

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA



**FILED**  
07/20/20  
12:18 PM

IN ATTENDANCE: GENEVIEVE SHIROMA

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES EHREN SEYBERT and SOPHIA  
PARK, presiding

Application of Southern California	)	PUBLIC
Edison Company (U338E) for Authority	)	PARTICIPATION
to Increase its Authorized Revenues	)	HEARING
for Electric Service in 2021, among	)	
other things, and to Reflect that	)	
Increase in Rates.	)	Application
	)	19-08-013
	)	

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT  
Telephonic Public Participation Hearing  
June 30, 2020  
Volume 1  
Pages 1 - 179

Reported by: Doris Huaman, CSR No. 10538  
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1  
2  
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4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

I N D E X		
STATEMENTS		
SPEAKER BROWN		12
SPEAKER SNOW		13
SPEAKER BURNS		19
SPEAKER PALOS		21
SPEAKER SLIDER PIERRE		22
SPEAKER BAUTISTA		25
SPEAKER JOLLY-RINCON		30
SPEAKER SEIFF		37
SPEAKER GILL		41
SPEAKER CAMPOS		43
SPEAKER KRANSKY		45
SPEAKER ARZOMAND		47
SPEAKER BOYETTE		49
SPEAKER PALOS		51
SPEAKER ANDERSON		52
SPEAKER SEVILLA		52
SPEAKER CASTILLO		53
SPEAKER LEANZA		55
SPEAKER KNEIDER		57
SPEAKER SWOPE		59
SPEAKER BAILEY		60
SPEAKER SUKUHARA		62
SPEAKER SEBRING		63
SPEAKER COHEN		65
SPEAKER POLIT		67
SPEAKER MIRANDA		69
SPEAKER ARTHUR		71
SPEAKER LUXEMBERG		75
SPEAKER GONZALES		78
SPEAKER CASTRO		80
SPEAKER MIRANDA		83
SPEAKER MORTON		86
SPEAKER PETERS		88
SPEAKER PETRICKO		90
SPEAKER MILLER		92
SPEAKER MARTINEZ		93
SPEAKER BALNET		95
SPEAKER MIRZA		97
SPEAKER BROWN		107
SPEAKER SNOW		109
SPEAKER BURNS		114
SPEAKER SLIDER PIERRE		116
SPEAKER RILES		120
SPEAKER CORDERO		124
SPEAKER AVAKIAN		126
SPEAKER TURNER		127
SPEAKER TAYLOR		129
SPEAKER MILLER		130
SPEAKER WILLIAMS		132
SPEAKER JACKSON		133
SPEAKER WARD		135

1	SPEAKER HARRIS	137
	SPEAKER CATHCART	139
2	SPEAKER DEVERA	142
	SPEAKER CHRISTMAS	142
3	SPEAKER HULLEY	145
	SPEAKER SHISHIDO	146
4	SPEAKER MORALES	148
	SPEAKER CHU	151
5	SPEAKER GIB	153
	SPEAKER MCCARTHY	155
6	SPEAKER ROUBIAN	157
	SPEAKER TAYLOR	159
7	SPEAKER FRYER	164
	SPEAKER WYMAN	167
8	SPEAKER NEGRETE	168
	SPEAKER BERGER	171
9	SPEAKER AVAKIAN	172
	SPEAKER ORONA	175

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TELEPHONIC PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HEARING

JUNE 30, 2020 - 2:12 p.m.

\* \* \* \* \*

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE SEYBERT: We will now be on the record. The Commission will please come to order.

Good afternoon. This is the time and place set for the public participation hearing in the general rate case application of Southern California Edison Company Application 19-08-013. My name is Ehren Seybert, and I'm one of the assigned administrative law judges to this proceeding.

I'm co-assigned with Judge Sophia Park who is listening in to today's hearing. We are also joined by Genevieve Shiroma who is the assigned commissioner for this case.

Commissioner, would you like to make any opening remarks?

COMMISSIONER SHIROMA: Yes. Thank you, Judge Seybert and Ms. Park.

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Genevieve Shiroma, and I'm the assigned commissioner for the Southern California Edison General Rate Case Application 19-08-013.

First, I want to take a moment to thank our court reporters who are chronicling

1 everything that you will be saying today from  
2 the public and the presenters. We have Doris  
3 Huaman and Jason Stacey today.

4 I would also like to thank our  
5 Public Advisors Office, our operator,  
6 Loraine, and our information technology and  
7 audio-visual team for setting us up for our  
8 first ever online public participation  
9 hearing.

10 A little bit of background about me.  
11 I was appointed by Governor Newsom to the  
12 California Public Utilities Commission in  
13 January of 2019. Prior to my appointment, I  
14 worked for the California Air Resources Board  
15 for 20 years from 1978 to 1999 working on air  
16 quality regulations.

17 I then got appointed to the  
18 Agricultural Labor Relations Board, which is  
19 a collective bargaining board for farm  
20 workers. I spent 20 years there until 2019.  
21 And during that same time for 20 years, I was  
22 elected -- I was director to the Sacramento  
23 Municipal Utility District, SMUD, which is  
24 the electricity provider for Sacramento  
25 County. I served from 1999 to 2018.

26 It is with all of this past  
27 experience, but in particular my time at  
28 SMUD, and of course here at the Commission

1     that I will be scrutinizing Southern  
2     California Edison's requested revenue  
3     requirements and making sure that what has  
4     been prepared will lead to just and  
5     reasonable rates, which is required of us.

6             With the economic crisis and ongoing  
7     COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than  
8     ever that we are conscious of increasing  
9     rates, making sure the right capital projects  
10    are being approved to ensure reliability and  
11    wildfire safety as people practice social  
12    distancing, teleworking, and distance  
13    learning at home. And making sure that  
14    programs are in place to support customers.

15            I look forward to continuing my work  
16    with the judges Administrative Law Judge  
17    Park, Administrative Law Judge Seybert as we  
18    build the record in this proceeding. And  
19    hearing from you, the Southern California  
20    Edison customers today.

21            Thank you.

22            ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Commissioner.

23            I want to start by acknowledging the  
24    pain, grief, and hardship that COVID-19 has  
25    imposed throughout our state, communities,  
26    and in our daily lives. There are currently  
27    state and local shelter-at-home orders in  
28    place to protect the health and wellbeing of

1     our communities. Therefore, we are holding  
2     these hearings online by phone.

3             While we look forward to the time  
4     when it will be safe to resume public  
5     gatherings, I want to emphasize that public  
6     engagement remains more important to the  
7     Commission now than ever. And that we will  
8     be paying careful attention to the feedback  
9     provided today.

10            The basic purpose of today's hearing  
11     is to hear directly from Southern California  
12     Edison customers and members of the public  
13     about this particular application. I will  
14     start by providing some brief background on  
15     the Commission, the general rate case, and  
16     introduce Ms. Allison Brown from the  
17     Commission's Public Advisors Office.

18            We will then hear a brief statement  
19     from Southern California Edison and some of  
20     the other parties in this proceeding.  
21     Finally and most importantly, we will hear  
22     from all of you.

23            For participants that wish to  
24     provide public comments today, I ask that you  
25     press star-one on your phone now to alert the  
26     operator who will start to queue public  
27     speakers one at a time.

28            The Public Utilities Commission is a

1 state agency that decides how much money  
2 Southern California Edison may earn and the  
3 actual rates that will be included on your  
4 bills for electric service. The Public  
5 Utilities Commission has five commissioners  
6 who are appointed by the Governor and  
7 confirmed by the State Senate.

8 While Judge Park and I manage the  
9 day-to-day activities of the case, the five  
10 commissioners are ultimately the ones who  
11 will decide and vote on whether or not to  
12 approve Southern California Edison's request  
13 or some other amount.

14 Our job as the judges will be to  
15 evaluate all of the evidence in the  
16 proceeding and write a Proposed Decision for  
17 the five commissioners to consider. The five  
18 commissioners will decide whether to adopt  
19 the proposed decision from the judges or  
20 adopt their own alternate decision based on  
21 evidence in this proceeding. It is estimated  
22 that the Commission will vote on the decision  
23 towards the beginning of next year.

24 I will now briefly summarize  
25 Southern California Edison's application.  
26 Last August Southern California Edison  
27 submitted its general rate case request  
28 asking the Commission for approval of their



1 expected costs for owning and operating the  
2 company for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023.

3 Earlier this year, the Commission  
4 adopted a decision which changed the general  
5 rate case cycle from a three-year cycle to a  
6 four-year cycle. Therefore, this proceeding  
7 will now also consider Southern California  
8 Edison's expected cost for the year 2024. A  
9 Commission decision on these costs is  
10 anticipated toward the end of 2023.

11 The expenses included in Southern  
12 California Edison's rate case application  
13 generally cover the poles, wires, meters,  
14 employees, and all of the activity needed to  
15 deliver electricity to your home or business.  
16 It also includes proposed expenses and  
17 capital infrastructure to address wildfire  
18 risks related to Edison's equipment.

19 It is important to note that the  
20 cost that we are talking about in this  
21 application are just one part of Southern  
22 California Edison's annual operating expenses  
23 that impact customers' rates.

24 Separate from this proceeding, the  
25 Commission authorizes recovery of the costs  
26 that Edison actually incurs to purchase  
27 electricity on the open market. These are  
28 costs that are directly passed on to

1 customers, and Edison is not allowed to earn  
2 a profit on them.

3 There is also another proceeding  
4 that will determine how approved costs are  
5 distributed among Southern California  
6 Edison's customers and the specific rates  
7 that will be included on customers' bills.  
8 This is generally referred to as the rate  
9 design proceeding, and that application  
10 should be filed in the fall of this year.

11 Right now, though, we are here to  
12 receive comments from the public regarding  
13 Southern California Edison's request to  
14 increase rates and revenue by \$1.2 billion in  
15 January 2021 with additional increases of  
16 \$486 million in 2022, and \$503 million in  
17 2023.

18 If approved the Southern California  
19 Edison total revenue requirement will be  
20 approximately \$7.55 billion in 2021. Or an  
21 18.1 percent increase over what is currently  
22 authorized.

23 If the request is approved, the  
24 impact on residential customers will be a  
25 monthly increase of approximately \$12.71 in  
26 2021. In 2022, the additional monthly  
27 increase will be approximately \$5. And in  
28 2023, the additionally monthly increase will

1 be approximately \$6.

2 We want to hear what you think about  
3 Southern California Edison's request.  
4 Comments from the public can help the Public  
5 Utilities Commission reach an informed  
6 decision. The commissioners, Judge Park, and  
7 I will pay close attention to the opinions  
8 expressed during today's public hearing.

9 We have a court reporter  
10 transcribing today's hearing who will be  
11 taking down everything that is said on the  
12 telephone line. If you do speak, we ask that  
13 you speak slowly and clearly so that the  
14 reporter is able to capture everything that  
15 is said.

16 The written transcript of today's  
17 hearing will be available to Judge Park and  
18 myself, the commissioners, and posted  
19 publicly on the docket card for this  
20 proceeding.

21 In addition to submitting oral  
22 comments today, written comments regarding  
23 Edison's application may also be submitted on  
24 the docket card for this proceeding. You may  
25 do this by going to  
26 [www.cpuc.ca.gov/SCE2021GRCPublicComments](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/SCE2021GRCPublicComments). As  
27 of today, we have received over 3,200 written  
28 public comments.

1 I would now like to invite  
2 Ms. Allison Brown from the Commission's  
3 Public Advisor Office to provide brief  
4 remarks regarding participation in this  
5 proceeding.

6 Ms. Brown, please proceed.

7 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER BROWN

8 Thank you, Judge. Welcome,  
9 everyone. My name's Allison Brown, and I'm  
10 the public advisor for the CPUC.

11 First of all, I want to thank you  
12 all for participating today. As the judge  
13 and the commissioner stated, public  
14 participation and input are essential to the  
15 Commission's decision-making process. We  
16 look forward to your comments today.

17 I also want to let you know that if  
18 you or anyone else are not able to make  
19 comments today, there are several other ways  
20 to become involved. If you wish to find more  
21 information on becoming a party, subscribing  
22 to the proceeding so you get e-mails of all  
23 the formal documents that are filed, or  
24 submitting comments as the judge just  
25 mentioned, please go to our website:  
26 [cpuc.ca.gov](http://cpuc.ca.gov), or e-mail the public advisor at  
27 [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov).

28 Thank you.

1 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Brown.

2 Depending on the number of people  
3 that want to speak today, we may have to  
4 limit remarks to just a few minutes. I will  
5 provide a more definitive time limit once we  
6 have better information regarding the number  
7 of public speakers that want to speak.

8 A reminder again to those who want  
9 to speak to please press star-one on your  
10 phone now so that the operator can begin to  
11 form the speaking queue.

12 We will now hear from some of the  
13 parties in the proceeding starting with a  
14 representative from Southern California  
15 Edison followed by the Public Advocates  
16 Office, The Utility Reform Network, and  
17 National Diversity Coalition.

18 Mr. Snow, if you're ready to  
19 proceed, please spell your first and last  
20 name and you may proceed.

21 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER SNOW

22 Good afternoon. My name is Doug  
23 Snow, D-o-u-g, S-n-o-w.

24 I want to thank Judge Seybert and  
25 Judge Park and Commissioner Shiroma. I also  
26 want to thank everyone for taking time out  
27 from your busy schedules and participating in  
28 these very important public participation

1     hearings today.

2             As I mentioned, my name is Doug  
3     Snow, and I'm the director of the general  
4     rate case for Southern California Edison.

5             It is a privilege to be here and  
6     learn from you and listen to your input and  
7     any potential concerns you may have regarding  
8     our '21 general rate case.

9             Edison recognizes this proceeding is  
10    taking place during unprecedented times. We  
11    understand that many of our customers and  
12    communities are facing hardships during the  
13    COVID-19 pandemic and may need help with your  
14    electric bill. But SCE has already put into  
15    place important customer protections to  
16    address those issues.

17            If you need more information on  
18    those customer protections, please go to  
19    [sce.com/billhelp](https://sce.com/billhelp) for information on  
20    money-saving programs and tools.

21            Mr. Jerry Aguilar from our Customer  
22    Service Division is also on the line and  
23    should the judges request some information  
24    from him, he would be able to answer some of  
25    those questions.

26            Now, turning back to this  
27    proceeding, we are currently in the middle of  
28    what we refer to as the "discovery period"

1 where all parties to the proceeding are  
2 learning more about our funding proposal.

3 Most recently we have heard from a  
4 consumer advocate, and they have provided  
5 their counterproposals for reductions to our  
6 request.

7 Beginning July 6th, there will be  
8 evidentiary hearings so that the Commission  
9 can continue to build its official record of  
10 our request. It is easy to get caught up in  
11 the process but at the end of the day, the  
12 general rate case is about funding projects,  
13 programs, and people to provide service in a  
14 safe and reliable way and improve that  
15 service continuously.

16 Our request for funding this case  
17 covers the work the Commission -- the company  
18 needs to do in 2021 through 2024 for SCE's  
19 workers to inspect, repair, and when  
20 appropriate upgrade poles, transformers,  
21 distribution lines, as well as provide  
22 customer service for billing, service turn  
23 on/turn off, and other work.

24 The costs we're requesting pays the  
25 salaries of about 12,000 employees and over  
26 8,000 contractors who perform all this work,  
27 live in your communities, and often are SCE  
28 customers themselves.

1           In this general rate case, our  
2           request mostly includes funding to improve  
3           three things:

4                 No. 1, safety. The safety of our  
5           customers and the communities we serve as  
6           well as the safety of our workers is the most  
7           important thing.

8                 We have undertaken and are proposing  
9           to continue significant efforts to mitigate  
10          the risk of wildfire associated with our  
11          equipment considering more extreme  
12          environmental conditions and accelerating  
13          customer expansion into the wildland urban  
14          interface. Making the grid safe for those  
15          who live and work near it and for our  
16          employees who work on it.

17                In addition keeping the grid safe  
18          from physical and cyber attacks and keeping  
19          the public informed on how to stay safe  
20          around our equipment and electricity in  
21          general.

22                No. 2, reliability. The residents  
23          and businesses in our community depend on  
24          electricity. We have to replace old  
25          equipment and update our system to avoid  
26          outages and prepare for more clean and  
27          distributed energy resources in the state.  
28          We can not avoid outages. We want to be able



1 to bring the power back on quickly and give  
2 you as much information along the way to  
3 minimize the disruption to you.

4 And No. 3, customer interactions.  
5 We want to make it easy for you to  
6 communicate with us and vice versa. Whether  
7 it's about bills, service changes, new solar  
8 panels you want to install, new programs to  
9 save electricity, or anything else.

10 We acknowledge that the increase we  
11 are requesting is larger than what we had  
12 thought in recent past. But we believe we  
13 have struck a proper balance seeking  
14 authorization for time sensitive public  
15 safety measure, and doing what we can to  
16 reprioritize or scale back other initiatives  
17 that we will have to leave for future general  
18 rate cases.

19 Our general rate case is planning  
20 for the future, again, 2021 through 2024. We  
21 have to have adequate funding to make  
22 necessary investments to continue to provide  
23 15 million Californians with safe, reliable,  
24 clean, and affordable electricity. Those  
25 commitments, which are granted in state law,  
26 are something that we take very seriously.

27 Ultimately, the Commission will  
28 decide the appropriate level of funding after

1 a thorough and rigorous legal process that  
2 includes all stakeholders with different  
3 viewpoints including prominent consumer  
4 advocacy groups.

5 Although our core mission of  
6 providing safe, reliable, clean, and  
7 affordable electricity to our customers has  
8 not changed, the company submits this GRC  
9 request at an extraordinary --  
10 extraordinarily important juncture for the  
11 state and for our customers.

12 So that brings us for paying for  
13 this work, your bill. We are very mindful of  
14 the impact of these costs on your bill, and  
15 we are working every day to find ways of  
16 reducing costs so that some of this work can  
17 be done without increasing your bill.

18 As mentioned by Judge Seybert, our  
19 current forecast in this GRC will increase an  
20 average electric bill by about \$13 per month  
21 for a non-income qualified customer thorough  
22 '21. The increase would be an additional \$5  
23 in 2022 and \$6 in 2023.

