

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 16, 2020

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:

Jay Duncan, M.P.A., Public Works Call Center
Manager Public Works Department
(805) 385-8387 | jay.duncan@oxnard.org

**SIGN UP SESSIONS CANCELLED FOR MARCH 2020 PROJECT ASSIST UTILITY RATE ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM FOR INCOME QUALIFIED CUSTOMERS**

OXNARD, Calif. - The City of Oxnard is cancelling sign-up opportunities for the utility rate assistance program "Project Assist" on March 18 and 19 that were to have taken place at the South Oxnard Library, Santa Rosa Room. The program offers eligible residents a \$15 monthly discount (up from \$10 monthly the first two years) toward residents' trash, sewer, and water utility bills. This fiscal year (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020), the City will also continue to accept qualified multi-family dwelling residents who receive their own City of Oxnard utility bill.

However, prospective participants may file by Thursday, March 19 using two other options. The Oxnard resident can obtain an application in English or Spanish from the City's website and email it with the required documents identified below to jay.duncan@oxnard.org or mail to Jay Duncan, Public Works Call Center Manager, City of Oxnard, 111 South Del Norte Blvd., Second Floor, Oxnard, CA 93030. If a resident does not have access to a computer, then please call Public Works Call Center Manager Jay Duncan directly at 805-385-8387 and he will mail you an application.

Qualifications are a streamlined three step process. A prospective participant completes and turns in the one page bilingual application. Secondly, Oxnard residents must be participants in Southern California Edison or Southern California Gas Company's CARE program and submit proof. Several other social assistance options are also recognized. Each Oxnard residents will be notified on the spot of approval as they file completed applications to city Public Works staff. Funds are limited and acceptance is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Finally, the applicant turns in a recent City Utility Bill copy that is in their name or a copy of a valid driver license. Project Assist funds are limited and acceptance is awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. Applications and bilingual sign-up information are also available online at the City's website at www.oxnard.org/project-assist.

"Project Assist" drew 392 participants in "Year 1" and experienced a 28% increase in "Year 2" topping out at 548. The Oxnard City Council approved the "Project Assist" Program for a third cycle (Fiscal Year 2019-2020) at its July 16, 2019 meeting. In February 2020, two sign-up sessions elevated the number of participants to 473 to date this fiscal year. The application process is annual. If residents participated in the program the first two years and remain eligible, then they are still required to complete the application process to remain a Project Assist participant.

For more information, visit www.oxnard.org/project-assist or contact the Public Works Call Center Manager Jay Duncan at 805-385-8387.