



## PUB Commissioner Appointed

The City Council of the City of Alameda, California, has confirmed the appointment of Ms. Madeline E. Deaton as a Commissioner on the Public Utilities Board. "I am truly honored to be selected to serve on the Public Utilities Board. The Board and Alameda Municipal Power have contributed immeasurably over the past 123 years to Alameda's unique quality of life. I very much look forward to adding to that legacy," commented Commissioner Deaton.



A long-time Alameda resident, Commissioner Deaton's career highlights include founding a consulting and continuing education company, as well as serving for two decades

as a director, project manager, and internal consultant in a health maintenance organization. She taught at California State University, East Bay after receiving her Masters degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in organizational change. She began her career in health care after receiving her baccalaureate degree in nursing from the University of San Francisco.

Commissioner Deaton also has served on the City's Fiscal Sustainability Committee and as an officer and board member of the American Heart Association, California Affiliate. She brings extensive experience and expertise in such

areas as strategic planning, project management, staff and leadership development, customer service, and the identification and transfer of best practices.

Also serving as Commissioners on the Board are President Gregory Hamm, Ph.D., P.E., Vice President Peter W. Holmes, Commissioner John R. McCahan, and Interim City Manager Ann Marie Gallant.

The five-commissioner Board oversees City-owned Alameda Municipal Power and is responsible for setting policies and approving major expenditures. It is the obligation of the Board and AMP staff to ensure the supply of reliable electric power to Alameda customers at the lowest possible cost while maintaining a sound financial position. Meetings are held regularly on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers, City Hall, and are open to the public.

Smoke detectors save lives. Now is a good time to replace smoke detector batteries.

## FREE LED holiday lights to help you save money!

### Keep Your Holidays Merry and Bright

Light Emitting Diode (LED) holiday lights are a great way to decorate for the holidays! LED lights have a number of benefits over conventional lighting:

- They're energy-efficient. LED bulbs draw only 0.08 Watts per bulb. An incandescent mini-light draws 8 times more power, and a standard incandescent bulb takes a whopping 75 times as much!
- They have a long life span. LEDs can last up to 100,000 hours or more if used indoors, about half that outdoors, and some manufacturers provide a limited lifetime warranty.
- They're safer. There's little chance of combustion from the lights themselves, as the bulbs stay cool to the touch, regardless of how long they are left on.
- They're sturdy. The bulbs' epoxy lenses are virtually indestructible.

Despite a higher initial cost, LEDs are a clear winner over incandescent lights when you compare the cost to buy and operate them.

LED lights are available in strings from 25 to 150 bulbs with red, green, blue, white, yellow and multi-colored bulbs. There are a wide variety of bulb styles available, including mini-ice, ball, and

candle-shaped. Costs may vary by color because, rather than painted bulbs, the color is produced by the chemical make-up of the bulb. New products include icicle-style lamps, strings that change from one color to another, strings with commercial-quality plugs that allow more than 100 strings to be connected, rope lights, and additional holiday ornaments. One manufacturer even offers screw-in LED bulbs for converting your old incandescent strings to LED. LED lights have a unique appearance. They may appear to shimmer with movement as the light passes through the faceted bulbs.

LED lights offer beautiful and affordable, energy-efficient, and clean holiday decorating!

As you decorate for the holidays, please keep these safety tips in mind:

- Use only Underwriters Laboratories (UL) approved lights. Lights with a green UL label are for indoor use only. Lights with a red UL label may be used both indoors and outdoors.
- Check light packages for the maximum number of light strings that can be joined safely.



Photo courtesy of holidayleds.com

Take part in AMP's FREE holiday light exchange starting at the City's Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 5 at City Hall. Produced in partnership with the City's Recreation and Parks Department, customers will be able to trade in one old-technology incandescent light strand for a new LED light strand. The FREE LED exchange will continue at the AMP Service Center until supplies are exhausted. Supplies are limited, and specific conditions apply. Check the AMP web site, [www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com), for more details.

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## To Save Energy, Check Out A “Kill A Watt” Monitor!

As part of October’s Public Power Week and Energy Awareness Month activities, AMP donated 10 Kill-a-Watt power usage monitors to the Alameda Main Library.