24 However, for about a third of our  
25 customers who qualify for the CARE rate  
26 available for lower income customers, the  
27 increase would be about 30 percent lower. I  
28 realize for many of you that this impact --

1 but we believe the work we are proposing  
2 strikes a prudent balance between the  
3 essential service we provide you. ]

4 And what it costs to provide that  
5 service. We realize any increase in bills  
6 can be challenging, and we have several  
7 programs, tips and tools to help reduce bill  
8 impacts that may come in handy. So, please,  
9 as I mentioned earlier, visit  
10 [sce.com/billhelp](http://sce.com/billhelp) for information on these  
11 resources.

12 Once again, thank you for attending,  
13 and I look forward to hearing your comments  
14 and your feedback. Thanks.

15 THE OPERATOR: The public comment line  
16 is now open. If you'd like to ask a  
17 question, please press star one, unmute your  
18 phone and record your name clearly.

19 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you.

20 Mr. Burns, are you ready to make a  
21 statement on behalf of the Public Advocates?

22 SPEAKER BURNS: Yes, your Honor.

23 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you. Please start  
24 by spelling your first and last name for the  
25 record.

26 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER BURNS

27 Truman Burns, T-R-U-M-A-N B-U-R-N-S.  
28 Good afternoon, your Honors, Commissioner

1 Shiroma and members of the public. I'm  
2 Truman Burns, project coordinator for the  
3 Public Advocates Office's response to SCE's  
4 2021 general rate case. The Public Advocates  
5 Office is the independent consumer advocate  
6 at the California Public Utilities  
7 Commission. The Public Advocates Office  
8 represents the interests of public utility  
9 customers with the goal of obtaining the  
10 lowest possible rates for service consistent  
11 with safe, reliable service levels and the  
12 state's environmental goals.

13 Our office spent seven months  
14 reviewing and evaluating SCE's GRC proposal  
15 before preparing our recommendations, which  
16 we presented in written testimony on April  
17 10, 2020. Based on our review and our own  
18 forecasts of how much revenue SCE should be  
19 authorized, we found that some of SCE's  
20 forecasts of its costs are excessive.

21 For 2021, we recommend that the  
22 Commission reduce SCE's requested increase of  
23 1.1 billion dollars by more than half, which  
24 would be a 618 million dollar reduction.

25 For 2022, we recommend a reduction  
26 of 180 million dollars to SCE's requested  
27 increase of 423 million, and for 2023, we  
28 recommend a reduction of 263 million dollars

1 to SCE's requested increase of 514 million.

2 In addition, based on the severe  
3 impacts customers are experiencing due to the  
4 recent economic downturn associated with the  
5 COVID-19 pandemic, the Public Advocates  
6 Office proposed a reduction of 125 million  
7 dollars to SCE's 2020 capital expenditure  
8 budget.

9 Thank you. And we look forward to  
10 the public comments.

11 THE OPERATOR: Our first question comes  
12 from Cindy Palos, resident. Your line is  
13 open.

14 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER PALOS

15 Hi. I don't have a question. I  
16 just -- it's more, you know, commentary. Is  
17 that okay?

18 ALJ SEYBERT: Ma'am, would you mind --  
19 we've got a couple more presentations to go.  
20 And then just press star one, stay in the  
21 cue, and we will address public comments  
22 directly following.

23 SPEAKER PALOS: Okay. Thank you.

24 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Mr. Burns.

25 Ms. Slider Pierre, are you ready to  
26 make a statement on behalf of The Utility  
27 Reform Network?

28 SPEAKER SLIDER PIERRE: I am.

1           ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you. Please start  
2 by spelling your first and last name for the  
3 record.

4           SPEAKER SLIDER PIERRE: Constance,  
5 C-O-N-S-T-A-N-C-E, Slider, S-L-I-D-E-R,  
6 Pierre, P-I-E-R-R-E.

7           ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you. Please  
8 proceed.

9           STATEMENT OF SPEAKER SLIDER PIERRE

10          Good afternoon. As I stated, my name  
11 is Constance Slider Pierre. I'm the  
12 organizing director for TURN, The Utility  
13 Reform Network. I'd like to first take a  
14 moment to thank Administrative Law Judges  
15 Park and Seybert as well as Commissioner  
16 Shiroma for the opportunity to say a few  
17 words to welcome members of the public.

18               To all who have joined the call to  
19 provide comments and bear witness, I thank  
20 you. I do not need to tell any of you that  
21 we are in unprecedented times. The extreme  
22 circumstances of a global pandemic have  
23 skyrocketed unemployment numbers to over 16  
24 percent in California. And according to a  
25 USC study published last month, 1 in 7  
26 California workers have filed for  
27 unemployment. And in L.A. County  
28 specifically, only 45 percent of residents

1 report holding a job. Global protests after  
2 the murder of George Floyd usher in a new day  
3 when all of us is are called to examine and  
4 act with a deeper awareness of how our  
5 actions and decisions will impact people.  
6 The public outcry is clear and will require  
7 all of us to live out loud and dig deeper to  
8 seek fair, equitable and just treatment for  
9 all our citizens.

10 TURN stands strong in its belief  
11 that electricity along with food, shelter and  
12 water are basic necessities and a human  
13 right. We strongly believe that any approved  
14 rate increase at this time is unacceptable  
15 and would further cripple the resilient and  
16 aspiring families who are struggling now more  
17 than ever. This request is neither balanced  
18 or prudent. Today's hearings serve as an  
19 opportunity to ensure that the lived  
20 experiences of the community are heard and  
21 accounted for when our public servants  
22 deliberate and make decisions that affect our  
23 daily lives.

24 SCE's latest proposal will increase  
25 residential customer bills annually from 2020  
26 through 2023. And if approved, this increase  
27 would be the largest single rate increase any  
28 utility has been granted by the CPUC. This

1 rate increase would stick SCE customers with  
2 a bill for over 600 million in insurance  
3 premiums to protect shareholders from fires  
4 caused by SCE equipment. It would raise your  
5 monthly bills by \$43 or on average \$500  
6 annually and result in SCE customers paying  
7 40 percent more for energy while shareholders  
8 rake in a whopping 1.5 billion in profits.

9 Translating these increases to  
10 working hours in the gig economy,  
11 minimum-wage workers would have to work  
12 between six and eight additional hours each  
13 month to pay for the same number of kilowatt  
14 hours roughly an additional day of shift  
15 work.

16 During your testimony today, I  
17 encourage you to use your time to reflect on  
18 your experience as an SCE customer, tell the  
19 Commission how current energy costs affect  
20 you, what trade-offs you have been forced to  
21 make, what measures you have taken to reduce  
22 costs and conserve energy and what additional  
23 trade-offs you may be forced to make if you  
24 are required to pay an additional \$43 per  
25 month for energy.

26 Finally, if you haven't already  
27 signed up to speak, please consider doing so.

28 Thank you.



1 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Slider  
2 Pierre.

3 Ms. Bautista, are you ready to make  
4 a statement on behalf of the National  
5 Diversity Coalition?

6 SPEAKER BAUTISTA: Yes, I am.

7 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you. Please spell  
8 your first and last name for the record.

9 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER BAUTISTA

10 F-A-I-T-H B-A-U-T-I-S-T-A. Good  
11 afternoon, everyone. This is actually great  
12 public participation hearing I've ever  
13 attended because I don't have to drive. I  
14 don't have to wait for so long. And I am  
15 sitting in my beautiful living room. So  
16 thank you CPUC for doing this with this  
17 COVID. And I really appreciate the  
18 Commissioner -- I mean, Commissioner Shiroma,  
19 thank you for leading this and ALJ Seybert  
20 and Sophia Park.

21 I am Faith Bautista. I am CEO of  
22 the National Diversity Coalition. NDC is an  
23 intervenor party in this proceeding. We are  
24 a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focusing  
25 on financial equality and economic  
26 development and advocating for the  
27 underserved communities. We have actively  
28 participated in numerous prior CPUC

1 proceedings. In this application, SCE is  
2 seeking an enormous increase of 418 million  
3 to its already heavy-based revenue  
4 requirement of 7.625 billion, which is a 5.48  
5 increase in 2022 and 534 million, which is a  
6 6.64 percent increase in 2023. These  
7 excessive rate hikes far outpace wage  
8 increases or price changes of other basic  
9 goods and service in SCE territories over the  
10 same period of time and impose an  
11 unreasonable burden on ratepayers' ability to  
12 afford their essential utility service. We  
13 request that any approved rate increase take  
14 into account the economic conditions within  
15 SCE service territory and the stagnant wages,  
16 rising costs of living and unemployment rates  
17 affecting the ratepayers, particularly the  
18 minority communities with higher unemployment  
19 rates and lower median income levels. Any  
20 approved utility costs must be reasonable,  
21 both cost-effective and necessary as well as  
22 just. They must not make essential utility  
23 services unaffordable.

24 National Diversity Coalition has  
25 analyzed Credit and Payment Services, CAPS,  
26 under the operations and maintenance expenses  
27 that consists of credit service, collection  
28 activities and payment service. Despite the

1 consistent historical decrease in CAPS  
2 recorded expenses, SCE requested 14.692  
3 million for CAPS in 2021, which is a 10.1  
4 percent increase over 2018 in recorded  
5 expenses. Moreover, SCE requires this budget  
6 without providing sufficient evidence. For  
7 instance, SCE has assumed an actual increase  
8 in work volume based on new forecast method  
9 and forecasts new customer and new meter  
10 connections that are closely tied to  
11 residential construction activity. However,  
12 given the COVID-19 pandemic shelter orders,  
13 the evidence provided by SCE is insufficient  
14 and does not support the applied customer  
15 growth rate and its accompanying assumptions  
16 on work volume. NDC recommends that the  
17 Commission deny any forecast increases.

18 Similarly, for the customer  
19 communications and outreach, NDC applauds  
20 SCE's efforts on conducting rate  
21 communication campaign and workshops on  
22 energy management programs and technologies  
23 at energy education centers. However,  
24 National Diversity Coalition concerns that  
25 Southern California Edison does not track  
26 demographics and itemized breakdown of  
27 expenditures for the communications  
28 activities. SCE's designated department for

1 consumer complaints and disputes also does  
2 not track social media inquiries by language  
3 or channel. Looking at the diverse customer  
4 base that SCE hosts, it is essential to track  
5 the effectiveness of such activities and  
6 programs between different ethnic groups and  
7 make upgradations as necessary.

8 National Diversity Coalition gave an  
9 in-depth review to the Supplier Diversity  
10 initiative of SCE. And by the way, I commend  
11 the Supplier Diversity team. I love the way  
12 they outreach customers, the way they  
13 entertain small business. I congratulate  
14 especially Michael Herrera. Just shout out  
15 to him.

16 The Supplier Diversity Department  
17 budget has been generally decreasing for the  
18 past seven years. SCE has met and exceeded  
19 the same 40 percent goal since 2014 with  
20 steadily decreasing labor and stable nonlabor  
21 costs. However, SCE has no plans to expand  
22 their outreach to minority businesses in  
23 2021. Even then SCE's requesting 194,000  
24 budget increase. NDC supports creating an  
25 additional position dedicated to managing  
26 small business programs. Dedicated small  
27 business support is all the more appropriate  
28 given the unprecedented downtown in our

1 economy resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic  
2 and continuing shelter-in-place orders. It  
3 is appropriate that the Commission protect  
4 ratepayers' interests and the public benefit  
5 by direct -- by directing utility support  
6 towards helping small businesses to survive  
7 the financial harm caused by COVID-19. SCE  
8 wants to reinstate prior staffing levels but  
9 has not provided adequate justification for  
10 requested labor increases and why it is  
11 necessary. SCE also has no plans to increase  
12 Supplier Diversity Department performance or  
13 expand the programs. SCE has no plans to add  
14 or discontinue programs offered through the  
15 EDGE supplier development initiative.  
16 National Diversity Coalition suggests that  
17 any Supplier Diversity budget approval by the  
18 Commission should be done once SCE has a  
19 clear path for how they will use it to  
20 achieve greater performance. And National  
21 Diversity Coalition is always here to support  
22 NDC for that plan.

23 Thank you so much, and have a great  
24 COVID week.

25 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Bautista.

26 We would now like to hear from  
27 members of the public. If you want to speak  
28 and have not already done so, please press

1 star one on your phone now, and the operator  
2 will add you to the cue of speakers. Based  
3 upon the number of speakers currently in the  
4 cue, each speaker will be provided five  
5 minutes to provide comments. A chime will be  
6 sounded when the five minutes is up. A  
7 reminder to all public speakers to please  
8 start by spelling your first and last name  
9 for the record.

10 With that, Operator, please call on  
11 the first speaker in the cue.

12 THE OPERATOR: The first speaker is Ta  
13 Nia Jolly-Rincon from California. Your line  
14 in now open.

15 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER JOLLY-RINCON

16 Hello. Can you guys hear me well?  
17 Hello?

18 ALJ SEYBERT: Yes.

19 SPEAKER JOLLY-RINCON: Can you hear me?

20 ALJ SEYBERT: Yes, we can hear you.

21 Thank you.

22 SPEAKER JOLLY-RINCON: Hi. This is Ta  
23 Nia Jolly-Rincon. And that's T, as in Tom,  
24 A, as in apple, space capital N, as in Nancy,  
25 I, as in island (inaudible) A, as in apple.  
26 Last name is Jolly, like holly-jolly  
27 Christmas. That's J-O-L-L-Y-Rincon, R as in  
28 Roger, I, as in island, N, as in Nancy, C, as

1 in cat, O, as in Oscar, N, as in Nancy.

2 Hi. I am calling as a  
3 representative of my household and as a  
4 low-income citizen of Monrovia, California.

5 I am completely and utterly against  
6 the idea of a raise in the rates of the  
7 electric bill at all. And the reason why I'm  
8 saying this is because I just got my own  
9 electric bill, and I am out \$1000. And it  
10 doesn't make any sense to me because I have  
11 tried your program. I have tried going to  
12 different places and getting help. And ever  
13 since -- ever since last year when both me  
14 and my husband were in a major car accident  
15 that has left us permanently disabled from  
16 our backs we haven't been able to work  
17 regular jobs. I lost my previous job, and I  
18 only have -- I'm down to the one job that I  
19 can work. My husband lost his job. And we  
20 tried everything -- we even -- we even were  
21 forced to go onto food stamps in order just  
22 to survive. And I think it's absolutely  
23 ridiculous that you guys keep taking me off  
24 of the CARE Act that you have set up  
25 supposedly to help somebody that's low  
26 income. And then on top of that, every time  
27 I try to get you guys to help, you guys keep  
28 taking me back off even with the proof that I

1 am low income. And it's random. And it's  
2 not -- it is not with notification  
3 whatsoever.

4 And so as a person that's been  
5 dealing with this, I feel like it's just  
6 absolutely asinine that you want to try and  
7 raise the rates especially with somebody who  
8 was struggling the year before and then hit  
9 with the pandemic and is struggling 10 times  
10 more. And so I have -- I have to state that  
11 I can't -- I can't condone this. And I hope  
12 that you guys try to fix these programs that  
13 you so call have set up to help people like  
14 me and people that are struggling worse than  
15 me. I shouldn't be having to force myself to  
16 try to figure out whether I can have just  
17 enough to barely keep a roof over my head and  
18 pay an extreme amount. My last -- my last --  
19 my last payment was \$300. That's a freaking  
20 car note. Excuse my language. But I feel  
21 like this needs to change.

22 You should not be asking for a raise  
23 right now. That is completely out of the  
24 question. It's ridiculous. And to say that  
25 you have things set in place -- I have looked  
26 at -- I have looked online and looked at  
27 things that you have in place, and you're  
28 just telling me different ways to try and



1     save. I have gone through those different  
2     types of programs, and I have not been able  
3     to get anything done. I don't see how in the  
4     world my electric bill is so high when I live  
5     in a small townhouse. And you guys keep  
6     telling me there is nothing wrong with the  
7     meters and that the meters are live. But  
8     when I ask and request to for you guys to  
9     check it you're telling me that there's  
10    nothing you can do and that it's my fault. ]

11             And when I go and get help from  
12    outside forces, it's only able to cover a  
13    little bit. But you still haven't fixed the  
14    actual problem, which is actually looking at  
15    the fact that I'm a low-income citizen that  
16    needs help.

17             And I appreciate hearing from other  
18    organizations that realize that this is not  
19    the time to be raising rates like this. And  
20    that there are so many people that are worse  
21    off than me that can't even support  
22    themselves and can't even keep a roof over  
23    their heads. Because other renters like me,  
24    their landlords are not understanding at all,  
25    and they're being evicted.

26             I barely make \$600 -- I barely make  
27    \$1,600 a month, barely. And I can barely  
28    cover my rent, which is \$1,900. And then you

1 ask me to pay \$1,000 by next month.

2 I think I've covered everything.

3 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you. We appreciate  
4 your comments today. I do want to mention we  
5 do have a direct line for a representative at  
6 Southern California Edison if you want to  
7 follow up with specific billing concerns.  
8 That would be Jerry Aguilar, J-e-r-r-y. Last  
9 name, A-g-u-i-l-a-r. And his direct number  
10 at Southern California Edison is  
11 (626)302-0283. Or he can be e-mailed at  
12 first name jerry.aguilar@sce.com.

13 SPEAKER JOLLY-RINCON: You said (626)  
14 302-0828?

15 ALJ SEYBERT: (626) 302-0283.

16 SPEAKER JOLLY-RINCON: 0283. And I  
17 have spoken to representatives over and over  
18 and over again from Edison, and those haven't  
19 been able to help me. They have only  
20 referenced me to other places, which I have  
21 taken into consideration and utilized. And  
22 they did not help the situation at all. They  
23 basically prolonged the inevitable and also  
24 having extensions to try to make the payments  
25 because I can barely pay \$100 to it.

26 That's not been able to help me at  
27 all. And to see that you guys have taken --  
28 I already have one program on there. And

1 that's (inaudible) because my mom is  
2 currently disabled.

3 And then the CARE Act was supposed  
4 to help with that as well. And they keep  
5 taking me off of that and now my exact bill  
6 is \$1,062.41. And there's no way there's  
7 anybody's going to be able to help me. And I  
8 know about the programs for the low income  
9 and as far as they come in and they accept my  
10 bill being put in there. But the program is  
11 going to be forever to get on especially with  
12 this pandemic.

13 So I will contact -- I will contact  
14 them, but I'm going to be honest with you I  
15 am not positive about anything he's probably  
16 going to tell me.

