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Contact: Julian Foley, GRID Alternatives
510-731-1188 / jfoley@gridalternatives.org

Governor Makes Special Stop to See Low-Income Solar Program at Work
Home Solar Installation Draws Praise from Governor, Homeowners and Job Training Program

Long Beach, CA – In a nod to the success of California’s Single-family Affordable Solar Homes Program (SASH), Governor Jerry Brown visited Long Beach today to observe the site where homeowners Maribel and Jose Mendoza and their four boys will soon reap the benefits of low-cost solar energy. The installation, completed by SASH program manager GRID Alternatives and a team of job trainees, is the sixth SASH installation on the block.

“GRID Alternatives helps low income people be part of the solar revolution,” stated the Governor.

Today’s installation allowed the Governor to see first-hand how the SASH program is helping underserved communities across the state. The Mendozas will save up to 90 percent on their electricity bill, savings they plan to use toward their children’s schooling.

“We are so thankful for the chance to not only save money for our kids,” said Maribel Mendoza, “but also leave them a cleaner environment.”

GRID Alternatives has installed solar for more than 2800 families like the Mendozas through the SASH program, while training more than 9,000 volunteers and jobtrainees in the basics of solar PV installation. Students at Los Angeles Trade Technical College were getting hands-on experience at today’s installation, helping qualify them for their licensing exam as well as paid work opportunities with GRID Alternatives’ subcontractors.

The SASH program is ratepayer-funded through the California Public Utilities Commission and provides up-front rebates to help low-income homeowners benefit from solar power. Slated to sunset with the rest of the California Solar Initiative, the program would be extended for another six years through the Equitable Access to Solar Energy Bill (AB217), recently introduced in the Legislature by Assembly Member Steven Bradford (D-Gardena) and co-authored by Senator Kevin De León (D-Los Angeles).

Bradford, who attended today’s installation, affirmed the success of the program saying, “The clean energy revolution is improving communities across California. But it is important to make
sure that revolution is inclusive. Today’s event shows real families and real communities benefitting from clean energy.”

“The Governor’s visit demonstrates California’s vision and leadership in developing clean, sustainable energy solutions that are accessible for everyone at all income levels,” said Erica Mackie, CEO and co-founder of GRID Alternatives. “We’re proud to be part of a program that is helping California communities and setting the stage for more solar adoption nationwide.”

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GRID Alternatives is a non-profit organization that brings the benefits of solartechnology to low-income communities. Using a barn-raising model, GRID Alternatives leads teams of volunteers and job trainees to install solar power on qualifying homes, providing needed savings for families struggling to make ends meet, preparing workers for jobs in the fast-growing solar industry and cleaning our air. GRID Alternatives has offices throughout California and in Denver, CO. For more information, visit www.gridalternatives.org.