



## California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

September 2005, Number 18

The CPUC Local Government Newsletter may not be issued in October or November but look for it to return in December. In the meantime, our website may have the information you are looking for. Try the "Hot Topics" section or the search feature located by clicking the "Online Documents" link. If you need assistance, contact our Public Advisor's Office at: [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov)



**Update!** The Commission has launched the most ambitious energy efficiency and conservation campaign in history by authorizing energy efficiency plans and \$2 billion in funding for 2006-2008 for the state's utilities, reaffirming that cost-effective energy efficiency is the state's first line of defense against power shortages. For more information, [click here](#).

**New! High gas prices discussion** - The Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, October 6, beginning at 1:30 p.m. at 320 W. 4th Street, first floor auditorium, Los Angeles, to discuss rising natural gas prices and to better understand the impact they will have on gas bills, especially the impact on low-income consumers and what may be done to assist them. Electricity rates may also be affected since many generators run on natural gas. The Los Angeles County Housing Authority and several community-based organizations will be contributing to the discussion.

Some examples of the higher prices, in their Advice Letters, Southern California Gas indicated an increase of 20 cents a therm for September, PG&E indicated an increase of 18 cents a therm and SDG&E indicated an increase of 24 cents a therm (advice letters are available on the utilities' websites). The Commission welcomes your comments. If you're unable to attend in person, you can listen-only through a phone bridge by calling 800-857-1917, passcode 92105, or from our audio webcast at [www.cpuc.ca.gov](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov).

**New! Development of adequate transmission infrastructure** - The Commission has opened a new proceeding enabling it to take steps to ensure access to renewable resources for California. An initial scoping memo has been issued; issues will be refined and a schedule will be set soon. For more information, [click here](#).

**New! The Commission has proposed a set of rules for electric utilities that want to test broadband over power line (BPL) technology in California.** Comments on the proposed rules are due October 6. Initially, no hearings are planned; however, any party who believes that evidentiary hearings should be held must file a motion requesting such a hearing no later than October 6, 2005. For more information, [click here](#).

**Update!** On the request from Verizon and MCI to merge, the California Attorney General provided an opinion finding that the merger would not significantly impact

General provided an opinion, finding that the merger would not significantly impact competition (proceeding A.05-04-020).

**New!** Please inform schools, libraries government-owned health care providers, and qualifying community based organizations in your communities that a \$22 million budget for the California Teleconnect Fund (CTF) has been approved. For information on how to apply for funds, [click here](#).



**New!** The Commission approved rates for PG&E and Edison that will help reduce the economic hardship of electricity prices for businesses in California. For more information, [click here](#).

**New!** Public hearings have been scheduled for Lancaster, Lake Isabella, Kernville, Marysville, Menlo Park, Lucerne, Guerneville and Redondo Beach to receive comments on California Water Service's request to increase rates in these areas. See the events calendar for more information.

**Update!** The Commission will hold its **October 6 business meeting in Los Angeles at 10 a.m. at 320 W. 4th Street, first floor auditorium**. Here's the [agenda](#). Time is set aside for the public to comment on most items on the agenda. Contact the Public Advisor's Office if you are interested in speaking. In the afternoon that day, a hearing on increasing natural gas prices will be held. See more information in the statewide section.

**Update!** There will be a **Rail Safety Forum in Montebello on October 19**. The Commission will participate with rail and community leaders in discussing grade crossing and rail safety. See the events calendar for more information.

### **Northern**



**Update!** Sacramento and Larkfield customers served by California-American Water Company will see rate increases. The districts will not be combined! Sacramento rates will increase by 10% in 2005, 4% in 2006, and 3% in 2007. The revenue requirement for the Larkfield district will be less than what was proposed in the settlement (which was an increase of 8% in 2005, 2% in 2006, and 2% in 2007) once \$275,000 is removed from rate base. To read the decision, [click here](#)

**Update!** The Commission has denied California-American Water Company's request to consolidate its rates for Monterey and Felton Districts. Instead, the company is directed to implement the Felton general rate increase of 35% found justified but deferred in Decision (D.) 04-05-023, and to collect from customers the shortfall accumulated in its revenue balancing account. To read the decision, [click here](#)

**Update!** Monterey customers of California American Water Company may be interested in knowing that Felton Friends of Locally Owned Water will be submitting documents from the California Department of Transportation pertaining to the costs, schedule delays, and the reasons for the substantial cost overruns which the water company experienced on its Highway 9 main replacement project. A hearing was held September 16, comments were due September 21 and reply comments are due October 5. To read the ruling, [click here](#).

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Here are some hearings and workshops that may interested you. 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 to be notified of meetings, ruling and decisions on the proceedings you select. Have questions? Contact our [Public Advisor's Office](#).

**Thursday, October 6 beginning at 10 a.m. Commission Business Meeting in Los Angeles.** The Commission will hold its regularly scheduled business meeting in Los Angeles. Time is set aside at the beginning of the meeting for the public to comment on items on the agenda. Contact the [Public Advisor's Office](#) if you need assistance. State Office Building at 320 W. 4th Street, Los Angeles (Auditorium on the 1st Floor).

**Thursday, October 6 beginning at 1:30, full panel meeting on high gas rates.** Several community-based organizations will attend and there will be time for public comment.

**Wednesday, October 19 beginning at 7 p.m. a Rail Safety Forum will be held in Montebello.** The Commission will participate in a public forum which will discuss grade crossing and rail safety. Montebello City Council Chambers, 1600 W. Beverly Bl., Montebello. For more information contact Lora Cornejo at 323-887-4600 or email: [Lora Cornejo](#).

**Tuesday, October 25 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Hearing on diversity issues affecting regulated utilities.** "California's Workforce in 2015 - Will We Be Ready?" State Capitol, Room 4203, Sacramento.

**California Water Service's request to increase rates.** The public is invited to comment or ask questions at any of the following meetings:

- Monday October 24 at 2 and 7 p.m. - Lancaster City Hall Council Chambers, 44933 N. Fern Ave, Lancaster
- Tuesday, October 25 at 2 p.m. - Kernville Chamber of Commerce, 11447 Kernville Road, Kernville
- Tuesday, October 25 at 7 p.m. - Lake Isabella, Kern River Valley Veterans/Seniors, Senior Room 1, 6405 Lake Isabella Blvd., Lake Isabella
- Friday, October 28 at 2 and 7 p.m. - Marysville City Hall Council Chambers, 526 "C" Street, Marysville
- Monday, November 14 at 7 p.m. - City of Menlo Park Senior Center, 110 Terminal Ave., Menlo Park
- Monday, November 21 at 2 and 7 p.m. - Lucerne Alpine Senior Center, Barnes Hall Room, 10th and Country Club Drive, Lucerne
- Tuesday, November 22 at 2 and 7 p.m. - Guerneville School District, Multipurpose Room, 14630 Armstrong Woods Road, Guerneville
- Monday, November 28 at 2 and 7 p.m. - Redondo Beach City Hall Council Chambers, 415 Diamond Street, Redondo Beach

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