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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking Regarding
Revisions to the California Universal
Telephone Service (LifeLine) Program.

Rulemaking 11-03-013
(Filed March 24, 2011)

ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S RULING AND SCOPING MEMO

1. Summary

This ruling establishes the procedural process for Phase II issues and consideration of participation in LifeLine service by non-tariffed Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) enabled providers.

2. Background

On January 16, 2014, the Commission issued its Decision Adopting Revisions to Modernize and Expand the California LifeLine Program, Decision (D.)14-01-036. That decision is the first substantive decision in this proceeding and applies to all extant California LifeLine providers and to those eligible to participate as Phase I providers under the newly adopted rules. Should the Commission in a subsequent decision expand the LifeLine program to include other types of providers, the Commission will adopt program rules for the new providers.

In D.14-01-036, the Commission specifically assigned development of rules for consideration of non-Phase I VoIP participation in the California LifeLine program to a subsequent phase of this proceeding. Phase II shall seek comment

on and propose rules for Phase II LifeLine participants, including non-tariffed VoIP services.

The purpose of this Joint Assigned Commissioner Ruling is to set out a process for considering those rules.

3. Assigned Commissioner for non-tariffed VoIP Participation in Lifeline

As set forth in D.14-01-036, the California LifeLine program endeavors to bring telephone service to low-income Californians. Because the issue of non-tariffed VoIP participation raises unique legal, statutory, and factual issues, we find that the proceeding would benefit from having a second assigned Commissioner to focus solely on the non-tariffed VoIP issues. President Peevey has designated Commissioner Michael Picker as the second assigned Commissioner for these non-tariffed VoIP issues. Commissioner Catherine Sandoval will remain the assigned Commissioner for all other issues in the proceeding.

IT IS RULED that Commissioner Michael Picker is assigned as the second assigned Commissioner to this proceeding to oversee the preparation of a record for Commission consideration on the issue of non-tariffed Voice Over Internet Protocol participation in the California LifeLine Program. Further, it is ruled that Commissioner Catherine Sandoval remains the assigned commissioner for all other issues in the proceeding.

Dated February 25, 2014, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ MICHAEL R. PEEVEY
Michael R. Peevey
President

/s/ CATHERINE J.K. SANDOVAL
Catherine J.K. Sandoval
Assigned Commissioner