

Attachment D

Energy Efficiency & Conservation Strategy for Units of Local Governments & Indian Tribes

As detailed in Part 1 of this announcement, all applicants must submit an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (EECS). Units of local government and Indian tribes have the option of submitting the EECS no later than 120 days after the effective date of the award or at the time of application. Units of local government and Indian tribes who chose to submit the EECS at the time of application shall use the format contained in Attachment D. This form should be saved in a file named "UIC-Strategy.pdf" and click on "Add Optional Other Attachment" to attach.

Grantee: County of San Mateo Date: 06/24/2009 (mm/dd/yyyy)
DUNS #: 126637151 Program Contact Email: karmstrong@co.sanmateo.ca.us

1. Describe your government's proposed Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy. Provide a concise summary of your measureable goals and objectives, which should be aligned with the defined purposes and eligible activities of the EECBG Program. These goals and objectives should be comprehensive and maximize benefits community-wide. Provide a schedule or timetable for major milestones. If your government has an existing energy, climate, or other related strategy please describe how these strategies relate to each other.

The County of San Mateo's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (EECS) for its expenditure of EECBG funds encompasses efforts in four major categories:

- Investment in Energy Efficiency/ Renewable Energy Capital Projects leveraging existing programs for funding, incentives and rebates. This strategy aligns with Eligible Activity 6 (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs for Facilities) and the long-term goal of reducing the county's (public sector) energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Studies for the County General Plan and other planning efforts. Aligned with Eligible Activities 2 (Technical Studies), the long-term goal of these studies is to structurally integrate energy efficiency and climate change issues into the General Plan such that all future County planning is conducted expressly with these goals in mind.
- Coordinated Countywide Programs to encourage energy audits and spur demand for energy efficiency retrofits, provide training to help establish a competent supply of energy efficiency retrofit providers, and eventually establish funding mechanisms for energy efficiency or renewable energy projects for county residents. Aligned with Eligible Activity 6 (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs for Buildings and Facilities), the long-term goal is the reduction of residential sector energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Ongoing Collaboration with other public and private organizations, including municipalities, nonprofits, regional organizations, and businesses for the purposes of exchanging ideas and information on successful projects and programs, reducing staff expenses through the shared provision of services, and increasing the potential energy savings and benefits of each program.

These efforts will build upon work performed under the following existing initiatives:

- The San Mateo County Energy Strategy was completed and adopted by the County of San Mateo Board of Supervisors in December 2008. Its goal is to encourage every city in the County to work collaboratively on energy, water and CO2 emission issues.
- The San Mateo County Energy Watch provides funding from public goods utility charges, under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), for energy efficiency retrofits and retro-commissioning efforts for all municipalities and select businesses and low-income residents in San Mateo County.
- The Cool Counties Resolution set the CO2 emission reduction goals for County Government operations at 25% below a 2005 baseline by 2020 and 80% below the 2005 baseline by 2050.
- The Green Collar Jobs Initiative seeks to develop a "green" workforce in San Mateo County to support green economic development and to support the County's Human Services Agency as they (re)train the unemployed in tough economic times.

Additionally, the County of San Mateo is weeks away from completing both a Government Operations and Community-wide greenhouse gas emission inventory with a 2005 base-year in preparation for the climate action planning phase of its climate protection program.

2. Describe your government's proposed implementation plan for the use of EECBG Program funds to assist you in achieving the goals and objectives outlined in the strategy describe in question #1. Your description should include a summary of the activities submitted on your activity worksheets, and how each activity supports one or more of your strategy's goals/objectives.

San Mateo County plans to undertake the following programs and projects in support of the strategic efforts previously outlined.

- Funding the installation of solar photovoltaic panels, added insulation, and other energy-efficiency improvements to the Bill and Jean Lane Education Center at Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve. This all-new park education center will be a showcase for the community and the Department of Parks, and the addition of the renewable energy and conservation measures will help reduce San Mateo County's greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 300 tons (of CO2 equivalents) over the 30-year life of the photovoltaic panels.

- The implementation of an Energy Efficiency Analysis and Upgrade Program for County Facilities. This program will support the County strategy of reducing public-sector energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. As the first step in the program, the county will hire an energy program manager with responsibility for administering the projects within the EECBG program and reporting it's results. The program will begin with an analysis of County Facilities using the EPA Portfolio Manager. Following the analysis, targeted audits will be performed on those facilities identified as the best potential sites for energy retrofits. Projects will be selected from either the existing capital project list or through the recommendations of the auditors and implemented based upon their potential energy savings and returns on investment. The energy program manager will seek out additional funding where available, particularly through the San Mateo Energy Watch and PGE Retrocommissioning programs. The following capital projects have previously been identified for consideration, and will be evaluated for their potential benefit as part of the program along with additional project ideas generated during the audit process.

