

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**Communications Division  
Consumer Programs Branch**

**RESOLUTION T-17574  
March 22, 2018**

**R E S O L U T I O N**

**RESOLUTION T-17574. Approval of Modifications to the Universal LifeLine Telephone Service Trust (also known as the California LifeLine Program) Administrative Committee's<sup>1</sup> Charter to Add a New Member Representative from the California LifeLine Wireless Providers and a New Member Representative from the Deaf/Hearing Impaired or Disabled Community, and to Change the Submission Date of the Administrative Committee's Annual Budget Proposal and the Administrative Committee's Meeting Frequency.**

**SUMMARY**

This Resolution approves the modifications to the Universal Lifeline Telephone Service Trust (also known as the California LifeLine Program) Administrative Committee's (ULTSAC) Charter to add a new member representative from the California LifeLine wireless providers and another member, an individual or organization representing the interest of either the deaf/hearing impaired or disabled community, which will bring the total members on the ULTSAC to eleven (11). Furthermore, this Resolution approves a change in the submission date of the ULTSAC's annual budget proposal from "on or before June 1 of each year," to "on or before March 31 of each year". This new submission date will align the ULTSAC budgeting process with the State's budgeting process timeline. Finally, this resolution changes the meeting frequency in the existing Charter from "monthly" to "at least quarterly", to allow the ULTSAC more authority to call more frequent meetings if needed.

**BACKGROUND**

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<sup>1</sup> The program fund is statutorily referred to as the Universal LifeLine Telephone Service Trust Fund Administrative Committee Fund pursuant to Public Utilities Code Sections 270 and 277, but is commonly known as the California LifeLine Program.

In Decision (D.) 02-04-059, the Commission merged the Universal LifeLine Telephone Service Trust Marketing Board (ULTSMB) with the ULTSAC. The decision repealed the charter for the ULTSMB and changed the name of the ULTSMB to the Universal Lifeline Telephone Service Marketing Program (ULTSMP). The ULTSMP is now a component of the ULTSAC.<sup>2</sup>

According to Public Utilities (PU) Code § 277(a), “ULTSAC is to function as an advisory board to advise the commission regarding the development, implementation, and administration of the Universal LifeLine Telephone Service Trust (ULTS) program to ensure lifeline telephone service is available to the people of the state, as provided by the Moore Universal Telephone Service Act, PU Code § 871 et seq., and to carry out the program under the Commission’s direction, control and approval.”

The ULTSAC Charter, Section 3.1 states that:

The ULTSAC shall be composed of nine members consisting of the following representatives: a large or mid-sized local exchange carrier (LEC); a small LEC; an inter-exchange carrier, competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC) or wireless carrier; two consumer organizations, each of whom represents a different constituency, based on geographic or economic criteria, on language, or on other criteria which reasonably influence lack of access to basic telephone service – or one consumer organization and a state agency with universal service expertise; three community based organizations (CBOs), each of whom represents a different constituency, based upon geographic or economic criteria, on language, or other criteria which reasonably influence lack of access to basic telephone service; the Commission’s Office of Ratepayer Advocates...<sup>3</sup>

Furthermore, Section 4.1 of the Charter states that the ULTSAC shall act in an advisory capacity to the Commission and therefore the committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- a) Pursuant to PU Code § 273(a), on or before June 1 of each year, the ULTSAC shall submit a proposed budget to the Commission’s Telecommunications Division. The proposed budget shall include estimated program expenditures and the Committee’s

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<sup>2</sup> See California Lifeline Charter Rev/D.02-05-056, section 2.3.

<sup>3</sup> See California Lifeline Charter Rev/D.02-05-056, section 3.1.

projected expenses for the fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) that will commence thirteen (13) months thereafter.

- b) Pursuant to PU Code § 273(b), on or before October 1 of each year, the ULTSAC shall submit a report to the Commission describing Committee activities during the prior fiscal year.
- c) Pursuant to PU Code § 277(a), the ULTSAC shall advise the Commission regarding the development, implementation and administration of the ULTS program, within the context of the Committee's purpose.<sup>4</sup>

Currently, the ULTSAC has filled five out of nine representative positions: one large LEC, one small LEC, one CLEC, one consumer organization, and one representative from the Office of Ratepayer Advocates (ORA). The five vacant positions include two consumer organization and three CBO positions.

