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**PRESS RELEASE**

Docket #: A.14-11-007

**CPUC ISSUES COMMISSIONER RULING DIRECTING  
SOCALGAS AND EDISON TO ENHANCE  
ENERGY SAVINGS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EFFORTS**

SAN FRANCISCO, March 14, 2016 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today issued an Assigned Commissioner's Ruling by Commissioner Catherine J.K. Sandoval that directs Southern California Gas Company and Southern California Edison to take immediate steps to enhance their Energy Savings Assistance Program (ESAP) efforts in low income communities to help protect the most vulnerable households and assure natural gas reliability in Southern California. Commissioner Sandoval's Ruling is part of the state's ongoing efforts to ensure natural gas reliability to the Southern California areas impacted by SoCalGas' Aliso Canyon Storage Facility leak.

The Assigned Commissioner's Ruling is available at:

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?docformat=ALL&docid=159361680>.

ESAP provides no-cost weatherization services to low income households who meet income guidelines. Commissioner Sandoval, the Commissioner assigned to the ESAP proceeding, ordered SoCalGas and Edison to intensify existing efforts in ESAP program activities in the geographic areas most impacted by the anticipated natural gas shortage resulting from the leak at SoCalGas' Aliso Canyon Storage Facility.

Commissioner Sandoval noted that the potential for curtailment of natural gas to residential customers and to natural gas-fired power plants may cause hardship and negatively affect the health, safety, and comfort of ESAP customers. "The primary purpose of the ESAP proceeding is to



implement the statutory policy of reducing energy related hardships facing low income households and to, among other things, enable measures to reduce energy usage,” said Commissioner Sandoval. “The ESAP program can drive down energy demand and help ensure natural gas reliability to Southern California.”

Commissioner Sandoval’s Ruling says that SoCalGas should intensify the deployment of the following existing eligible ESAP measures including:

- Residential water heater system replacement, especially heater systems that leak water causing continuous or high amounts of natural gas demand;
- Residential gas furnace replacement; and,
- Other measures that reduce natural gas use.

The Ruling also asks for comment on whether to suspend certain ESAP rules such as the requirement that a household be eligible for a minimum of three approved measures before a household can be treated (the “Three Measure Minimum” rule), and the rule that prohibits new measures from being installed in a household treated by ESAP within the last 10 years (the “go back” rule), in light of the Aliso Canyon state of emergency and potential of natural gas shortages in the Los Angeles area. Commissioner Sandoval said, “ESAP rules should reflect current local needs and circumstances. We have an opportunity and duty to use ESAP measures to lower energy demands and burdens, and forestall energy emergencies including curtailment of electric generators and service to customers.”

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