- Youth Services Center - Cogen Heat Exchangers (estimated cost \$200,000)
- Youth Services Center - Cogen Load Sharing Study (est. \$50,000)
- Youth Services Center - Probation Lighting Control (est. \$40,000)
- County Office Building 1 - Multi-Zone Air Handler Unit Replacement (est. \$850,000)
- County Office Building 1 - Energy Management System Upgrade (est. \$100,000)
- County Office Building 2 - HVAC System Controls Upgrade (est. \$75,000)
- San Mateo Forensics Lab Lighting Control Upgrades(est. \$50,000)
- Hall of Justice - Lighting Retrofit (est. \$350,000)
- San Mateo Medical Center - HVAC Improvements (est. \$109,000)
- San Mateo Medical Center - Steam Boiler Replacement (est. \$540,000)
- San Mateo Medical Center - Cogeneration Plant Installation (est. \$2,000,000)

- The Planning and Building Department will update the conservation element of the San Mateo County General Plan to include a new chapter (element) on conservation and energy efficiency. This chapter will include policies related to the interaction between land use, transportation, and energy. The following will be investigated for their inclusion in the element:

- An energy and emissions reduction strategy, including policies for reducing energy use and improving energy efficiency in both the commercial and residential building sectors.
- Policies to support and enhance the County's recently adopted green building program and its regulations.
- Policies related to performing residential and commercial building energy audits.
- The development of a Climate Action Plan, in support of the County's AB32 requirements.

- The funding and launch of a coordinated Countywide "Reduce Before You Produce" Program, currently in planning and development. A pilot outreach program is aimed to launch in early 2010, with a full roll-out in mid-2010. The "Reduce Before You Produce" program will include the following components:

- Educating the community on energy efficiency and building performance – potential partners include the County Library, public utilities, the public television station, building supply companies and local non-profit organizations.
- Encouraging the development of a certified energy efficiency retrofit workforce.
- Educating building inspection staff on residential energy efficiency best practices.
- Providing incentives for residents to undertake home energy audits and perform energy retrofit work. Residents will be able to select from a menu of options ranging from free energy audits by community volunteers to subsidized energy audits by certified home performance firms. Referrals will be given for residents that qualify for low-income programs. By providing a wide variety of services, the program will seek to meet the needs of all County residents.

Together, the programs San Mateo County will undertake with its EECBG funds will reduce CO2 emissions, help the County meet the goals of AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act, create "green" jobs, and build communities and strengthen neighborhoods.

3. Describe how your government is taking into account the proposed implementation plans and activities for use of funds by adjacent units of local government that are grant recipients under the Program (response not mandatory for Indian Tribes).

San Mateo County has convened a task force of cities to share project and program ideas, to inform smaller cities of the EECBG program as they wait for the California Energy Commission to develop its guidelines, and to coordinate the spending of EECBG funds on the Countywide Reduce Before You Produce Program. The task force originated from discussion between Recycleworks, the county's waste management authority and other city staff members regarding the recent experiences of Berkeley and Sonoma County in launching residential energy retrofit financing programs. The initial goal of the discussions was to determine whether a similar financing mechanism or district was both desirable and attainable in San Mateo County. While significant interest was shown among the representatives, it became clear that with parallel initiatives progressing at both the regional (ABAG-lead) and state (CSDA-lead) levels, it could turn out to be a duplication of efforts if the task force were to devote significant resources to assembling such a program. Also, the current AB811-style financing mechanism was determined to present several legal challenges requiring interpretation and resolution before launch.

Despite the acknowledgement that the implementation of a financing district would be best delayed and developed in concert with one of the larger proposed programs, it was agreed that there was significant need to establish a comprehensive countywide program that would begin to inform local residents about the benefits and opportunities for energy-efficiency retrofits on their buildings. In addition, it was noted that by collaborating on such a program countywide, much of the marketing, outreach, and program development cost could be shared and leveraged, with each community adding specific elements and tailoring the program to their individual community as necessary.

4. Describe how your government will coordinate and share information with the state in which you are located regarding activities carried out with grant funds to maximize energy efficiency and conservation benefits (response not mandatory for Indian Tribes).

