



**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)

CALIFORNIA INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT'S

NOTICE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATION

Allis Druffel
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California Interfaith Power and Light
789 North Altadena Drive,
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Dated: July 7, 2015

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**CALIFORNIA INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT'S
NOTICE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATION**

California Interfaith Power And Light (CIPL) gives notice of the following ex parte communication, in accordance with California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) Rule 8.3. California Interfaith Power And Light's mission is to be faithful stewards of Creation by responding to global warming through the promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Today, July 7, 2015 CIPL mailed a letter to Commission President Picker urge the CPUC to keep a strong Net Metering program in place beyond 2017. The letter was signed by faith groups from around the state including the Lutheran Office of Public Policy, the Islamic Center of Southern California, Progressive Christians Uniting, Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton, and Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment. The letter notes, "as faith organizations devoted to serving the good of our communities, we share many principles, including the protection of lives and livelihoods, especially the most vulnerable among us; working for a strong, just society in which all can participate; and protection of all of Creation. The rapid switch to clean

energy – and its accompanying health and economic benefits – is one action that helps to fulfill these principles.”

Copies of the letter were also mailed to Commissioners Florio, Peterman, Sandoval and Randolph, and to Governor Brown. The letter is attached hereto as Attachment A.

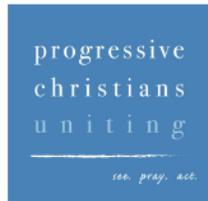
Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Allis Druffel

Allis Druffel

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ATTACHMENT A



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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

July 7, 2015

We, representatives of California faith organizations, are writing to urge your continued support for Net Metering, an important state policy facilitating the growth of rooftop solar in California. More rooftop solar creates local jobs, reduces the burden of energy costs on our economy, and builds a cleaner energy future for all Californians, especially those living near high-pollution energy sources.

Under AB 327 (Perea), signed into law in 2013, the current Net Metering program sunsets for new customers by July 1, 2017 or when the utilities reach the program cap of 5% of aggregate customer peak demand. By the end of 2015, AB 327 requires the CPUC to determine how customers who go solar after the current cap is reached will be compensated for the clean power they export to the grid.

In the development of the post-2017 program, we strongly encourage the CPUC to keep Net Metering in place that: one, allows for a one-to-one compensation for energy put back into the grid; two, allows for its expansion to serve a broader range of Californians, including low-income and disadvantaged communities; and three, avoids unfair new fees for solar customers.

There are numerous reasons for Net Metering to remain strong, including:

1. A fair one kilowatt hour-to-one kilowatt hour credit on solar customers' bill for the clean energy they send back to the grid will continue to incentivize the growth of solar. Without this, the strong solar momentum that our state has enjoyed will be weakened;
2. In terms of solar industry jobs, a recent report by The Solar Foundation stated that the solar industry employed 54,690 people in our state in 2014, up 7,500 from 2013. This shows a 15.8 percent growth in this industry since November 2013.

- And, California solar employment grew 10 times faster than overall employment in the same time period.¹ This growth is especially important in communities facing high rates of unemployment;
3. A lower compensation will be unfair to less wealthy customers who have had to wait until the costs of solar installation dropped, especially working families and those in communities of color. With a lower compensation, solar will continue to be available just to the monetarily privileged;
 4. A fair compensation rate will not merely attract more residential customers, but also houses of worship. As you know, the faith community is strong on efforts to reduce carbon pollution, including a growing number of congregations turning to solar to accomplish this, and to enact the principle of caring for all of Creation;
 5. With a continued, strong Net Metering program, California will become less dependent on polluting forms of energy. While all citizens of our state face the accompanying health and economic effects of pollution, it is communities of color that have for far too long borne a disproportionate amount of these effects;
 6. We are at a crucial time in terms of a changing climate. Numerous recent reports have shown that, without a rapid shift to renewable, non-polluting sources of energy, we will continue to face destructive, costly weather events, including regional climate change events in California.

While the major state utilities (PG&E, SDG&E, and Edison) are advocating for much less than a one-to-one compensation for customers who go solar in 2017 and beyond, we urge you not to comply with their wishes. When the CPUC maintains fair compensation for solar customers, these utilities will step up, innovate and evolve their business model, so that they can better profit from the growth of rooftop solar instead of trying to hinder its progress.

As faith organizations devoted to serving the good of our communities, we share many principles, including the protection of lives and livelihoods, especially the most vulnerable among us; working for a strong, just society in which all can participate; and protection of all of Creation. The rapid switch to clean energy – and its accompanying health and economic benefits – is one action that helps to fulfill these principles. As such, we strongly urge the CPUC to keep a strong Net Metering program in place.

We look forward to following this issue closely.

Sincerely,

Susan Stephenson, Executive
Director California Interfaith Power
& Light

Mark Carlson, Executive Director
Lutheran Office of Public Policy

Shakeel Syed, Executive Director
Islamic Center of Southern California

Rev. Dr. Timothy Murphy, Executive Director
Progressive Christians Uniting

Katelyn Roedner Sutter, Environmental Justice Program Director
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Stockton

Trav Williams, President
Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment

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

¹<http://solartribune.com/california-leads-in-solar-jobs/> - accessed April 1, 2015