



California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

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The CPUC Local Government Newsletter is issued to inform you about CPUC decisions and events that may interest your communities. If you have questions about anything in the newsletter, you may reach Kyle DeVine at 213-576-7050 or kyl@cpuc.ca.gov, or the Public Advisor at public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov.



The CPUC has issued a report on its Renewables Portfolio Standard Program which details its aggressive implementation of the program. The Program requires investor-owned energy utilities, energy service providers, and community choice aggregators operating in California to obtain 20 percent of their retail sales from renewable energy by 2010. Since 2002, the CPUC has approved 57 renewable contracts. These contracts, together with contracts that are pending review, will position the three large energy utilities on a path to be more than 17 percent renewable in 2010, and more contracts are expected in the near future. The Commission's report to the state Legislature is available [by clicking here](#). To review a recent CPUC decision which sets the ground rules for energy service providers and community choice aggregators in the Renewables Portfolio Standard program, [click here](#).

The CPUC and the California Energy Commission have developed a new website loaded with information about solar power at: www.GoSolarCalifornia.ca.gov.

California has set a goal to create 3,000 megawatts of electricity through solar power by 2017. If you are interested in taking advantage of rebates on solar systems during 2006, contact the following:

For residential and small business customers planning to install solar systems under 30 kilowatts, visit the Energy Commission's [Emerging Renewables Program](#) website.

For systems 30 kilowatts or larger, visit the [CPUC's website](#) or contact your local electric or gas utility. In San Diego, customers should contact the [San Diego Regional Energy Office](#).

Consumers have contacted us, confused about the notices and services related to California LifeLine (ULTS), which is a discount phone service for low-income consumers. As a result, the CPUC is investigating the problems and is working with phone companies and the CPUC administrator to resolve them. If your constituents have experienced any problems, we suggest that you advise them to first contact the phone company and if that call doesn't resolve the problem, call the Commission's hotline for help at 1-800-649-7570 or file a complaint online by [clicking here](#).

The CPUC has begun investigating ways to develop and implement changes to the Commission's application of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for

telecommunications utilities under CPUC jurisdiction. The objective is to develop rules and policies that will (1) ensure that the Commission's practices comply with the CEQA requirements and policies, (2) promote the development of an advanced telecommunications infrastructure, and (3) make certain that the application of CEQA does not cause undue harm to competition. To read more, [click here](#).

The CPUC has approved a Settlement between Qwest Communications and the CPUC's Consumer Protection and Safety Division (CPSD). Under the settlement, CPSD will release Qwest from claims that Qwest did not comply with an environmental Negative Declaration. Qwest will pay \$150,000 to the State's General Fund and will contribute \$30,000 to promote awareness of Native American sites, archaeology and history within California. This relates to events that occurred in 1999, when it appeared that Qwest was constructing a fiber-optic network in California without researching to ensure that cultural resources were not destroyed. To read the decision, [click here](#).



The CPUC and the State Attorney General have reached a settlement of the curtailment lawsuit against Sempra Energy, San Diego Gas and Electric Company (SDG&E) and Southern California Gas Company. The settlement requires Sempra Energy to give SDG&E an option to acquire the 480-megawatt El Dorado Energy power plant in Boulder City, Nevada, at book value. The settlement also requires a cash payment of \$5.7 million from Sempra Energy to SDG&E customers.

A discount for Park Water's Los Angeles low-income customers! A discount program for low-income customers will be implemented which provides a \$4.50 discount a month. Consumers should contact the water company for details and to sign up.

Havasu Water Company near Needles, San Bernardino County has been authorized 58% increase in rates to be applied in two parts: \$35,000 or 28% will be collected for six months and then a second increase of \$35,000 will be added. To read the order, [click here](#).

Northern



The CPUC has approved part of PacifiCorp's request for a permit to construct an electric transmission line that runs north from Yreka to where the project ends. This portion of the project is not controversial, is not currently in dispute among the parties, and presents no routing options or challenges. The rest of the proposal is still being reviewed. To read the decision, [click here](#).

Del Oro Water Company in Strawberry, Tuolumne County has been granted an interim rate increase of \$40,000 or 28% which may be refunded or increased, depending on the outcome of the CPUC's decision on the water company's request to increase rates by 77%. To read the order, [click here](#).

Trinity Village Water Company in Salyer, Trinity County, has been authorized a \$56,000 or 98% increase in rates for water service. To read the order, [click here](#).

Events Calendar



Here are some hearings and workshops that may interested you. Since items could be added or removed daily, you may want to access our [daily calendar](#) for complete information. Also you can get on the "Information Only" list for any of our proceedings to be notified of meetings, ruling and decisions on the proceedings you select. Have questions? Contact our [Public Advisor's Office](#).

Commission Business Meetings for the rest of the year - Nov. 9, Nov. 30 and Dec. 14, beginning at 10 a.m. CPUC Auditorium. They are also accessible through a telephone bridge or webcast. Details on how to listen in, the agendas and related documentes for the meetings are available on our website.

Sacramento, Friday, Nov. 3, 10:00 a.m. Public Hearing to listen to consumers' concerns about telecommunications public policy programs. California Energy Commission - Hearing Room A, 1516 Ninth Street, Sacramento.

Statewide - California Water Service Company has asked for rate increases in various districts and the CPUC is holding public hearings statewide to hear your comments. Here is the calender:

- **Oroville - Monday, Nov. 13, at 7:00 p.m.** Oroville City Hall Council Chambers, 1735 Montgomery St.
- **Willows - Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 7:00 p.m.** Willows Monday Afternoon Club, 120 North Lassen St.
- **Dixon - Wednesday, Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m.** Dixon Senior Multi-Use Center, 201 South 5th St.
- **King City - Thursday, Nov. 16 at 7:00 p.m.** King City Hall Council Chambers, 212 South Vanderhurst Ave.
- **Westlake Village - Monday, Nov. 27 at 7:00 p.m.** Village Homes Homeowner's Association Clubhouse, 1040 Evenstar Ave.
- **Bakersfield - Tuesday, Nov. 28 at 7:00 p.m.** Bakersfield City Hall Council Chambers, 1501 Truxtum Ave.
- **Selma - Wednesday, Nov. 29 at 7:00 p.m.** Selma City Hall Council Chambers, 1710 Tucker St.
- **South San Francisco - Thursday, Nov. 30 at 7:00 p.m.** South San Francisco Municipal Building, 33 Arroyo Dr.