

State of California

M e m o r a n d u m

Date: June 2, 2014

To: The Commission (Agenda Distribution Group)

From: Amy C. Baker
Advisor to Commissioner Catherine J.K. Sandoval

Subject: Discussion and Action on Proposed Appointments to the Low-Income Oversight Board

Public Utilities Code § 382.1 establishes a Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB) to advise the Commission on low-income electric, gas, and water customer issues. The LIOB serves as a liaison between the Commission and the low-income ratepayers and representatives. The LIOB is comprised of eleven members. On May 10, 2014, the terms for two of the public positions on the LIOB ended. The positions that became vacant are held by members selected by the Commission who have expertise in the low-income community and are not affiliated with any state agency or utility. The positions are for two-year terms from the date of appointment by the Commission.

Commissioner Catherine J.K. Sandoval issued an Assigned Commissioner's Ruling on April 4, 2014 seeking applications for the available positions. Following a review of the applications, Commissioner Sandoval recommends that, during the June 12, 2014 business meeting, the Commission approve the appointments of Jose Hernandez and Robert Castaneda to the LIOB.

Jose Hernandez has served on the LIOB since 2008 and also served as chair of the LIOB as well as several other boards. He is the founder and managing principal of IDEATE California, a public relations and policy development firm. Prior to that, he worked as Director of External Affairs for ConnectEd, which promoted high school improvement. He served as Director of Policy Development for the California State Senate for five years, drafting and passing several pieces of legislation related to Energy Efficiency programs, among many others.

Robert Castaneda has participated in LIOB meetings for several years as a stakeholder, advocating on behalf of rural low-income residents that are primarily farmworkers living across California. Mr. Castaneda worked in community outreach as a staff member for Governors Deukmejian, Wilson, and Davis. He was Deputy Director of External Affairs for the California Health and Human Services Agency. He started Castaneda Communications in 2003 focusing on government affairs and rural community outreach, targeting hard to reach populations.

Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Castaneda are highly qualified for the appointments and will be valuable additions to the LIOB.