



# California Public Utilities Commission

505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102

## News Release

July 3, 2003

Media Contact: PUC Press Office – 415.703.1366 – news@cpuc.ca.gov

### **PUC TO HOLD HEARING ON DIVERSITY**

#### **WOMEN, MINORITY AND DISABLED VETERAN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM AND UTILITY WORKFORCE DIVERSITY TO BE DISCUSSED**

The California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will be holding a public hearing regarding further development of the Women, Minority and Disabled Veteran's Business Enterprise (WMDVBE) program and how to advance utility workforce diversity.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, July 22, 2003, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**WHERE:** 455 Golden Gate, Hiram Johnson State Building, San Francisco

The Commission will use the information and insight gained at the hearing to evaluate the status of utility procurement and utility employment diversity and the relevant regulations and laws. Members of the public are invited to attend the hearing. Invitees include members of the State Legislature, representatives of labor organizations, business, and community leaders, and Commission-regulated utilities. Commission President Michael R. Peevey and Commissioner Carl Wood will be in attendance and other Commissioners may participate as well. Several panelists will present their perspectives on workforce diversity and utility procurement practices.

“We live and work in the largest, most diverse state in the nation and our employment and procurement practices should reflect this,” said President Peevey. “I am committed to ensuring that this Commission and the utilities it regulates promote diversity in their hiring practices and this hearing will allow us to take a closer look at these very important matters.”

“This hearing is a vital step in examining the issues of workplace diversity and utility procurement practices,” said Commissioner Wood. “The PUC and the public will benefit from engaging in a comprehensive, cross-industry discussion of these issues. The WMDVBE program is very important to the Commission and this hearing will allow the Commission to explore opportunities and ideas to advance the program.”

## **AGENDA**

### **“Renewing Our Commitment to Diversity” Public Hearing Tuesday, July 22, 2003**

#### **Hiram Johnson State Building - Auditorium 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco**

- 9:00 A.M. Welcome/Opening Remarks
- President Michael R. Peevey and Commissioner Carl Wood
  - Other Commissioners and Invited Guests
- 9:30 A.M. History and Status of the Women, Minority and Disabled Veteran’s Business Enterprise Program (WMDVBE) and utility workforce diversity
- Gwen Moore, President and CEO of GeM Communications Group, former member of the California State Assembly (1978 – 1994)
- 9:45 A.M. Utilities’ Procurement and Workforce Diversity Programs - Status of efforts and challenges to achieving WMDVBE program goals and diverse workforce.
- Sempra Energy Utilities, Edwin A. Guiles, Group President-Sempra Energy Utilities Southern California Gas Company / San Diego Gas & Electric Company
  - Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Gordon R. Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer
  - Southern California Edison, Robert Foster, President
  - SBC California, Chuck Smith, President and CEO SBC West
  - Verizon, California Inc., Timothy J. McCallion, President-Pacific Region
  - California-American Water Company, Paul G. Townsley, President
- 10:45 A.M. Break

- 11:00 A.M. The Underpinnings of Employment Law
- Martha West, Professor – Employment Law, King Hall School of Law, University of California, Davis
- 11:15 A.M. Utility Workforce Diversity - Profile of current utility workforce: Where are they succeeding? Where is improvement needed, if any?
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1245, Tom Dalzell, Senior Assistant Business Manager
  - International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 47, Pat Lavin, Business Manager
  - Utility Workers Union of America Local 246, Daniel Dominguez, Business Manager
  - Communications Workers of America, District Nine, James B. Gordon, Jr., Administrative Assistant to the Vice-President
  - Utility Workers Union of America, Local 132, Marta Rodriguez-Harris, President
  - Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO Bernardo R. Garcia, Region 5 Director
  - The Greenlining Institute, Itzell Berrio, Deputy General Counsel
- 12:15 P.M. Lunch
- 1:15 P.M. Overview of Business Climate for WMDVBEs
- Alfred Osborne, Associate Professor-Business Economics, Director of the Harold Price Center for Entrepreneurial Studies, University of California, Los Angeles
- 1:30 P.M. WMDVBE Business Leaders and Utility Representatives - Assessment of the WMDVBE program and identification of opportunities and necessary program improvements
- Verizon of California, John Rodriguez, Supplier Diversity Manager

- Pacific Gas & Electric, Kristel Frank, Director of Purchasing
- California Black Chamber of Commerce, Aubrey L. Stone, President/CEO
- California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Julian Canete, President/CEO
- California DVBE Alliance, Michael J. Green, executive Director
- American Indian Chamber of Commerce of California, Tracy Stanhoff, President
- The Greenlining Institute – Itzell Berrio, Deputy General Counsel

2:45 P.M. Break

3:00 P.M. Procurement Diversity: Strategies for Success and Identifying What Works

- SBC California, Joan N. Kerr, Executive Director, Supplier Diversity Programs,
- Sempra Energy Utilities, Shawn Farrar, Director, Diverse Business Enterprises
- Visage - Will Johnson, President, Visage Energy Corporation.
- Jose Perez, Publisher, The Latino Journal
- Stan Moy, FMG Architects

4:00 P.M. Public Comment

4:15 P.M. Conclude

###