASH and AMP's website at [www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com). 

## Help Your Budget with the Balanced Payment Program

Your life can be a bit easier by using the Alameda Municipal Power Balanced Payment Program.

This convenient—and free—service makes budgeting easier for customers whose energy costs may vary from season to season. With the Balanced Payment Program, your bill will be predictable each month, winter or summer.

Under the Program, we calculate your average energy payment every 4 months by averaging the total payments out over the past 12 months. Rather than paying larger bills in the winter and smaller bills in the summer, your electricity bills will be consistent throughout the year.

You may notice a small variation three times per year because of balance averaging.

Assistant General Manager—Customer Resources Sherri Hong says that the service is best for two types of customers. The first are those with electric heaters in their homes. The second are those on fixed incomes who may want to pay the same amount every month. "The typical residential bill goes up in the winter and down in summer," Sherri explained. "For some, the difference can be from a low of \$25 in the summer to \$45 during the winter. For others, particularly those with electric heating, bills can go to \$100 in the winter and drop to \$30 in the summer."

To enroll, you must have been at



your current address for at least 12 months and your account must be current. To sign up, just call a Customer Service Representative at 748-3900.

Your Balanced Payment Program will begin with your next monthly bill. 

## Stay Safe and Snug

Wild winter weather brings along with it some special concerns. These few suggestions can help you stay safe:

### Portable Electric Heaters

- Damp or wet surroundings and electricity are ingredients for electric shock. Never use any portable electric heating



device in bathrooms, kitchens, or near any potential source of water.

- Don't place portable heating units in high-traffic areas, such as hallways or on staircases.
- Never use portable electric heaters in bedrooms while sleeping.
- Never allow any children or pets to play with, on, or around any portable heater.
- Always keep any electric heater at least 3 feet away from any combustible type of material, such as draperies, wall coverings, etc.

See *Safe and Snug* on page 2