San Mateo County will coordinate with state level energy agencies via two distinct paths – one through the California Energy Commission (CEC), one through the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). As San Mateo County begins to assist the small cities within its borders to access the EECBG funds being routed through the state, it has been in direct contact with the CEC regarding the establishment of program requirements for them. While program requirements for that funding are currently being developed by the CEC, San Mateo County is moving ahead with including numerous small cities in the Countywide Reduce Before You Produce Program Task Force. As that program develops, we will necessarily be reporting our efforts and results not just to the members and residents within the county, but up through the CEC at the state level as well.

In addition, San Mateo County will be reporting back to the CPUC on the San Mateo County Energy Watch and its projects and efforts through Pacific Gas and Electric (PGE), the investor-owned utility that funds the Energy Watch program. As local governments within (and including) San Mateo County utilize the Energy Watch programs, those results will be tallied and shared with the state and public.

5. Describe how this plan has been designed to ensure that it sustains benefits beyond the EECBG funding period.

San Mateo County's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy has been designed to produce not only direct energy and emissions reductions through capital projects, but more importantly to build a programmatic framework for continued implementation of energy-saving projects into the future. Establishing and funding an energy program manager position will lay the groundwork for continued project development beyond the three-year EECBG funding period. In addition to the program manager position, the establishment of an internal county fund from early capital project energy savings will provide a sustained funding source for further upgrade and retrofit projects and programs. It is our hope that the internal county improvements will serve as an example and will provide instruction to both residents and businesses in San Mateo County on the types of projects and savings they can achieve.

Along with the example provided by the internal county program, the Countywide Reduce Before You Produce Program will provide a direct impetus and incentives for residents to improve their homes and apartments. These improvements will continue long-term and help the county achieve its AB32 emissions goals.

6. The President has made it clear that every taxpayer dollar spent on our economic recovery must be subject to unprecedented levels of transparency and accountability. Describe the auditing or monitoring procedures currently in place or that will be in place (by what date), to ensure funds are used for authorized purposes and every step is taken to prevent instances of fraud, waste, error, and abuse.

San Mateo County has created a "Green San Mateo County" page (www.greensanmateocounty.org) that links to the main county website and provides an energy efficiency tab where all EECBG project and program information will be posted. Currently the website hosts synopses of all current county green initiatives, as well as news and announcements of upcoming public programs. Additionally, all ARRA activity (application, receipt, obligation, and expenditure of funds) is reported monthly to the Board of Supervisors and made public record through their proceedings.

As part of the Energy Efficiency Analysis and Upgrade Program, the new energy program manager will provide updates to the green portal about internal energy projects and programs and their results, including amounts of energy saved and emissions reduced. The energy program manager will also coordinate all reporting for other EECBG-funded programs in other departments, including the Countywide Reduce Before You Produce Program and the Conservation Element Update and Climate Action Plan efforts. The energy program manager will work closely with facilities staff and Recycleworks staff to gather and report results directly to the county manager and controller's offices for audit purposes.

All plans and activities are subject to oversight from the Board of Supervisors and approval before and after being vetted through the Environmental Quality Committee (EQC). Additionally, the Energy Efficiency and Solar Power Roundtable, an advisory group made up of community members, energy industry representatives and County staff, will help directly steer the Countywide Reduce Before You Produce Program and provide valuable input on other County energy initiatives.

EECBG Activity Worksheet

Grantee: County of San Mateo Date: 06/24/2009
 DUNS #: 126637151 Program Contact Email: karmstrong@co.sanmateo.ca.us
 Program Contact First Name: Kevin Last Name: Armstrong
 Project Title: Energy Efficiency Analysis and Upgrade Program for County Facilities
 Activity: 6. Buildings and Facilities If Other: _____
 Sector: Public If Other: _____
 Proposed Number of Jobs Created: _____ Proposed Number of Jobs Retained: 22.00
 Proposed Energy Saved and/or Renewable Energy Generated: 35,352 million BTU
 Proposed GHG Emissions Reduced (CO2 Equivalents): 1,624.000
 Proposed Funds Leveraged: \$0.00
 Proposed EECBG Budget: 2,036,200.00
 Projected Costs Within Budget: Administration: \$0.00 Revolving Loans: \$0.00 Subgrants: \$0.00
 Project Contact First Name: Kevin Last Name: Armstrong Email: karmstrong@co.sanmateo.ca.us
 Metric Activity: Building Retrofits If Other: _____

Project Summary: *(limit summary to space provided)*

Under this program, San Mateo County will improve the energy efficiency of its county-owned buildings.