17 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you.

18 Commissioner Shiroma, did you want  
19 to make a remark?

20 COMMISSIONER SHIROMA: Yes. Thank you  
21 Ms. Jolly-Rincon for calling in today and  
22 telling us about your experience. Right now  
23 also the governor has an executive order as  
24 does the California Public Utilities  
25 Commission to Southern California Edison and  
26 all of the other (inaudible) that no one is  
27 to be disconnected. And that is ordered it  
28 goes to April of 2021. And I highly

1 encourage you to call Mr. Aguilar towards  
2 assessing why your bill went from \$300 a  
3 month to \$1,000 a month.

4 And there may also be other  
5 discounts that you may qualify for including  
6 a (inaudible) discount. So I would contact  
7 Mr. Aguilar.

8 SPEAKER JOLLY-RINCON: Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER SHIROMA: Thank you for  
10 your time today.

11 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you.

12 Just a general announcement. Given  
13 the number of speakers we now have in the  
14 queue, we're going to be reducing the time  
15 limit to speak from five minutes to three  
16 minutes just to make sure that everybody has  
17 the opportunity that wants to speak today.

18 With that, operator, will you please  
19 call on the next speaker in the queue?

20 THE OPERATOR: The next speaker in the  
21 queue is (inaudible). Please state your  
22 first and last name along with the spelling  
23 and your location. Your line is now open.

24 SPEAKER SEIFF: Hello? Hello?

25 ALJ SEYBERT: We can hear you.

26 SPEAKER SEIFF: Hello? Can you hear  
27 me?

28 ALJ SEYBERT: Yes. We can hear you.

1 Thank you.

2 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER SEIFF

3 Oh, great. This is Ken Seiff, K-e-n.  
4 Last name, S-e-i-f-f. I'm from Seal Beach,  
5 California.

6 And my question/comments relate to  
7 information. I think many across our region  
8 customer -- utility customers have been  
9 frustrated by getting back rated transparent  
10 information related to utility-related items.  
11 In fact, some very major related to SCE and  
12 other utilities. Specifically in this  
13 context, if anybody could answer or refer me  
14 to any justification why the rate increase  
15 that has to be so front loaded especially  
16 during these more difficult times on multiple  
17 -- for multiple reasons that we've talked  
18 about. And why it couldn't be spread out.

19 If the rate increase is actually  
20 required or justified, which I'm still not  
21 sure about, but if it is why would it have to  
22 be so front loaded?

23 And why couldn't it be more evenly  
24 distributed and/or back loaded.

25 And this information may be  
26 available somewhere. I haven't been able to  
27 find it. But if you could refer me or maybe  
28 comment on it, I'd appreciate it.

1 Thank you.

2 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Mr. Seiff.

3 Mr. Snow, would you like to briefly  
4 address this question?

5 SPEAKER SNOW: Sure. I mean, I'm not  
6 sure exactly where they would provide  
7 comment. But, you know, our request and --

8 (Reporter clarification.)

9 SPEAKER SNOW: -- for Phase 2 of this  
10 -- when you were talking about, you know,  
11 that we would file later this year.

12 SPEAKER SEIFF: That would imply that  
13 it would be accepted in Phase 1. I  
14 understand Phase 1 is more information  
15 gathering. But I would assume that  
16 information is available. Otherwise, you  
17 know, you have a structure that you're  
18 proposing. Why couldn't we take a look at  
19 that or see that or access that now or  
20 somebody on the phone now tell me about it.

21 Again, this is something I get  
22 puzzled about why getting this type of  
23 information -- and this doesn't seem that  
24 major. People have mentioned this as to why  
25 it's so front loaded right now. It's just --  
26 especially -- it's almost as if -- and I'm  
27 not really sure.

28 But it's almost as if maybe the

1 structure was already being considered before  
2 some of these unemployment and COVID issues,  
3 and you just went ahead with it. I don't  
4 know. I'd like to, you know, see where --  
5 how that worked. But -- well, anyway. I  
6 have my time. I appreciate it if anybody  
7 else has any comment on that.

8 Or I guess that it would be a Phase  
9 2, and I would hope that information would be  
10 provided so we could see it.

11 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Mr. Seiff.

12 Just a followup with Mr. Snow's  
13 comment. There is a docket card for this  
14 proceeding on the Commission's website. You  
15 go to [cpuc.ca.gov](http://cpuc.ca.gov), their main website. You  
16 can search for proceedings there. And the  
17 proceeding number for this particular  
18 application is A. 19-08-013. And actually I  
19 think when you search for it you need to take  
20 out the dashes. But that will be able to  
21 direct you to all of the filings that have  
22 been made in this proceeding.

23 SPEAKER SEIFF: Okay. Well, we have to  
24 search through that and dig that out. It  
25 seems pretty safe -- straight forward. Did  
26 you say on the website there's a drop down  
27 and you pick which menu item to get -- and  
28 put in the number.

1 ALJ SEYBERT: Yes. There's a  
2 proceedings tab at the top of the  
3 Commission's web page, and you should be able  
4 to search using that function.

5 SPEAKER SEIFF: Okay. But no one knows  
6 if this particular question might be in there  
7 at this point?

8 SPEAKER SNOW: Stretching out recovery  
9 of the revenue requirement is not a topic so  
10 far as it's being addressed in this  
11 proceeding.

12 THE REPORTER: Your Honor, this is the  
13 court reporter. I need a clarification,  
14 please.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: For me?

16 THE REPORTER: I need to request to go  
17 off the record, your Honor.

18 ALJ SEYBERT: Let's go off the record.

19 (Off the record.)

20 ALJ SEYBERT: Commissioner, do you have  
21 a remark?

22 COMMISSIONER SHIROMA: Yes. Thank you,  
23 Judge. This is Genevieve. Mr. Seiff, I hope  
24 I'm pronouncing your name correctly.

25 We appreciate your comment, and the  
26 court reporter has taken your comment down  
27 precisely. And these proceedings take just  
28 the thing you're expressing into



1 consideration. And those evidentiary  
2 hearings coming up along with these public  
3 meetings will be looking to help to answer  
4 those questions. Even if we don't have an  
5 answer for you today, okay.

6 SPEAKER SEIFF: Okay. Thank you. I  
7 appreciate the meeting.

8 COMMISSIONER SHIROMA: Thank you for  
9 participating.

10 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Commissioner.  
11 Operator, will you please call the  
12 next speaker?

13 THE OPERATOR: The next speaker is  
14 Michael Gill. Please spell your name as well  
15 as state your location. Your line is now  
16 open.

17 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER GILL

18 Yes. Michael Gill, M-i-c-h-a-e-l.  
19 Last name, G-i-l-l. North San Bernardino,  
20 California 92407 zip code.

21 My question is and -- it's more of a  
22 fact-finding issue. Is that there was a big  
23 surge to go solar in which there's an  
24 overwhelming response I am assuming, because  
25 we have been solar for a year now to date,  
26 and we still have not been converted over to  
27 the solar program and have not received a  
28 corrected bill.

1           In the meantime, we get an automated  
2     letter that's sent out. Basically a  
3     threatening letter that, "Your bill is  
4     delinquent and you owe."

5           And the summer rate was the last  
6     rate we paid last year, and they continue to  
7     bill me at that summer rate even through the  
8     winter. And I've called several times. The  
9     representative said basically that they have  
10    to convert one home at a time.

11           So my question is: Is there an  
12    oversight, someone looking at that program,  
13    because it's like SCE is behind, and now  
14    we're talking about a rate increase, and I'm  
15    still not converted over a year later. And  
16    I'm concerned about getting some type of bill  
17    in the future down the road that's going to  
18    be way off base.

19           And, again, is this rate increase  
20    based on an overwhelming response of solar  
21    picking up in California?

22           And that's my question.

23           ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you. Again, I  
24    don't know if you heard previously, but  
25    Mr. Aguilar from Edison is also available to  
26    help address specific customer billing  
27    concerns. And he can be reached at (626)  
28    302-0283. Thank you.

1 Operator, let's move to the next  
2 speaker.

3 THE OPERATOR: The next speaker is  
4 Karen Campos. Please spell your name as well  
5 as state your location. Your line is now  
6 open.

7 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER CAMPOS

8 Thank you so much. My name is  
9 Karen, K-a-r-e-n. Campos, C-a-m, as in Mary,  
10 p-o-s. And I'm in (inaudible) California.  
11 Thank you for this opportunity. This is my  
12 first time ever joining a public hearing.

13 I would like to say that -- I would  
14 like to say that the focus of this decision  
15 should not be on the fact that the requests  
16 are so very high and whether or not they  
17 should be lower. But about the very  
18 (inaudible) requesting such an increase.

19 As you may know in Santa Barbara, I  
20 have endured the Thomas Fire, which was life  
21 changing here. People died, people lost  
22 property, there's been high insurance cost  
23 and losses. And SCE has pleaded guilty and  
24 had to pay a lot of money due to the  
25 situation and so the timing of this request  
26 is not only bad for the pandemic, but it's  
27 just strange recuperation for me.

28 You know, we've also had to endure a

1    tremendous amount of quality placement, which  
2    is what they're claiming as their first  
3    priority to have to address these safety  
4    issues. When I saw their shareholders and  
5    their executives have been making tremendous  
6    amounts of money neglecting the situation  
7    over years and years. So I feel like this is  
8    a moral issue for me personally.

9                    But -- so -- I -- besides that my  
10   question is going to be, you know, during the  
11   pandemic companies, airlines, travel  
12   agencies, and things like that, all kinds of  
13   places, schools and people that -- companies  
14   just had to layoff employees. Companies have  
15   had to file for bankruptcy protection.  
16   They've had to make severe cuts and  
17   reorganize in order to survive this natural  
18   disaster. SCE caused a disaster in the  
19   Thomas Fire the same way as PG&E, which is a  
20   situation where many years have gone on, and  
21   this situation was caused by them.

22                   And so I would like to know how this  
23   year is supposed to know what cuts have SCE  
24   have to gone through in order to survive all  
25   the money that they had to pay a bunch of  
26   lawsuits?

27                   And what cuts have they made in  
28   order to say, "Gee, we haven't replaced any

1 poles for a decade. We now have to replace  
2 them all."

3 And all those years of not replacing  
4 them, they have made some good money. I feel  
5 like there is no fiscal responsibility here.  
6 And that it's just, "It's time for us to  
7 submit a rate increase like we do on a  
8 regular basis."

9 (Inaudible.) I hope it goes lower.  
10 I think we're going to be focused on the  
11 whole utility's situation. So my question  
12 was: How do we know what kinds of cuts SCE  
13 has made in order to recoup all these  
14 horrendous losses that they've taken?

15 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, ma'am. Those  
16 comments are very insightful, and we will be  
17 considering them as we move forward in this  
18 application.

19 Operator, let's move to the next  
20 caller in the queue.

21 THE OPERATOR: The next caller is  
22 Richard Kransky. Please spell your name as  
23 well as state your location. Your line is  
24 now open.

25 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER KRANSKY

26 Hi. My name is Richard Kransky.  
27 R-i-c-h-a-r-d, K-r-a-n-s-k-y. I'm in  
28 Palmdale, California.

1                   I obviously do not approve or  
2                   appreciate the astronomical outrageous rate  
3                   increases, and I hope -- I imagine they're  
4                   going to get their way. But can you at least  
5                   tie them to providing some form of  
6                   improvement in their service or improving  
7                   customer satisfaction?

8                   Some big areas they can improve in  
9                   is make their -- the documentation on rates  
10                  understandable to human beings. Improve the  
11                  bill reliability and readability. I'm  
12                  actually on solar. In month 12 it says:

13                   You'll get up to \$400 back.

14                  But I end up getting a check for  
15                  \$20. I asked them to change the meter read  
16                  date so I can compare it with the -- what  
17                  they -- the solar numbers I get from my own  
18                  hardware. And they say their computers can't  
19                  do it because it's too many people on the  
20                  same date, which to me is nonsense.  
21                  Computers can handle anything that --  
22                  apparently, you know, they just say, "No" to  
23                  customer requests, and it's a dead end. So  
24                  I'd like to see some level of improvement in  
25                  customer satisfaction whether or not you  
26                  allow these rate increases.                   ]

27                  ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you.

28                  Operator, please call the next

1 speaker in the cue.

2 THE OPERATOR: The next speaker is Ed  
3 Arzomand. Please spell your name as well as  
4 state your organization. Your line is now  
5 open.

6 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER ARZOMAND

7 Hi. My name is Ed Arzomand. My name,  
8 E-D. Last name, A-R-Z-O-M-A-N-D, as in  
9 David. I'm going to have several questions  
10 one of which is in the 2019 annual report for  
11 Southern California Edison there is a comment  
12 mentioned about how in December of 2019 the  
13 increase in the dividend was for the 16th  
14 straight consecutive year which represented  
15 \$2.65 per share which also, in other words,  
16 represents an annual increase of 4.08 percent  
17 over the dividend that was paid out.

18 How is it that Southern California  
19 Edison has the financial means to distribute  
20 16 consecutive years of increases to the  
21 dividends for the shareholders whereas the  
22 public and the general consumers have to  
23 witness these unacceptable increases in  
24 residential rates? If you look at average  
25 inflation, that is nowhere near 14.4 percent,  
26 whether it's inflation or average wage  
27 growth. You guys were very mindful in your  
28 presentation by stating the dollar amount as

1     opposed to the percentage increase. 14.4  
2     percent is very, very significant, and it is  
3     a high among all the different customers just  
4     when you compare it to lighting, large power  
5     agriculture, street lighting and standby.

6             For this burden to be put onto the  
7     residential is abhorrent, is unconscionable.  
8     Your dividends are constantly increasing.  
9     Your report also mentioned that your rate of  
10    return is significantly high. How is it that  
11    the consumers have to constantly bare the  
12    burden of economic difficulties, whether it's  
13    job reductions, hour loss? Even if you look  
14    at a dollar amount, minimum wage before taxes  
15    is not even comparable to the monthly  
16    increases you guys are kind of demanding.

17            So I just -- I don't understand why  
18    other cuts aren't being made at Southern  
19    California's financial process in terms of  
20    making due whatever expenses you guys are  
21    incurring, whatever loss of revenue you guys  
22    are expecting and cut your dividends. These  
23    are things other corporations are doing. If  
24    look at mall REITs as an industry, shopping  
25    centers are not making any money right now  
26    because of the pandemic. Those REITs have  
27    had to cut their dividends, provide other  
28    outlets. Why is Southern California Edison



1 unable to do similar things and to bear the  
2 burden themselves?

3 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you for your  
4 comments.

5 Operator, will you please move to  
6 the next speaker.

7 THE OPERATOR: The next comment is from  
8 Jay Boyette. Please spell your first and  
9 last name as well as state your location.  
10 Your line is now open.

11 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER BOYETTE

12 Yes. My name is Jay Boyette, J-A-Y  
13 B-O-Y-E-T-T-E. I am a ratepayer and customer  
14 of SCE. I live in Pico Rivera, California.

15 You had a gentleman caller nailed it  
16 straight on the head. I'd like to quote very  
17 briefly from a news article that you find  
18 online discussing basically the share  
19 increases that SCE -- correction -- Edison  
20 International, which is the parent company of  
21 SCE increases stock dividends 4.08 percent.  
22 This was published on December 12, 2019.  
23 16th consecutive annual increase. Again,  
24 16th consecutive annual increase in their  
25 shared dividend. Quoting from his article  
26 published December 12th. "The 2020 annual  
27 dividend rate will be \$2.65 per share, an  
28 increase of 4.08 from the current annual

1 dividend rate of \$2.45 cents per share." I'd  
2 like to know why SCE thinks it's conscionable  
3 to burden its ratepayers and the public with  
4 such an egregious increase in rates proposed  
5 based on the fact that your financial  
6 situation does not even remotely appear in  
7 line with the demands and the increases that  
8 you're requesting.

9           Also, I'd like to know why you think  
10 that increasing and strengthening and working  
11 on the infrastructure of your transmission  
12 lines, which you designed and built, have  
13 been -- which have proven themselves faulty.  
14 They cause fires when they are on. They  
15 cause fires when you turn them off, which was  
16 possible in the Maria Fire. I checked with  
17 Venture County Fire Department. They are  
18 still investigating it. But you cause fires  
19 when the power lines are on, and you cause  
20 them when they are off. I want to know why  
21 you think that this increase of rates is  
22 going to solve either of these problems. You  
23 built it, you designed it, you implement it,  
24 you maintain it, and they are not safe. And  
25 the ratepayers are having to suffer because  
26 of it. It's time the shareholders suffer a  
27 little.

28           Thank you. I'll take your comments

1 offline.

2 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Mr. Boyette.

3 Operator, will you please call on  
4 the next speaker.

5 THE OPERATOR: The next speaker is  
6 Cindy Palos. Please spell your name as well  
7 as state your location. Your line is now  
8 open.

9 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER PALOS

10 Yes, my name is Cindy Palos. And I'm  
11 in Orange County, California. C-I-N-D-Y  
12 P-A-L-O-S. I'm a single mother, and I have  
13 leased my home for over a decade. It's been  
14 difficult to maintain my expenses during this  
15 time, and I personally don't qualify for the  
16 discount programs. It's summertime, and I  
17 have not run my AC unit because it gets far  
18 too expensive. My bill seems to be high  
19 regardless. I'm stuck at home because we are  
20 in a pandemic. The economy has been greatly  
21 affected. We do not know when we will be  
22 able to recover from this. People are  
23 unemployed, and most are still  
24 sheltering in place, thus using more  
25 electricity. We do not know when this will  
26 end, and Edison monopolizes the market in our  
27 area. We cannot just go to another company  
28 for our electricity needs. I believe that

1     this increase is far too high, and it should  
2     be denied.

3             And that's all I have to say. Thank  
4     you.

5             ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Palos.

6             Operator, will you please call on  
7     the next speaker.

8             THE OPERATOR: The next speaker is  
9     Marcia Anderson. Please spell your name as  
10    well as state your location. Your line is  
11    open.

12            STATEMENT OF SPEAKER ANDERSON

13            Hello. My name is Marcia, M-A-R-C-I-A,  
14    Anderson, A-N-D-E-R-S-O-N. Perris,  
15    California.

16            Thank you for allowing your  
17    customers, Southern California, to share  
18    their voices. I do not have a question only  
19    a comment. I do not want a rate increase.

