

Telecommunications Guiding Principles

California Public Utilities Commission

The California Public Utilities Commission is the agency responsible for the regulatory oversight of telecommunications in California. We have established these guiding principles to help ensure that the Commission's overall responsibilities can be fulfilled as the industries within our jurisdiction continue to evolve.

The Commission's *goal* is for all Californians to have access to safe, reliable telecommunications at just and reasonable rates.

Commission Policy Goals

The Commission's telecommunications policy goals are to promote public safety, consumer protection, universal service, competition, and network reliability.

The following five guiding principles provide technologically neutral policy direction for achieving the Commission's policy goals within the context of the Commission's constitutional and statutory jurisdiction:

- 1. Promote safe, reliable, adequate, and resilient access to California's telecommunications infrastructure and services at just and reasonable rates.**
- 2. Promote access to and deployment of advanced telecommunications capabilities and services on a reasonable and timely basis.**
- 3. Protect consumers from fraud, waste, and abuse.**
- 4. Serve as an independent source of data collection and analysis for policy makers at both State and Federal levels.**
- 5. Promote public safety through reliable access to emergency services.**
- 6. Promote competition, including interconnection.**

Next Steps:

- Within 180 days, staff should submit to the Commission for review, evaluation and approval a comprehensive Action Plan detailing the steps necessary to create a path for implementing the guiding principles established in this document.
- Each item in the Action Plan should effectuate a particular policy goal as contained in California statute.
- Each Commission office shall nominate an individual from the Commission to be part of a team that will establish this Action Plan. The Executive Director in conjunction with the Director of the Communications Division may also designate other staff and the Communications Director will lead this team.