1. Energy Program Manager - The first step in the program will be to create and staff up to three years of an energy program manager (EPM) position to oversee the EECBG programs at a cost of \$288,000.

2. Benchmark Energy Performance & Identify Under-Performing Buildings- The EPM will begin by establishing an account in EPA's Portfolio Manager tool and will collect key building and operational characteristics and energy use data to assess and understand the current energy performance of over 100 county-owned buildings. The EPM will compare energy performance levels in all buildings to identify under-performing buildings which will be targeted for energy efficiency improvements. The initial Portfolio Manager results will establish the baselines for measuring progress for energy efficiency improvement project over time. Targeted audits will be performed at buildings initially indicating the greatest potential for savings.

3. Implement Best Operating Practices and Energy Efficiency Improvements - Through the San Mateo Energy Watch / PGE Retrocommissioning (RCx) Program, facility staff will work with the PGE-approved contractor to identify and implement best operational and maintenance strategies and equipment retrofit opportunities for improving energy efficiency in the target buildings identified in Step 3 above. Drawing upon industry guidance, such as EPA's ENERGY STAR Building Upgrade Manual, ENERGY STAR Product Procurement Guidance, and DOE's Commercial Buildings Energy Efficient Building Practices, staff will implement efficiency improvements to lighting systems, supplemental loads, air distribution systems, and/or heating and cooling systems, as indicated by the retro-commissioning and/or facility audit results. The County anticipates spending \$100,000 on audits and commissioning, with \$1,648,200 available to fund the highest-rated projects from either the existing capital projects list below, or from suggestions generated during the audit and retro-commissioning process.

- Youth Services Center - Cogen Heat Exchangers (estimated cost \$200,000)
- Youth Services Center - Cogen Load Sharing Study (est. \$50,000)
- Youth Services Center - Probation Lighting Control (est. \$40,000)
- County Office Building 1 - Multi-Zone Air Handler Unit Replacement (est. \$850,000)
- County Office Building 1 - Energy Management System Upgrade (est. \$100,000)
- County Office Building 2 - HVAC System Controls Upgrade (est. \$75,000)
- San Mateo Forensics Lab Lighting Control Upgrades (est. \$50,000)
- Hall of Justice - Lighting Retrofit (est. \$350,000)
- San Mateo Medical Center - HVAC Improvements (est. \$109,000)
- San Mateo Medical Center - Steam Boiler Replacement (est. \$540,000)
- San Mateo Medical Center - Cogeneration Plant Installation (est. \$2,000,000)

4. Track Progress, Verify Savings, and Document Results - Staff will track progress in Portfolio Manager and monitor variations in energy consumption and associated greenhouse gas emissions. Staff will use Portfolio Manager to provide a level of transparency and accountability by generating performance indicators, including energy use intensity, energy efficiency improvement over a baseline, EPA's Performance Rating (where applicable), and greenhouse gas emissions associated with building energy use. At the end of the project period, this information will be used to report energy use and greenhouse gas reduction results publicly and back to DOE. This program helps create sustained energy savings and job retention by reinvesting energy cost savings into the San Mateo County energy management program over time. Energy efficiency improvements that result in cost savings will fund facility staff for continuous building benchmarking, monitoring, analysis, and performance upgrades into the future for further energy savings and reinvestment.

If you are proposing more than one activity, save this file as many times as needed with successive page numbers. For example: "OH-CITY-Columbus-Project Activity page 1.pdf," "OH-CITY-Columbus-Project Activity page 2.pdf," and continue as needed.

EECBG Activity Worksheet

Grantee: County of San Mateo Date: 06/24/2009
 DUNS #: 126637151 Program Contact Email: karmstrong@co.sanmateo.ca.us
 Program Contact First Name: Kevin Last Name: Armstrong
 Project Title: Reduce Before you Produce: Promoting Residential Energy Efficiency
 Activity: 6. Buildings and Facilities If Other: _____
 Sector: Residential If Other: _____
 Proposed Number of Jobs Created: 0.00 Proposed Number of Jobs Retained: 5.00
 Proposed Energy Saved and/or Renewable Energy Generated: n/a
 Proposed GHG Emissions Reduced (CO2 Equivalents): _____
 Proposed Funds Leveraged: \$0.00
 Proposed EECBG Budget: 500,000.00
 Projected Costs Within Budget: Administration: \$0.00 Revolving Loans: \$0.00 Subgrants: \$0.00
 Project Contact First Name: Peggy Last Name: Jensen Email: pjensen@co.sanmateo.ca.us
 Metric Activity: Workshops, Training, and Education If Other: _____

