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## **SMUD sponsors Giving Monday at Cal Expo** *Collects donations for Elk Grove Food Bank*

**Sacramento, Calif.** – For the third year in a row, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) is partnering with Cal Expo to sponsor Giving Monday at the Fair and is hosting a food drive in support of the Elk Grove Food Bank. The tradition began two years ago at the California State Fair and as a team, it was important that we partnered and continued this effort at this crucial time.

“This partnership is a great way to give back to those in our community who need it most,” said Rhonda Staley-Brooks, SMUD’s community development manager. “Last year, this effort collected 28,000 lbs. of food, and this year we hope to surpass that. It’s these types of community efforts that help lift up our entire community and we’re glad to be a part of it.”

Though the 2020 State Fair was canceled this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, food banks have been hit especially hard due to increased demand for resources and are serving even more families. In fact, since the pandemic began, the Elk Grove Food Bank has experienced a 600 percent rise in the weekly number of new client registrations - an increase of more than 4,000 individuals in 1,100 families.

“To compound the issue, two of our major food drives had to be cancelled, which is a loss of 50,000 pounds of food. The donations we receive from Giving Monday will go far to narrow the gap,” said Marie Jachino, Elk Grove Food Bank’s Executive Director.

“We’re pleased to continue our tradition of serving the community by partnering with SMUD to help those in need during these especially difficult times,” said Cal Expo CEO and General Manager Rick Pickering. “Cal Expo has always seen its role in the community as one that goes beyond the Fair and we encourage those who can contribute to the Food Drive to certainly do so.”

SMUD Giving Monday will accept non-expired items from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Cal Expo main gate, and donors will receive a free hand sanitizer in return. The first 500 people to contribute will receive a \$5 gift card to Save Mart.

The Elk Grove Food Bank is in need of the following items:

Canned meat (chicken or tuna)  
Peanut Butter  
Ensure

Canned fruit  
Canned veggies  
Soup

Beans  
Mac and Cheese  
Pasta  
Boxed Mashed Potatoes

Packaged Rice  
Top Ramen  
Cereal

For more information about SMUD Giving Mondays, visit [CalExpoStateFair.com](http://CalExpoStateFair.com) and to learn more about SMUD's community giving, visit [smud.org/community](http://smud.org/community)

### **About SMUD**

As the nation's sixth-largest community-owned, not-for-profit, electric service provider, SMUD has been providing low-cost, reliable electricity for more than 70 years to Sacramento County and small adjoining portions of Placer and Yolo Counties. SMUD is a recognized industry leader and award winner for its innovative energy efficiency programs, renewable power technologies, and for its sustainable solutions for a healthier environment. SMUD's power mix is about 50 percent non-carbon emitting. For more information, visit [smud.org](http://smud.org).

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