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PRESS RELEASE

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**CPUC SUPPLIER DIVERSITY PROGRAM
HITS PROCUREMENT MILESTONE**

SAN FRANCISCO, March 5, 2012 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today said that the participating companies in its supplier diversity program have hit a milestone of procuring more than \$7 billion in goods and services from women, minority, and disabled veteran-owned business enterprises.

The CPUC encourages companies 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 of its goods and services from diverse firms (15 percent minority owned firms, 5 percent women-owned firms, and 1.5 percent disabled veteran-owned firms).

The utilities and telecommunication companies report annually on their procurement purchases from these enterprises and reports were submitted to the CPUC on March 1, 2012.

Of the more than 30 companies participating in the Supplier Diversity Program, those doing the most business with diverse firms in the past year include:

- Pacific Gas and Electric Company: \$1.61 billion, or 36.56 percent
- Southern California Edison: \$1.4 billion, or 33.70 percent
- AT&T: \$1.07 billion, or 44.1 percent
- AT&T Wireless: \$707 million, or 21.4 percent
- Sprint: \$686 million, or 27.76 percent
- San Diego Gas and Electric: \$564 million, or 38.13 percent
- Southern California Gas Company: \$308 million, or 38.12 percent
- Verizon: \$124 million, or 44 percent

Said CPUC President Michael R. Peevey, a champion of the Supplier Diversity Program, “This is a great achievement for these companies. In the past 10 years, the Supplier Diversity Program has blossomed from one that was languishing with just over \$1 billion in procurement into one that is now thriving, with participating companies collectively procuring more than \$7 billion. Companies must invest in the diversity of America, and continue to do so at an increasing level. Small and diverse businesses are the backbone of our economy. I commend those companies who have embraced supplier diversity and incorporated it into their supply chain. Supplier diversity is no longer a social justice program, but contributes to shareholder value and is an important investment in the communities the companies serve. I applaud each and every company that is participating in our program and welcome others to take a step forward and become part of this great program.”

The diversity procurement reports filed by utilities are available at www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/SupplierDiversity/120301_UilitiesFileSupplierDiversityProcurementReports.htm.

For more information on the CPUC, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov.

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