These easy-to-use monitors help calculate the energy costs for appliances, and you can borrow a Kill-a-Watt monitor much like you borrow a book. In addition to the monitor, you’ll get worksheets and instructions to determine the energy costs for each device you test. You’ll have the power to identify areas in your home where you can save electricity—and money! You also can check power quality by monitoring the voltage and line frequency.

Ten Kill-a-Watt monitors are now in circulation at the Library, and another five are available for loan at the AMP Service Center. For more information about the program, offered in cooperation with the Alameda Main Library, please call AMP at 748-3900.

## Generator Safety

If you own an electric generator, either portable or permanently installed, you could save someone’s life by connecting and using it properly.

If used incorrectly, these generators can be fatal. Downed electrical lines following a storm, earthquake, or other such event, will be “live” and may present a danger to utility people and the general public if your generator is connected or is being used incorrectly.

A generator that is connected to your home or business is also connected to the Alameda Municipal Power electrical system. When the lights go out, our crews go out to restore power. If your generator is connected, it could send electricity into our system, or “backfeed.” Our crews won’t know of the danger that is present and could be electrocuted.



State law requires that you notify AMP if you have or use an electrical generator of any type. AMP can help you get a design review from our Engineering Section and an inspection and approval from a City Inspector. Call 748-3981 for more.

If you fail to connect your generator properly, it may be severely damaged when normal electric service is restored. You do not need a manual double throw switch or an automatic transfer switch if your generator is connected only to a stand-alone appliance.

### *Merry and Bright from page 1*

- Never string holiday lights on a dry tree. Select one that appears fresh, i.e., it doesn’t easily shower the ground with needles. Once home, cut an inch from the base, insert the trunk into a tree stand which holds water, and don’t forget to add water daily!
- Before you install your holiday lights, check the following:
  - The wiring is insulated, and there are no exposed wires.
  - Test each string separately.
  - Use plastic clips or suction cups for hanging lights instead of nails.
  - Use only exterior UL-approved extension cords outside.
  - Wrap connections with electrical tape to protect against the weather.
  - Combining water and electricity can be lethal, so be careful about installing outdoor holiday lights.
- Outdoor lights should be

connected to an outdoor, weather-proof receptacle. There are safety enclosures for receptacles with deep lids and a bottom opening for the electric cord. Make sure it is UL approved.

- The outdoor, weatherproof receptacle or extension cord should be connected to a receptacle or circuit breaker with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).
- Connect outdoor holiday lights to exterior receptacles. Generally, interior receptacles do not have GFCIs.

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 [mccabe@alamedamp.com](mailto:mccabe@alamedamp.com).

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**ALAMEDA MUNICIPAL POWER**  
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 General Manager

## Low-Income Assistance

Alameda Municipal Power offers two programs specifically designed to assist low-income Alameda households, the Energy Assistance Program and Energy Assistance through Supportive Efforts.



The Energy Assistance Program (or EAP) provides ongoing assistance to qualifying low-income customers. The main objectives of the program are to reduce the customer’s energy use and provide bill assistance by applying a 25% discount to the customer’s monthly electric bill. Program highlights include:

- A free energy audit and recommendations
- The installation of three compact fluorescent bulbs at no cost
- The replacement of older, inefficient refrigerators meeting certain criteria at no cost (If the household is a rental unit, a contribution from the landlord is required.)
- Weatherization for homes with electric heat.

The EAP is funded by AMP’s Public Purpose Program. At this time, the American Red Cross administers the program and determines eligibility. Please note, responsibility for administration of the EAP will change after June 30, 2011. For more information, please check the AMP web site, [www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com).

Project EASE (Energy Assistance through Supportive Efforts) provides short-term emergency assistance to residential customers who are financially unable to pay their electrical bills and who have no alternative source of assistance. The program is intended to help after all other resources have been expended.

Project EASE is funded by voluntary customer contributions and an annual contribution from AMP. The maximum disbursement for each customer or household is \$200. The American Red Cross also administers this program and determines eligibility. For more information, please call the Red Cross at 814-4216.

### 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)