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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Investigation and Ordering Pacific Gas and Electric Company to Appear and Show Cause Why It Should not be Sanctioned for Violations of Article 8 and Rule 1.1 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure and Public Utilities Code Sections 1701.2 and 1701.3.

Investigation 15-11-015
(Filed November 19, 2015)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING APPROVING PROPOSED
SCHEDULE FOR RESOLUTION OF PROCEEDING**

Summary

This ruling approves the proposed schedule for the resolution of this adjudicatory proceeding that the City of San Bruno, City of San Carlos, the Office of Ratepayer Advocates, the Safety and Enforcement Division, The Utility Reform Network, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company have recommended.

1. Background

On October 14, 2016, The City of San Bruno (San Bruno), The City of San Carlos (San Carlos), Office of Ratepayer Advocates (ORA), Safety and Enforcement Division (SED), The Utility Reform Network (TURN), and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) filed their Joint Status Report wherein they updated the Commission on their progress in organizing the pertinent alleged *ex parte* communications into three categories. The Joint Status Report also contained a proposed schedule that would permit the parties time to complete discovery and to engage in settlement talks.

In light of the tight time frame for the resolution of this adjudicatory proceeding, an Order Extending Statutory Deadline was approved and issued on November 15, 2016. The deadline was extended to May 17, 2017 to allow the joint parties to complete their tasks identified in the Joint Status Report in the time frame that was proposed.

2. Discussion

The Commission favors the resolution of proceedings by settlement if they are fair and reasonable in light of the record.¹ To that end, if there is a possibility that a proceeding can be settled, the parties should be given a reasonable time frame to utilize sufficient good faith efforts to resolve a proceeding. The parties have proposed a schedule that I believe will give them adequate time to determine if this proceeding can be settled.

IT IS RULED that:

1. The schedule that the parties have proposed is approved as follows:

Date(s)	Activity
11/18/16	Parties file and serve proposed Stipulations for Category 2 and Category 3 Communications.
11/30/16 – 1/12/17	In person settlement discussions on multiple dates beginning November 30, 2016 and continuing into January 2017 as necessary to resolve this proceeding or determine that the Parties cannot reach a settlement.
1/13/17	Parties file and serve Joint Status Report regarding settlement discussions and the need for further proceeding.

¹ Decision (D.) 14-12-040 at 15 and D.11-12-053 at 72.

1/27/17	File and Serve Opening Briefs (if necessary).
2/17/17	File and Serve Reply Briefs (if necessary).

2. The City of San Bruno and The City of San Carlos reserve the right to seek evidentiary hearings after stipulations and briefings are complete.

Dated November 17, 2016, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ ROBERT M. MASON III

Robert M. Mason III
Administrative Law Judge