20            Thank you. Bye.

21            ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Anderson.

22            Operator, please call on the next  
23    speaker.

24            THE OPERATOR: The next speaker is  
25    Rocio Sevilla. Please spell your name as  
26    well as state your location. Your line is  
27    now open.

28            STATEMENT OF SPEAKER SEVILLA

1 Hello. Rocio, R-O-C-I-O. Last name  
2 Sevilla, S-E-V-I-L-L-A. I'm calling as a  
3 resident of Pasadena, California.

4 Unlike most residents of my state, I  
5 am fortunate enough to have my job, but I am  
6 supporting a household of many individuals  
7 who don't. So I don't qualify for any of the  
8 supposed perks or see relief that are  
9 available to many of those who are more  
10 unfortunate than I. But I do feel the burden  
11 of these things. So I'm calling in to vote  
12 no on a rate increase and hopefully that my  
13 voice is heard.

14 Thank you.

15 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Sevilla.

16 Operator, please call on the next  
17 speaker.

18 THE OPERATOR: The next speaker is  
19 Elizabeth Castillo. Please spell your name  
20 as well as state your location. Your line is  
21 now open.

22 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER CASTILLO

23 Hi. Thank you. My name is Elizabeth  
24 Castillo. That's E-L-I-Z-A-B-E-T-H.  
25 Castillo is C-A-S-T-I-L-L-O. And I live in  
26 the City of Lakewood, California.

27 And I am totally against this rate  
28 hike. It's at a time during great, great --

1 the word is horribleness, suffering in our  
2 country during a pandemic. It's unethical,  
3 immoral and abhorrent for Southern California  
4 Edison to propose a rate hike which is way  
5 out of line. There are people who are  
6 unemployed who are not working who have lost  
7 their health care. I'm a nurse, and this  
8 is -- to me, is horrible because there is  
9 people who are sick and do not have health  
10 care. Now they have to choose -- what are  
11 they going to pay? Are they going to pay for  
12 their food, their rent, their electric bill,  
13 their water. We are seeing rate hikes all  
14 over Southeast L.A., in our refuse, and now  
15 they are trying to privatize our water. And  
16 now Southern California Edison wants to do a  
17 rate hike on electricity. This is  
18 ridiculous. And I think if this happens --  
19 you want to have civil unrest? We are going  
20 to see more civil unrest, because we are  
21 seeing people being evicted because they  
22 can't pay their rent. So I am totally,  
23 totally against this. And I hope that  
24 Southern California Edison really, really  
25 decides not to do this because, let me tell  
26 you, you think you've seen civil unrest right  
27 now? It's going to get worse.

28 So thank you very much for

1 listening.

2 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Castillo.

3 Operator, please call on the next  
4 speaker.

5 THE OPERATOR: The next speaker is  
6 Caroline Leanza. Please spell your name as  
7 well as state your location. Your line is  
8 open.

9 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER LEANZA

10 Yes. I'm Carolyn, C-A-R-O-L-Y-N,  
11 Leanza, L-E-A-N-Z-A, and I'm from Aliso  
12 Viejo, California.

13 And I am permanently disabled, and I  
14 am on poverty level. I already -- my bills  
15 already exceed my income, and I don't use air  
16 conditioning, heating. I literally -- I'm  
17 stuck in the house due to respiratory issues.  
18 So with this pandemic, I am isolated, alone.  
19 I don't really have family or anybody. So I  
20 am really alone. And I basically do one load  
21 of laundry every two weeks. So I sleep in  
22 bedding that's disgusting. I limit my  
23 showers to once a week. I am living on  
24 absolutely bear shoestring, and I don't know  
25 what else to do to be able to handle my bills  
26 as they are now let alone have you add more  
27 to those bills. Your company must have some  
28 kind of humanity. Your stockholders can't

1 all be about money. There's got to be some  
2 humanity in your company to help people get  
3 through life and keep from being out in the  
4 street homeless, which would cost me my life  
5 because with my medical issues I would be  
6 dead if I had to be homeless. So there's got  
7 to be something. There's got to be some  
8 heart in your company to help keep people  
9 from having to have to beg to stay alive.  
10 I'm finished.

11 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Leanza.  
12 In terms of your specific bill, I would  
13 encourage you to contact Mr. Aguilar at SCE.  
14 He may be able to provide --

15 SPEAKER LEANZA: I'm already on D-Care.  
16 I'm on D-Care. And even with D-Care it's  
17 still -- any little bit of increase is going  
18 to kill me. I don't use anything. I just  
19 stay here a lot of times in the dark just  
20 because I can't afford to pay the bills.

21 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you. I would still  
22 encourage you to reach out to Mr. Aguilar to  
23 see if there are any options -- payment  
24 options that may be considered. And, again,  
25 his number is (626) 302-0283.

26 SPEAKER LEANZA: Okay. Thank you.

27 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you.

28 Operator, please call on the next



1 speaker.

2 THE OPERATOR: The next speaker is  
3 Yvette J. Please spell your name as well as  
4 state your location. Your line is open.

5 (No response.)

6 ALJ SEYBERT: Ms. J, are you on the  
7 line?

8 (No response.)

9 ALJ SEYBERT: Operator, I think we may  
10 have to move to the next speaker.

11 THE OPERATOR: Next speaker is Faez  
12 Kneider. Please spell your name as well as  
13 state your location. Your line is open.

14 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER KNEIDER

15 Thank you. Faez Kneider, F-A-E-Z  
16 K-N-E-I-D-E-R. Valencia, California. May I  
17 start?

18 ALJ SEYBERT: Yes, please.

19 SPEAKER KNEIDER: Okay. So we've heard  
20 some conflicting numbers. One gentleman at  
21 the earlier stage of the call mentioned that  
22 the increase will be in the amount of \$12 per  
23 month. I'd like to learn how could he reach  
24 that number. What average did he take, and  
25 what kind of a household could have such a  
26 very low monthly fee that would only go up by  
27 12 percent keeping in mind the double-digit  
28 price increase that they are suggesting. The

1 other thing that I want to say -- so that was  
2 my question. The other thing that I wanted  
3 to say is many callers have been emphasizing  
4 about the wrong timing. I -- in my opinion,  
5 one thing is wrong timing. However, we need  
6 to focus on the fact of the huge cost  
7 increase regardless of the timing. Even if  
8 the economy was thriving in a free market  
9 where competition could have existed, no one  
10 would have ever been able to propose such a  
11 huge increase even if the economy was  
12 thriving. We all understand we're all in  
13 this to make money. Okay? And Southern  
14 California Edison is also in there to make  
15 money. But we can't just say that, "I'm  
16 going to keep on increasing my profit, yet I  
17 don't have money to upgrade my  
18 infrastructure. And for me to do so, I'm  
19 going to increase your rate." There is  
20 something wrong with this equation.

21 Thank you very much for allowing  
22 this very democratic forum. Thank you.

23 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you for your  
24 comment. Just to address your first  
25 question, the \$12 average is -- increase is  
26 based off of average usage. And I'll just  
27 note that any increase would really depend on  
28 a customer's individual usage. Thank you.

1                   Operator, please move to the next  
2 speaker.

3                   SPEAKER KNEIDER: The caller -- sorry.  
4 The caller suggests that the monthly average  
5 is \$10 per month, which I don't think is  
6 close to reality. But thank you. I know how  
7 he came up with it. So...

8                   ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you.

9                   SPEAKER KNEIDER: Thank you.

10                  ALJ SEYBERT: Operator, please move on  
11 to the next speaker.

12                  THE OPERATOR: The next commenter is  
13 Thomas Swope. Please spell your name as well  
14 as state your location. Your line is now  
15 open.

16                   STATEMENT OF SPEAKER SWOPE

17                  Yes. My name is Thomas. It's spelled  
18 T-H-O-M-A-S. Last name is Swope. It's  
19 spelled S, as in Sam, W-O-P, as in puppy, E,  
20 as in Edward. I'm in Cathedral City,  
21 California 92234.

22                   And I was calling in -- I just  
23 wanted to make a statement. I am a disabled  
24 veteran, a hundred percent disabled, and I  
25 live off of my disability pay. And that's  
26 all I have to live off of. I'm also on the  
27 CARE program, and the increase is going to  
28 drastically affect my ability to pay the

1 bill. We're at the shoestring's end, and I  
2 know everyone is talking about the timing,  
3 which is horrific, by the way. I think you  
4 guys might want to think about delaying this  
5 for a bit due to the worldly situation. But  
6 the amount of the increase is astronomical.  
7 I'm reading this, and my mouth hit the desk.  
8 I'm like, "Okay, why so much up front?" And  
9 then you spread it out little by little.  
10 Maybe you want to reverse that process, but I  
11 just wanted to make my statement to let you  
12 know the type of people that you're hitting  
13 with this. I'm disabled. I served this  
14 country for many years, and I was happy to do  
15 so. But I'm in a big situation, and you guys  
16 are going to drastically affect that with  
17 this increase.

18 And that's all I have to say. Thank  
19 you.

20 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Mr. Swope.  
21 Your comments are appreciated.

22 Operator, please call the next speaker  
23 in the cue.

24 THE OPERATOR: The next commenter is  
25 Jaymie Bailey. Please spell your name as  
26 well as state your location. Your line is  
27 open.

28 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER BAILEY

1           My name is Jaymie Bailey. That's  
2 J-A-Y-M-I-E. Last name Bailey. It's B, as  
3 in boy, A-I-L-E-Y. I agree with all of the  
4 callers. It is just horrific that SCE would  
5 even think about doing something like this.  
6 And like the previous gentleman said, even if  
7 it wasn't COVID, people are going through  
8 situations -- I got a pay cut. I'm trying to  
9 manage my bills while your investors are  
10 getting fat.]

11           It is not okay. You're just adding  
12 to the turmoil that people are going through  
13 including myself. My bill increased for -- I  
14 still can't understand why, and I'm trying to  
15 understand this bill and I will definitely  
16 contact Mr. Aguilar. It's almost \$100. I  
17 don't have AC. I'm running a fan. I'm using  
18 as little electricity as I can manage  
19 considering everyone's home these days.

20           And yet SCE's still getting fat off  
21 these charges. So I'm just not  
22 understanding. But you need reevaluate this.  
23 And it should not come at this time, and it  
24 shouldn't be so hefty. It should be spread  
25 out over time and consider your customers.

26           Like the other caller said, if there  
27 was another company, I'd jump ship quickly.  
28 But unfortunately you're monopolized by the

1 area you live in. Be more fair to the  
2 consumer. It's only right. Do the right  
3 thing.

4 That's all I have to say.

5 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Bailey.

6 Operator, please call on the next  
7 speaker in the queue.

8 THE OPERATOR: Thank you. Our next  
9 question comes from Helen Sukuhara. Your  
10 line is open.

11 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER SUKUHARA

12 Hi. My name is Helen, H-e-l-e-n.  
13 Last name Sukuhara, S-u-k-u-h-a-r-a.

14 And actually if I hadn't known about  
15 a different program to save, my bill is now  
16 lower. But I do -- I do wish that we don't  
17 get an increase because of other people until  
18 you check with other electricity -- what  
19 would I say? Electricity (inaudible) to --  
20 if needed coincide with them before  
21 submitting this high of an increase.

22 But the rest of my question is with  
23 regard to billing. And so I understand that  
24 you need to go to Jerry Aguilar. So could  
25 you repeat that again? The phone number and  
26 his name please, and I'll continue my billing  
27 there.

28 ALJ SEYBERT: Of course. Mr. Aguilar

1 may be reached at (626) 302-0283.

2 SPEAKER SUKUHARA: And how do you spell  
3 his name?

4 ALJ SEYBERT: Jerry, J-e-r-r-y. Last  
5 name, A-g-u-i-l-a-r.

6 SPEAKER SUKUHARA: A-g what? I'm  
7 sorry.

8 ALJ SEYBERT: A-g-u-i-l-a-r.

9 SPEAKER SUKUHARA: Thank you so much.

10 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you.

11 Operator, please call on the next  
12 speaker.

13 THE OPERATOR: Next comment comes from  
14 Thomas Sebring. Your line is open.

15 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER SEBRING

16 Hi. My name is Thomas Sebring.  
17 That's T-h-o-m-a-s, S-e-b-r-i-n-g. And I work  
18 at a Senior living nonprofit community in  
19 Laguna Hills, California.

20 SCE mentioned one of their reasons  
21 for this rate increase proposal is to include  
22 the safety of their services to their  
23 customers and general community, and our  
24 company certainly agrees with that desire.

25 However, the rate increases they're  
26 proposing during this time provides an  
27 additional safety risk. We have witnessed  
28 residents deciding not to run their

1 air-conditioning or even fans because they  
2 cannot afford their SCE bills at their  
3 current rates even with being on a low-income  
4 programs that SCE offers. This is a huge  
5 safety risk.

6 And in addition, our seniors rely on  
7 cost-of-living adjustments to their Social  
8 Security checks to cover any rate increases  
9 they may experience. We're seeing  
10 projections of 0 to 1 percent for the  
11 cost-of-living adjustment in 2021, which  
12 would not sufficiently cover this rate  
13 increase that SCE is proposing.

14 During the current pandemic, it is  
15 totally unreasonable for SCE to make this  
16 rate increase request at this time. We're  
17 all in this together, and we need to make  
18 sacrifices for the greater good.

19 Our non-profit covers expenses with  
20 rent. So it's coming for us to raise rent on  
21 an annual basis. However, due to this  
22 current pandemic, we've decided not to raise  
23 our rates. I highly recommend SCE do the  
24 same.

25 I appreciate you all sharing that  
26 Governor Newsom made an order to have no  
27 electricity disconnects through April of  
28 2021. But the bills will continue to pile up



1 for the customers, which leads to residents  
2 making decisions where they'll put their  
3 health at risk to avoid paying a larger bill.

4 Thank you for your time.

5 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Mr. Sebring.

6 Operator, please call on the next  
7 speaker.

8 THE OPERATOR: Our next comment comes  
9 from Katherine Cohen. Your line is open.

10 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER COHEN

11 Hi, everyone. Thank you so much for  
12 all of your comments. Thank you for holding  
13 this forum. My name's Katherine Cohen,  
14 K-a-t-h-e-r-i-n-e, C-o-h-e-n. I live in San  
15 Lucas, California. I'm a frontline worker.

16 And this is definitely a challenge.  
17 This pandemic -- I understand that when this  
18 was first proposed, no one could have  
19 possibly anticipated, you know, a pandemic.  
20 However, at this time in history it is kind  
21 of my opinion to look at what is workable.  
22 And I have to agree with my fellow residents  
23 that mercy is the better part of valor.

24 In 1752 Benjamin Franklin, you know,  
25 discovered electricity. Albeit there have  
26 been some misconceptions about that, you  
27 know. We all know the story about the kite.

28 Electricity has been around for

1 nearly 300 years in terms of research and  
2 development. We can survive without it. At  
3 this point, though, in our lives we have  
4 learned to not to be able to do so.

5 We need more than fans. We need  
6 air-conditioning. We need lights at night.  
7 And there are those in lower income areas,  
8 there are those in Laguna Hills actually like  
9 my parents who, you know, have to  
10 continuously pay for repairs on AC units.  
11 Let alone pay for it to run.

12 I am asking that as much as it might  
13 have previously made sense to do a rate  
14 increase when this was first proposed, I'm  
15 requesting that as a judge, as a resident, as  
16 a human being, you deny their request and  
17 come back to it in four years. Come back to  
18 it. See if it's workable in four years. See  
19 what happens then, but right now the  
20 residents cannot handle it. We don't want  
21 it.

22 And, I mean, even the frontline  
23 workers jobs are being threatened. The ones  
24 who are doing our best to protect you all.  
25 We're going to get a pay cut. We're going to  
26 get laid off is what I keep getting  
27 threatened with.

28 So I just want to say thank you for

1 all that you do. I know my time is up. I  
2 just want you guys to get everything that I  
3 said and thank you.

4 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Cohen.

5 Operator, please call on the next  
6 speaker.

7 THE OPERATOR: Our next comment comes  
8 from Bessie Polit. Your line is open.

9 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER POLIT

10 Hi, good afternoon. While I respect  
11 and understand the obligation all of you have  
12 for public hearings, we must at some point in  
13 time discontinue that public opinions fall on  
14 deaf ears. I certainly hope that the pattern  
15 of hearing opposition only to see approved  
16 rates hikes stop now.

17 Even if you have a record attendance  
18 on this call today, that should speak volumes  
19 to all of you. Your customers are home.  
20 Price gouging at this time during this  
21 pandemic is against the law. And this is  
22 what I view this rate hike as is simply price  
23 gouging. You're taking advantage of us.

24 Many families are required to  
25 readjust their daily home lives to  
26 accommodate for homebound college students,  
27 homebound employment, housing of relatives  
28 and friends who have become unemployed and

1 have no means to support personal housing and  
2 basic human needs such as food and medical  
3 care.

4           The reasons stated earlier for  
5 requesting the rate increase by Edison such  
6 as paying for staff and upgrading of  
7 equipment does not adequately justify this  
8 substantial increase as unemployment is at an  
9 all time high for businesses. In order for  
10 them to operate, they have sacrificed and  
11 made difficult decisions to lay off and  
12 reduce staff in order to balance their  
13 revenue and expenses.

14           You are one of the most expensive  
15 electric companies around. One of which  
16 customers have no choice in carrier  
17 selection. It is at this time for Edison to  
18 also take action and reduce their overhead.  
19 Customers are already accustomed to long  
20 waits due to COVID-19. Asking us to wait a  
21 little longer so that we can save money in  
22 order to communicate with you about our  
23 electric bill is something every customer I  
24 am sure is willing to manage.

25           During COVID-19 I find the timing to  
26 be not only insensitive, but one that  
27 exhibits an unawareness of the realities of  
28 what human beings and their families are

1 enduring in today's world. This is a  
2 complete lack of exhibiting any humanity.

3 In closing this rate hike needs to  
4 be declined. It should not be approved. And  
5 it is imperative that you all exhibit some  
6 level of compassion for all of those in the  
7 decision process that will be able to give us  
8 your support in future requests.

9 Thank you.

10 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Polit.  
11 Would you mind spelling your name for our  
12 transcript today?

