

# SELFGEN SUCCESS STORY

ED 1

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## SAN ELIJO JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY RECEIVES \$75K FOR COMPLETED SELF-GENERATION PROJECT

*"When you look at all the factors, including current electricity prices and grant funding, we're anticipating payback in three to four years. We're seeing a drop in monthly electricity costs of \$4,000 to \$4,500."*

*Mike Thornton, San Elijo Assistant Manager*

On September 12, 2002 the San Elijo Joint Powers Authority (SEJPA) received a rebate check for over \$75K from the San Diego Regional Energy Office (SDREO) for its participation in the California Public Utilities Commission's Self-Generation Incentive Program. The program, which is administered by SDREO in the San Diego region, provides cash incentives for residential and business customers to produce their own energy through clean distributed generation technologies including microturbines, small gas turbines, wind turbines, photovoltaics, fuel cells and internal combustion engines. The SEJPA and MWH Energy Solutions completed one of the first installations of microturbine-driven, high-speed generators in a wastewater treatment plant in November 2001. Installed at the San Elijo Water Reclamation Facility in Cardiff-by-



SDREO Program Manager, Mike Magee, and SDREO Executive Director, Irene Stillings, present a rebate check for over \$75K to the SEJPA Board of Directors.

requirements by approximately 15-20 percent and is estimated to have a payback of three to four years.

The project was first conceptualized by the SEJPA in December 2000 as a result of the energy crisis in California and became operational within one year. It is the first Self-Generation project to receive an incentive check from SDREO, setting a positive example for other businesses in the region. SDREO currently has 31 active Self-Generation projects and has \$15.5 million available annually for cash incentives through 2004.



Three renewable-fueled Capstone C30 MicroTurbines installed at the SEJPA's Water Reclamation Facility.

the-Sea, the Capstone microturbines use methane gas produced by the treatment of wastewater to generate up to 90 kilowatts of power. To maximize the effectiveness of the project, the SEJPA added a heat recovery process to heat the plant's sludge digesters with the exhaust from the microturbines. The end result is a project that reduces the plant's power