



**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

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Order Instituting Rulemaking to Develop a
Successor to Existing Net Energy Metering
Tariffs Pursuant to Public Utilities Code
Section 2827.1, and to Address Other Issues
Related to Net Energy Metering

Rulemaking 14-07-002
(Filed July 10, 2014)

**SCHOOL ENERGY COALITION'S
NOTICE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATION**

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Dated: April 22, 2015

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**SCHOOL ENERGY COALITION'S
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School Energy Coalition gives notice of the following ex parte communication, in accordance with California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) Rule 8.3.

On April 22, 2015, Anna Ferrera, Executive Director for School Energy Coalition, sent a letter to Commission President Picker urging the Commission to continue California's current net energy metering program beyond 2017, in order to preserve the benefits of installing solar for California schools. The letter was also signed by Ian Padilla, Legislative Advocate for the Coalition for School Housing, and Rebekah Cearley, Legislative Advocate for the Community College Facility Association.

Commissioners Florio, Peterman, Sandoval and Randolph also received copies of the letter, in addition to Governor Brown. The letter is attached hereto as Attachment A.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Anna Ferrera

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ATTACHMENT A

April 22, 2015

Michael Picker, President
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Picker:

On behalf of the Coalition for Adequate School Housing (C.A.S.H.), California's largest association of school district facility representatives; the Community College Facility Coalition (CCFC), a statewide coalition of community college districts and their private sector partners in the construction industry; and the School Energy Coalition (SEC), made up of K-14 schools and associates statewide focused on school energy projects, we are writing to urge your continued support for Net Energy Metering (NEM), an important state policy that allows local education agencies (LEA) seeking to better manage their electricity resources to choose solar projects.

As you know, solar energy projects can produce excess electricity that can be used to meet nearby power demand. This is particularly true of schools and community colleges that use significantly less power during the late afternoon and during the summer – precisely the time when local and regional utilities experience the greatest need for more electricity for their other energy customers.

NEM ensures that schools and community colleges that have shown leadership in managing their electricity resources by investing in solar projects will continue to receive fair retail credit on their monthly electricity bills for the clean electricity that they add to the utility grid. This simple crediting arrangement allows California schools and community colleges to more easily invest in this clean renewable power to the benefit of our students, families, teachers and taxpayers.

Under 2013 legislation that was signed into law (AB 327, Chapter 611 Statutes of 2013), the current program will end for new customers by July 1, 2017, or when the utilities reach the program cap of 5% of aggregate customer peak demand. AB 327 requires the CPUC to determine this year how solar customers will be compensated for the power they return to the grid after the cap is reached.



CALIFORNIA'S
COALITION
for ADEQUATE
SCHOOL HOUSINGSM

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April 22, 2015

Page 2 of 2

We urge the Commission to maintain Net Energy Metering without excessive new fees that will make investments in solar unfeasible for schools budgeting for payback periods that could be lengthened if this occurred.

Any significant changes in the NEM rules that reduce the benefits of installing solar generation would be a serious blow to school and community college budgets throughout the state and could deter LEAs that are considering making these investments from going forward.

It is estimated that over 1,000 installations have already been made on school sites around the state (Brighter Future: A Study on Solar in U.S. Schools Report by the Solar Energy Industry Association - September 2014). We believe this number is sure to increase given the funding available under California's Proposition 39 program which is now moving into its third year of funding, focused on Local Education Agency (LEA) energy projects at school sites throughout the state.

Finally, we know that these projects create local jobs, will build a more diverse energy infrastructure easing pressure on the electricity grid, and will provide for a cleaner environment for all Californians, especially our students.

We appreciate your continued work on this issue. Feel free to contact us regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Anna Ferrera
Executive Director
School Energy Coalition

Ian Padilla
Legislative Advocate
Coalition for Adequate School Housing

Rebekah Cearley
Legislative Advocate
Community College Facility Coalition

cc: Governor Jerry Brown
Commissioner Carla Peterman
Commissioner Michael Florio
Commissioner Catherine Sandoval
Commissioner Liane Randolph