## **DISCUSSION**

On February 9, 2017, the ULTSAC held a meeting at the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC or Commission) San Francisco location. Five of the nine primary members attended this meeting along with two alternate members. As stated in the Charter, there are nine positions for the ULTSAC. However, there are no primary wireless representatives on the committee. The meeting discussed steps to modify the Charter to allow a primary wireless representative on the committee.

Subsequently, on April 3, 2017, the ULTSAC sent a letter to executive director Timothy Sullivan requesting to modify the ULTSAC Charter to include a representative from the wireless industry. The committee noted that 75% of the growth of the California LifeLine Program is coming from wireless service. The committee proposes changing one of the three vacant CBO positions to a primary wireless position. This will give the wireless industry a voice at committee meetings and the right to vote as a primary member.

In Decision (D.) 14-01-036, the Commission expanded the California LifeLine Program to include wireless services. Since the introduction of wireless service in 2014, the California LifeLine Program has experienced significant increases in both overall California LifeLine participants and reimbursement requests from California LifeLine wireless service providers<sup>5</sup>.

Given the increased proportions of wireless California LifeLine participants of 66%, 73%, and 75% in FY 14-15, FY 15-16, and FY 16-17, respectively, in the overall participation rates, the

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<sup>4</sup> See California Lifeline Charter Rev/D.02-05-056, section 4.1.

<sup>5</sup> Data Source see: [www.cpuc.ca.gov/General.aspx?id=1100](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/General.aspx?id=1100).

Commission's Communications Division (CD) believes that it is reasonable to add a primary wireless representative to the ULTSAC. However, after further analysis and discussion internally, and careful consideration of CBO roles in the California LifeLine Program, CD believes that it is more appropriate to (1) retain three members from the CBOs, and (2) add a new member representative from the California LifeLine wireless providers to the ULTSAC instead of replacing one CBO member by a wireless representative as suggested by the committee. Additionally, in order to align the Charter with other public purpose programs, such as the California Teleconnect Fund Program, CD recommends adding a new member representative from either the deaf/hearing impaired or disabled community to the ULTSAC, so they can advise the Commission regarding the implementation of the California Lifeline Program, among others. With the two additional member representatives, the number of representatives on the ULTSAC will total eleven.

Furthermore, at the June 23, 2017 ULTSAC meeting, the committee members discussed the budget proposal for the California LifeLine Program. Based on PU Code § 273(a), on or before June 1 of each year, the ULTSAC must submit a proposed budget to CD. The committee proposed a change to the submission date of the budget proposal from "on or before June 1 of each year" that will commence "thirteen (13) months thereafter," to "on or before March 31" that will commence "the following fiscal year".

The state's budgeting process requires Commission staff to submit a proposed budget biannually per fiscal year, one in November and another in May the following year. This allows staff to refine the proposed budget utilizing recent program trends, revenues and expenses, which would be reflected in the May revision. It is difficult for the ULTSAC to submit a proposed budget by June 1 of each year since members rely on updated information provided by CD staff and the third party administrator in order to develop the budget forecast which would not be available until after the November deadline. Therefore, to align with the state's budgeting process timeline, CD staff recommends that the ULTSAC should submit a proposed budget for the following fiscal year to CD by March 31 of each year.

In light of the above discussions, CD finds the proposed changes to the Charter are appropriate and reasonable and should be adopted by the Commission. In addition, CD took this opportunity to remove and modify some language in the Charter that are no longer applicable. The changes to the Charter are redlined and attached hereto as Attachment A.

### **SAFETY ISSUES**

Carriers that provide the California LifeLine services are required to adhere to all Commission rules, decisions, General Orders, and statutes, including PU Code § 451, to take all actions... "necessary to promote the safety, health, comfort, and convenience of its patrons, employees, and the public". The California LifeLine Program helps to promote universal

service by subsidizing essential communications links to low-income and at-risk individuals throughout California.

