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New Water Meter System & Lighting Improvements for City of Monterey Park, California

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Located in Los Angeles County, California, the City of Monterey Park is home to more than 60,000 residents who are well served by public rail and transit lines. In a city with a rich mix of people from many backgrounds, the City of Monterey Park hosts numerous cultural, educational, and festive programs.

Customer Objectives

Due to its geography and drought conditions, the City of Monterey Park has a keen interest in conserving natural resources and energy. In 2013, Mayor Hans Liang met Siemens Building Technologies representatives at a California League of Cities event where he shared his interest in not only conserving energy and water, but also in utilizing green technologies.

Mayor Liang says, "As time progresses, there are new and better technologies available to us, and we can leverage those technologies to advance our green agenda. The City of Monterey Park takes an active role in promoting that agenda and working toward our conservation goals." As important as energy and water conservation are to the City of Monterey Park, the Mayor also needed improvements to be completed from a budget-neutral position.

Siemens Solutions

In order to achieve the City's objectives, Siemens and Monterey Park established a scope of work that included:

- HVAC improvements for City Hall, the Police Department, and other community buildings to take advantage of new, more energy-efficient HVAC technologies
- Installation of new Siemens Desigo CC controls system, which enables more efficient building management
- Energy-efficient LED interior lighting upgrades for a variety of buildings owned by the city, including City Hall, the Police Department, and a fire station
- Energy-efficient exterior LED lighting upgrades for more than a dozen parks and community buildings
- Implementation of a new wireless water meter reading system to improve meter reading accuracy and efficiency

Siemens and the City of Monterey Park worked together to create a financing arrangement that enabled these improvements to be made without having an impact on the City's budget. Siemens provided the City with a 15-year financing agreement that also guaranteed energy savings.

LED Lighting Improvements

LEDs use a fraction of the energy of typical lamps, and also have a significantly longer usable life. When LED lighting is used, not only does electricity use decline, the maintenance costs associated with changing bulbs also falls. LED lighting technology is not new; in fact, it has been around for approximately 50 years. But recent technological advancements have made LED lighting more stable and affordable, and the City of Monterey Park believed the time was right to utilize this more advanced technology.

For the interior lighting portion of the project, Siemens replaced existing fluorescent technologies with their electronic ballasts and T8 lamps with LED lamps. For exterior lighting upgrades, Siemens replaced older high intensity discharge (HID) lamps, ballasts, and fixtures, with LED lamps.

Automatic Water Meter System

The City of Monterey Park, like many other communities across the U.S., discovered that about 10% of city water usage was lost or unaccounted for. That is, as residents used water, the aging water meters throughout the city did not track all of the water usage, which meant lost revenue for the City.

With the new automatic water meter system in place, the City of Monterey Park could not only recapture that lost revenue with an accuracy rate of greater than 99%, but the wireless system now allows water meters to be read remotely. City personnel can simply drive by the locations to pick up meter data, rather than exiting their vehicles to read each meter manually, a process that's offering significant time and cost efficiencies to the City of Monterey Park.

Customer Results

Today, the City of Monterey Park is proud of its commitment to green technologies as well as to energy and natural resource conservation. "It's not easy for a municipality to commit to spending large amounts of money, even when we're investing for a more sustainable future. But with Siemens cost-neutral program, we're guaranteed those energy savings, which makes us confident in the overall solution." Having more dollars available within the City's budget will further help improve the quality of life for the City of Monterey Park residents, according to Mayor Liang

"The fact that Siemens has had success in other nearby communities with this type of work and financing arrangement made it much easier for us to move forward with the project and to be successful. We hope other cities will take advantage of these programs from Siemens, too; the greater the demand for their work, the more affordable and available green technologies will become."

--Mayor Hans Liang | City of Monterey Park, CA