



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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## **COUNTY HELPS RURAL CLINIC OBTAIN BACKUP GENERATOR**

*County Joins in Effort to Enhance Campo Clinic's Ability to Respond During Disaster*

A rural East County clinic has a generator to back up electrical power during disasters, thanks to support from San Diego County Second District Supervisor Dianne Jacob and the County Board of Supervisors, the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), Senator Denise Ducheny, and the Council of Community Clinics (CCC).

Mountain Health & Community Services, Inc. will recognize the joint effort to obtain the \$19,000 generator at a ceremony taking place at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8 at Mountain Empire Family Medicine, 31115 Highway 94, Campo CA 91906. Invited guests include Supervisor Dianne Jacob, representatives from HHSA and Senator Denise Ducheny, and Council of Community Clinics (CCC), who also played roles in obtaining the generator.

Supervisor Jacob and the Board of Supervisors have placed a high priority on strengthening regional disaster preparedness, especially after the 2003 firestorms, which directly affected the Campo area.

"During the firestorms, power lines burned and Mountain Empire Family Medicine lost thousands of dollars worth of vaccine and medications in their refrigerator," said Supervisor Jacob. "I'm pleased to be part of a collaborative effort to bring this crucial resource to our backcountry."

"When the fires came, many residents were displaced and looked to us for assistance," said Judith Shaplin, CEO, Mountain Health & Community Services, Inc. "The generator gives us the ability to respond to their needs when the worst is happening. We're grateful to Supervisor Jacob, Senator Ducheny, HHSA, the Council of Community Clinics, and everyone else who came together to help us help our community."

Mountain Empire encompasses a vast, isolated geography with a history of electrical failure. A Mountain Empire Disaster Defense Team was formed to educate residents and to compile area resources to respond to possible threats.

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