The California LifeLine Program provides the participants with access to 211 for essential community services, 311 for non-emergency municipal services, 511 for traffic and transportation information, 711 for relay services, 811 for public infrastructure underground location information, and 911 to reach police, fire and emergency medical responders when fire, natural disasters, medical emergencies, or other crises occur.

### **COMMENTS**

In compliance with PU Code § 311 (g), the Commission e-mailed on November 14, 2017, a notice letter informing members of the California LifeLine Administrative Committee and Working Group, and the parties of records in R. 11-03-013 of the availability of this draft Resolution for comments, as well as the availability of the final Resolution, if adopted by the Commission, on the Commission website at [www.cpuc.ca.gov](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov).

In the Draft Resolution mailed on November 14, 2017, CD had changed the meeting frequency in the existing Charter from “monthly” to “quarterly”. On December 4, 2017, CD received comments from AT&T California (AT&T). Specifically, AT&T recommended changing the meeting frequency from “quarterly” to “at least quarterly” to allow the ULTSAC authority to call more frequent meetings. CD concurs with AT&T and made the necessary change to the Charter.

Due to substantive changes in this Resolution, CD e-mailed this revised Resolution to all parties indicated above on February 20, 2018, for 30-day comment period.

### **FINDINGS**

1. In Decision (D.) 02-04-059, the Commission merged the Universal LifeLine Telephone Service Trust Marketing Board (ULTSMB) with the Universal Lifeline Telephone Service Trust Administrative Committee (ULTSAC). The decision repealed the charter for ULTSMB and changed the name of ULTSMB to the Universal Lifeline Telephone Service Marketing Program (ULTSMP).
2. The ULTSMP is now a component of the ULTSAC.
3. Pursuant to Public Utilities Code (PU Code) § 277(a), the ULTSAC, also known as the California LifeLine AC, is to function as an advisory board to advise the commission

regarding the development, implementation, and administration of the ULTS Program, also known as the California LifeLine Program, to ensure lifeline telephone service is available to the people of the state, as provided by the Moore Universal Telephone Service Act, PU Code § 871 et seq., and to carry out program under the Commission's direction, control and approval.

4. PU Code § 273(a) requires the ULTSAC to submit a proposed budget to the Commission's Communications Division on or before June 1 of each year. The proposed budget must include estimated program expenditures and the Committee's projected expenses for the fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) that will commence thirteen (13) months thereafter.
5. PU Code § 273(b) requires the ULTSAC to submit a report to the Commission on or before October 1 each year describing committee activities during the prior fiscal year.
6. PU Code § 277(a) requires the ULTSAC to advise the Commission regarding the development, implementation and administration of the ULTS program, within the context of the committee's purpose.
7. The ULTSAC has filled five out of nine representative positions: one large LEC, one small LEC, one CLEC, one consumer organization, and one representative from the Office of Ratepayer Advocates (ORA).
8. On February 9, 2017, the ULTSAC held a meeting at the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC or Commission) San Francisco location.
9. On April 3, 2017, the ULTSAC sent a letter to executive director Timothy Sullivan requesting to modify the ULTSAC Charter to include a representative from the wireless industry.
10. In Decision (D.) 14-01-036, the Commission expanded the California LifeLine Program to include wireless services.
11. In 2014, with the introduction of wireless services, the California LifeLine Program has experienced significant increases in both overall California LifeLine participants and reimbursement requests from California LifeLine wireless service providers.
12. Given the increased proportions of wireless California LifeLine participants in overall participation rates, it is reasonable to add a new member representative from the California LifeLine wireless providers to the ULTSAC.

13. To align the Charter with other public purpose programs, such as the California Teleconnect Fund Program, it is reasonable to add a new member representative from either the deaf/hearing impaired or disabled community to the ULTSAC, so they can advise the Commission on the administration of the California LifeLine Program, among others.
14. Since the state's budgeting process requires staff to submit a proposed budget biannually, it is reasonable to change the submission date of the AC's budget proposal from "on or before June 1 of each year," to "on or before March 31 of each calendar year." that will commence "the following fiscal year" instead of "thirteen months thereafter."
15. The ULTSAC members rely on information provided by the CD staff and the third party administrator in order to develop the budget forecast.
16. In the Draft Resolution mailed on November 14, 2017, CD had changed the meeting frequency in the existing Charter from "monthly" to "quarterly".
17. On December 4, 2017, CD received comments from AT&T California (AT&T), specifically recommending that the Committee meetings be held "at least quarterly" rather than "quarterly" as provided in the draft revised Charter, issued on November 14, 2017.

**THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED** that:

1. The Universal LifeLine Telephone Service Trust Administrative Committee Charter, section 3.1, should be modified to read:

"The ULTSAC shall be composed of **eleven (11)** members consisting of the following representatives: a large or mid-sized local exchange carrier (LEC); a small LEC; an inter-exchange carrier or an competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC); a wireless carrier; two consumer organizations, each of whom represents a different constituency, based on geographic or economic criteria, on language, or on other criteria which reasonably influence lack of access to basic telephone service – or one consumer organization and a state agency with universal service expertise; three community based organizations (CBOs) each of whom represents a different constituency, based upon geographic or economic criteria, on language, or other criteria which reasonably influence lack of access to basic telephone service; **an individual or organization representing the interests of either the deaf/hearing impaired or disabled users of the ULTS program**; the Commission's Office of Ratepayer Advocates...."

2. The Universal LifeLine Telephone Service Trust Administrative Committee Charter, section 4.1, should be modified to read:

“By March 31 of each calendar year the ULTSAC shall submit a proposed budget to the Commission’s Communications Division. The proposed budget shall include estimated program expenditures and the Committee’s projected expenses for the fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) that will commence the following fiscal year.”

3. The Universal LifeLine Telephone Service Trust Administrative Committee Charter, section 5.1, should be modified to read:

“The ULTSAC shall act only in the course of a duly noticed meeting, the Committee shall meet at least quarterly.”

This Resolution is effective today.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was duly introduced, passed, and adopted at a conference of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California held on March 22, 2018, the following Commissioners voting favorable thereon:

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ALICE STEBBINS  
Executive Director



## ATTACHMENT A

**CHARTER**  
**of the**  
**UNIVERSAL LIFELINE TELEPHONE SERVICE TRUST**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

**1. ARTICLE ONE: NAME**

1.1 Name. The name of this advisory board shall be the Universal Lifeline Telephone Service Trust Administrative Committee (ULTSAC or Committee).

**2. ARTICLE TWO: PURPOSE**

2.1 Purpose of the Committee. The purpose of the ULTSAC is to function, pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 277(a), as an advisory board to advise the Commission regarding the development, implementation, and administration of the Universal Lifeline Telephone Service Trust (ULTS) program to ensure lifeline telephone service is available to the people of the state, as provided by the Moore Universal Telephone Service Act, Pub. Util. Code § 871 et seq., and to carry out program under the Commission's direction, control and approval.

2.2 Description of ULTS Program: The ULTS program provides subsidized basic telephone service to qualifying residential subscribers pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 871 et seq. Under the ULTS program, a ULTS customer may select any carrier from those that provide residential local exchange service in the customer's area.<sup>1</sup> The selected carrier may then submit a claim for reimbursement from the ULTS program. ~~At the present time, there are approximately 3 million ULTS subscribers in California.~~ The ULTS program is

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<sup>1</sup> Carriers providing residential local exchange service are designated according to the rules adopted in D.95-07-050.

funded by a surcharge, as determined by the CPUC, on the end of the user's bill for intrastate telecommunications services. The purpose of the ULTS program is related to, but distinct from, the Commission's overall goal of a 95% subscriber rate for each residential customer group.<sup>2</sup> The ULTS program is intended to provide affordable basic telephone service to all low-income households regardless of whether or not a particular low-income household belongs to a customer group with a 95% subscriber rate. Success by the ULTS program in providing telephone service to low-income households shall, in turn, help achieve the overall goal of a 95% subscriber rate for all residential customer groups.

