



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Tom Christensen (619) 515-6535

COUNTY HELPS RURAL EAST COUNTY OBTAIN EMERGENCY GENERATOR *Supervisor Dianne Jacob, County Partner with Community Groups to Enhance Disaster Preparedness Efforts in East County*

A community center in East County has a new electrical generator to keep its lights on during emergencies, thanks to support from Second District Supervisor Dianne Jacob, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, and grant funds obtained through the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA).

A ceremony to recognize the accomplishment will take place at 10:45 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23 at the Mountain Empire Community Center, 976 Sheridan Road, Campo. Supervisor Dianne Jacob will attend along with representatives from HHSA, the Council of Community Clinics, local community members, and Mountain Health and Community Services, which operates the community center. The grant funds used to purchase and install the \$33,000 generator are part of the County's commitment to disaster preparedness in fire-prone East County.

"I'm pleased to be part of a collaborative effort to bring this crucial resource to our backcountry," said Supervisor Jacob. "The generator strengthens the region's ability to rapidly respond to a local emergency."

In February, a generator was installed at Mountain Empire Family Medicine through a similar joint effort that included Supervisor Jacob, HHSA, State Senator Denise Ducheny, and the Council of Community Clinics. The 2003 firestorm displaced many San Diego County residents, some of whom needed medical treatment and temporary shelter. Mountain Health and Community Services (MHCS) staff and local residents opened the center. "When the fires came, many residents looked to us for assistance," said Judith Shaplin, CEO of MHCS. "We're grateful to Supervisor Dianne Jacob, HHSA, and everyone who participated in this valuable project."

The generator was purchased using Health Resources Services Administration, National Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program funding obtained by HHSA. The County Department of General Services and County Department of Purchasing and Contracting also assisted in the purchase.

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