13 SPEAKER POLIT: Bessie, B-e-s-s-i-e.  
14 Polit. P, as in Paul, o-l-i-t, as in Tom.  
15 And I'm in Arcadia.

16 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you very much.  
17 Operator, please call the next  
18 speaker.

19 And a reminder for everyone to  
20 please spell your name when you first start  
21 speaking. Thank you.

22 THE OPERATOR: Our next comment comes  
23 from Dora Miranda. For your next comment if  
24 you will please spell your name before making  
25 your comment.

26 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER MIRANDA

27 Okay. Hello. My name is Dora  
28 Miranda. That's spelled D-o-r-a

1 M-i-r-a-n-d-a. I'm from Ontario, California.

2 Honestly, this is the worst possible  
3 time for a rate increase. Due to this  
4 COVID-19 pandemic, we're about to enter  
5 another multiyear recession. We don't know  
6 how long this will last. And this is nothing  
7 but exploitive to raise rates when people  
8 don't have any option but to stay at home.

9 The rate increase will literally  
10 jeopardize people's health if they are forced  
11 to choose between paying for food and paying  
12 for electricity.

13 In 2018, 72-year-old Stephanie  
14 Pullman (phonetic) died in Arizona after APS  
15 cut off her electricity. She was \$3 short on  
16 her bill, and yet APS chose to cut her power  
17 in the middle of a triple digit heat wave.  
18 She died. The cause of death was listed as  
19 environmental heat exposure by the medical  
20 examiner.

21 I hate to see a similar situation  
22 repeat itself. People are already hurting  
23 financially. I haven't worked in months  
24 because of the pandemic, and I know I'm not  
25 the only one. This is not the time for a  
26 rate increase.

27 Thank you.

28 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Miranda.

1 Operator, please call the next  
2 speaker.

3 THE OPERATOR: It comes from Julie  
4 Author. Your line is open.

5 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER ARTHUR

6 Hi. Good afternoon. My name is  
7 Julie, J-u-l-i-e. Last name Arthur,  
8 A-r-t-h-u-r. And I'm calling from Palm  
9 Springs, California.

10 I'm the executive director for the  
11 Palm Springs Unified School District. I am  
12 also the chair for the Coalition for Adequate  
13 School Housing, which has over several  
14 thousand members. Most throughout the state  
15 of California and their school facility  
16 district staff.

17 Also let me tell you a little bit  
18 about Palm Springs Unified. Palm Springs  
19 Unified includes the cities of Desert Palm  
20 Springs, Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho  
21 Mirage, Palm Desert, and Thousand Palms. And  
22 a couple other of the roadside county areas.  
23 We cover over 500 square miles of land in the  
24 desert and we serve 21,000 students.

25 Of those 21,000 students, 85 percent  
26 of students qualify for low and free lunch  
27 due to their family's economic status.

28 So also not only do I oversee and

1     imply instruction of all PSUD's capital  
2     projects, but I also receive energy  
3     conservation managers the district is  
4     implementing. I believe this request for  
5     increases in the cost of electricity follow  
6     the TOU's changes as of May of last year. It  
7     is ill conceived and will cause harm to  
8     teachers and students throughout SCE's  
9     coverage area.

10             First, let's talk about the Time of  
11     Use change. The Time of Use change that  
12     occurred last year were a double hit to  
13     low-income families. Changing the highest  
14     rate to -- from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. and  
15     removing the weekend low rate was meant to  
16     hit low-income families that can't afford  
17     solar or batteries. This really is a form of  
18     social injustice meant to harm lower-income  
19     earners.

20             In the desert during the summer  
21     months, you must turn on the AC upon arriving  
22     home or you cannot function, let alone sleep.  
23     For families that have a higher economic  
24     ability, they purchase solar to offset the  
25     electricity costs. But lower-income families  
26     cannot afford solar. They are the main  
27     victims of this Time of Use change.

28             Next let's talk about the rate



1 increase electricity cost. Palm Springs  
2 Unified School District we spend over \$4.5  
3 million every year on electricity costs for  
4 27 schools and the district administration  
5 and central kitchen.

6 This rate increase will cost the  
7 district roughly \$400,000 to \$500,000 per  
8 year. That's salary. That's teachers who  
9 are going to be laid off. Many of our  
10 utility bills are over 75 percent demand  
11 charges. So the budget cuts caused by the  
12 COVID-19 pandemic, every government agency,  
13 especially K-12 home schools, will be  
14 required to cut staffing to cover these SCE  
15 increases. Which means SCE will continue to  
16 add to its billions of dollars in reserves.

17 SCE continues to pay its  
18 stockholders a consistent and established  
19 dividend, and this is on the back of the  
20 endusers including California public schools.

21 Through our diligence when reviewing  
22 our district's billing throughout over the  
23 last two years, we have found a number of  
24 errors on the bill. Including incorrect  
25 rates, billing errors, and taxes being  
26 assessed on the bill.

27 (Inaudible) a representative that  
28 can investigate the errors and arrange for

1 corrections but only acquiesce a literature.  
2 I can only imagine the same happens to every  
3 individual ratepayer out there but no one to  
4 really look into it on their behalf.

5 All Californians are being asked to  
6 sacrifice with COVID-19. I would ask that  
7 SCE be denied this rate increase. And  
8 instead hold on paying dividends to its  
9 stockholders, make the cuts to their top  
10 administrators' salary. Instead SCE is  
11 literally asking all school districts to make  
12 cuts by increasing its rates.

13 If a school district is asked for  
14 funds (inaudible) --

15 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Arthur. I  
16 want to be fair to our other speakers.  
17 Please wrap up your comments.

18 SPEAKER ARTHUR: I've got just a couple  
19 more sentences. Absolutely. So we go to our  
20 voters to ask for an increase. I would ask  
21 that this is something SCE also has to do is  
22 actually take this to a vote of the taxpayers  
23 in this area.

24 In addition I do believe a separate  
25 rate scale should be established for schools  
26 and government offices that are funded  
27 through public taxes. The schools are  
28 required by state law to provide services for

1 all children throughout California, and we  
2 are sitting ducks when it comes to rate  
3 increases and must then cut other programs  
4 that are meant to help our students learn.

5 Thank you.

6 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you.

7 Operator, please call the next  
8 speaker.

9 THE OPERATOR: And it comes from Diana  
10 Luxemburg. Your line is open.

11 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER LUXEMBERG

12 It's D-i-a-n-a, L-u-x-e-m-b-e-r-g.

13 I would like to make a couple of  
14 comments and also a question.

15 Why hasn't Edison given my comments  
16 in the past about waste up here in Three  
17 Rivers actually addressed some of those  
18 issues.

19 I would also like to suggest to  
20 Edison that it may be cheaper to actually  
21 provide insulation to some of their CARE  
22 clients so that they use less electricity.

23 I would also like to note that the  
24 research they did on the Time of Usage before  
25 they implemented it I think was deficient  
26 because the time periods that they were using  
27 didn't really coincide with what I see in  
28 bigger towns or even a big city like Fresno

1 in terms of how much electricity is actually  
2 being used after 7:00 p.m., after 9:00 p.m.

3 And I would like to suggest to  
4 everyone that part of why Edison makes a  
5 profit is also to pay the pensions of the  
6 teachers and other individuals who invest in  
7 Edison. ]

8 So before people start yelling about  
9 greed, they should also look at themselves to  
10 see whether or not, in fact, they can reduce  
11 their expenses or whether they put in  
12 insulation like I did in my house as soon as  
13 I moved in. You don't go out to dinner. You  
14 don't go to movies. And that inflation has  
15 kept my bill at about \$75 a month when other  
16 people up here in the Three Rivers area would  
17 be paying \$300 a month in the summertime. So  
18 I think people have to take responsibility  
19 for where they live.

20 I would also ask Edison to think  
21 about why they haven't done some of the  
22 trimming in the past up in the Three River  
23 area and I'm sure in other places and who is  
24 looking at the crews that are doing the  
25 trimming, because I've seen some of those  
26 crews actually do work for individuals while  
27 they've been on their company time. So that  
28 means Edison is overpaying for work because

1 they should have done more work in that same  
2 period of time.

3 I would like to ask the Commissioner  
4 why she isn't addressing the efficiency of  
5 Edison, which has been woeful over the past  
6 years. Given that the pandemic has reduced  
7 employment in so many people, I don't  
8 understand why they would need to increase  
9 salaries or even give people the same  
10 benefits especially the CEO and so many  
11 people in the administration versus the  
12 people who are actually doing the work on the  
13 ground, why they would need to give these  
14 individuals their whole salaries. There are  
15 other institutions that are actually reducing  
16 their salary by 15 to 25 percent. So I would  
17 ask Edison to look at themselves and see  
18 whether or not they haven't been overcharging  
19 for years. They didn't think about storage.  
20 They didn't encourage people to do solar.  
21 They weren't giving people money back when  
22 they were -- people were overproducing solar  
23 in their homes more than they could use. So  
24 I believe that Edison and the Commissioner  
25 and the Public Utilities Commission are all  
26 guilty of not being the most efficient that  
27 they could be and perhaps overemphasizing  
28 what's happening with the stockholders. I

1 would like to ask them why they are not  
2 providing much bigger refunds for higher  
3 efficiency appliances which they did in the  
4 past and to educate the public. Does it not  
5 make a difference anymore? Did it make a  
6 difference? Where the research -- because  
7 they were all gung-ho about that for so long.  
8 And, again, storage is crucial and whether or  
9 not the tiers that they have instituted are  
10 really fair for people who are conserving,  
11 like myself, versus those who are wasteful.  
12 There are some people in higher income  
13 environments who (timer sound interruption)  
14 will not care about waste. So to look at  
15 those issues with their tiering.

16 Thank you very much.

17 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms.  
18 Luxemburg.

19 Operator, please move on to the next  
20 speaker.

21 THE OPERATOR: Our next comment comes  
22 from Caroline Gonzales. Your line is open.

23 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER GONZALES

24 Hi. Thank you for taking my call or my  
25 comment. Carol Gonzales, C-A-R-O-L  
26 G-O-N-Z-A-L-E-S. Signal Hill, California.

27 And I am asking the Commission to  
28 restore our faith in the power of these

1   hearings and to deny the request for -- SCE's  
2   request for rate increases as has been cited  
3   by all of the previous commenters. The rate  
4   increase is quite remarkable and especially  
5   given SCE's ability to still pay dividends as  
6   well as its failure to update systems and  
7   also, as commented by the previous -- the  
8   coalition and the various groups and  
9   organizations -- that within SCE's request  
10   is -- are many faults in the structure -- in  
11   the manner in which the request is  
12   structured.

13           Also, I am a small-business owner,  
14   and the fact is that nobody, nobody gets a 14  
15   percent rate increase unless they have been  
16   phenomenal. And from the comments prior to  
17   mine, it certainly sounds like SCE has a lot  
18   to -- has quite a few shortcomings to that --  
19   to merit -- that would not justify such an  
20   increase.

21           Also, SCE is not lacking. They have  
22   recently -- they actually have an abundance  
23   of energy. They recently put out a request  
24   for offers on renewable energy credits, for  
25   example. So there's definitely an abundance  
26   here. SCE has the remarkable abundance, and  
27   then they are still asking for an increase,  
28   what basically amounts to a pay increase,

1     which none of us gets. And even the elderly  
2     who would be even the most effected, they --  
3     when they get their cost-of-living  
4     adjustments, those are basically taken up by  
5     their Medicare costs -- an increase in their  
6     Medicare. So they basically have no  
7     cost-of-living adjustments. And neither do  
8     the rest of us. And right now is not the  
9     time for a pay raise. Unfortunately we all  
10    depend on SCE, and there's no -- no real  
11    competition. Otherwise, I would definitely  
12    cut those SCE wires and rely on solar energy.

13             That's all I have. Thank you.

14             ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Gonzales.

15             Operator, please call on the next  
16    speaker.

17             THE OPERATOR: Our next comment comes  
18    from Blanca Castro. Your line is open.

19             STATEMENT OF SPEAKER CASTRO

20             Hi. Thank you so much. On behalf of  
21    AARP California, Judge Seybert, Judge Park,  
22    and Commissioner Shiroma. I'm speaking on  
23    behalf of over 700,000 members that are also  
24    customers for Southern California Edison.  
25    And I'm not going to repeat all the comments  
26    that you've heard today thus far. I just  
27    want to urge the Commission and the  
28    administrative law judges that in this



1 current environment that they stop this  
2 proceeding. This particular proposal was  
3 drafted before COVID-19. And a lot has  
4 changed. A lot has changed for many people.  
5 And as you've been hearing over and over  
6 again, this is not the time to be increasing  
7 rates for the consumers. We also just want  
8 to urge you to not only ask them to go back  
9 to the drawing board, but this is also a  
10 three-year forecasting. And in California,  
11 we need to -- the Commission really needs to  
12 consider -- instead of doing these three-year  
13 rate cases, let's do this on an annual basis  
14 where there can be actual numbers and real  
15 estimates on where this money can be spent  
16 but more importantly estimating based on the  
17 market and all of the conditions that are  
18 going on.

19 So thank you on behalf of AARP  
20 members and for this very democratic process.

21 COURT REPORTER HUAMAN: Excuse me,  
22 Judge.

23 This is the court reporter, Doris.  
24 And could you please remind people to spell  
25 their names, and can I get the spelling of  
26 the last speaker's name.

27 SPEAKER CASTRO: My apologies. Yes.  
28 Blanca, B-L-A-N-C-A. Last name is Castro,

1 C-A-S-T-R-O. And I'm representing AARP  
2 California.

3 THE REPORTER: Thank you.

4 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Castro.

5 Operator, I would like to confirm  
6 that we have gone through all the speakers in  
7 the cue.

8 THE OPERATOR: The cue at this time?

9 ALJ SEYBERT: Yes. Have we gone  
10 through all the speakers in the cue.

11 THE OPERATOR: There are no questions  
12 in cue at this time.

13 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you. Then that  
14 concludes all of the speakers who signed up  
15 to speak. If any of you would like to  
16 provide additional input or comments after  
17 this hearing, you may submit written comments  
18 on the docket card for this proceeding which  
19 can be found on the Commission's website at  
20 [www.cpuc.ca.gov/SCE2021GRCPublicComments](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/SCE2021GRCPublicComments). If  
21 you need assistance with providing additional  
22 comments, please contact the Commission's  
23 Public Advisor Office.

24 THE OPERATOR: There are questions in  
25 the cue at this time, sir. Would you like to  
26 take them?

27 ALJ SEYBERT: Okay. Yes, please.

28 Let's take the additional questions in the

1 cue.

2 Operator, please call the next  
3 speaker.

4 THE OPERATOR: Jack Miranda, your line  
5 is open.

6 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER MIRANDA

7 Thank you. Pastor Jack Miranda,  
8 M-I-R-A-N-D-A, representing the Hispanic  
9 faith community in Southern California and in  
10 some levels nationally. Just predominantly  
11 you've heard over and over again the impact  
12 that any rate increase would have, and you  
13 heard from the National Diversity Coalition  
14 CEO, Faith Bautista. I am a board member of  
15 that organization, and I understand, Mr.  
16 Aguilar, that with Southern California Edison  
17 there's a pretty comprehensive relief  
18 package. You heard a rate -- you heard your  
19 customer say that even with that it's still  
20 prohibited with the rate increase. But what  
21 I'd like to say is the marketing and the  
22 outreach for those programs is deficient,  
23 that there's not enough -- that you've got  
24 the program in place, but there's not a good  
25 distribution of that information to the  
26 Spanish-speaking community. We have to do a  
27 lot of the chasing for that information, and  
28 it's prohibitive. Not everybody has an

1 acumen (inaudible) and (inaudible).

2 COURT REPORTER HUAMAN: Excuse me.  
3 This is the court reporter. Judge, can I go  
4 off the record, please.

5 ALJ SEYBERT: Yes. Off the record.  
6 (Off the record.)

7 ALJ SEYBERT: Let's go back on the  
8 record.

9 Please proceed.

10 SPEAKER MIRANDA: I hope this is  
11 better. Jack Miranda with the National  
12 Diversity Coalition and a representative for  
13 the Latino faith community here in Southern  
14 California.

15 Again, the programs for relief for  
16 LMI are adequate when they can get to the  
17 consumer, and that is a problem. Marketing  
18 and outreach continues to be a problem for  
19 those that I represent. I guess my question  
20 would be when is the last time Southern  
21 California Edison's application -- increase  
22 application was denied by CPUC and those in  
23 charge? And then finally, where will I get a  
24 record of the corporate social  
25 responsibility -- and I guess what I want to  
26 say -- investment back into community by SCE,  
27 where would that information be available?

28 Thank you very much.

1           ALJ SEYBERT: I apologize, Mr. Miranda.  
2       Some of what you said towards the end cut off  
3       on my line. So I wasn't able to hear your  
4       last question.

5           SPEAKER MIRANDA: My question, if I can  
6       repeat it -- I had two questions. The one  
7       would be when was the last time a rate  
8       increase by Southern California Edison was  
9       denied by CPUC and those -- those -- also  
10      those other voices in charge of that. Second  
11      question: Where would I find information for  
12      SCE's corporate social responsibility and  
13      investment back into community, if that -- if  
14      that information is available? And I can  
15      hear offline.

16          ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Mr. Miranda.  
17      In response to your first question, I'll just  
18      note that the Commission process to hear all  
19      of the party opinions and proceedings and the  
20      final outcome is generally a mix of the  
21      request from Southern California Edison as  
22      well as in considering other party testimony  
23      and comments that are provided in the  
24      proceeding.

25                 In terms of your second question,  
26      I'll have to let someone from Southern  
27      California Edison follow-up with you on that  
28      one. If you have a contact provided where

1 they could do that, that would be helpful.