~~2.3 Annual Report 2.3—Component Program: Universal Lifeline Telephone Service Marketing Program<sup>32</sup>(ULTSMP). The ULTSAC includes the ULTSMP, which is a component program under Pub. Util. Code § 277. The focus of the ULTSMP is the marketing of the ULTS program in a competitive environment.~~

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<sup>2</sup> See D.96-10-066, mimeo., p. 217.

~~<sup>3</sup>California Public Utilities Commission Decision (D.) 96-10-066 established the Universal Lifeline Telephone Service Marketing Working Group (ULTSMWG). D.97-12-105 concluded that the responsibilities of the ULTSMWG, as described in D.96-10-066 and as amended by D.97-12-105, were more consistent with those entities considered to be "advisory boards" to the Commission rather than with entities the Commission considered to be "working groups." Therefore, in order to better reflect the ULTSMWG's responsibilities, D.97-12-105 changed the name of the ULTSMWG to the Universal Lifeline Telephone Service Marketing Board, also known as the ULTSMB. D.02-04-059 merged the ULTSMB with the ULTAC, repealed the charter of the ULTSMB and changed the name of the ULTSMB to the ULTSMP.~~

The ULTSAC's advice and recommendations to the Commission ~~about the ULTSMP~~ shall focus on achieving the ULTS program goal of providing basic telephone service to all qualifying low-income households. ~~Since the funds available for marketing initiatives are limited,<sup>4</sup> the recommendations shall be prioritized to reflect the most pressing needs of the ULTS program, including proposals for expenditure of 80% of the marketing budget on campaigns designed to bring basic telephone service to qualifying households currently without telephone service.~~

~~The proposals for expenditure of the remaining 20% of the marketing budget shall be aimed at closing the gap between the total number of households with phone service who qualify for the ULTS program and the number of such households that actually use the program, consistent with the mandate of Pub. Util. Code § 871.5(c).<sup>5</sup>~~

The ULTSAC may also make recommendations in its Annual Report to the Commission on the following ~~ULTSMP~~ ULTS issues: (1) how to use existing funding levels for the ULTS marketing program to reduce the total number of households that qualify for ULTS that are without phone service and (2) how to narrow the gap between the total number of households with phone service who qualify for the ULTS program and the total number of such customers who actually use the program.

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~~<sup>4</sup>The total budgets supporting the ULTSMP (formerly, the ULTSMB program) and implementation of Commission-approved marketing recommendations cannot exceed the average of the annual ULTS marketing expenses reimbursed to all carriers for the last three years that carriers provided ULTS marketing services. (See D.96-10-066, mimeo., p.233.)~~

~~<sup>5</sup>Pub. Util. Code § 871.5(c) states that "Every means should be employed by the commission... to ensure that every person qualified to receive lifeline telephone service is informed of and is afforded the opportunity to subscribe to that service."~~

### 3. ARTICLE THREE: MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Members. The ULTSAC shall be composed of eleven (11) members consisting of the following representatives: a large or mid-sized local exchange carrier (LEC); a small LEC; an inter-exchange carrier, competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC); ~~or a~~ wireless carrier; two consumer organizations, each of whom represents a different constituency, based on geographic or economic criteria, on language, or on other criteria which reasonably influence lack of access to basic telephone service - or one consumer organization and a state agency with universal service expertise; ~~three~~ three community based organizations (CBOs), each of whom represents a different constituency, based upon geographic or economic criteria, on language, or other criteria which reasonably influence lack of access to basic telephone service; an individual or organization representing the interests of either the deaf/hearing impaired or disabled users of the ULTS program ; the Commission's Office of Ratepayer Advocates. ~~Until the Commission's Executive Director makes these appointments in accordance with Section 3.2, the persons serving as members of the ULTSAC and ULTSMB on September 30, 2001 shall serve, beginning October 1, 2001, as interim members of the Committee.~~

3.2 Selection. Upon the establishment by the Commission of the number and qualifications of members of the ULTSAC pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 271(a), members and alternates shall be nominated by the organizations or constituencies they are to represent. The Commission's Executive Director shall select and approve members and alternates, in accordance with procedures adopted by the Executive Director.

