



California Public Utilities Commission

505 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco, CA 94102 - www.cpuc.ca.gov

Local Government Newsletter No. 11 Feb. 2005

This newsletter is intended to inform you about recent actions undertaken and issues pending before the CPUC that may affect your community.

How are we doing? Please fill out our survey. It only takes a few minutes to complete. We are striving to make the newsletter useful for you and your answers will help us meet that goal. Here's a link to it: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/newslettersurvey/>

Statewide Interest

New! Good primer on telecommunications issues - Commissioner Dian Grueneich is holding a "Telecommunications Issues Conference" on Friday, March 11, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, in the Commission auditorium, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco. Noted telecommunications industry experts will share their knowledge and insights on current California telecommunications issues, the events and issues driving changes in the competitive market, state and federal jurisdictional issues, and program and funding issues related to universal service and public purpose programs. More information about the conference will be posted on the CPUC website: www.cpuc.ca.gov.

Energy Efficiency information **New!** Energy Efficiency Program Planning – The CPUC has directed Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E), Southern California Edison (Edison) and Southern California Gas (SoCalGas) companies to hold six public workshops to gather input for planning 2006-2008 energy efficiency programs. Also, the utilities are holding several advisory group meetings that are open to the public. The current advisory group meeting and workshop schedule is available at

http://www.californiaenergyefficiency.com/docs/SCG_SCE_Schedule.pdf. Additional information on the meetings, workshops and meeting materials can be found at:

<http://www.californiaenergyefficiency.com/pag.html>. For questions, please contact Don Arambula (Edison), don.arambula@sce.com, (626) 302-8179; Joy Yamagata (SDG&E and SoCalGas), jyamagata@semprautilities.com, (858) 654-1755; Annette Beitel (PG&E), asb5@pge.com, (415) 973-6792 or (847) 920-0367.

Also local governments, businesses and residents may want to check out the Flex Your Power website for information on **energy efficiency devices and programs, rebates, grants, news** and more information about state and federal programs. Here's the link: <http://www.fypower.com/>. More resources: the South Bay Energy Savings Center at 3858 Carson Street Suite 110, Torrance or www.sbesc.com and the San Diego Regional Energy Office at 8520 Tech Way, Suite 110, San Diego or www.sdenergy.org.

Update! CPUC's work on climate change and opportunities for utilities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A meeting was held on February 23 to begin identifying best practices for all CPUC regulated companies (electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water, and transportation) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A transcript of the meeting is available and there will be an IOU report

responding to the next steps identified in the discussion paper. Once it is available it will be posted on the CPUC website. More information:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/static/industry/electric/climate+change/index.htm>

New! Local Governments with agricultural constituents or those who have concerns about air pollutants in the San Joaquin or Sacramento Valleys. PG&E and Edison have filed applications to provide incentives to convert internal combustion equipment to electric service. The CPUC has consolidated both applications into one proceeding and a scoping memo has been issued with the proceeding's schedule and issues to be addressed. Here's a link to the memo: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/RULINGS/44263.htm> (application numbers A.04-11-007 and A.04-11-008).

Update! Local Governments interested in purchasing and selling electricity for customers in their jurisdiction (also known as Community Choice Aggregation or CCA). A ruling has been issued, which follows-up on the Prehearing Conference held on January 25 for phase 2 of the proceeding. It notes operational and other issues the CPUC plans to address in this phase. It also includes information about workshops to be held to determine common ground between utilities and CCAs, to promote understanding and to narrow the issues that must be litigated. The first workshop was held March 3. Other workshops will be March 9, March 17, March 22, and March 25. Here's a link to the ruling: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/RULINGS/43639.htm> (proceeding R.03-10-003).