2 SPEAKER MIRANDA: Yes. Would you like  
3 me to give that now?

4 ALJ SEYBERT: Yes, please.

5 SPEAKER MIRANDA: Okay. Email,  
6 jack@mirandacenter.com.

7 ALJ SEYBERT: Great. Thank you.

8 Operator, can we move to the next  
9 speaker.

10 THE OPERATOR: Our next comment comes  
11 from Doug Morton. Your line is open.

12 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER MORTON

13 Hi. Can you hear me? Hello?

14 ALJ SEYBERT: Yes, thank you.

15 SPEAKER MORTON: Oh. Hi. Thanks for  
16 taking the time. I'll make it quick because  
17 I don't want to drag this on. I just want to  
18 say that I am a retiring individual in Palm  
19 Springs, and I appreciate everybody's  
20 comments. And I appreciate what the judges  
21 are doing, and I also appreciate what --  
22 getting my electricity. What I also want to  
23 say is that as a retired individual -- I  
24 actually retired from the state of Colorado  
25 10 years ago. And we were assured a 3  
26 percent increase every year. Compounding,  
27 that makes quite a fantastic sum. It did not  
28 happen. In fact, like many retirement

1 programs, it was reduced to 2. We received  
2 zero percent for a couple of years. This  
3 year I understand we get 1.25 percent, and I  
4 don't know what we'll get in the future. I'm  
5 sure, as with everything, it's in jeopardy at  
6 this point. So I guess that's complicated  
7 even further, like the elimination -- the  
8 windfall elimination provision which says you  
9 must work three times as long as anybody else  
10 if you want to get social security and then  
11 you get 40 percent, up to 90 percent for each  
12 additional year after 30 full years,  
13 therefore, taking 40 years of private time in  
14 addition to get any -- to get 90 percent of  
15 your social security.

16 Therefore, I guess my question would  
17 be in the event they really are going to put  
18 an increase that would put such a huge dent  
19 on almost fixed incomes by many, many  
20 retirees, then my question would be is it  
21 time to look at a program for just not only  
22 income but for retirees who are on fixed  
23 amounts of money and maybe they are not  
24 getting increases so that every time you give  
25 this big of an increase -- this large of an  
26 increase to anybody then it really does cut  
27 so many other things out? Thank you so much.

28 Oh. By the way. My name. I hope

1 the court reporter doesn't hate me. My name  
2 is Doug, D-O-U-G, just like one of the  
3 judges, Morton, M-O-R-T-O-N. Palm Springs,  
4 California.

5 Thank you so much for your time.

6 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Mr. Morton.

7 Operator, will you please call on  
8 the next speaker.

9 THE OPERATOR: Our next comment comes  
10 from Jeff Peters. Your line is open.

11 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER PETERS

12 Hi. Good afternoon, everyone, and  
13 thank you. I am Jeff Peters. I am a  
14 consumer in Cathedral City, California. And  
15 I, like everyone else --

16 COURT REPORTER HUAMAN: Excuse me,  
17 Judge. This is the court reporter. I need  
18 to, one, have that person spell their name,  
19 the speaker, and I also need him to talk  
20 directly into the line, if he is not, because  
21 I am having trouble hearing him.

22 SPEAKER PETERS: Okay. I'll start  
23 over. Can you hear me now?

24 ALJ SEYBERT: Yes.

25 SPEAKER PETERS: Okay. My name is Jeff  
26 Peters, J-E-F-F, Peters, P-E-T-E-R-S, from  
27 Cathedral City, California. And I am a  
28 consumer of Southern California Edison. And,



1 like everyone else on this call, I am shocked  
2 as well as completely disagree with the rate  
3 request that SCE is asking for. I would like  
4 to point out a couple of things. As  
5 mentioned earlier, in 2019, according to SCE,  
6 they posted an earnings per share of \$4.70.  
7 This is an increase from 2018 of \$4.15.  
8 Another shocking fact is at the end of the  
9 year, again, per their own report, their  
10 stock was up 32.8 percent. 32.8 percent.  
11 Their CEO of Edison International, in this  
12 public record, makes 10 million dollars in  
13 2019. Up 1.5 million dollars from the year  
14 prior. The Southern California Edison CEO,  
15 2.8 million dollars in 2019. That's an  
16 increase of over one million dollars from a  
17 year prior. ]

18 My point is: Is this 18 percent  
19 increase going to be passed right on to the  
20 staff, the (inaudible), and the shareholders  
21 of Southern California Edison.

22 My other point is the cost of  
23 electricity. SCE is charging 18 -- just over  
24 \$.18 per kilowatt hour. How is it possible  
25 that that is if not the highest, one of the  
26 highest in California?

27 How is it possible that in Cathedral  
28 City it's \$.18, and yet a couple miles away

1 in Indio under IID utilities it's under \$12  
2 per kilowatt hour?

3 Again, this is irresponsible and  
4 completely unethical for SCE to ask for this  
5 increase.

6 Thank you.

7 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Mr. Peters.

8 Operator, please call on the next  
9 speaker.

10 THE OPERATOR: The next comment comes  
11 from Gloria Pacheco. Your line is open.  
12 Petricko.

13 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER PETRICKO

14 Thank you. This is Gloria  
15 G-l-o-r-i-a. Petricko, P-e-t-r-i-c-k-o, in  
16 Whittier, California.

17 And I am a SCE customer. I am a  
18 retiree in my 70s. And I think going into  
19 the future it is time that SCE either changes  
20 its way of doing business or is removed. We  
21 all know that there are other sources of  
22 power. One is solar.

23 As each of these programs come  
24 about, SCE requests applications for  
25 increases to cover their losses when there is  
26 solar energy. Cover their losses for money  
27 they lost in a pilot program. The new heater  
28 -- the smart -- excuse me. Smart Heat Pump

1 Water Heater Program. Again, they want to  
2 cover their losses for that.

3 I see all of these applications for  
4 increase because they're losing money, losing  
5 money, losing money, and to cover things. It  
6 makes no sense.

7 Going into 2030, there has to be a  
8 change, and I do not see SCE in 2030. Not  
9 the way it is working at this time.

10 So I would ask the Public Utilities  
11 Company to take a good look at SCE and the  
12 way that the other energies are doing  
13 business. And we need to look at alternative  
14 sources.

15 And we do have solar. Okay, solar.  
16 Why do we have SCE charging so much even on  
17 solar? I don't get it. I have paid  
18 exorbitant prices to get a special solar  
19 energy efficient roof on my house, paint on  
20 my house, insulation in the roof, insulation  
21 under the house, insulation in the walls,  
22 ceiling fans, no central air, no central  
23 heating. And yet the increases go up.

24 I tried to make my house energy  
25 efficient, and it's taken away from me in the  
26 money that I have to pay out in all of these  
27 increases. It has to stop.

28 And, again, I do not see the way

1       that SCE is currently doing business in 2030.

2               Thank you.

3               ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you.

4               Operator, please call on the next  
5 speaker.

6               THE OPERATOR: The next comment comes  
7 from Allison Miller. Your line is open.

8               STATEMENT OF SPEAKER MILLER

9               Hi. Can you hear me? My name's  
10 Allison Miller. That's spelled  
11 A-l-l-i-s-o-n. Miller, M-i-l-l-e-r. I'm in  
12 Long Beach, California.

13              And I'm a working RN in the mist of  
14 this pandemic, and I cannot believe that it  
15 would even be considered to raise rates. A  
16 colleague on the line earlier mentioned  
17 social unrest. I believe that we'll possibly  
18 have more of that. I think we really need to  
19 assure that we don't do this at this time.  
20 And that there is a logical reason as to  
21 raise the rates as you hear the gentleman  
22 speak about the amounts of money made and the  
23 profits being made. There's really not a  
24 reason to be raising rates in the manner that  
25 they are. I just please beg you not to make  
26 this move.

27              Thank you.

28              ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Miller.

1 Operator, please call on the next  
2 speaker.

3 A reminder again for everyone to  
4 spell your first and last name.

5 THE OPERATOR: If you would like to ask  
6 a question please press star-one along with  
7 spelling your first and last name.

8 Our next comment comes from Adrian  
9 Martinez.

10 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER MARTINEZ

11 Hello. Thank you very much. My  
12 name is Adrian Martinez. It's Spelled A, as  
13 in apple, d, as in December, r, as in rain,  
14 i, as in indigenous, a, as in apple, n, as in  
15 Nancy. Martinez, M, as in man, a, as in  
16 apple, r, as in rain, t, as tree, i, as in  
17 indigenous, n, as in November, e, as in  
18 eucalyptus, and z, as in zoo.

19 Yeah. So I'm a resident of Long  
20 Beach, California. And I'm calling as a long  
21 time customer consumer of Southern California  
22 Edison.

23 I cannot afford a 40 percent hike  
24 rate because my income is not going up by  
25 40 percent. In addition to that, I am a  
26 transgender person that lives with a  
27 disability, and I rely on these critical  
28 utilities to stay healthy and safe in the

1 middle of a pandemic. I can't afford to go  
2 to the hospital.

3 I am also a transgender person,  
4 which means that I am at a higher risk of  
5 being discriminated against in the hospital.  
6 So it is really critical that I stay home and  
7 stay safe and have access to these kinds of  
8 utilities.

9 So I just want to say that in  
10 addition to that, I'm also kind of the bread  
11 winner for my family. There's five people  
12 that are dependent upon me and my income. So  
13 I am really nervous about this leading to  
14 more shutoffs and the risk it will have to  
15 public health.

16 And I really really hope that in the  
17 middle of this pandemic I've been hearing a  
18 lot of comments from folks that these  
19 corporations will not profit in the middle of  
20 a pandemic. Shame on them. I think it's  
21 really important that we consider the  
22 California working people, the undocumented  
23 folks, the families over big profit. That's  
24 the only way that we are going to survive  
25 this pandemic in 2020 and beyond.

26 So thank you so much for your time  
27 for this process and for the advocates at The  
28 Utility Reform Network for their leadership

1 in this.

2 I yield my time. Thank you.

3 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Martinez.

4 Operator, please call on the next  
5 speaker.

6 THE OPERATOR: Our next call comes from  
7 Joshua Holland. Your line is open.

8 (No response.)

9 THE OPERATOR: Our next comment comes  
10 from Kristin Balnet. Your line is open.

11 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER BALNET

12 Hello. This is Kristin Balnet. Can  
13 you hear me?

14 ALJ SEYBERT: Yes.

15 SPEAKER BALNET: Okay, great. I'm in  
16 Springville, California. And I want to thank  
17 you for doing this.

18 ALJ SEYBERT: Ms. Balnet, can you  
19 please spell your first and last name for our  
20 court reporters?

21 SPEAKER BALNET: Kristin,  
22 K-r-i-s-t-i-n, Balnet, B-a-l-n-e-t.

23 My comment today is I would like to  
24 have a little bit more transparency with some  
25 of the supposed upgrades that are happening.  
26 Right now they're trying to replace a few  
27 poles, and it's taken me several hours to  
28 actually get someone on the phone to tell me

1 what and why they are doing on my property.  
2 And I feel like it's really frustrating that  
3 this company has more power through their  
4 easements than I do as a taxpaying home  
5 owning citizen.

6 And a lot of times these men come on  
7 to my property like they own the place. And  
8 it feels like there are very few ways to hold  
9 them accountable. So that's my first part is  
10 that I would like to see a little bit more  
11 transparency in these plans being actually  
12 acceptable to myself and to my 70-year-old  
13 neighbors who maybe aren't as tech savvy as I  
14 am.

15 And then the second thing I would  
16 like to comment on is I feel like some racial  
17 disparity issues should be addressed with the  
18 workers of Southern California Edison. I've  
19 been here for 10 years, and I have never once  
20 seen an African American. And maybe one time  
21 seen a person of color actually being  
22 employed coming to service my meter and come  
23 and do the work. They're large crews of  
24 usually white men. And I feel like at this  
25 time that that should also be addressed  
26 moving forward.

27 As a woman said earlier about  
28 Southern California Edison of 2030. I would



1     like to see a much more racially diverse  
2     group of people come and work and make sure  
3     that this money is being -- you know, the  
4     people who can work for Southern California  
5     Edison are not just not white men.

6             So that is what I would like to  
7     contribute today and thank you.

8             ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Balnet.

9             Operator, please call on the next  
10    speaker in the queue.

11            THE OPERATOR: Our next comment comes  
12    from Hasan Mirza your line is open.

13            STATEMENT OF SPEAKER MIRZA

14            Hi. My first name is Hasan,  
15    H-a-s-a-n. Last name Mirza, M-i-r-z-a. And  
16    I am a consumer.

17            This is my personal opinion. If you  
18    have -- if you want to look at a company, you  
19    should go online and look at the job boards  
20    that they have, and look at their comments  
21    and reviews that come from the employees  
22    themselves; right? I am not an employee of  
23    this company. But I just looked them up on  
24    job boards like Lascor (phonetic) and job  
25    boards like Indeed.com.

26            If you actually read the comments  
27    that come from the employees, one can tell  
28    that this business is not run as it should

1 be. One frequent word that I see in the  
2 comments is nepotism and favoritism. One can  
3 think just like looking at what the internal  
4 employee of that company are saying that  
5 there is something fundamentally wrong with  
6 this company. People should look inside the  
7 company. They should be looking to figure  
8 out why is it that this company is run the  
9 way it is run today. Is it inefficient? The  
10 answer would probably be yes. So that is my  
11 thought.

12 I think that if we were to approve  
13 it, it should come with contingencies. They  
14 should be audited to ensure that this company  
15 is run in the best interest of employees and  
16 in the best interest of their consumers.

17 Thank you.

18 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Mr. Mirza.

19 Operator, please call on the next  
20 speaker in the queue.

21 THE OPERATOR: There are currently no  
22 other questions in the queue at this time.

23 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you.

24 I remind folks again that if you  
25 would like to submit written comments in this  
26 proceeding, you may do so at the Commission's  
27 website at  
28 [ww.cpuc.ca.gov/SCE2021GRCPublicComments](http://ww.cpuc.ca.gov/SCE2021GRCPublicComments).

1                   We will also be doing another public  
2 participation hearing at 6:00 p.m. tonight.

3                   With that, that concludes this  
4 afternoon's public participation hearing. I  
5 want to thank everyone for your input and  
6 comments.

7                   Thank you. We will now be off the  
8 record. ]

9                   (Off the record.)

10                   (Whereupon, at the hour of 4:22 p.m.  
11 this matter having been continued to  
12 6:00 p.m. the Commission then  
adjourned.)

13                   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*

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1                   EVENING SESSION - 6:00 P.M.

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3                   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*

4                   ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE SEYBERT:  We  
5 will now be on the record.

6                   The Commission will please come to  
7 order.  Good evening.  This is the time and  
8 place set for the public participation  
9 hearing in the general rate case application  
10 of Southern California Edison Company,  
11 Application 19-08-013.

12                  My name is Ehren Seybert, and I'm  
13 one of the assigned administrative law judges  
14 to this proceeding.  I'm co-assigned with  
15 Judge Sophia Park who is listening in to  
16 today's hearing.  We are also joined by  
17 Genevieve Shiroma, who is the assigned  
18 Commissioner for this case.

19                  Commissioner, would you like to make  
20 any opening remarks?

21                  COMMISSIONER SHIROMA:  Yes, thank you.  
22 Thank you, Judge Seybert and Judge Park.  
23 Good evening, everyone.  My name is Genevieve  
24 Shiroma.  I'm the assigned Commissioner on  
25 the Southern California Edison general rate  
26 case.  I'd like to take a moment to first  
27 thank our court reporters Doris Huaman and  
28 Jason Stacey, who are chronicling our meeting

1     tonight and making sure that all of your  
2     comments are recorded. I would like to thank  
3     our Public Advisor's Office, Allison Brown  
4     and Jessica Levine, our operator, and our  
5     information technology and our audio visual  
6     team, Robert Stanford and Joe Haga for  
7     setting up our first ever online public  
8     participation hearings. We had one earlier  
9     today.

10           A little background about myself. I  
11     was appointed by Governor Newsom to the  
12     California Public Utilities Commission in  
13     January of 2019. Prior to my appointment, I  
14     worked for the California Air Resources Board  
15     for 20 years from 1978 to 1999 working on air  
16     quality regulations, and then I was appointed  
17     to the agricultural labor relations board and  
18     served there from 1999 to 2019. And it is  
19     the Farm Worker Collective Bargaining Board.  
20     Along this -- around the same time, I served  
21     for 20 years as an elected director on the  
22     Sacramento Municipal Utility District, SMUD,  
23     the electricity provider for Sacramento  
24     County from 1999 to 2018.

25           So it is with all of this past  
26     experience but in particular my time at SMUD  
27     and at the CPUC that I will be scrutinizing  
28     Southern California Edison's requested

1 revenue requirements and making sure that  
2 what has been proposed will lead to just and  
3 reasonable rates which is required by the  
4 statute. With the economic crisis and  
5 ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it is even more  
6 important than ever that we are conscious of  
7 increasing rates making sure the right  
8 capital projects are being approved to ensure  
9 reliability and wildfire safety as people  
10 practice physical distancing, teleworking and  
11 distance learning at home and making sure  
12 that programs are in place to support  
13 customers. I look forward to continue my  
14 work with our judges, Judge Park and Judge  
15 Seybert, as we build a record in this  
16 proceeding and hearing from you, the Southern  
17 California customers -- Edison customers  
18 today, this evening.

19 Thank you very much.

20 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Commissioner.

21 I want to start by acknowledging the  
22 pain, grief and hardships that COVID-19 has  
23 imposed throughout out state, communities and  
24 in our daily lives. There are currently  
25 state and local shelter-at-home orders in  
26 place to protect the health and well-being of  
27 our communities; therefore, we are holding  
28 these hearings on line and by phone. While

1 we look forward to the time when it will be  
2 safe to resume public gatherings, I want to  
3 emphasize that the public engagement remains  
4 more to the Commission more now than ever and  
5 that we will be paying careful attention to  
6 the feedback provided today. The basic  
7 purpose of today's hearing is to hear  
8 directly from Southern California Edison  
9 customers and members of the public about  
10 this particular application.

11 I will start by providing some brief  
12 background on the Commission and the general  
13 rate case and introduce Ms. Allison Brown  
14 from the Commission's Public Advisor's  
15 Office. We will then hear brief statements  
16 from Southern California Edison and some of  
17 the other parties in this proceeding.  
18 Finally, and most importantly, we will hear  
19 from all of you.

20 The participants that wish to  
21 provide public comments today, I ask that you  
22 press star one on your phone now to alert the  
23 operator who will start to cue public  
24 speakers one at a time.

25 The Public Utilities Commission is  
26 the state agency that decides how much money  
27 Southern California Edison may earn and the  
28 actual rates that may be included on your

1 bills for electric service. The Public  
2 Utilities Commission has five Commissioners  
3 who are appointed by the governor and  
4 confirmed at a state senate.

