



## California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) January 2006, Number 18

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](mailto:cpucnl@cpuc.ca.gov).

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**New! Solar photovoltaic funding has been increased by \$300 million** for technologies that are currently part of the Self-Generation Incentive Program. This should assure program continuity through 2006. The CPUC intends to adopt the "California Solar Initiative," which will provide incentives for installing solar energy technologies (proceeding R.04-03-017). For more information, [click here](#).

**New! The Commission is holding expos throughout the state to connect small business owners with California's utility companies.**

This is a great way for small business owners to meet with utility representatives to discuss business opportunities. The first Expo, led by Commissioner John Bohn, will be in Oakland on Jan. 19, 2006. For more information, [click here](#).

**Reminder! Conserve natural gas and electricity use.** Natural gas costs have been very high, which will increase consumers' costs to use gas and electricity (many electric generators are fueled by natural gas, that's one reason why electricity costs are increasing). To learn more about the increases, and ways you can conserve or benefit from a utility program, [click here](#).

**New! The Commission continues to ensure reliable and cost-effective electricity supply.** To refine our resource adequacy requirements (RAR) program, the CPUC will consider specific elements such as local RAR, and the requirements and implementation of Assembly Bill 380 (proceeding R.05-12-013). For more information, [click here](#).

**Update! Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)** - the CPUC has resolved implementation issues and complies with Assembly Bill 117, enabling cities and counties to form CCAs (proceeding R.03-10-003). For more information, [click here](#).

**Update! The CPUC Telecommunications Bill of Rights** proposed decision is designed to protect consumers from fraud and abuse. The proposal is currently scheduled to be voted on by the Commission at its January 26 meeting (proceeding R.00-02-004). To read the proposal, [click here](#).

**New! The CPUC is considering implementing a low-income program for California Water Company customers.** A prehearing conference has been scheduled for January 17,

2006 (proceeding A.05-10-035). For more information, [click here](#).

**New! Nominations are being accepted for the California Emerging Technology Fund governing board.** Individuals interested in being considered for the board should send a letter of interest and a resume by January 16, 2006. For the contact information and more details, [click here](#).

**Reminder! Rural and low-income communities** that are currently without telecommunications service may apply for grants up to \$2,500,000 for installing facilities necessary to provide service. The application deadline is January 17, 2006. For more information, [click here](#).

**Reminder! The 310 area code**, in Los Angeles County's Westside and South Bay will have a second area code, 424, added to it in 2006 through a method known as an overlay. When an overlay is used, consumers must include the area code when placing a call and they may start dialing 1+ area code + seven-digit number on all calls now. For more information, [click here](#).



**New! Apple Valley Ranchos Water Company** customers will see a 9% rate increase in 2006 (the company had requested 19%). Also approved is low-income assistance which will provide a \$5.00 a month credit to customers who meet income eligibility requirements (proceeding A.05-02-005). For more information, [click here](#).

**New! Edison rates are increasing in 2006** with most of the increase due to increased costs by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to purchase energy. In January, revenues will increase by \$766 million. To read about the DWR increase, [click here](#).

## Northern



**Update! Two rate increase requests for PG&E were approved** in December, resulting in an overall system-wide increase of 7.4% with residential rates increasing 11.1%. For more information, [click here](#).

**New! PG&E has submitted another request to increase rates in January 2007** and as part of that application, PG&E proposes to close 84 "front counters." A prehearing conference is set for January 23, 2006, to address the scope and schedule of this proceeding including setting hearings for the public to express their concerns (proceeding A.05-12-002). For more information, [click here](#).

**New! Fruitridge Water Company in Sacramento County** wants to establish a moratorium on new service connections. We have also received six complaints seeking to require Fruitridge to purchase water for its customers and to provide service to 550 new customers. A scoping memo has been issued and evidentiary hearings are scheduled for March 22-24 (proceeding A.05-10-005). For more information, [click here](#) and [click here](#).

**New! Alisal Water Company's Salinas District** has been granted a revenue increase of 29% for 2006 and an additional increase of 12% for 2007. The monthly bill for a residential customer using 20 Ccf will increase from \$29.90 to \$43.15 or 44% for 2006, and 9% for 2007. To read the order, [click here](#).

**New! Del Oro Water, serving Butte County**, has been authorized to increase rates by 17% to cover costs for improvements to utility facilities. The monthly bill for a residential customer using 35 Ccf of water will increase by \$12.15 from \$74.48 to \$86.63. For more information, [click here](#)

**New! Conlin Strawberry Water in Strawberry** filed a petition asking to stay parts of a July decision regarding receivership and reparations and also filed a request to sell the water system to Del Oro Water Company. A Prehearing Conference and hearing will be held on these issues on January 6, 2006 (proceeding A.05-12-001). For more information, [click here](#).

**New! Pacificcorp, near the northern California border** has filed an application requesting a 15.6% overall increase in revenues; a prehearing conference for that proceeding is scheduled for January 18, 2006 (proceeding A.05-11-022). For more information, [click here](#).

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**Upcoming Commission Meetings: January 12, January 26 and February 16.** To access the January 12 agenda, [click here](#).