New! The CPUC will consider a new rule to establish uniform construction standards for the attachment of wireless antennas to jointly used poles and towers, addressing issues of worker safety and system reliability. It will consider safety measures such as, should electric supply and communication workers have the ability to shut down a wireless antenna facility with a "kill switch" if the worker determines that his or her safety may be compromised. Workshops and hearings may be held. Opening comments on the proposed rule shall be filed with the Commission's Docket Office and served no later than 45 days after the date the OIR is mailed. Responses to opening comments may be submitted and shall be filed and served 15 days after opening comments. Here's a link to the order opening the rulemaking: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/FINAL_DECISION/44173.htm (proceeding R.05-02-023).

New! Should new electrical interconnection rules be adopted? The CPUC is asking for comments on whether this Commission should adopt new interconnection rules as recommended by the California Energy Commission (CEC). Parties to this proceeding may comment on the CEC's referenced report and order no later than March 14, 2005. Here's a link to the ruling: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/RULINGS/44190.htm> (proceeding R.04-03-017).

Update! Local officials interested in what kinds of policies and rules need to be in place to ensure that California's residential and business consumers have access to reliable long-term supplies of natural gas. The CPUC has issued a scoping memo about issues it will examine in the second phase of the proceeding. For example, should California's natural gas public utilities be required to expand their role to include having emergency reserves? Also a prehearing conference will be held Wednesday, March 23, 2005, at 10:30 a.m., in the Commission Court Room, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, to discuss the evidentiary hearing schedule for the Phase II issues. Here's a link to the ruling: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/RULINGS/44183.htm> (proceeding R.04-01-025).

Southern California Interest

New! Valencia elected officials interested in Valencia Water Company. The CPUC has an application before it for Riley Mezzanine Corp. to acquire LNR Property Corp. which has indirect 50% ownership of Valencia Water Company. Protests have been received and the CPUC has issued a ruling asking the applicant and the protesters to file more information to determine if a hearing is necessary. Here's a link to the ruling: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/RULINGS/43965.htm> (proceeding A.04-12-016).

New! Peerless Water customers in Bellflower will see a one-time surcharge of \$2.09 to recover the Department of Health Services' costs such as water sampling and testing costs. Here's a link to the resolution: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/FINAL_RESOLUTION/43911.htm (Res. W-4521).

Update! City of South Pasadena's concerns about the Gold Line. The CPUC has approved a settlement among the City of South Pasadena, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and the Los Angeles to Pasadena Metro Blue Line Construction Authority. Certain improvements to warning devices at the at-grade crossings in the city and measures to reduce noise from the Gold Line will be made. Also the bells on crossing gate arms at certain at-grade crossings will be silenced after the gate arms have descended. Here's a link to the decision: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/FINAL_DECISION/44116.htm (proceeding A.03-01-013).

Northern California Interest

New! San Luis Obispo officials interested in Diablo Canyon - The CPUC has made a preliminary finding that replacing the steam generators at the Diablo Canyon power plant is cost effective. The Commission will also continue to review the environmental impacts of the replacement project. Here's a link to the decision: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/FINAL_DECISION/44113.htm (proceeding A.04-01-009).

New! The Commission approved the sale of PG&E's streetlights to the City of Concord. Concord had requested this because it will result in lower electricity bills for streetlight service. Currently, the city takes streetlight service under the LS-1 rate, which includes PG&E's costs of owning, operating and maintaining the streetlights. Concord believes it can lower overall costs for streetlight service by purchasing, operating and maintaining the facilities itself and paying PG&E the lower LS-2 tariff for electricity. Here's a link to the decision: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/FINAL_DECISION/44134.htm (proceeding A.04-11-022).

New! Cobb Mountain Water customers in Lake County will see a one time surcharge of \$10.05 to recover water quality testing costs. Here's a link to the resolution: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/FINAL_RESOLUTION/43908.htm (resolution W.-4520).

New! Del Oro customers in Butte County near Chico will see a 36 month surcharge on their bills to cover water quality costs. The surcharge will be 37 cents per 1,000 gallons of water used. For the average customer, this will be a 9% increase, from the current \$40.95 to \$44.69 a month. Here's a link to the resolution: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/FINAL_RESOLUTION/43906.htm (resolution W-4519).

