

## San Diego Retrocommissioning Program

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### Synopsis

The San Diego Retrocommissioning (RCx) Program helps building owners improve the efficiency of their building operations by offering incentives and technical assistance for RCx services. The Program is offered to San Diego Gas & Electric commercial customers and is funded by electric public goods charges administered by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The Program launched in Spring 2004 and runs through December 2005. Overall, the Program aims to capture 6,224,400 kWh in annual energy savings and 780 kW of peak demand reduction by retrocommissioning over 3 million square feet of building area. To-date, the Program is on track for meeting its goals.

The Program was designed to expand RCx capabilities in the region and streamline the RCx process by advancing the development of clear protocols and report templates, offering training to commissioning providers and building operators, and using building operations tracking systems to verify that the benefits from installed RCx measures persist over time. Together, these primary program elements are in place to help overcome uncertainty in the industry about how retrocommissioning works and what building owners, in particular, should expect. There are 12 pre-qualified and trained commissioning providers that provide services through the Program.

Overall, key features of the San Diego RCx Program include:

- Thorough **screening** of program applicants, including an initial review of the building characteristics and systems and assessment of owner/operator commitment.
- A preliminary **scoping** of the building to determine the energy savings potential and the appropriate scope of services for the facility.
- Tools to organize findings from the in-depth **RCx investigation**, including guidance on energy calculations and templates that streamline deliverables and bypass the need for lengthy report writing.
- Referrals to other programs for services outside of the scope of the Program, such as equipment retrofits, to reduce lost opportunities at the facility.
- Assistance for the **implementation** of selected measures with a simple payback exceeding one year.
- A **persistence of savings** protocol that combines targeted documentation, project-specific building operator training, and performance tracking of individual measures to help ensure that improved systems are monitored and maintained correctly and that savings persist over time.