



**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

FILED
5-15-15
04:59 PM

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Develop a
Successor to Existing Net Energy Metering
Tariffs Pursuant to Public Utilities Code
Section 2827.1, and to Address Other Issues
Related to Net Energy Metering

Rulemaking 14-07-002
(Filed July 10, 2014)

**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS'
NOTICE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATION**

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Dated: May 15, 2015

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**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS’
NOTICE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATION**

The California Association Of School Business Officials gives notice of the following ex parte communication, in accordance with California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) Rule 8.3.

On May 15, 2015, Jeffrey Vaca, Deputy Executive Director of the California Association of School Business Officials, sent a letter to Commission President Picker urging the Commission to continue California’s current net energy metering program beyond 2017, so as to preserve the benefits of installing solar for California schools. The letter was also signed by Laura Preston, Legislative Advocate for the Association of California School Administrators, and Dennis Meyers, Assistant Executive Director for the California School Boards Association.

Commissioners Florio, Peterman, Sandoval and Randolph also received copies of the letter, in addition to Governor Brown. The letter is attached hereto as Attachment A.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jeffrey Vaca

Jeffrey Vaca

Deputy Executive Director, Governmental Relations

California Association of School Business Officials

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ATTACHMENT A

May 15, 2015

Michael Picker, President
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Picker,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing school boards, administrators and school business officials, we are writing to urge your continued support for net metering, an important state policy facilitating the growth of customer-generated solar energy in California. More customer-generated solar creates local jobs, reduces the burden of energy costs on our economy, and builds a cleaner energy future for all Californians.

While the majority of customer-generated solar energy is used onsite, most of these solar systems produce some excess electricity that can be used to meet nearby power demand and reduce the need for expensive utility infrastructure. This is particularly true of schools, whose demand is significantly reduced during the summer when utilities experience the greatest need for the electricity that schools utilizing solar deliver to the grid. Net metering ensures that solar consumers receive fair retail credit on their monthly electricity bills for clean electricity that they deliver to the utility grid. It also exempts small local projects from fees designed for larger generating facilities. In place in 43 states, this simple crediting arrangement is one of the most important state policy tools for empowering local governments, families, schools and businesses to go solar.

In a study released last September, 963 schools in California were identified as having implemented solar. Since then we have crossed the 1,000 mark and many more are implementing solar using funds authorized under California's Proposition 39 program originally sponsored by Senate President pro Tem Kevin de León. As the associations representing California's school leaders, we know how important the cost savings produced by net metered solar are to our respective members. This is particularly true for the low wealth school districts located in the Central Valley, where budgets are particularly burdened by high electricity use, and solar cost savings are so important. Any significant changes in the net metering rules that reduce the benefits of solar would be a significant blow to the schools throughout the state.

California's solar market would not be where it is today without net metering, and continuing the program is essential to maintaining the hard won momentum we have achieved. Under 2013 legislation that was signed into law (AB 327), the

current program will end for new customers by July 1, 2017 or when the utilities reach the program cap of 5% of aggregate customer peak demand. AB 327 requires the CPUC to determine this year how customers who go solar after the current cap is reached will be compensated for power they export to the grid.

We urge the Commission to maintain net metering without excessive new fees, and expand opportunities for renters and disadvantaged communities to benefit from net metering. With your continued leadership, California can keep building on our impressive solar momentum, harnessing the power of customer choice and American ingenuity to power us to a clean energy future.

Sincerely,



Laura Preston, Legislative Advocate
Association of California School
Administrators



Dennis Meyers, Asst. Exec. Director
California School Boards Association



Jeffrey A. Vaca, Deputy Exec. Director
California Association of School Business
Officials

cc: Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Commissioner Carla Peterman
Commissioner Michael Florio
Commissioner Catherine Sandoval
Commissioner Liane Randolph