5 While Judge Park and I manage the  
6 day-to-day activities of the case, the five  
7 Commissioners are ultimately the ones who  
8 will decide and vote on whether or not to  
9 approve Southern California Edison's request  
10 or some other amount. Our job as the judges  
11 will be to evaluate all the evidence in the  
12 proceedings and write a proposed decision for  
13 the five Commissioners to consider. The five  
14 Commissioners will decide whether to adopt  
15 the proposed decision from the judges or  
16 adopt their own alternate decisions based on  
17 the evidence in the proceeding. It is  
18 estimated that the Commission will vote on  
19 the decision towards the beginning of next  
20 year.

21 I will now briefly summarize  
22 Southern California Edison's application.  
23 Last August Southern California Edison  
24 submitted its general rate case asking the  
25 Commission for approval for expected costs  
26 for owning and operating the company for the  
27 following years: In 2021, 2022 and 2023.  
28 Earlier this year the Commission adopted a



1 decision which changed the general rate case  
2 cycle from a three-year cycle to a four-year  
3 cycle. Therefore, this proceeding will now  
4 also consider Southern California Edison's  
5 expected costs for the year 2024.

6 A Commission decision on these costs  
7 is anticipated towards the end of 2023. The  
8 expenses included in Southern California  
9 Edison's rate case application generally  
10 cover the poles, wires, meters, employees and  
11 all the activities needed to deliver  
12 electricity to your home or business. It  
13 also includes proposed expenses and capital  
14 infrastructure to address wildfire risks  
15 related to Edison's equipment. It is  
16 important to note that the costs we are  
17 talking about in this application are just  
18 one part of Southern California Edison's  
19 annual operating expenses that impact  
20 customer rates. Separate from this  
21 proceeding, the Commission authorizes  
22 recovery of the costs that Edison actually  
23 incurs to purchase electricity on the open  
24 market. These costs are directly passed onto  
25 consumers, and Edison is not allowed to earn  
26 a profit on them.

27 There is also another proceeding  
28 that will determine how approved costs are

1 distributed among Southern California  
2 Edison's customers, and the specific rates  
3 will be included on customer bills. This is  
4 generally referred to as the rate design  
5 proceeding, and that application should be  
6 filed in the fall of this year.

7 Right now, though, we are here to  
8 receive comments from the public regarding  
9 Southern California Edison's request to  
10 increase rates and revenue by 1.2 billion in  
11 January 2021 and additional increases of 486  
12 million in 2022 and 503 million in 2023. If  
13 approved, Southern California Edison's total  
14 revenue requirement will be approximately  
15 7.55 billion in 2021 or an 18.1 percent  
16 increase over what is currently authorized.

17 If the request is approved, the  
18 impact on residential customers will be a  
19 monthly increase of approximately \$12.71 in  
20 2021. In 2022, the additional monthly  
21 increase will be approximately \$5. And in  
22 2023, the additional monthly increase will be  
23 approximately \$6. We want to hear what you  
24 think about Southern California Edison's  
25 request. Comments from the public can help  
26 the Public Utilities Commission reach an  
27 informed decision. The Commissioners, Judge  
28 Park and I will pay close attention to the

1 opinions expressed during today's public  
2 hearing.

3 We have a court reporter  
4 transcribing today's hearing who will be  
5 taking down everything that is said on the  
6 telephone line. If you do speak, we ask that  
7 you speak slowly and clearly so that the  
8 reporter is able to capture everything that  
9 is said. The written transcript of today's  
10 hearing will be available to Judge Park and  
11 myself, the Commissioners and posted publicly  
12 on the docket card for this proceeding.

13 In addition to submitting oral  
14 comments today, written comments regarding  
15 Edison's application may also be submitted on  
16 the docket card for this proceeding by going  
17 to [www.cpuc.ca.gov/sce2021grcpubliccomments](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/sce2021grcpubliccomments).  
18 As of today, we have received over 3,200  
19 written public comments.

20 I would now like to invite Ms.  
21 Allison Brown from the Commission's Public  
22 Advisors Office to provide brief remarks  
23 regarding participation in this proceeding.

24 Ms. Brown, please proceed.

25 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER BROWN

26 Thank you, Judge. Welcome, everyone.  
27 My name is Allison Brown, and I am the Public  
28 Advisor for the Commission. First I want to

1     thank you all for participating today. As  
2     the Judge and Commissioner stated, public  
3     participation and input are essential to the  
4     Commission's decision-making process. This  
5     is your opportunity to be heard, to share  
6     your thoughts on the application with the  
7     administrative law judges and the  
8     Commissioner. If you have questions about  
9     the application or your service, instead of a  
10    comment, please reach out to the Public  
11    Advisors Office at [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov)  
12    or visit the California Public Utility  
13    Commission website or the Southern California  
14    Edison website for more information.

15           Second, if you or anyone else is not  
16    able to make a comment today or if after  
17    hearing comments from others you think of  
18    something you want to share with us, there  
19    are several ways to become involved. If you  
20    wish to find more information on becoming a  
21    party, subscribing to this proceeding so that  
22    you receive emails of any documents that are  
23    filed or submitting comments via e-mail, the  
24    phone or the docket card, as the judge just  
25    described, please go to our website  
26    [cpuc.ca.gov](http://cpuc.ca.gov) or email the Public Advisor.  
27    Again, that email is  
28    [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov). All of the

1 contact information is also available on the  
2 notice that you received for this public  
3 participation hearing.

4 Thank you, and we look forward to  
5 your comments today.

6 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Brown.

7 We will now hear from some of the  
8 parties in this proceeding starting with the  
9 representative from Southern California  
10 Edison and followed by the Public Advocates  
11 Office and The Utility Reform Network. I ask  
12 that each of the party representatives start  
13 by spelling their name for the record.

14 Mr. Snow, you may proceed.

15 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER SNOW

16 Thank you. And good evening. My name  
17 is Doug Snow, D-O-U-G S-N-O-W. I want to  
18 thank Judge Seybert and Judge Park and  
19 Commissioner Shiroma and also thank everyone  
20 for taking time out of your busy schedule and  
21 participating in a very important public  
22 participation hearing today. Again, my name  
23 is Doug Snow, and I am the director of the  
24 general rate case for Southern California  
25 Edison. It is a privilege to be here and  
26 learn from you and listen to your input and  
27 any potential concerns you have regarding our  
28 2021 general rate case. Edison recognizes

1     this proceeding as taking place during  
2     unprecedented times. We understand that many  
3     of our customers and communities are facing  
4     hardships during the COVID-19 pandemic and  
5     may need help with their electric bill. But  
6     SCE has already put into place important  
7     customer protections to address those issues.  
8     If you need more information on these  
9     customer protections, please go to  
10    [sce.com/billhelp](https://www.sce.com/billhelp) for information on  
11    money-saving programs and tools. In  
12    addition, on the line today is also Mr. Jerry  
13    Aguilar from our customer service division.

14           Turning back to this proceeding, we  
15    are currently in the middle of what we refer  
16    to as the discovery period where all parties  
17    to the proceeding are learning more about our  
18    funding proposal. Most recently, we have  
19    heard from the customer advocates, and they  
20    have provided your counter proposals for  
21    reductions to our request. Beginning June  
22    6th, there will be evidentiary hearings so  
23    that the Commission can continue to build its  
24    official record of our request. You know,  
25    it's easy to get caught up in process, but at  
26    the end of the day, the general rate case is  
27    about funding projects, programs and people  
28    to provide you service in a safe and reliable

1 way and improve that service continuously.

2 Our request for funding in this case  
3 covers the work the company needs to do in  
4 2021 through 2024 for SCE workers to inspect,  
5 repair and, when appropriate, upgrade poles,  
6 transformers, distribution lines as well as  
7 provide customer service for billing, service  
8 turn-on, turn-off and other work. The costs  
9 we are requesting -- that we are requesting  
10 pay for the salaries of about 12,000  
11 employees and over 8,000 contractors who  
12 perform all this work, live in your  
13 communities and are often SCE customers  
14 themselves.

15 In this general rate case, our  
16 request mostly includes funding for improving  
17 three things:

18 One, safety. The safety of our  
19 customers and communities we serve as well as  
20 the safety of our workers is the most  
21 important thing. We have undertaken and are  
22 proposing to continue significant efforts to  
23 mitigate the risk of wildfire associated with  
24 our equipment considering more extreme  
25 environmental conditions and accelerating  
26 customer expansion into wildland-urban  
27 interface making the grid safe for those who  
28 live and work near it and for employees who

1 work on it. In addition, keeping the grid  
2 safe from physical or cyber attacks and  
3 keeping the public informed on how to stay  
4 safe around our equipment and electricity in  
5 general.

6 Number two, reliability. The  
7 residents and businesses in our communities  
8 depend on electricity. We have to replace  
9 old equipment, upgrade our system to avoid  
10 outages and prepare for more clean and  
11 distributed energy resources in the state.  
12 When we cannot avoid outages, we want to be  
13 able to bring the power back on quickly and  
14 give you as much information along the way to  
15 minimize the disruption to you.

16 Number three, customer interaction.  
17 We want to make it easy for you to  
18 communicate with us and vice versa, whether  
19 it is about bills, service changes, new solar  
20 panels you want to install, new programs to  
21 save electricity or anything else. We  
22 acknowledge that the increase we are  
23 requesting is larger than what we have sought  
24 in the recent past, but we believe we have  
25 struck a proper balance seeking authorization  
26 for time sensitive public safety measures and  
27 doing what can to reprioritize or scale back  
28 other initiatives that we will leave for



1 future general rate cases. The general rate  
2 case is planning for the future, as I  
3 mentioned, 2021 through 2024. We have to  
4 have adequate funding and make necessary  
5 investments to continue to provide 15 million  
6 Californian's with safe, reliable, clean and  
7 affordable electricity. Those commitments  
8 are grounded in state law, are something that  
9 we take very seriously. Ultimately, the  
10 Commission will decide the appropriate level  
11 of funding after a thorough and rigorous legal  
12 process that includes all stakeholders with  
13 different viewpoints including prominent  
14 consumer advocacy groups.

15 Although our core mission of  
16 providing safe, reliable, clean and  
17 affordable electricity to our customers has  
18 not changed, the company submits its GRC  
19 request in an extraordinarily important  
20 juncture for the state and for our customers.  
21 So that brings us to paying for the work,  
22 your bill. We are very mindful of the impact  
23 of these cost on your bills, and we are  
24 working every day to find ways of reducing  
25 costs so that some of this work can be done  
26 without increasing your bill. Our current  
27 forecast for this proceeding will increase  
28 the average residential bill by about \$13 per

1 month for non-income qualified customers in  
2 '21. The increase would be additional \$5 in  
3 2022 and \$6 in 2023. For about a third of  
4 our residential customers who qualify for the  
5 CARE rate available for lower-income  
6 customers, the increase would be about 30  
7 percent lower. I realize for many of you  
8 this is impactful, but we believe the work we  
9 are proposing strikes a prudent balance  
10 between the essential services we provide to  
11 you and what it costs to provide those  
12 services.

13 We realize any increase in bills can  
14 be challenging, and we have several programs,  
15 tips and tools to help reduce bill impacts  
16 that may come in handy. So please visit  
17 [sce.com/billhelp](http://sce.com/billhelp) for more information on  
18 these resources. Once again, thank you for  
19 attending, and I look forward to hearing your  
20 comments and feedback.

21 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you. Mr. Burns,  
22 are you ready to make a statement on behalf  
23 of Public Advocates Office?

24 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER BURNS

25 Thank you, your Honor. Truman Burns,  
26 T-R-U-M-A-N B-U-R-N-S. Good evening, your  
27 Honors, Commissioner Shiroma and members of  
28 the public. I am Truman Burns, project

1 coordinator for the Public Advocates Office  
2 in response to SCE's 2021 general rate case.  
3 The Public Advocates Office is the  
4 independent consumer advocate at the  
5 California Public Utilities Commission.  
6 Public Advocates Office represents the  
7 interest of the Public Utility customers with  
8 the goal of obtaining the lowest possible  
9 rates for service consistent with safe,  
10 reliable service levels and the state's  
11 environmental goals. ]

12 Our office spent seven months  
13 reviewing and evaluating SCE's GRC proposal  
14 before preparing our recommendations, which  
15 we presented in written testimony on April  
16 10th, 2020.

17 Based on our review and our own  
18 forecast on how much revenue SCE should be  
19 authorized, we found that some of SCE's  
20 forecast of its costs are excessive.

21 In 2021 we recommend that the  
22 Commission reduce SCE's request of an  
23 increase of about \$1.1 billion by more than  
24 half, which would be a \$618 million  
25 reduction.

26 For 2022 we recommend a reduction of  
27 \$180 million of Edison's requested increase  
28 of \$423 million.

1           And in 2023 we recommend a reduction  
2   of \$263 million to SCE's request of an  
3   increase of \$514 million.

4           In addition based on the severe  
5   impacts customers are experiencing due to the  
6   recent economic downturn associated with the  
7   COVID-19 pandemic, the Public Advocates  
8   Office proposed a reduction of \$125 million  
9   to SCE's 2020 capital expenditure budget.

10          Thank you. And we look forward to  
11   public comments.

12          ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you.

13          Ms. Slider Pierre, are you ready to  
14   make a statement on behalf of The Utility  
15   Reform Network?

16          STATEMENT OF SPEAKER SLIDER PIERRE

17                I am. And thank you. Good  
18   afternoon. My name is Constance  
19   Slider-Pierre. C-o-n-s-t-a-n-c-e,  
20   S-l-i-d-e-r P-i-e-r-r-e. I am the organizing  
21   director for TURN, The Utility Reform  
22   Network.

23                TURN is a consumer advocacy  
24   organization that has been challenging  
25   corporate greed and winning consumer  
26   protection for over 40 years. I would like  
27   to first take a moment to thank  
28   Administrative Law Judges Park and Seybert as

1 well as Commissioner Shiroma for the  
2 opportunity to say a few words to welcome  
3 members of the public and to all who have  
4 joined the call to provide comments and bare  
5 witness. I thank you.

6 I do not have to tell any of you  
7 that we are in unprecedented times. The  
8 extreme circumstances of a global pandemic  
9 have skyrocketed unemployment numbers to over  
10 16 percent in California. And according to a  
11 USC study published last month, one in seven  
12 California workers have filed for  
13 unemployment. And in LA County specifically,  
14 only 45 percent of residents report holding a  
15 job.

16 Global protests after the murder of  
17 George Floyd usher in a new day when all of  
18 us are called to examine and act with deeper  
19 awareness of how our actions and decisions  
20 will impact people. The public outcry is  
21 clear and will require all of us to live out  
22 loud and dig deeper to seek fair, equitable,  
23 and just treatment for all our people.

24 TURN stands strong in its belief  
25 that electricity along with food, shelter,  
26 and water are basic necessities and a human  
27 right. We strongly believe that any approved  
28 rate increase at this time is unacceptable

1 and would further cripple the resilience and  
2 inspiring families who are struggling now  
3 more than ever.

4 This request is neither balanced or  
5 prudent. Today's hearing serves as an  
6 opportunity to ensure that the lived  
7 experiences of our community are heard and  
8 accounted for when our public servants  
9 deliberate and make decisions that affect our  
10 daily lives.

11 SCE's latest proposal will increase  
12 residential customers' bills annually from  
13 2020 through 2023. If approved this increase  
14 would be the largest single rate increase any  
15 utility has been granted by the CPUC.

16 This rate increase would stick SCE  
17 customers with the bill for \$600 million in  
18 insurance premiums to protect shareholders  
19 from fires caused by SCE's equipment.

20 It would raise your monthly bill by  
21 \$43, or an average of \$500 annually and  
22 result in SCE customers paying 40 percent  
23 more for energy while shareholders rake in a  
24 whopping \$1.5 billion in profits.

25 TURN's putting these increases to  
26 working hours in (inaudible) economy.  
27 Minimum wage earners would have to work  
28 between six and eight additional hours each

1 month to pay for the same number of kilowatt  
2 hours. Roughly an additional day of shift  
3 work.

4           During your testimony today, I  
5 encourage all of you to use your time to  
6 reflect on your experience as a SCE customer.  
7 Tell the Commission how current energy costs  
8 affects you. What tradeoffs you have been  
9 forced to make. What measures you have had  
10 to take to reduce costs and conserve energy.  
11 And what additional tradeoffs you may be  
12 forced to make if you are required to pay an  
13 additional \$43 per month for energy.

14           Finally, if you haven't already  
15 signed up to speak, please consider doing so.  
16 I hope our statement has provided some  
17 context and inspiration to you so that you  
18 can lift up your voice and be heard today.

19           Thank you.

20           ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you.

21           We would now like to hear from  
22 members of the public. If you want to speak  
23 and have not already done so, I invite you to  
24 press star-one on your phone now and the  
25 operator will add you to the queue of  
26 speakers. Each speaker will be provided  
27 three minutes to provide comments, and a  
28 chime will be sounded when the three minutes

1 is up.

2 A reminder to all public speakers to  
3 please start by spelling your first and last  
4 name for the record. And to ensure that we  
5 have a clean record, speak slowly and clearly  
6 and try to refrain from speaking on a  
7 speakerphone.

8 With that, operator, I ask that you  
9 please call on the first speaker in the  
10 queue.

11 THE OPERATOR: No questions in queue at  
12 this time. Again, if you would like to ask a  
13 question, please press star-one along with  
14 spelling your first and last name.

15 ALJ SEYBERT: Judge Park, I'd like to  
16 give it a few moments to allow the general  
17 public to press star-one if you would like to  
18 provide comment.

19 Thank you.

20 Off the record.

21 (Off the record.)

22 ALJ SEYBERT: Let's go back on the  
23 record.

24 Operator, will you please let in the  
25 first speaker?

26 THE OPERATOR: Lapashin Riles, your  
27 line is open.

28 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER RILES



1           Thank you, everyone for your time,  
2           and thank you for the opportunity to be able  
3           to speak.

4           ALJ SEYBERT: Ms. Riles, I apologize  
5           for interrupting. Will you please spell your  
6           name for the record?

7           SPEAKER RILES: Sure. Absolutely.  
8           Thank you. It's L-a-p-a-s-h-i-n. Last name  
9           Riles, R-i-l-e-s, as in Sam.

10          ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you.

