



# The Flash

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Providing Power and Information to the Alameda Community

## Keeping Electric Rates Affordable

As part of the 5-year gradual rate increase plan adopted in fiscal year 2011, the Board will consider a recommendation at its April meeting for the third of five annual rate increases. The average rate adjustment is expected to be 3.25%. The rate adjustment is necessary to meet the Board's financial goals and thereby ensure reliable service and maintain AMP's strong financial bond rating. The financial goals include minimum reserve levels and minimum bond coverage ratios.

This adjustment meets the Board's policy direction to limit increases below 5% and it also supports the utility's 10-year financial plan. AMP's financial assessment showed that revenue increases are needed over the next several years due to higher power and transmission costs not controlled by AMP, and lower



sales. Transmission costs throughout the State continue to escalate. This recommendation is in line with the Board's direction to avoid rate spikes and to spread rate increases over several years.

AMP continues to keep rates affordable and for decades has maintained a rate advantage over PG&E. We foresee a continued rate advantage over the next ten years. The value of this rate advantage to the entire island is approximately \$10 million per year. AMP has controlled operational costs and reduced its employee count to 1990 levels. We continue to transfer over \$4 million annually to the City to fund various valuable community services.

Additionally, AMP provides low-income assistance and services to assist customers in managing and controlling their energy costs. AMP encourages customers to take advantage of the wide array of the utility's energy-management programs and services in order to control their usage and cost. For more information or to view related Board reports, please visit our website at [www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com). 

### Are You Ready?



In the immediate time period following a major disaster, you should plan on being self-sufficient as emergency services may be unavailable. Have food, water, some type of portable cooking equipment, sanitary supplies, extra clothing including shoes, cash, extra eyeglasses, shelter (such as a tent or tarps), blankets or sleeping bags, a list of emergency contacts (including out of state contacts) and any medicines you may need on hand. A fire extinguisher, first-aid kit, flashlights, utility shut off tools, radio and batteries are also advised. Supplies should be

stocked in easily accessible containers for long-term storage in an area that you can access should your home be inaccessible (for example: automatic garage doors rely on electricity and will become inoperable during a power outage—make sure you know how to open your garage door manually). Know how to safely shut off your home's utilities should the need arise.

Contact the Alameda Fire Department or your local chapter of the American Red Cross for more information. 

## Some Bright Ideas

### Free CFLs at AMP Service Center

Bring 3 of your used incandescent light bulbs and a copy of your latest electric bill to AMP's Service Center (2000 Grand Street, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and we will give you three replacement compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) absolutely free! Save on the cost of the bulb and on your bill for years to come.



incandescent, CFL and LED bulbs, including cost, brightness and new packaging information. Check it out!

### Participate in AMP's Commercial Lighting Pilot Program

AMP's Commercial Lighting Pilot Program has been so successful it has been extended! This contractor driven program is aimed at helping small commercial customers with the phase out of T-12 lamps and typically rebates cover 75% or more of the project cost! For more information including customer testimonials visit [www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com) and navigate to Commercial Savings under Save Energy. 

### Know Your Lighting Options

Visit [www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com) and go to Ways to Save Energy at Home to download the National Resource Defense Council (NRDC) guide to lighting options. This handy chart provides lighting information for

## \$100 Refrigerator Rebate!

Make a smart investment! Replace your old refrigerator with a new, more efficient one! By participating in AMP's Energy Star® Refrigerator Rebate and Recycle Program you can reduce your energy bills by purchasing a new, energy efficient refrigerator AND receive a rebate by having your old refrigerator recycled. For more information visit [www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com) and click on Save Energy, Save Energy at Home and select the Refrigerator Rebate Program link. 



## New Lobby Office Hours

Effective April 1, 2012  
Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## 125 Years of Fun Facts!

On July 11, 2012, AMP will turn 125! As we approach the big day, we will be sharing fun facts from our many years of service.

Did you know...In 1918, the same year World War I ended, AMP's predecessor, the City of Alameda Department of Utilities, installed the first electric cable under the Alameda-Oakland Estuary/Tidal Canal.

## Reminder! AMP Needs Your Sweet Ideas

Tucker's Ice Cream and AMP are partnering to create a special commemorative ice cream in recognition of AMP's 125 years of service and we need YOU to name the flavor! The ice cream will debut at the Earth Day Fair on Saturday, April 21, 2012, at the AMP booth for free tasting as well as at Tucker's Ice Cream at 1349 Park Street until May 15. Stop by the booth or Tucker's Ice Cream to sample the new flavor. Then, create a name for the new flavor and submit your entry in the suggestion box at the fair, at Tucker's, by email to [tuckersicecream@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tuckersicecream@sbcglobal.net), or by visiting [www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com). 



## 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](mailto:info@alamedamp.com)  
Internet .....[www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com)

*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 Alameda Municipal Power, P.O. Box H Alameda, CA 94501-0263 or by email to [acord@alamedamp.com](mailto:acord@alamedamp.com)

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