



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 28, 2010

CONTACT: Cynthia Peterson  
Berkeley-Albany YMCA (510) 486-8408

**BERKELEY-ALBANY YMCA "BREAKS GROUND" ON  
YMCA-PG&E TEEN CENTER**

**BERKELEY, Calif.** – On February 2, 2010, the Berkeley-Albany YMCA will break ground on the new YMCA-PG&E Teen Center and launch "Building Brighter Futures," a community-wide support campaign to create the new center. The ground breaking ceremony is open to the public and will begin at 4:00 pm. It will feature remarks from Mayor Tom Bates, YMCA leaders, campaign supporters, representatives from Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) and AT&T, and local teens.

"The long-held dream of a teen center in Berkeley is closer than ever," said Fran Gallati, Berkeley-Albany YMCA CEO. "With the generous support of PG&E and others, the YMCA will provide more than 2,500 teens each year with the academic achievement, employment and career planning, and leadership development programs they want and need."

PG&E donated the 8,000 sq ft former service center that will become the Teen Center. Once renovations are complete, the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certified building will also feature environmental and conservation programs for teens. "PG&E and the YMCA stand united in our commitment to bettering the environment and creating opportunities for youth in our community," said Ophelia Basgal, Vice President of Community Relations for Pacific Gas and Electric Company. "This new center will provide innovative and enriching programs that will help change lives and build brighter futures for all teens."

The Teen Center building and renovation project is being led by the YMCA Teen Center Task Force, which is generously funded by AT&T. The Task Force is a group of diverse local teens designing the look, feel, and programs for the Center and is a key YMCA youth empowerment and leadership development program. "At AT&T, we believe in the incredible impact teens can have when they take an active role in shaping their community and their future. We are excited to provide the financial support for the Teen Center Task Force and to help develop the next generation of community leaders." said Loretta Walker, Vice President of External Affairs for AT&T.

The YMCA-PG&E Teen Center ground breaking ceremony and community-wide support campaign kick-off will take place at the site of the new facility at 2111 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way in Berkeley. Community leaders, campaign supporters, the building project team and teens will be in attendance to share their vision for a brighter future for all youth at the Teen Center. Campaign leaders

- more -

and representatives from Pankow Special Projects, the general contractor, will literally break ground to symbolize the start of construction.

Details on the programs that will be offered at the Teen Center, as well as information on how to get more involved in the building efforts, will be available.

For more information about Pacific Gas and Electric Company, please visit [www.pge.com](http://www.pge.com).

For more information about the Berkeley-Albany YMCA, please visit [www.baymca.org](http://www.baymca.org)

###