3.3 Term of Appointment. A member shall hold office until a successor has been appointed and has assumed office or until the member has been removed in accordance with Paragraph 3.4 or has resigned in accordance with Paragraph 3.5. If for any reason, a member ceases to be a designated

representative of the respective class or entity upon which his or her membership is based, the member's appointment shall terminate as of the date that affiliation ceases.

3.4 Removal. Any member may be removed at any time by the Commission or the Executive Director, in accordance with procedures adopted by the Commission. A majority of the ULTSAC members may recommend removal of a member upon demonstration of reasonable cause, provided, however, that reasonable cause may not include any policy position taken by a member as a member of the Committee. The Commission must approve the Committee's recommendation to remove any member.

3.5 Resignation. Any member may resign upon giving thirty (30) days written notice to the then acting Chair of the Committee. The member's appointment shall terminate upon the expiration of the thirty (30) day notification period.

3.6 Vacancies. The organizations or constituencies whose seat is vacated shall nominate individuals to fill that vacancy, and the selection and approval of the individual to fill that vacancy shall be made by the Commission's Executive Director. If the Committee is unable to identify a suitable candidate to fill the vacancy for any reason, the Commission or the Executive Director may appoint a member of the class from which the vacancy occurs.

3.7 Indemnification. Members of the ULTSAC who are not Commission staff are uncompensated servants of the State of California within the meaning of Gov. Code § 810.2. Accordingly, the State will indemnify Committee members as it indemnifies its compensated employees and will provide them with representation for their acts done within the course and scope of the services they perform for the ULTSAC, pursuant to Gov. Code §§ 815 -825.6 and 995 - 996.6. ~~The ULTSAC budget may include the purchase of Errors and Omissions (E&O) and Directors and Officers (D&O) or similar insurance to indemnify Committee members for acts done within the course and scope of services~~

~~performed for the ULTSAC, to the extent that such activities are held not to be indemnified by the State under Gov. Code §§ 810.2, 825–825.6 and/or 995–996.6.~~

3.8 Expenses and Per Diem. Members of the ULTSAC who are not employees of utilities, the Commission, or other governmental agencies of the State of California shall be entitled to reimbursement from the Committee Fund of reasonable expenses and/or per diem incurred in connection with their service on the Committee or subcommittees of the Committee authorized by the Commission, in accordance with Pub. Util. Code § 271(f). The per diem shall be \$300 for each day of meetings attended by the eligible members or \$200 if the meeting lasts for less than approximately two hours.

There shall be no per diem for preparation work. For each ULTSAC member who is an employee of a non-State governmental agency, trade association, or consumer group, payments for per diem and expense reimbursement related to the member's participation in the ULTSAC shall go to the member's employer unless the member can show justification for receiving these monies directly.

Eligible Committee members must seek reimbursement of travel expenses and per diem through the state's Travel Expense Claim (TEC) process. Completed TECs must be submitted to the Commission's ~~Communications~~Telecommunications Division for review. The Director of the ~~Communications~~Telecommunications Division will assign a designated staff member to review, and if appropriate, approve payment.

Committee members shall not be eligible to receive intervenor compensation under Pub. Util. Code § 1801 et seq. for their work related to the ULTSAC.

#### **4. ARTICLE FOUR: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

4.1 Duties. The ULTSAC shall have the following duties and responsibilities. While performing these duties and responsibilities, Committee members at all times shall be subject to the direction, control and approval of the Commission, which shall have all policy and program decision-making authority. The Committee shall act in an advisory capacity to the Commission.

- a) Pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 273(a), ~~on or before March 31 or before June 1~~ of each year the ULTSAC shall submit a proposed budget to the Commission's ~~Communications~~~~Telecommunications~~ Division. The proposed budget shall include estimated program expenditures and the Committee's projected expenses for the fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) that will commence ~~the following fiscal year thirteen(13)months~~ thereafter. -
- b) Pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 273(b), on or before October 1 of each year the ULTSAC shall submit a report to the Commission describing Committee activities during the prior fiscal year.
- c) Pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 277(a), the ULTSAC shall advise the Commission regarding the development, implementation and administration of the ULTS program, within the context of the Committee's purpose, as described in Paragraph 2.1.

