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PRESS RELEASE

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**CPUC EXPANDS SUPPLIER DIVERSITY PROGRAM
TO INCLUDE LGBT-OWNED BUSINESSES**

SAN FRANCISCO, June 11, 2015 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today expanded its Supplier Diversity Program to include lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender (LGBT)-owned businesses in order to encourage greater economic opportunity for such businesses and promote competition.

The CPUC encourages energy, telephone, and water companies under its jurisdiction to procure from diverse suppliers who are by and large small businesses. In its General Order 156, the CPUC encourages investor-owned utilities to purchase 21.5 percent in goods and services from diverse firms (15 percent from minority owned firms, 5 percent from women-owned firms, and 1.5 percent from disabled veteran-owned firms).

“On June 1, 2015, Governor Brown issued a proclamation declaring June 2015 as ‘Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month’ in the State of California. In keeping with this proclamation, we proudly adopt today’s decision to implement Assemblymember Rich Gordon’s Assembly Bill 1678 and amend General Order 156 to add LGBT-owned businesses into the program,” said CPUC President Michael Picker. “Incorporating LGBT-owned businesses into our Supplier Diversity Program promotes competition and helps even the playing field for business owners who may be otherwise disadvantaged in the marketplace.”

“It is time for the LGBT community to establish equal footing with other minority owned businesses to create a more inclusive and equitable system,” said Assemblyman Gordon. “The CPUC’s action today to implement AB 1678 is not just about equality – it is also about equity. It is important to



recognize the contributions businesses, large and small, have on California's economy.”

The CPUC adopted a five-year plan and framework for utilities to gather data and experience so that the CPUC can thereafter consider setting target goals for procurement from LGBT-owned businesses. Additionally, the CPUC adopted the LGBT status qualifiers created by the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, which are the ways that a business can demonstrate that it is at least 51 percent LGBT-owned.

In 2014, the businesses participating in the CPUC's Supplier Diversity Program hit a new milestone of procuring approximately \$8.8 billion in goods and services from women, minority, and disabled veteran-owned business enterprises.

The CPUC is holding its annual Diversity En Banc on October 8, 2015, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the South San Francisco Conference Center, 255 South Airport Blvd., South San Francisco. The En Banc is free and open to the public.

The proposal voted on today incorporating LGBT-owned businesses into the Supplier Diversity Program is available at:

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M152/K412/152412332.PDF>.

For more information on the CPUC's Supplier Diversity Program, please visit

www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/supplierdiversity/.

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