

Speaking Points Sample



Welcome and Introduction of Special Guests

- Good afternoon and thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to join us today.
- I'm Audrey Simons, CEO of San Fernando Community Health Center. It's my great pleasure to welcome you to our Solar Power Switch-On Ceremony in honor of National Health Center Week Stakeholder Appreciation Day.
- First, I'm honored to recognize the distinguished elected officials and their staff who are participating in our festivities:
 - City of San Fernando Mayor Celeste Rodriguez
 - City of San Fernando Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza
 - City of San Fernando Education Commissioner Angel Zobel Rodriguez and Planning and Preservation Commissioners Sylvia Ballin and Sean Rivas
 - City of San Fernando City Manager Nick Kimball and Deputy City Manager/ Economic Development Kanika Kith
 - Brian Gavidia, District Director and Laura Juarez, Field Deputy for U.S. Congressman Tony Cárdenas
 - Brandon Gonzalez, District Representative for State Senator Caroline Menjivar
 - SFCHC Board Secretary Louise Oliver and Board Members Maritza Artan and Patricia Ochoa
- Your presence today underscores the importance of this solar energy project and the collaborative effort it represents.
- Our entire SFCHC team is deeply grateful for the support of our community, industry and government partners who share our vision for a healthier, more sustainable future.
- Each day, you help make our work to provide quality, compassionate care to the most vulnerable possible. And, today, you are making this special celebration possible.
- Based on our track record, I can only imagine the amazing things we will accomplish together in the future!
- This year's theme for National Health Center Week is "Powering Communities Through Caring Connections." What a perfect opportunity to switch on our new solar power system in the company of our greatest government and community partners.

- First, this clean energy project was made possible by the strong support of the City of San Fernando - which owns the building and provided quick approval for the solar panels to be installed.
- We are so grateful for your leadership, and for the tremendous strides you are taking to address the dual challenges of climate change and economic equality.
- As a federally qualified health center, San Fernando Community Health Center holds a special responsibility to protect the planet we all share. Today's event serves as a shining example that improving the health of our community and preserving the environment are intrinsically linked.
- In addition to being the first solar installation in a City of San Fernando-owned building, this project is unique in many ways:
 - It sets a less expensive, more efficient model for community health centers to build clean energy projects.
 - It utilizes innovative financing, with no upfront costs to the center and tax credits covering 50% of the project.
 - It creates a pathway out of poverty by training community members for well-paying, inclusive jobs in the new green economy.
 - And, it models how non-profits can adopt solar energy without owning the buildings they occupy.
- Later in the program, you'll learn more from our friends at Collective Energy and GRID Alternatives about how this solar project sets an innovative funding and workforce training model for others to follow.
- Our new 247-panel solar installation will produce an estimated 169,100 kilowatt-hours annually and supply 60% of our center's energy needs.
- It also will eliminate 130 tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually. This is equivalent to removing 302,000 vehicle miles driven and the carbon sequestered by 138 acres of forest each year.
- Today, we embody the spirit of National Health Center Week by highlighting the essential role community health centers play in improving public health and advancing health equity.

Introduction of Speakers

- And now, I'm honored to introduce the **City of San Fernando Mayor Celeste Rodriguez**.
- Thank you, Celeste. Next, I'm proud to introduce **Collective Energy Co-Founder & CEO Andrew MacCalla**.
- Thank you, Andrew. And now, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to **GRID Alternatives Director of Community Engagement and Partnerships Stella Ursua**.
(Note: Stella will then introduce basic training graduate **Jeremy Price**, who will say a few words).
- Thank you, Stella and Jeremy. I'm pleased to introduce our final speaker and my close friend **Community Center Association of Los Angeles County President & CEO Louise McCarthy**.

Solar Power Switch-On Ceremony

- Thank you all for your continued support and for joining us in this celebration. Together, we truly are “Powering Communities Through Caring Connections.”
- Now let’s flip the switch and light up our future!