

SMUD News Release

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

• News Media Services

• 916•732•5111

For immediate release

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SMUD performing huge meter retrofit

Customers will receive advance notifications

Customers who purchase electricity from the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) will soon find new meters on their homes, apartments and small businesses. These electronic meters will immediately reduce the costs of reading customers' meters each month.

These new "drive-by" meters can be read remotely. Meter readers will no longer walk from home to home to read and record each customer's electric usage. Instead, they will drive through neighborhoods with a device secured to their vehicle that electronically reads each meter from the street. Using this "drive-by" technology, a SMUD employee can read more than 2,500 meters in an hour. Now, it requires four days for a meter reader to read and record the same number of meters.

Customers will be mailed a notice with the dates SMUD will be replacing meters in their neighborhoods. The "drive-by" meters have been installed in new subdivisions since 2000 and SMUD is now replacing the existing 500,000 meters. In 2007, SMUD will install about 170,000 meters in its service area, which encompasses all of Sacramento County and a small portion of Placer County. The initial cost of the new meters is \$43 million and the annual savings will be over \$6.5 million, helping SMUD maintain some of the lowest rates in California.

For more information, visit www.smud.org or call 1-888-742-7683.

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