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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**CPUC TO HOLD CONSUMER WORKSHOPS  
ON MANAGING ENERGY BILLS**

SAN FRANCISCO, November 30, 2009 -- The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today announced that it will hold free consumer workshops in Oakland, Fresno, and Bakersfield on Managing Energy Bills.

**When/Where:**

- December 14, 2009, 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Elihu M. Harris State Building, 1515 Clay St., Oakland
- December 16, 2009, 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Mosqueda Community Center, 4670 E. Butler, Fresno
- December 18, 2009, 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Kern County Superintendent of Schools, 1300 17<sup>th</sup> St., Bakersfield

**What:** Learn about state and federal income-based energy bill discount programs, energy efficiency and conservation programs, bill payment assistance plans, solar power, and more.

**Who:** Representatives from the CPUC and Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

**Why:** In these challenging economic times it is important that consumers are aware of programs that could assist them in managing their energy bills. This workshop will also offer information on the CPUC's efforts to transform California's utility distribution system into an intelligent, integrated network.

Programs and initiatives that can help reduce energy bills will be discussed as well as policies that will help bring reliable energy at reasonable rates. Examples of these programs and policies include:

- **[California Alternate Rates for Energy \(CARE\)](#)**: Provides a 20 percent discount on energy bills for qualifying consumers.

- **Family Electric Rate Assistance Program (FERA)**: Bills some electricity at a lower rate for qualifying consumers.
- **Low Income Energy Efficiency (LIEE)**: Helps consumers with limited household income reduce their monthly energy bills by providing attic insulation, energy efficient appliances, and other home improvements, at no cost.
- **Energy Efficiency Policy**: In 2005 the CPUC created the most ambitious energy efficiency and conservation program in the history of the utility industry in the U.S. Energy efficiency typically refers to the installation of technologies or tools and associated behavioral management to eliminate energy losses in homes, businesses, or in new construction. Energy efficient homes require less energy consumption while maintaining comparable service and comfort, thereby saving consumers money on their utility bill.
- **Demand Response and an Intelligent Network**: These are programs that allow consumers and businesses to reduce their electricity use during times of high energy demand when electricity supply is scarce and expensive. This reduces costs to consumers, enhances electric system reliability, and avoids the need to build power plants.

These workshops are free and open to the public. Registration is not necessary.

For more information on the CPUC, please visit [www.cpuc.ca.gov](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov).

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