Project Summary: *(limit summary to space provided)*

In early 2009, San Mateo County established an Energy Efficiency and Solar Power Roundtable made up of community members, energy industry representatives and County staff to develop an energy efficiency and renewable energy financing district program. The Roundtable researched the Berkeley First and Sonoma County programs and concluded that legal and financing questions need to be resolved before the County moves forward on a financing district. The group also agreed that the County should encourage the improvement of home performance now through energy audits and energy efficiency retrofits, and committed to developing a residential energy efficiency program around the theme "Reduce Before You Produce".

The "Reduce Before You Produce" program will include the following components:

- Educate community on energy efficiency and building performance - potential partners include the County Library, public utilities, the public television station, building supply companies and local non-profit organizations
- Encourage development of a certified energy efficiency retrofit workforce
- Educate building inspection staff on residential energy efficiency best practices
- Provide incentives for residents to have home energy audits and perform energy retrofit work - a menu of options ranging from free energy audits by community volunteers to subsidized energy audits by certified home performance firms will be developed to meet the needs of all County residents.
- Provide referrals to other weatherization programs for residents with qualifying low-incomes.

Together, the components of the "Reduce Before You Produce" program will reduce CO2 emissions; help the County meet the goals of AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act; create "green" jobs; and build communities and strengthen neighborhoods.

The County is taking the lead on this project and has begun discussions with 17 of the 20 cities in the County. It is hoped that the program will have become a collaborative, countywide effort by the time the EECBG funding is awarded. By working together, the cities and County will share resources and ideas to create a more comprehensive, efficient and cost-effective program, establish a model for rapid, countywide development and implementation of climate action programs, and lay the organizational and community groundwork for establishment of a financing district in the future.

The County and the cities will continue discussing how they may work together through the summer of 2009. When the EECBG funds are received, the County will ask for a commitment from interested cities and program development will begin. The goal is to develop the program by the end of December 2009, pilot it for three to four months in early 2010, and roll it out in all participating communities no later than July of 2010.

San Mateo County intends to use \$500,000 in EECBG funds for the development and implementation of the "Reduce Before You Produce" program. Over the three-year funding term, \$100,000 will fund a part-time program coordinator, \$50,000 will be set aside for the pilot program, \$325,000 for program implementation and \$25,000 for program evaluation.

EECBG Activity Worksheet

Grantee: County of San Mateo Date: 06/24/2009
 DUNS #: 126637151 Program Contact Email: karmstrong@co.sanmateo.ca.us
 Program Contact First Name: Kevin Last Name: Armstrong
 Project Title: Climate Action Components of the County General Plan Update
 Activity: 2. Technical Consultant Services If Other: _____
 Sector: All Sectors If Other: _____
 Proposed Number of Jobs Created: _____ Proposed Number of Jobs Retained: 4.00
 Proposed Energy Saved and/or Renewable Energy Generated: as necessary to comply with Assembly Bill 32
 Proposed GHG Emissions Reduced (CO2 Equivalents): _____
 Proposed Funds Leveraged: \$0.00
 Proposed EECBG Budget: 350,000.00
 Projected Costs Within Budget: Administration: _____ Revolving Loans: \$0.00 Subgrants: \$0.00
 Project Contact First Name: Matt Last Name: Seubert Email: mseubert@co.sanmateo.ca.us
 Metric Activity: Clean Energy Policy If Other: _____

Project Summary: *(limit summary to space provided)*

This project will update the San Mateo County General Plan to include a new chapter (element) on conservation and energy efficiency. This chapter will include policies related to the interaction between land use, transportation, and energy. It will also develop policies for the County with the goal of reducing energy usage and fossil fuel emissions and improving energy efficiency in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and benefits the local community. Included in this element will be an energy reduction strategy, including policies for reducing energy use and improving energy efficiency in both the commercial and residential building sectors. The element will also focus on development of transportation policies/and or program(s) that conserve energy or reduce energy use. In developing the element, the County will also explore policies that could incentivize greater use of renewable energy, including energy production and on-site energy generation for both public and private development. The element will also include policies to support and enhance the County's recently adopted green building program and its regulations. The element may also include policies related to supporting the performance of residential and commercial building energy audits. This project may also include revisions to other existing General Plan chapters, such as the Transportation Element and the Land Use Element, so that the Plan is internally consistent and includes more comprehensive policies for energy conservation and efficiency. This project will be consistent with the County Energy Strategy developed by the City County Association of Governments (C/CAG), and County Planning staff will coordinate with C/CAG as necessary while working on this project. The preliminary budget for this portion of the project is \$200,000.

