



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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VALLEJO RACKS UP SOLAR SAVINGS AT CITY HALL INSTALLATIONS

VALLEJO - Solar panels installed at City Hall in the City of Vallejo have cut the City's energy bills dramatically, according to information received from PG&E.

According to bills received from April through August, electric bills for City Hall during that period were \$3,821.18, a significant decrease over the previous year's bills, almost cutting the City's energy costs in half.

"The amount for these five months is less that we were paying for a single month prior to generating electricity at City Hall," said Joe Bates, Assistant Maintenance Superintendant for Facilities with the City.

The City dedicated the solar panel arrays located at 555 Santa Clara Street – City Hall – and 505 Santa Clara Street – the JFK Library – on March 18, 2003. PowerLight installed the City Hall and library systems. The solar arrays use sunlight to produce electricity, and during the daytime, generate enough energy to power over 330 homes. The solar system at Vallejo City Hall is a 108kW installation, and the solar system installed at the JFK Public Library is 224kW.

It is estimated that over the 25-year operating life of the system, the City of Vallejo will save \$4.4 million in combined energy reduction costs.

"We made a commitment to solar energy for a couple of reasons," said Vallejo Mayor Tony Intintoli, Jr. "First, it's good for the environment, reducing the amount of air pollution in our region. Second, the savings are important given the uncertain financial times facing the city."

Along with the solar panels at City Hall and the library, the City has a 31-kw system at the Corporation Yard for the Vallejo Police Station and a 214-kw system on Columbus Parkway at one of the city's water pumping stations. The city has a total of 577kw of electricity generated via solar panels. According to BP Solar, Vallejo leads the nation in energy generated per capita via solar panels.

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“Already, our vision and risk are paying off,” said City Manager David Martinez. “I think it shows the turnaround to that investment is already taking place and we’re very pleased with these results. It should give us the impetus to do more solar projects in Vallejo.”