New! Kenwood Water Company customers in Sonoma County will see a 4% increase in their monthly bills to offset increased operating costs. The monthly bill for the average customer on the 5/8-

inch meter schedule will increase approximately \$2.54. More information:
http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/AGENDA_RESOLUTION/43904.htm (resolution W-4523).

Upcoming Commission business meetings –Thu. Mar 17, Thu. Apr 7, Thu. Apr 21

Most items discussed at the meetings are distributed publicly 30 days in advance of the respective meeting. Read, print and download decisions that are issued through our “Official Documents” page, selecting “Currently Open for Comment.” The Agenda for a business meeting is posted on the website 10 days before a meeting and at the meeting you may comment on most items on the agenda. Contact the Public Advisor for specifics. Here’s a link to the website. <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov>.

March Community Calendar

Here is a list of workshops and public meetings, which your community may want to follow or participate in. Since items could be added or removed daily, you may want to access our **daily calendar** for complete information. Also you can get on the “Information Only” list for any of our proceedings and be notified of meetings, ruling and decisions on the proceedings you select. Also if you have any questions, contact our **Public Advisor’s Office**.

Mon., Mar. 7,
through Mar. 9, 9:30 - 5
pm
Workshop

The Commission is holding workshops to solicit recommendations for a uniform, overall procurement incentive mechanism that would provide an opportunity for the investor-owned utilities to balance risk and reward in the long-term procurement process. **Milton Marks Conference Center, San Diego Rooms, Hiram W. Johnson State Office Building, 455 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco.**

Wed, Mar. 9, 10 am
Workshop

Community Choice Aggregation workshop to address CRS Vintaging. This is the second in a series to promote understanding and narrow the issues that must be litigated. The issues to be covered in this series of workshops are: Open Season Procedures and Policies; CRS Vintaging; Tariffs; CCA Implementation Plans; and Credits and Liability for In-kind Power. **Milton Marks Conference Center, Santa Barbara Room Hiram W. Johnson State Office Building 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco.**

Wed., Mar 16, 10 am
Workshop

The third workshop in this series for Community Choice Aggregation will address the issue of Tariffs. See the workshop on March 9 for more details. **Milton Marks Conference Center, San Diego Rooms, Hiram W. Johnson State Office Building, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco.**

Tue., Mar 22, 10 am
Workshop

The fourth workshop in this series for Community Choice Aggregation will address the issue of CCA Implementation Plans. See the workshop on March 9 for more details. **Milton Marks Conference Center, Santa Barbara Room, Hiram W. Johnson State Office Building, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco.**

Fri., Mar. 25, 10 am
Workshop

The fifth workshop in this series for Community Choice Aggregation will address the issue of Credits and Liability for In-Kind Power. See the workshop on March 9 for more details. **Milton Marks Conference Center, Santa Barbara Room**

Hiram W. Johnson State Office Building, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco.

A word about our website: CPUC posts its public documents on its website. Access them by searching through the [Official Documents](#) page (link on the left) or by using the search engine linked on the right. If you want information about participating in formal proceedings, the [Public Advisor's](#) page can help you (link under "quick hits"). The [home page](#) lists information in the CPUC spotlight and provides links to special announcements on other important issues. A [Consumer Information Center](#) (link on the left) contains information about utility programs the Commission has authorized. The [News Room](#) (link on left) provides press releases and other information to the media. Our [industry divisions](#) have posted numerous industry-related decisions, presentations, reports and other information on their pages (see Regulated Areas selection on the left).

If you have problems finding the documents you need, call or e-mail us and we'll help you.

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If you have questions about anything in this newsletter, please e-mail Kyle DeVine at kyl@cpuc.ca.gov. If you wish to participate in a CPUC proceeding, have questions about a proceeding, want to automatically receive CPUC-issued documents, or want to comment at a Commission meeting, our Public Advisor's Office is here to help.

Contact us at:

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