In addition, the project may include the development of a Climate Action Plan, which would be supported by the policies in the General Plan update, but the development and implementation of which would also be outside of the immediate scope of updating the General Plan. The preliminary budget for this portion of the project is \$75,000.

The project will also include implementation of the updated General Plan element(s), including appropriate revisions to the implementing regulations such as the Zoning code and other relevant rules and regulations. This portion of the project will likely be completed by County staff, with the possible assistance of a consultant. The preliminary budget for this portion of the project is \$75,000.

The County Planning and Building Department will likely hire a consultant to write the conservation and energy efficiency chapter of the General Plan, to write the Climate Action Plan, and to plan and execute the overall public engagement process. The public outreach program will both educate the public about the relationship between land use, transportation, energy, and climate impacts, as well as gather comments from residents on their visions for the future of their county.

EECBG Activity Worksheet

Grantee: County of San Mateo Date: 06/24/2009
 DUNS #: 126637151 Program Contact Email: karmstrong@co.sanmateo.ca.us
 Program Contact First Name: Kevin Last Name: Armstrong
 Project Title: Bill and Jean Lane Education Center at Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve
 Activity: 13. Onsite Renewable Technology If Other: _____
 Sector: Public If Other: _____
 Proposed Number of Jobs Created: _____ Proposed Number of Jobs Retained: 10.00
 Proposed Energy Saved and/or Renewable Energy Generated: 110 million BTU
 Proposed GHG Emissions Reduced (CO2 Equivalents): 5.000
 Proposed Funds Leveraged: \$855,000.00
 Proposed EECBG Budget: 65,000.00
 Projected Costs Within Budget: Administration: _____ Revolving Loans: \$0.00 Subgrants: \$0.00
 Project Contact First Name: Cecily Last Name: Harris Email: charris@co.sanmateo.ca.us
 Metric Activity: Other If Other: Incremental Cost EE & Design

Project Summary: (limit summary to space provided)

The Bill and Jean Lane Education Center at Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve is designed to be a portal to the experience immediately outdoors. Edgewood Park & Natural Preserve, roughly one square mile, is known for its remarkable species richness where almost 500 different plant species have been identified. Three plants and one animal, the Bay checkerspot butterfly, at Edgewood are federally listed as endangered or threatened. There is an effort to restore the federally threatened Bay checkerspot butterfly habitat, led by Dr. Stuart Weiss in the park.

The center will provide a year-round setting for educational and research activities and promote community involvement with the on-going efforts to preserve and restore Edgewood and its exceptional natural resources. The center, offering exhibits linked to California k-12 curriculum standards adopted by the State Board of Education, will support docent-led educational programs for youth and adults and increase local field-based learning opportunities. The fully accessible center with exhibits that can be explored through touch and sound and the native garden provides an opportunity for those with disabilities to explore Edgewood's unique biota.

The park receives approximately 100,000 visits annually. The center will provide a place where the many visitors who do not join guided walks can learn about the Preserve and the green building aspects of the center through exhibits, interaction with rangers and volunteers and resource library materials. Activities at the center will promote volunteerism in habitat restoration, trail maintenance and trail patrol efforts at Edgewood.

The building plans and specs are completed and all environmental approvals and permits have been issued. Sustainable building concepts were incorporated into the location and design of the project. The building is designed to fit into the hillside, reducing the amount of grading. The building is sited to use passive techniques to keep the building warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer and includes windows above the exhibits and Solatube skylights in order to take advantage of natural light. Other elements include the use of fly ash, cotton fiber insulation (R-13 interior walls, R-19 exterior walls, and R-32 under the roof) and the use of reclaimed materials. A planned 6kw DC photovoltaic system is included as an allowance in the project plans and specs and is intended to supply half of the building's needs.

Previously completed phases of this project include environmental enhancements to the parking lot, adding additional riparian buffer and use of pervious asphalt. The new pedestrian bridge was made from Forest Stewardship Council certified wood.

Two display panels on the outside of the building will highlight the green building features.