



# San marino energy storage for microgrids

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San Diego Gas & Electric Tuesday unveiled four new microgrids in the communities of Clairemont, Tierrasanta, Paradise and Boulevard, intended to address surging energy demands in the region.

The microgrids will operate independently or in tandem with the larger regional grid and offer a combined storage capacity of about 39 megawatts and 180 megawatt-hours, officials said. The sites are designed to help deal with high energy demand, including on hot summer days and peak evening hours.

"Storage and microgrids are key to helping build a more resilient electric grid that can extend the availability of cleaner energy and help our communities better manage through grid emergencies like the extreme heat experienced in recent summers," SDG& E CEO Caroline Winn said. "These microgrids will actively dispatch clean energy to the grid when needed and help improve energy resiliency for critical facilities like fire stations, schools and cooling centers in San Diego."

The microgrids, which can be remotely operated, provide real-time monitoring, faster response to grid events, more efficient energy storage management, and enhanced grid resilience, according to a statement from the San Diego-based utility company.

"For communities like mine that often experience outages during power emergencies, we welcome infrastructure that will help keep our lights on and our refrigerators running during difficult times," San Diego County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Nora Vargas said. "Enhancing our power grid is an important first step in making sure all communities have access to basic resources during a crisis, especially for our local schools, fire stations and medical centers."

In December 2021, the California Public Utilities Commission granted the green light to SDG& E to move forward with the four sites. According to the utility, these projects were set into motion in response to Gov. Gavin Newsom's State Emergency Proclamation in the summer of 2021.

These facilities will be connected to the state energy market, allowing the California Independent System Operator to dispatch resources as needed to "help maintain a balanced supply and demand of energy throughout the state."

Micro is quickly becoming macro. San Diego Gas & Electric has unveiled four new microgrids that will go online within the next 90 days, boosting the number in its service territory to eight — and the utility has plans to build at least three more in the next two years.

Growing in popularity in California, microgrids essentially act as mini-electric grids that can supply power to



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a defined area while operating independently of the conventional electric power system for hours at a time during emergencies, such as power outages or when the state's electric grid is under stress.

"Safety-wise, this is probably the most-state-of-the-art as it comes right now," said Don Balfour, SDG& E's project manager for clean technology. "You have gas detection, fire detection, smoke detection. All of that's embedded inside now."

The four microgrids offer combined storage capacity of 39 megawatts and 180 megawatt-hours. SDG& E officials say that's enough to supply power to about 26,000 homes for four or more hours when needed.

The 10-megawatt Paradise Microgrid has the ability to power the Southeast Division Police Department, Fire Stations 51 and 32, one middle school and three elementary schools in the area. The energy storage system is connected to SDG& E's Paradise Substation next door.

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