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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Leading Local Healthcare Provider Says MID Electric Services is Prescription For Powering New Merced Facility**

### **Mercy Hospital Chooses Local Public Power Provider as Competition Heats Up in Electric Market**

**MERCED, Calif.** -- Mercy Hospital and Health Services, a member of Catholic Healthcare West, has selected Merced Irrigation District Electric Services to energize its new UC Davis/Mercy Cancer Center in Merced, MID announced today.

Cesar Ancheta, Manager of Business Development for MID, said Mercy Hospital and Health Services had a choice between offers for electric service from both MID and its competitor, Pacific Gas & Electric Co.

Competition for new customers is growing in eastern Merced County, one of the few areas in the state where customers have a choice in electric distribution, Ancheta explained. Elsewhere, most utilities have a monopoly in providing service connections.

Locally, the competing electric utilities and their potential new customers are looking forward several years to the end of the "transition period" to deregulation. Customers are analyzing which electric provider will then have the best price, reliability and customer-service levels, said Ancheta.

"Mercy's decision is a tremendous vote of confidence in MID Electric Services, eastern Merced County's hometown public power utility," said Ancheta. "Reliable, competitively priced electric power is essential to the safe and efficient operation of any healthcare facility. They evaluated what we have to offer, and they've decided we fit their needs best, today and into the next century."

The new UC Davis/Mercy Cancer Center will be located at Yosemite Avenue and G Street near Merced College. Both the college and the healthcare facility will be served by MID Electric Services. They will be connected to one of the first underground distribution circuits in Merced extending from MID's regional power system.

These customers will be served by the new Cooper Substation, which MID has recently completed. This substation, located on Cooper Avenue, is currently being tested.

Construction has begun on the first underground circuits extending from the substation to Merced electric customers.

Ancheta said that Mercy Hospital and Health Services chose MID Electric Services for more reasons than competitive price, reliability and customer service, though these were deciding factors.

"MID has a history of serving local communities, and we're locally managed and governed by a publicly elected Board of Directors," said Ancheta. "I believe this community connection is an advantage that comes with public power. This appeals to an organization like Mercy Hospital that is also dedicated to caring for the community."