4.2 Administrative, Legal and other Assistance: The Commission shall assign four Commission staff as liaisons to the ULTS-AC for the purposes of providing administrative, legal and other assistance. These liaisons shall not be members of the Committee and shall have no vote.

- a) One liaison, from the Commission's ~~Communications~~~~Telecommunications~~ Division, or its successor, who shall be appointed by the Director of that division, shall facilitate advisory board meetings by scheduling the room for such meetings, preparing agendas and meeting information packages, and taking and preparing minutes of the meetings. The liaison shall also assist the Committee in the development of each proposed fiscal year program budget and in the preparation and filing of the annual report.
- b) One liaison, from the Commission's Information and Management Services Division, or its successor, who shall be appointed by the Director of that division, shall provide the Committee with monthly reports on the financial status of the program.



- c) One liaison, from the Commission's Legal Division, or its successor, who shall be appointed by the Commission's General Counsel, shall provide the Committee with legal advice, upon request.
- d) d) One liaison, from the Commission's Public Advisor's Office, or its successor, who shall be appointed by the Public Advisor, shall facilitate communication between the board and the public, generally, including any necessary or useful public outreach consistent with the board's purpose. The liaison shall ensure that the board is aware of any specific, program-related concerns or proposals, including those regarding the effectiveness of the programs, which have come to the Commission's attention and shall undertake any other tasks to assist the board in fulfilling its purpose as the Commission may formally or informally direct.

4.3 Conflict of Interest Rules. Until affirmed as the final rules or modified by Commission order, the ULTSAC shall comply with the Fair Political Practices Commission Conflict of Interest Code, 2 Cal. Code of Regulations, § 18730. For purposes of applying these rules, all members of the ULTSAC shall be defined as "designated employees" required to disclose the following "economic interests":

Any investment or business position in, or income from, any of the following:

1. An entity seeking to provide any product or service related to the Committee's function or that has plans to come before the Committee to seek funds from the monies under the control of this group.
2. A parent or a subsidiary of an entity described in subsection (1).

## 5. ARTICLE FIVE: MEETINGS AND RECORDS

5.1 General. The ULTSAC shall act only in the course of a duly noticed meeting. The Committee shall meet ~~at least quarterly~~ monthly. Notification of the date, place, and time of each meeting shall be given to each member and shall be published as required by the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Gov. Code §11120 et seq.) and in the Commission's Daily Calendar at least ten (10) calendar days in advance of the meeting. Unless another location is stated in the

notice, meetings shall be at the Public Utilities Commission Building in San Francisco. Notice shall include the name, address, and telephone number of a person who can provide additional information prior to the meeting, as well as a brief, general description of the business to be transacted and shall highlight important pending decisions, including those to be sent to the Commission for approval. The agenda, once published, shall not be revised ten (10) days prior to the meeting. The Committee may take action on an item of business not appearing on the published agenda, as long as the action is taken in accordance with Gov. Code § 11125.3.

5.2 Open Meetings. All meetings shall be open to the public and shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. A copy of the Act shall be given to every existing and new member of the Committee.

5.3 Quorum and Teleconferencing. A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The members may be present in person or by conference telephone to the extent consistent with state law regarding open meetings, so long as the place of the meeting is open to attendance by the public and so long as the meeting is conducted in a way that is consistent with the following requirements of Gov. Code § 11123:

- (a) All meetings of a state body shall be open and public and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of a state body except as otherwise provided in this [Part 1, Chapter 1, Article 9 of the Government Code].
- (b) Nothing in Part 1, Chapter 1, Article 9 of the Government Code shall be construed to prohibit a state body from holding an open or closed meeting by teleconference if the convening at one location of a quorum of the state body is difficult or impossible, subject to all of the following:
  - (A) The teleconferencing meeting shall comply with all requirements of this article applicable to other meetings.

- (B) The portion of the teleconference meeting that is required to be open to the public shall be audible to the public at the location specified in the notice of the meeting.
- (C) Each teleconference location shall be identified in the notice of the meeting and shall be accessible to the public.
- (D) All votes taken during a teleconference meeting shall be by rollcall.
- (E) The portion of the teleconference meeting that is closed to the public may not include the consideration of any agenda item being heard pursuant to Government Code §11125.5.
- (F) At least one member of the state body be physically present at the location specified in the Notice of the meeting.

