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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking Regarding
Revisions to the California High Cost
Fund B Program.

Rulemaking 09-06-019
(Filed June 18, 2009)

**ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S RULING REGARDING PLANS
TO ADDRESS BASIC TELEPHONE SERVICE REVISIONS**

This ruling sets a schedule for public participation hearings (PPHs) regarding proposed revisions in basic telephone service requirements being contemplated in this proceeding. Telecommunications carriers currently providing telephone service within California shall provide timely written notice to their customers of the PPHs via bill inserts, utilizing the template attached as Appendix 1 of this ruling. Customer notices must begin to be mailed within 10 business days of issuance of this ruling.

The PPHs scheduled below will provide a forum to hear from the public regarding possible revisions to basic service, and potential impacts. The attachment to this ruling provides a template to be used by telecommunications carriers to prepare notices of the PPHs to customers.

As illustrated in the Appendix template, a tag line shall be inserted at the top of the notice, providing a toll-free contact number for the appropriate in-language version of the notice. The illustrated example displays a Spanish-language tag line. The carrier is responsible for providing tag line notices in the appropriate language. Any questions concerning the PPH notice

may be directed to the Public Advisor at (415) 703-2047 or (415) 703-2299, or e-mail at public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov.

Appendix 2 to this ruling outlines a straw proposal of revisions to basic telephone service requirements, updated from a previous version circulated for comment by ruling dated May 10, 2010. At this point, no further comments are solicited from parties to the proceeding as to the merits of proposed revisions. Instead, the outline of proposed revisions are presented as a framework for the PPHs. Copies of this outline will be available at each of the PPH locations.

The times and locations for these PPHs are identified in the order below. The PPHs will be completed prior to any Commission action to adopt revisions in basic service requirements. After the PPHs are concluded, the assigned Commissioner may consider further revisions, or take other action as appropriate, prior to releasing any proposed decision for Commission action.

Any revisions adopted by the Commission will apply on a statewide basis to any service provider offering LifeLine service, including, but not limited to, carriers of last resort (COLRs) eligible for California High-Cost Fund-B Program (B-Fund) support.¹ Carriers that offer basic service in accordance with adopted conditions will be eligible to seek funding under the B-Fund program and/or LifeLine programs. Further pertinent issues regarding B-Fund support levels

¹ This proceeding is considering revisions in the basic service requirements that would apply in offering LifeLine service. The California LifeLine program is set forth in Public Utilities Code Sections 871-884. Other issues relating to the reform of the LifeLine program are being addressed in Rulemaking (R.) 06-05-028. The instant proceeding will further address COLR requirements specific to B-Fund eligibility in the next phase relating to reverse auction implementation.

and eligibility will be addressed in subsequent proceedings in this rulemaking. In R.06-05-028, the Commission is addressing LifeLine program reforms.

In D.10-11-033, the Commission adopted reforms to facilitate participation in Lifeline for non-traditional carriers. The basic service changes determined in this proceeding will be coordinated with implementation efforts to facilitate such participation as directed in D.10-11-033.

IT IS RULED that:

1. Public participation hearings are hereby scheduled to be held at the times and locations set forth below for purposes of hearing from the public as to possible revisions to basic telephone service, as outlined in Appendix 2 of this ruling. The schedule is:

| <u>City</u> | <u>Date and Time</u> | <u>Meeting Location</u> |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Redding | March 7, 2011 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. | Red Lion Hotel 1830 Hilltop Drive, Sierra Room Redding, CA 96002 |
| Sacramento | March 9, 2011 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. | Mack Powell Auditorium 2003 Howe Avenue Sacramento, CA 95825 |
| San Francisco | March 10, 2011 2 a.m. and 7 p.m. | Commission Auditorium State Office Building 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, California 94102 |
| Bakersfield | March 15, 2011 2 a.m. and 7 p.m. | Bakersfield City Hall Council Chambers 1501 Truxtum Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301 |
| San Jose | March 21, 2011 2 a.m. and 7 p.m. | San Jose Scottish Rite Center - Auditorium 2455 Masonic Drive San Jose, CA 95125 |
| San Diego | March 23, 2011 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. | Al Bahr Shriners Center 5440 Kearny Mesa Road San Diego, CA 92111 |
| Los Angeles | March 24, 2011 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. | Junipero Serra State Office Building 320 West 4 th Street, Suite 500 Los Angeles, CA 90013 |

2. Within 10 business days from issuance of this ruling, each telecommunication carrier providing telephone service in California shall begin providing customer notification of the PPHs via bill insert utilizing the notice

