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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company for Approval of 2013-2014 Energy Efficiency Programs and Budget (U39M).

Applications 12-07-001
(Filed July 2, 2012)

And Related Matters.

Application 12-07-002
Application 12-07-003
Application 12-07-004

**RESPONSE OF THE CITY OF BERKELEY TO MOTION FOR
CONSIDERATION OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA REGIONAL
ENERGY NETWORK**

Timothy Burroughs
City of Berkeley
2120 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704
Office Tel. (510) 981-7437
Email:
tburroughs@cityofberkeley.info
Climate Action Coordinator

Date: August 3, 2012

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The following comments are in response to the Motion for Consideration of the San Francisco Bay Area Regional Energy Network.

The City of Berkeley and many other jurisdictions in the Bay Area have adopted ambitious targets for reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions and achieving other associated benefits, such as reduced energy costs for local businesses and residents, local job creation, and improved public health. Energy efficiency programs funded through Local Government Partnerships as well as the energy-saving programs proposed by the BayREN are critical to helping our communities advance toward our energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals. The 2013-2014 programs proposed by PG&E for the East Bay Energy Watch Local Government Partnership and by the BayREN can and should work collaboratively. Together the proposed Local Government Partnership and BayREN programs have the potential to achieve deep energy and cost savings across a broad market.

The City of Berkeley and many other Bay Area cities collaborated with PG&E to develop its Local Government Partnership proposal and with the BayREN steering committee to develop the BayREN proposal. The BayREN proposal is specifically designed to achieve energy savings in ways that are additional and complementary to those achieved through existing Local Government Partnerships. For example, the BayREN would provide energy-saving programs to the entire Bay Area region, including communities that are not currently served by a Local Government Partnership. In addition, the BayREN proposal focuses on elements that the Local Government Partnerships have not historically addressed and provides an opportunity to leverage the role of local government in new ways that can deepen energy savings, such as through performance-based energy efficiency programs in the single-family and multifamily markets. Bay Area local governments developed significant capacity to administer performance-based programs to these markets through implementation of federal stimulus-funded programs.

We are confident that, through continued collaboration, the Local Government Partnerships and the BayREN can collectively achieve deeper energy savings and greenhouse gas reductions than would otherwise be possible. This would be the optimal outcome, as it would help local communities, the region, and the state to achieve our energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals. In order to facilitate this outcome, PG&E and the CPUC should clearly identify funding for the Regional Energy Networks that is in addition to funding for the Local Government Partnerships. Any lack of clarity on the sources of funding for the RENs may create an unproductive, adversarial relationship between the Local Government Partnerships and the RENs. Given the

scale of energy reductions required to achieve our collective greenhouse gas reduction goals, our focus must be on employing all available resources in a collaborative manner.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

/S/ Timothy Burroughs
Timothy Burroughs
2120 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704
Office Tel. (510) 981-7437
Email: tburroughs@cityofberkeley.info

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