

SMUD News Release

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

• News Media Services

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SMUD lights the way for security in Sacramento neighborhood

Marina Vista gets cutting edge lighting to help cut crime

In an effort to stem crime in a Sacramento neighborhood, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) worked closely with police and the city housing agency to provide high-tech, bright white lighting. The retrofit test project in the Marina Vista neighborhood improves lighting conditions, saves energy and provides valuable information for SMUD to use when looking to improve other lighting challenges in the future.

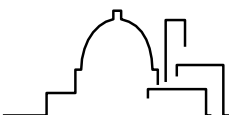
The neighborhood had used a combination of older lighting technology, specifically mercury vapor and high-pressure sodium street lights. Brightness and color were poor and it was difficult for residents and even police to see after dark. Criminal activity reached a point where law enforcement and the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA), which oversees Marina Vista, needed a solution.

SMUD suggested a new technology being displayed at the California Lighting and Technology Center at UC Davis called induction lighting that is very bright and very energy efficient. SMUD also paid for the lighting equipment by providing \$25,000 for the project. SHRA installed the lights and the situation is greatly improved.

Induction lighting uses a magnetic field instead of electrodes to excite the gases in the bulbs. The result is a better light with significantly longer bulb life with each bulb projected to last more than 100,000 hours or 20 years if operated dusk to dawn. Typically, high-pressure sodium street lights are projected to last only 24,000 hours or three to five years. The lighting also reduces energy costs by 30 to 60 percent compared to conventional street lighting, helping SHRA save on its electric bill.

The lighting retrofit project is similar to another SMUD lighting project that was done in the Phoenix Park neighborhood, formerly known as Franklin Villa. SMUD provided \$30,000 for the lighting upgrade in that neighborhood. SHRA says that the lighting project has helped cut crime and the Sacramento Police Department says the new lighting helps them do their job more effectively.

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The induction lighting retrofit in the Marina Vista neighborhood was developed by Spectrum Technologies. It was funded in part by the SMUD Customer Advanced Technologies (CAT) department, which is a research and development program designed by the electric utility to encourage customers to use and evaluate new or underutilized technologies. Unlike many research and development programs, evaluation is accomplished through implementing real-world demonstration projects instead of laboratory testing. CAT provides funding for customers in exchange for a two-year monitoring agreement.

For more information about SMUD and its energy efficiency programs or the Customer Advanced Technologies program, visit smud.org.

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