



California Public Utilities Commission

505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102

Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PUC TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS ON 818 AREA CODE OPTIONS

SAN FRANCISCO, September 17, 2007 - The California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will hold public meetings to inform the public and to hear comments about 818 area code change alternatives. The PUC is taking this step because there will soon be a shortage of available telephone numbers in the 818 area code.

The 818 area code covers the San Fernando Valley, and includes the cities of Agoura, Burbank, Canoga Park, Glendale, North Hollywood, Northridge, Reseda, San Fernando, and Van Nuys.

The North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANPA) holds overall responsibility for the administration of numbering resources. If NANPA determines that whole prefixes, the first 3-digits following the area code in every telephone number, are running out in the existing 818 area code, NANPA will call on the PUC to identify options for creating a new area code. In June 2007, NANPA held an area code planning meeting for the 818 region at which the telecommunications industry offered two alternatives for a new area code: a split and an overlay.

In order to inform the public and to hear concerns about the proposed 818 area code change alternatives the PUC has scheduled the following local jurisdiction (for elected and appointed officials but open to the public) and public meetings:

LOCAL JURISDICTION MEETING

- **Monday, October 22, 2007, 1:30 p.m.**
Glendale City Council Chambers
613 E. Broadway, Room #210
Glendale, CA 91206

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETINGS

- **Monday, October 22, 2007, 7:00 p.m.**
Buena Vista Library, Public Meeting Room

300 North Buena Vista
Burbank, CA

- **Tuesday, October 23, 2007, 1:30 p.m.**
Los Virgenes Water District Board, Meeting Room
4232 Los Virgenes Rd.
Calabasas, CA
- **Tuesday, October 23, 2007, 7 p.m.**
San Fernando City Council Chambers
117 N. MacNeil St.
San Fernando, CA
- **Wednesday, October 24, 2007, 7 p.m.**
Marvin Braude Constituent Service Center, Room 1-B
6262 Van Nuys Blvd.
Van Nuys, CA

Prefixes are assigned to telecommunications exchanges, which are replenished with more prefixes as the supply of unused phone numbers decrease in a given exchange. However, once an area code runs low on its supply of whole unused prefixes, a new area code must be added to increase the supply of numbers available for business and residential customers in the area. If the PUC determines it is necessary to do so, a new 747 area code would be added to the 818 area code to provide more telephone numbers.

At the public meetings, PUC staff will discuss the status of numbering resources in the 818 area code. They also will explain the area code change options that the telecommunications industry has selected for the 818 area code: either a split or an overlay. PUC staff also will ask for the public's preference as to which area code option should be implemented.

The PUC welcomes consumer participation and comments, which will help the PUC determine the area code change option to implement for the 818 area code, if one is needed. If consumers cannot attend the public meetings, preferences on the area code change option and comments can be made on the PUC's website at www.cpuc.ca.gov/818areacode. Written comments can also be submitted to the PUC's Public Advisor's Office at 320 W. 4th St., Suite 500, Los Angeles, CA 90013 or via e-mail to public.advisor.la@cpuc.ca.gov.

If specialized accommodations are needed in order to attend the meetings, such as sign language interpreters, please contact the Public Advisor's Office five business days in advance of the meeting toll-free at 866-849-8390 or toll-free TTY at 866-836-7825.

Area Code Split and Overlay

Traditionally, area codes have been split to provide more prefixes for the telecommunications industry and its customers, creating smaller geographic areas. Area code splits create new area codes by splitting a geographical region into two or more area codes. Only one area code is assigned to a particular geographical region.

An area code overlay is a form of area code change that adds a new area code(s) to the same geographic region as an existing area code. Therefore, multiple area codes may co-exist within the same geographic region. If an area code overlay is chosen for the 818 region, consumers with 818 telephone numbers will retain both their area code and their current telephone number(s). After the overlay is implemented, consumers who change their telephone number(s) or get additional telephone numbers for new or existing telecommunications services may be given telephone numbers with the new 747 area code. In addition, all calls dialed within the 818 and the new 747 area code will require 11-digit dialing (1 + area code + 7 digit number). Both the Federal Communications Commission and the PUC require that all calls placed in the geographic area served by an overlay area code must be dialed with the area code.

More information on area codes is available at:

www.cpuc.ca.gov/static/hottopics/2telco/areacodes.htm.

For more information on communications issues, please visit www.CalPhoneInfo.com.

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

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