5.4 Committee Decisions. Each member present shall have one (1) vote. Decisions shall be made by majority vote of those members present as long as a quorum is present at the time of the vote.

5.5 Authorization of Specified Alternates. The Executive Director may appoint an alternate, from the same interest group or constituency as each member (but who need not be a representative of the same entity or organization), who may attend an advisory board meeting and vote in lieu of a member who cannot attend. No other alternate, substitute or proxy representation of Committee members may occur.

5.6 Public Participation. The ULTSAC shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee directly on each agenda item before or during the Committee's discussion or consideration of the item. The Committee shall provide a sign-up sheet for members of the public who wish to address the Committee. The sign-up sheet shall be available prior to the commencement of the public meeting and shall provide space for the name of the member of the public wishing to address the Committee, whom the individual represents, and the agenda item to be addressed. The Committee shall make its best efforts to recognize the public members during the appropriate comment

periods at each meeting, consistent with the Committee's obligation to conduct business in an orderly manner.

5.7 Records. As provided in Paragraph 4.2 (a), the ~~Communications~~~~Telecommunications~~ Division liaison shall record and prepare written minutes of ULTSAC meetings. ~~At a pre-recording of the meetings may be made.~~ The ~~Communications~~~~Telecommunications~~ Division liaison assigned to the task of preparing the written minutes shall submit them to the Committee at its next meeting for review and approval. Written minutes shall: (a) identify the date, time, and place of the meeting; (b) identify the Committee members in attendance, and (c) contain a summary. Copies of the minutes shall be provided to the Commission or any interested party upon request.

5.8 Copies. Copies of the Committee's public documents that are subject to the Public Records Act may be requested from the Committee and the Committee shall provide them within a reasonable time.

## 6. ARTICLE SIX: OFFICERS

6.1 Two Officers. The ULTSAC shall have two (2) officers, a Chair and a Vice-Chair, both of whom shall be members of the Committee. The officers shall be elected by the members of the Committee to serve a term of one year, and they may be re-elected. An officer shall continue to hold office until a successor has been elected and assumed office. However, if an officer ceases to be the designated representative of a class or entity as described in Paragraph 3.3, the officer's appointment shall terminate upon the date that the officer's affiliation ceases.

6.2 Duties. The Chair shall be the executive officer and shall be responsible for the general supervision and direction of the affairs of the Committee. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Committee. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of that office. If the Chair and Vice-Chair are unavailable for a meeting where a quorum nevertheless

exists, the Chair may appoint a temporary Chair for that meeting. The officers shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be prescribed by the Committee, with the assistance of the ~~Communications~~Telecommunications Division liaison, as needed.

## **7. ARTICLE SEVEN: EFFECTIVE DATE AND AMENDMENTS**

7.1 Effective Date. This Charter shall become effective on the date it is approved by the Commission unless the Commission establishes a different effective date.

7.2 Amendments. This Charter may be amended by vote of the majority of the members of the ULTSAC and the amendment shall be submitted to the Commission for approval. No amendment shall be effective unless and until the amendment has been approved by the Commission. This Charter is subject to amendment, termination or revocation at any time by order of the Commission.

## **8. ARTICLE EIGHT: LIMITATION ON POWER AND AUTHORITY**

8.1 While the ULTSAC shall have the power and authority to function consistent with this Charter, and in particular, to carry out the duties and responsibilities specified in Article Four of this Charter, it shall not have the authority to direct telecommunications carriers to act or refrain from acting. Such authority shall remain solely with the Commission.

8.2 The members of the ULTSAC in the performance of their duties and in the actions taken by the Committee shall at all times be subject to the direction, control and approval of the Commission.

~~This Charter is hereby modified in response to OIR 01-08-002 issued August 2, 2001 and is executed on \_\_\_\_\_.~~

~~Member—~~

~~Member—~~

~~Member—~~

~~Member—~~

~~Member—~~

~~Member—~~

~~Member—~~

~~Member—~~

~~Member—~~