



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **GARZA, WOLFF, ROCHELLE ANNOUNCE ENERGY PARTNERSHIP**

SAN ANTONIO --- San Antonio Mayor Ed Garza, Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff and City Public Service (CPS) General Manager and CEO Jamie Rochelle today announced the creation of the Metropolitan Energy Partnership (MEP).

“Energy is the lifeblood of any community, and the environmental and economic health of a community depends upon the wise use of our energy supplies,” said County Judge Wolff. “Recent events in California and many other western states demonstrate just how critically important energy is to the economic well-being of the community. Our message today is simple: plan today for the wise development and use of our energy supplies, or pay the price in lost jobs and lost opportunities tomorrow. That’s what this initiative is all about,” Wolff said.

The MEP is the result of joint efforts undertaken by the City, County and CPS to develop an entity that will focus on the conservation of the region’s energy supplies. It was formed to foster the wise use of energy, develop a green building program, encourage the use of renewable and sustainable energy supplies and other conservation programs and policies.

Mayor Ed Garza pointed out that public entities such as the City of San Antonio have been mandated under Senate Bill 5 to reduce their consumption of electricity by five percent per year for five years beginning September 1st. “This conservation mandate will not be easy to achieve. However, the City and its partners believe that an aggressive attempt to meet the conservation requirements of SB 5 must be made,” Garza said. “The creation of the Metropolitan Energy Partnership is the first step in addressing this legal requirement to reduce energy use by public entities.”

Other entities invited to participate include: the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG); the Association of Suburban Mayors; VIA; and Solar San Antonio. These members, together with the City, County and CPS will form the policy board of the Metropolitan Energy Partnership. County Judge Wolff will be the first Chairman of the Partnership. Reporting to the policy board will be a staff of energy experts in the Metropolitan Energy Office (MEO) whose job will be to implement the policies of the Partnership.

Jamie Rochelle noted “The speed at which this effort was accomplished exemplifies the spirit of teamwork and collegiality with which the entire process has been undertaken. Each partner realizes the enormity of the challenge before us and understands the great benefits that success in meeting the challenge will bring to our citizens. The wise use of energy will bring a healthy environment, a growing economy and tremendous benefits to all our citizens.”

Funding for the MEO will come from CPS, the City of San Antonio and Bexar County. Other partners and agencies will provide in-kind services. A search is underway for suitable offices to house the newly established MEO and staff.

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