



AIA San Antonio

May 16, 2009

POSITION STATEMENT

Funding for CPS Energy Conservation Program

The San Antonio Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA San Antonio) strongly supports the continued funding of CPS's Save for Tomorrow Energy Plan (STEP) and urges the Mayor and Council to act quickly to provide funding for the 2009 program as proposed by CPS.

One of the Mayor's Mission Verde initiatives was to conserve energy resources in San Antonio. Since the operations and maintenance of buildings accounts for over 90% of the electricity consumption in San Antonio, increasing the efficiency of buildings and encouraging the integration of on-site renewable technologies in buildings can have a strong positive effect on San Antonio's energy conservation goals.

AIA San Antonio supports STEP for the following reasons:

- STEP adheres to the American Institute of Architects "High Performance Building Position Statement" which calls for increased energy efficiency through better design and operation of the built environment.
- AIA San Antonio strongly endorses the goal of STEP to reduce electrical demand by 771 megawatts by 2020, which is the equivalent of adding a large conventional coal fired power plant to our infrastructure.
- Last year the STEP program proved to be an overwhelming success in that CPS Energy did not set a new record for electrical peak demand.
- While there is a proposed minimal average increase in utility bills of \$.03 per month in 2009, the STEP program will reduce the long term cost that would be required to supply additional energy demand needed if conservation is not encouraged and incentivized.
- The STEP funding provides for weatherization of several thousand low-income homes, which, more than any other program, successfully reduces energy demand and allows households to spend their money providing for their families rather than on utility bill payments.

AIA San Antonio prefers the following outcomes:

- Mayor and Council move to quickly approve STEP funding for 2009 as proposed by CPS.
- Mayor and Council act to ensure that future funding for STEP becomes a budget item that is voted on prior to the year of activation (i.e. The 2010 funding for STEP is finalized in 2009) to ensure consistency to CPS customers.
- That projected funding for STEP is right-sized to the demand so that the incentive programs are more reliable and consistent.