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Final Report on Phase 2 Low Income Needs Assessment

Prepared for:
California Public Utilities Commission

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Final Report
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**Table 5-8
Summary of Energy Burden Results by Category (Low, Moderate and High)**

Type of Energy Service	Energy Burden Category	Number of Responses (Unweighted)	Percent of Low Income Households [1] (Weighted)	Average Energy Burden
All Households	Low energy burden (<2.5%)	192	27%	1.6%
	Moderate energy burden (2.5 - 5.0%)	254	31%	3.6%
	High energy burden (>5.0%)	265	43%	8.4%
	All Households	711	100%	4.2%
Electric and gas households	Low energy burden (<2.5%)	152	21%	1.6%
	Moderate energy burden (2.5 - 5.0%)	210	25%	3.6%
	High energy burden (>5.0%)	228	38%	7.9%
	All Electric and Gas Households	590	100%	4.2%
Electric only households	Low energy burden (<2.5%)	40	6%	1.4%
	Moderate energy burden (2.5 - 5.0%)	44	6%	3.7%
	High energy burden (>5.0%)	37	5%	13.5%
	All Electric Only Households	121	100%	4.2%

[1] Percentage of households based on weighted sample and, as such, may not correspond to percentages based on unweighted sample.

Note: Table only includes results for electric only households and households for which data was available for both electric and natural gas service (either from the same utility, i.e., PG&E and SDG&E, or from SCE and SCG).

Table 5-10
Segments of the Low Income Population with Greatest Energy Burden

		Percent of Households Spending More than 5% on Energy	Segment Size (Percent of Low Income Population)
<i>All Low Income Households</i>		43%	--
Housing Density	Households living in sparsely populated areas	61%	31%
Climate Region	Central Valley	63%	25%
Race/Ethnicity	White	51%	34%
	Other	52%	8%
Literacy	Illiterate (English language)	66%	7%
Household Composition	Seniors only	50%	18%
	Disabilities	56%	27%
Household Income	Less than \$15,000	73%	35%
Dwelling Type	Single Family	51%	44%
	Mobile Homes	78%	6%
AC System	Have central AC or heat pump	58%	25%
Heating System	Natural Gas	50%	75%
Energy Use	High annual electricity consumption (>7,000 kWh/year)	75%	27%
	High annual natural consumption (>500 therms/year)	70%	26%
	Above-baseline electricity consumption	60%	52%
	Above-baseline gas consumption	50%	75%
	High summer electricity consumption (>1,500 kWh/summer months)	65%	41%
	High winter electricity consumption (>1,500 kWh/winter months)	65%	36%
	High winter natural gas consumption (>500 therms/winter months)	75%	25%

“Families” are more common among SCE/SCG and SCG low income households, and least common among SDG&E households. “Seniors only” are most prevalent among PG&E households, and least prevalent among SCG households. SDG&E has the highest percentage of “young adult” households, where all household members are between the ages of 18 and 34.

Household Elderly/Disabled Status⁸

As part of the onsite survey, the outreach specialist asked a set of questions to capture the age of the head of household, as well as an indication of whether or not any of the members of the household suffer from a physical or mental disability. The specific questions used to assess the household’s disability “status” include:

- Do any of the people in this household 18 years or older have any of the following long-lasting conditions:
 - Blindness, deafness or a severe vision or hearing impairment, or
 - A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying?

- Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more, does any person in this household 18 years or older have trouble:
 - Learning, remembering, or concentrating,
 - Dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the house, or
 - Going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor’s office?

As shown in Table 4-16, nearly one in every two low income households contains a member who is either elderly and/or disabled. PG&E households are most likely to contain elderly and/or disabled household members, whereas SCE and SCG households are least likely to contain elderly and/or disabled household members.

⁸ Prior to November 1, 2005, income eligibility criteria for the CARE and LIEE Programs varied depending on whether or not there are elderly and/or disabled household members. While these no criteria no long apply to the programs, the information is still useful for assessing the needs of these important segments of the low income population.