

## For immediate release

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## New Solar Installation to Offset Two-Thirds of Affordable Housing Community's Power Usage

101 households at St. Mary's Gardens in Oakland will benefit from clean energy and monthly cost savings

Oakland (January 26, 2024) -- The Solar On Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH) Program, St. Mary's Elderly Housing Corporation and Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN) have partnered with Sunrun (Nasdaq: RUN), the nation's leading provider of residential solar, storage and energy services, for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate a new solar installation at St. Mary's Gardens, an affordable housing community in Oakland, California.

Built in 1979 by St Mary's Elderly Housing Corporation, a local nonprofit corporation, St. Mary's Gardens has 101 apartments serving very low income seniors over the age of 62 and some younger persons with a disability. Sunrun is installing a 117 kW rooftop solar PV system, 100% of which is used to provide free power to the residents, worth over \$35 a month to each household and offsetting about two-thirds of existing tenant usage.

"Sunrun is committed to promoting energy equity, especially benefiting lower-income communities and renters who prioritize energy security and stability," said Sunrun CEO Mary Powell. "We are proud to contribute to the delivery of clean energy and monthly savings to the residents of St. Mary's Gardens."

The project was made possible in part through the California Public Utilities Commission's SOMAH Program. State funding for the initiative comes from polluters who purchase greenhouse gas allowances through the state's cap-and-trade program and is a concrete demonstration of California's commitment to reducing the climate impacts of the built environment.

This community-driven effort is SOMAH's first completed Track A project, intended for property owners who would like to receive technical assistance services from the program administrator to help assess the solar potential at their property, and/or identify eligible contractors for their project. The St Mary's board approached SOMAH from the

beginning with the intent to have 100% of the solar benefit accrue to residents. APEN, one of the original champions for the creation of the SOMAH program in 2015 (via AB 693) and now serves as a member of the nonprofit coalition that serves as the SOMAH Program Administrator, helped educate the largely Mandarin and Cantonese-speaking community about SOMAH benefits.

"It's incredible to see the SOMAH Program come full circle with the installation of solar panels at St. Mary's Gardens," said Shina Robinson, Resilience Hubs Manager at APEN. "Nearly 10 years ago, APEN members started dreaming up a program that would make sure that working class communities of color would see the immediate tangible benefits of public investments in solar. Today, that program is bringing cost savings and clean energy to renters in our own community."

"I find it truly gratifying to facilitate the connection of renters with the clean energy transition, striving for energy equity," said Scott Sarem, vice president of Multifamily Affordable Housing at Sunrun. "Solar effectively removes the variable risk of energy inflation from the equation for affordable housing developments."

Joseph Wang, resident at St. Mary's Gardens and APEN community member, spoke at the celebration. "The earth is the common home of all mankind, and everyone has the responsibility to protect the environment. The Asian Pacific Environmental Network has a group of people who care about environmental justice, advocate and promote a green, clean and safe living environment. The solar project in our senior apartment is supported by APEN, and they worked hard with other relevant parties to land this project."

"We are grateful to have received excellent technical assistance through the SOMAH program, which has enabled us to install the solar system that will reduce the utility costs of our very low income community," said Gideon Anders the Treasurer of the St. Mary's Elderly Housing Corporation. The property is professionally managed by Christian Church Homes.

"The SOMAH Program is proud to support projects, just like St. Mary's Gardens, all across California. St. Mary's Gardens is an example of a success story where a solar PV installation incentivized by SOMAH can be complemented by a more comprehensive building retrofit that directly impacts residents through utility bill savings." said Staci Givens, SOMAH Program Manager.

"The CPUC is a proud sponsor of the Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing Program, and a proud partner with all of the organizations who worked together to realize the St. Mary's Garden project. This project delivers on the CPUC's mission of ensuring access to clean energy for all Californians, and we are working to bring more projects like this one

to people and communities across California." said Rachel Peterson, Executive Director, California Public Utilities Commission

"The St. Mary's Garden project and the Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing Program are concrete examples of how we are going to achieve California's goals for clean energy for all. As a CPUC Commissioner, I am inspired to see the on-the-ground results of what our collaboration can accomplish." said John Reynolds, Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission.

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## **About SOMAH**

The SOMAH Program provides up to \$100 million annually in financial incentives for installing photovoltaic (PV) energy systems on multifamily affordable housing in California. The program's unique, community-based approach ensures long-term, direct economic benefits for low-income households, helps catalyze the market for solar on multifamily housing and creates jobs. SOMAH is overseen by the California Public Utilities Commission and funded through the greenhouse gas allowance auction proceeds of Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, Liberty Utilities Company and PacifiCorp. SOMAH aims to install 300 megawatts of generating capacity by 2032. Learn more at CalSOMAH.org.

## **About Sunrun**

Sunrun Inc. (Nasdaq: RUN) revolutionized the solar industry in 2007 by removing financial barriers and democratizing access to locally-generated, renewable energy. Today, Sunrun is the nation's leading provider of clean energy as a subscription service, offering residential solar and storage with no upfront costs. Sunrun's innovative products and solutions can connect homes to the cleanest energy on earth, providing them with energy security, predictability, and peace of mind. Sunrun also manages energy services that benefit communities, utilities, and the electric grid while enhancing customer value. Discover more at <a href="https://www.sunrun.com">www.sunrun.com</a>