



## Energy Roadmap Case Study:

# City of San Marcos Realizes Energy Savings with the Help of SANDAG

### What is an Energy Roadmap?

Energy Roadmaps are voluntary energy management plans that provide a framework for local governments to reduce energy use in municipal operations and in their community. They are offered at no cost to each city.

## Annual Savings: \$168,000

*“The Energy Roadmap Program helped San Marcos pinpoint energy efficiencies. The City saved more than \$100,000 in ball field lighting, alone. These and other improvements have produced tangible savings for our residents.”*

**Chris Orlando,**  
City Council Member,  
San Marcos



In 2011, the City of San Marcos worked with SANDAG to develop an Energy Roadmap, at no cost to the City, through a partnership between SANDAG and SDG&E. The Energy Roadmap provides detailed energy assessments for city-owned buildings to determine energy and cost saving measures. San Marcos has implemented several measures that reduce city costs and energy use while maintaining or expanding services, and has plans to do even more.

### Savings Come to Light Through Rate Switch

SANDAG contracted with energy engineering specialists to examine various utility rate options for San Marcos sports parks. The City was paying high demand fees, in addition to the fee for using energy, resulting in excessive monthly utility bills. Through the Energy Roadmap program, the City found it could achieve significant savings by switching five city parks to a special outdoor lighting rate. This switch has helped San Marcos realize an annual savings of almost \$148,000 on their utility bills.

### Energy Savings Realized through Roadmap Implementation

Energy assessments conducted at 16 municipal sites found that the City’s buildings generally performed better than the national average for similar types of buildings. However, the Roadmap still found opportunities for the City to save additional energy and money through energy efficient retrofits. San Marcos has since implemented several upgrades at City Hall and other sites, saving them almost \$20,000 annually. Efficiency measures include lighting upgrades; air conditioning (AC) tune-ups and replacements; and an energy management system which monitors, controls, and optimizes building comfort and performance.

### Continuing on the Sustainability Path

The City continues to participate in the Energy Roadmap program and is currently exploring additional sustainability projects for water wells, park lighting, and streetlights. San Marcos plans to convert 2,700 existing low pressure sodium (LPS) street and safety lights to high efficiency LED fixtures. The City also plans to retrofit all existing parking lot and site lighting with new LED fixtures and replace inefficient well pumps throughout the City’s park system. Potential cost savings from these projects is estimated to be over \$140,000 annually.



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**For a free consultation, contact Susan Freedman, Senior Regional Energy/Climate Planner, at (619) 699-7387 or [susan.freedman@sandag.org](mailto:susan.freedman@sandag.org). Learn more at [sandag.org/energy](http://sandag.org/energy).**