



California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

September 2006, Number 24

This newsletter is intended to inform you about recent actions and issues before the CPUC that may affect your community. If you need assistance or clarification on anything in this newsletter, please contact [Kyle DeVine](#) or the [Public Advisor](#). Below is information on how to subscribe or unsubscribe and you can also email us at: cpucnl@cpuc.ca.gov.



Go Solar! The Commission has approved new incentives for installing solar energy systems. Beginning January 1, 2007, the CPUC will offer performance-based incentives for solar energy systems. Systems greater than 100 kilowatts which are installed in businesses and other large facilities will receive incentive payments over the first five years of operation of \$0.39 per kilowatt-hour of output for taxable entities and \$0.50 per kilowatt-hour of output for government/non-profit organizations. Residential and small commercial systems (smaller than 100 kilowatts) will receive incentives of \$2.50 per watt and will also be eligible for federal tax credits. Government and non-profit organizations will receive \$3.25 per watt to compensate for their lack of access to the federal tax credit. For more information, [click here](#).

Keeping the lights on! The CPUC recently approved more measures to ensure sufficient energy supplies by encouraging consumers to lower their demand. It approved SDG&E's request to modify its Peak Day 20/20 Program to enable more customer participation, and directed PG&E, SCE and SDG&E to use electricity demand as a trigger to activate the Demand Reserves Partnership (DRP) Program, rather than electricity price. This change is intended to encourage more consumers to reduce their power use when electrical supplies run low.

Refunds and electrical rate offsets. As many of you know, SCE received the CPUC's approval to delay until November a rate increase that was due to take effect last month. That should avoid some bill impact during the summer months. In addition the extra electricity sales caused by the heatwave in July resulted in PG&E, SCE and SDG&E receiving extra revenue. As a result, PG&E has been authorized to refund some money to its customers. SCE and SDG&E have applied to also provide relief for their customers, perhaps by using the revenue to offset rate increases. Those two requests are being reviewed.

More teleco competition! AT&T (formerly SBC/Pacific Bell), Verizon, SureWest, and Frontier will be allowed to price their services more like their competitors, except basic residential prices will be frozen until January 1, 2009. The authorization gives these telephone companies flexibility in how they charge for services and may bring more choices to your constituents. For more information, [click here](#).

Are Current Teleco "Public" Programs Sufficient! The CPUC is reviewing its Telecommunications Public Policy Programs - California LifeLine, Payphones, Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications, and California Teleconnect Fund programs. Are the programs providing a ubiquitous and affordable telecommunications system and are they being managed efficiently? Public Participation Hearings are scheduled statewide with the first one coming up September 25 - see our community calendar. For more information, [click here](#).

Water rates to increase for California Water Service Company (CalWater) customers statewide. Rate increases are authorized for eight districts, including three areas that are rural, mostly residential and are costly to serve - the Redwood Valley district, Kern River Valley district and the Fremont Valley area of the Antelope Valley district. To somewhat offset those high costs and to provide some discounts to low-income customers, the utility is authorized to establish a new fund (Rate Support Fund) which will be subsidized by all of the utility's customers in its 24 districts. For more information, [click here](#).

Electronic filing is available! Now parties can file documents with the CPUC electronically and you can access them. Before this feature, only Commission-generated documents were available from our website. Now anyone can access any document filed with the CPUC electronically. To search for documents that have been e-filed, please go to <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/static/documents/index.htm> and click on "E-filed documents."



Valencia West Creek Project Go Ahead! Since Los Angeles County has recertified the West Creek Environmental Impact Report, the CPUC has lifted its stay of a prior decision, giving Valencia Water Company authorization to expand its service area to serve the West Creek project. For more information, [click here](#).

Small Business expos on small Bohn, to connect contractors from the Community information or to

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Expo in San Jose! The Commission is holding business opportunities, led by Commissioner John small business owners with project managers and California's major and local utility companies. See Calendar for location and time. For more register online [click here](#).



Events Calendar

Here is a list of workshops and public meetings coming up. Since items could be added or removed daily, you may want to access our "Daily Calendar" for complete information by using the link in the left column of our website: www.cpuc.ca.gov. You can watch or listen-in on Commission Business Meetings and some of the other meetings through our webcast. Details will be posted on our website. Have questions? Contact our [Public Advisor's Office](#).

Next Commission Business meetings:

Thursday, September 21, 10:00; Thursday, October 5, 10:00; and Thursday, October 19 11:00 (in Fresno).

Oakland - Tuesday, September 12, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Water Symposium on Securing Clean and Affordable Water to identify current and emerging quality standards for drinking water, which pose extensive challenges for water utilities in California. The CPUC, the Department of Health Services, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the Department of Water Resources are teaming up to present this Symposium. [Elihu Harris Building \(State Office Building\), Auditorium, 1515 Clay St., Oakland.](#)

Ramona, Wednesday, September 13, 4:00 p.m. Public Participation Hearing to hear the public's concerns about SDG&E's request to build the Sunrise Powerlink Transmission Project. This hearing will immediately follow the PreHearing Conference which will begin at 4:00 p.m. [Olive Pierce Middle School, Charles Nunn Performing Arts Center, 1521 Hanson Lane, Ramona.](#)

Sacramento, Wednesday, September 13, 10:00 a.m. Workshop on Low-Income Assistance Programs in Sacramento to share information and ideas about what can be accomplished with the current low-income energy efficiency budget. [Department of Community Services and Development, Kings Conference Room, 700 N. 10th St. Sacramento.](#)

Seaside - Thursday, September 14, 7:00 p.m. Public Participation Hearing to hear comments from the public about California American Water Company's request to construct and operate the Coastal Water Project. [Embassy Suites Hotel, Laguna Grade Room, 1441 Canyon Del Rey, Seaside.](#)

San Jose - Thursday, September 14, 7:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Small Business Expo to connect small business owners with project managers and contractors from California's major and local utility companies. [Italian American Heritage Foundation, 425 N. 4th Street, San Jose.](#)

San Francisco, Monday September 18, 1:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Energy Action Plan Meeting The CPUC, Energy Commission members, other state representatives and the California Independent System Operator will discuss the summer 2006 heatwave experience, a loading order update, and the California Solar Initiative. [CPUC Auditorium, 505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco.](#)

Santa Rosa, Monday September 18, 7:00 p.m. Public Participation Hearing to receive comments about the change of control of California American Water Company. [Santa Rosa City Hall Council Chambers, 100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa.](#)

San Diego, Monday, September 25, 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Public Participation Hearing to receive public comments about telecommunications public policy programs. State Office Building, Auditorium, 1350 Front St., San Diego.

Felton, Wednesday, September 27, 7:00 p.m. Public Participation Hearing to receive public comments about the change of control of California American Water Company. Felton Community Hall, Main Auditorium, 6191 Highway 9, Felton.

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