11          SPEAKER RILES: Again, thank you so  
12          very much for taking the time to hear our  
13          comments, and I was hoping there would be a  
14          lot more people on as well. I don't speak  
15          for everyone, but a little bit about me. I'm  
16          a single parent and have a one-person income.  
17          I make about \$16 an hour not including  
18          overtime or anything like that.

19                 We talked about numbers and my  
20          ultimate goal is to reduce my monthly  
21          expenses so that I can afford things like,  
22          you know, for my household other things  
23          except for bills. It seems like all we do is  
24          what's for bills especially when you're under  
25          a certain annual amount a year.

26                 But these increases are going to be  
27          impactful to my home personally because,  
28          again, especially with the COVID-19 thing

1     going on. I have been fortunate to have my  
2     job still, but business has slowed down for  
3     my company in general. So that the overtime  
4     I rely on I don't have. And moving forward,  
5     no one can say how long we're going to be in  
6     this pandemic. So any increase is  
7     detrimental to my household. Whether it be  
8     \$5 or \$34 a month.

9             My ultimate goal is to, you know,  
10    like I said, get these bills reduced as much  
11    as possible because I'm barely making ends  
12    meet.

13            So ideally it will impact my family  
14    negatively whether that be cutting down on  
15    grocery expenses or amenities like, you know,  
16    my candles that I like to buy. You know,  
17    something so small doesn't seem big. But  
18    when you're barely making it work as it is,  
19    every dollar counts. And I do apologize for  
20    getting a little emotional, but it's not a  
21    good time for families.

22            And, again, I don't speak for  
23    everybody. Just for my household now. I'm a  
24    person who isn't on any type of government  
25    assistance. It's really sad to know that  
26    you're barely making it as it is. And you  
27    have to find a way to make ends meet. And  
28    you need electricity. And my son's home from

1 school, so the AC it has to be -- it's  
2 running a little more. So I have to figure  
3 it out and budget that into my prices now. I  
4 am sorry.

5 I just really wish that maybe if  
6 this is something that has to happen, maybe  
7 it come at a more ideal time. It's just not  
8 -- it's just not -- it won't be fair to  
9 random everyday people such as ourselves who  
10 need electricity to survive. But we also  
11 need other things like food and clothes and  
12 shoes for your kids. And we shouldn't have  
13 to be in position where we, kind of, have to  
14 choose or -- you know, choose what bill we're  
15 going to have to, you know, push back or not  
16 pay in full because of a necessity, you know.

17 But I guess that's it. Thank you  
18 very much for your time and allowing me to  
19 speak today.

20 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you for your  
21 comments, Ms. Riles.

22 Operator, will you please call on  
23 the next speaker in queue?

24 And also as a general reminder to  
25 speakers, please spell your first and last  
26 name before you provide comments.

27 Thank you.

28 THE OPERATOR: If you would like to ask

1 a question, please press star-one along with  
2 spelling your first and last name.

3 Our next comment comes from Dr. Pura  
4 Cordero. Your line is open.

5 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER CORDERO

6 Thank you. Can you hear me? Hello.  
7 Are you able to hear me?

8 ALJ SEYBERT: Yes. We hear you. Thank  
9 you.

10 SPEAKER CORDERO: Fabulous. Okay. My  
11 first name is Pura P, as in Paul, u-r-a.  
12 Last name is Cordero, C-o-r-d-e-r-o. And I  
13 live in the Central Valley of California.  
14 I'm from -- a transplant from West Los  
15 Angeles. I'm the director of the legal  
16 studies program here at the university  
17 college. I'm calling on behalf of a  
18 community -- not that they have me as their  
19 speaker representative -- but a community  
20 that has been grossly underserved and  
21 underrepresented for a very long time.

22 We have a lot of farm labor.  
23 Agriculture is one of our biggest industries.  
24 And when Mr. Snow was speaking, I completely  
25 respect his point. We know that it's quite  
26 critical and important to the community to  
27 have utilities. But part of the three-tier  
28 discussion that he presented -- safety,

1 reliability, and interaction with  
2 customers -- that is part of doing business.  
3 When you're looking at that minute amount  
4 that he considers to be \$12 to the  
5 households, that means the people who are not  
6 on CARE qualify for other reductions. That  
7 is \$12 for, I believe, that SCE has over 15  
8 million customers.

9 This is a crippling amount of money  
10 for families who have nothing and a huge  
11 profit and windfall for SCE. So I am only  
12 making a brief comment about -- excuse me.  
13 I'm suffering from a little bit of allergies.

14 And I just want to state that this  
15 would be a gross injustice at this time to  
16 allow this particular increase to people who  
17 are -- as the young lady spoke prior to me --  
18 who are living paycheck to paycheck,  
19 day-to-day.

20 So I'm hoping that you look at this  
21 critically and realize that even though  
22 Mr. Snow is doing his job, it's not about  
23 profiteering at this point. It's about  
24 humanity and taking care of those who have  
25 nothing.

26 Thank you for your time.

27 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Cordero.

28 Operator, will you please queue the

1 next speaker?

2 THE OPERATOR: Our next comment comes  
3 from Viki Avakian. Your line is open.

4 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER AVAKIAN

5 Hi. Can you hear me?

6 ALJ SEYBERT: Yes.

7 SPEAKER AVAKIAN: Hello. Can you hear  
8 me?

9 ALJ SEYBERT: Yes. We hear you.

10 SPEAKER AVAKIAN: My name is Viky,  
11 V-i-k-y. Last name is Avakian,  
12 A-v-a-k-i-a-n. And I do thank everybody for  
13 giving us this opportunity to speak.

14 I do have some concerns about the  
15 amount of money that SCE is trying to raise  
16 the rate by. It is very hard now during  
17 these times. It seems that everybody's  
18 raising their rates because we're not  
19 making -- we're not meeting the goals.  
20 Companies are not meeting the goals.

21 There is a potential layoff that we  
22 are trying to stay above. It makes it very  
23 hard for us to meet SCE recommended rate  
24 raises.

25 I do my laundry after 6:00 o'clock.  
26 I don't over the weekend. I try to turn off  
27 every electricities, pull every plug, so that  
28 my rate doesn't go up too high. I think my

1 next way of living is going to be by  
2 candlelight. It seems like that's where  
3 we're going because SCE keeps raises rates  
4 all the time. And this is way too much raise  
5 for anybody to have.

6 So that's my comment. And thank  
7 you. It is going to be very hard for  
8 everybody to meet that goal for SCE. And I  
9 do appreciate for SCE customer service. And  
10 I know you want to pay your employees'  
11 salary. But at the end of the day, are you  
12 going to be able to help me pay off my  
13 monthly loan on my house? That's the  
14 question for SCE. Are you going to help us  
15 out when we need it?

16 Thank you again.

17 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Avakian.  
18 Operator, please call on the next  
19 speaker.

20 THE OPERATOR: Our next comment comes  
21 from James Turner. Your line is open.

22 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER TURNER

23 Hello. My name is James Turner,  
24 J-a-m-e-s, T-u-r-n-e-r.

25 Excuse me. I hope you can hear me  
26 because I'm suffering from Parkinson's and  
27 it's affected my vocal chords. But I'm  
28 retired, and I have fixed income. If I heard

1 the announcement correctly, the first bump  
2 and raise is going to create a \$1.2 billion  
3 increase in income for SCE, which is a  
4 staggering number.

5 And I simply suggest that if you try  
6 to roll this out over four years, three years  
7 or four years, don't try to make it all on  
8 the first year. Especially at a time when  
9 people have uncertain incomes.

10 But instead of such a huge increase  
11 18 percent in the first year and only  
12 12 percent or so in the second, third and  
13 fourth year, why don't you figure something  
14 out that's more evenly distributed. Since  
15 you're guessing what your needs will be  
16 further down the line. ]

17 It seems to me you're trying to --  
18 at one point, to increase -- initially you're  
19 trying to create a pillow that will give you  
20 a good night's sleep regardless of what  
21 happens in the future. And I recognize you  
22 can't go back to the Commission every year.  
23 A little more prudence on your part would be  
24 helpful to everybody at this time.

25 Thank you for your time and your  
26 consideration for allowing remarks. I hope I  
27 spoke loud enough for everybody to hear.

28 Thank you.



1 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Mr. Turner.

2 Operator, will you please call on  
3 the next speaker. And also, just as a  
4 general reminder, please start by spelling  
5 your first and last name. And if you  
6 wouldn't mind giving your city, location for  
7 our record, that would also be helpful.  
8 Thank you. If you would like to make a  
9 comment, please press star one along with  
10 spelling your first and last name along with  
11 your city and location. Our next question  
12 comes from Berah Taylor. Your line is open.

13 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER TAYLOR

14 Good afternoon. And thank you for  
15 taking public comments. I wish to thank  
16 everybody involved. My name is Berah Taylor.  
17 That's B-E-R-A-H T-A-Y-L-O-R, and I live in  
18 Lake Forest, California.

19 My household's response to this rate  
20 increase since it's several times the rate of  
21 inflation, and I doubt I'm going to see a  
22 commensurate increase in my salary, is that  
23 we're going to have to reduce their  
24 electricity usage. And common sense would  
25 tell me that most people would (inaudible) to  
26 this. And SCE is not going to realize an  
27 income increase from it. They're just going  
28 to realize a reduction in the sale of their

1 product. The second thought that I have is  
2 that electricity really is a basic need in  
3 our society. And if SCE is going to require  
4 rate increases of this magnitude and  
5 especially in times like this, that maybe the  
6 public would be better served if SCE would  
7 make -- instead of a private company, that  
8 maybe it would publicize and taken over by  
9 the government and run by the people and for  
10 the people. And we could take the  
11 shareholders and then the profits and then  
12 their (inaudible) out of the equation and  
13 then maybe we could help people with  
14 supplying this basic need.

15 Again, thank you for listening to  
16 me, and I appreciate the time.

17 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Mr. Taylor.

18 Operator, will you please call on  
19 the next speaker.

20 THE OPERATOR: Next question -- comment  
21 comes from Jerry Miller, Orange County,  
22 California. Your line is open.

23 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER MILLER

24 My name is Jerry Miller, J-E-R-R-Y  
25 M-I-L-L-E-R. I live in Orange, California.

26 I just got off a three-month layoff.  
27 And to go back to work, I had to take a 22.5  
28 percent cut in pay, and I already monitor my

1 electricity. I get your flyers to make --

2 COURT REPORTER HUAMAN: Excuse me,  
3 Judge. This is the court reporter. I need  
4 to go off the record.

5 ALJ SEYBERT: Let's go off the record.

6 (Off the record.)

7 ALJ SEYBERT: Let's go back on the  
8 record.

9 SPEAKER MILLER: Okay. Okay. Well, I  
10 live in Orange, California, and I just got  
11 off a three-month layoff, and to go back to  
12 work, I had to take a 22.5 percent cut in  
13 pay. The COVID-19 really hurt the company,  
14 and for survival (inaudible) you know, cut  
15 needs. And this rate increase (inaudible),  
16 and I'm already always in the top -- it says,  
17 when I get your bills, I'm 30 percent more  
18 efficient than our most efficient neighbors.  
19 And so to cut more electricity to save is  
20 very difficult. And the rate increase is  
21 really going to hurt because I'm already  
22 hurting with the pay cut. And gas prices are  
23 going up. And this is going to be really  
24 hard for the people. I just -- that's it, I  
25 guess. Thank you for your time.

26 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Mr. Miller.

27 Operator, please call our next  
28 speaker, and just a general reminder for all

1 the speakers, please spell your first and  
2 last name and provide your City. Thank you.

3 THE OPERATOR: If you would like to  
4 make a comment, please press star one along  
5 with spelling your first and last name as  
6 well as your city and location. Our next  
7 question comes from Josephine Williams. Your  
8 line is open.

9 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER WILLIAMS

10 Josephine Williams, J-O-S-E-P-H-I-N-E  
11 W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S. Rancho Cucomonga.

12 I'm simply appalled that SCE would  
13 dare ask for such large increases in times  
14 such as these. I just always wonder.  
15 Besides just asking for increases, does SCE  
16 ever look outside the box and come up with  
17 different ways to increase their income.  
18 People are suffering severely especially in  
19 these times, and it is incredible that they  
20 would ask for such a large increase. It's  
21 just not possible. And I hope that Edison  
22 will look outside the box for other ways  
23 rather than having people to struggle even  
24 more.

25 Thank you.

26 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Williams.

27 Operator, please call on the next  
28 speaker.

1           THE OPERATOR: Next comment comes from  
2 James Jackson. Your line is open.

3           STATEMENT OF SPEAKER JACKSON

4           Yes. This is James Jackson. That's  
5 J-A-M-E-S. Jackson, J-A-C-K-S-O-N.  
6 Palmdale, California.

7           My concern I have on your increases  
8 is we're listening to a lot of people that  
9 barely are making ends meet, but when I look  
10 at the executive salaries of SEC (sic), I see  
11 all of them range around about a billion  
12 dollars each. I don't think they are feeling  
13 the pinch that a lot of us do when it comes  
14 to this. Also, when you compare our prices  
15 to that of other states, we are -- we are the  
16 sixth most expensive state in the whole  
17 United States with the cost of electricity.  
18 There is definitely a problem there. I think  
19 that someone needs to really look into the  
20 reasoning why we have to charge so much more  
21 as a state for our electricity as compared to  
22 other states throughout the -- throughout the  
23 country. There's a lot of reasons here as to  
24 why we're saying why do we need another rate  
25 increase when it seems to me there is plenty  
26 of money being made out there right now. And  
27 there's a lot of money that SCE -- that  
28 Edison is making right now. So I think this

1 is not -- and with all of the issues that are  
2 going on right now, I think that the people  
3 you're hearing from -- I think it's very  
4 important to consider the fact that  
5 (inaudible) why do we really need this much  
6 extra money and why should we have to be the  
7 ones carrying such a high burden even  
8 compared with the rest of the nation. It's  
9 kind of concerning -- very concerning there  
10 on that.

11 I think in a lot of ways we should  
12 look at ways that we can do better at our --  
13 our electric costs. I mean, if other states  
14 can do it for half our costs, what's the  
15 issue there? Why can't we find out why we  
16 can't do better and even reduce our rates?

17 So those are my concerns and my  
18 comments based upon what I see Edison's  
19 approach to the way they are doing things.  
20 It just doesn't make a lot of sense  
21 especially at a time right now when  
22 everybody's going through so much struggle  
23 and trouble.

24 So that's my comments. Thank you  
25 for hearing me. Bye.

26 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Mr. Jackson.

27 Operator, please call on the next  
28 speaker.

1 THE OPERATOR: Our next comment comes  
2 from Gavin Ward. Your line is open.

3 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER WARD

4 Good evening. If someone could just  
5 reply to let me know that I'm heard.

6 ALJ SEYBERT: You're coming through.  
7 Thank you.

8 SPEAKER WARD: Great. Thank you.  
9 Gavin Ward, G-A-V-I-N W-A-R-D. Temple City.

10 I just want to acknowledge that  
11 folks have invested in SoCal Edison. Their  
12 investors put down their money to build this  
13 great service and electricity. I want to  
14 acknowledge I appreciate that and understand  
15 as a part of taking on that risk of spending  
16 your own money to build a company, there has  
17 to be a return on investment. And I  
18 acknowledge that. I respect it. And as a  
19 ratepayer myself, I'm okay with Southern  
20 California Edison making a profit since  
21 people have taken a risk to build this  
22 company.

23 My concern is more on the solar  
24 side. I just installed solar on my home, and  
25 based on previous rate models, I was looking  
26 at saving significant money. Unfortunately,  
27 SoCal Edison seen a revenue shortage as more  
28 people turned to solar and generate or use

1 SoCal Edison electricity less. In a way to  
2 generate additional revenue, there are signs  
3 of mandatory fees on folks who may use net  
4 zero electricity. And I understand you need  
5 to find additional revenue streams. My ask  
6 to the State of California is that that is  
7 made very clear on our bills as to the why  
8 behind mandatory fees including one city in  
9 California that I read has a \$65 minimum  
10 charge in a rural part of California. I  
11 don't know if that's true or not. But that's  
12 my ask to the state is that they make our  
13 bills very clear and including us solar  
14 customers who have invested in a product that  
15 may not yield savings in future rate models.  
16 So that's my request to the state and to the  
17 judges that whatever deal you guys come up  
18 with you make the bills very clear and  
19 perhaps on the electric version of the bill a  
20 clickable option to really understand what  
21 each line item is on our bills.

22 Thank you guys for listening. Thank  
23 you for the service that SoCal Edison  
24 provides.

25 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Mr. Ward. A  
26 general reminder that I will continue to  
27 repeat, speakers, please spell your first and  
28 last name when joining and indicate the city



1     you're calling from.

2                   Operator, please call on our next  
3     speaker.

4                   THE OPERATOR: Our next question comes  
5     from Sheila Goldmayor. Our next comment  
6     comes from Sheila Goldmayor. Your line is  
7     open.

8                   ALJ SEYBERT: Ms. Goldmayor, are you  
9     there?

10                  THE OPERATOR: Our next comment comes  
11     from Jeanell Harris. Your line is open.

12                  STATEMENT OF SPEAKER HARRIS

13                  Yes. Hi. This is Jeanell Harris. My  
14     name is spelled Jeanell, J-E-A-N-E-L-L,  
15     Harris, H-A-R-R-I-S. I hope then that I am  
16     being heard. I will move on assuming that.

17                  I speak on behalf of unfortunately  
18     the retired -- I don't want to say  
19     "unfortunate," but the retired. In many  
20     cases, some of us are on fixed incomes. And  
21     this epidemic has affected us and many others  
22     in an enormous way. I am totally in  
23     agreement with Mrs. Riles and as well as Mr.  
24     Williams and many others who have spoken  
25     before as well as the last gentleman who just  
26     spoke how then can SCE help us help them in  
27     thinking outside the box and other ways to --  
28     some companies have gone outside the box and

1 thinking other ways how they can save money,  
2 be creative. They coming up of other ways  
3 that they can find other means to -- I  
4 understand they need revenues in order to  
5 continue to work. But at this particular  
6 time, we all need to think outside of the  
7 box. How then can we get through this  
8 epidemic without causing additional hurt to  
9 those people who are on fixed incomes?

10 And as the young man before spoke,  
11 he's lost 21 percent, I believe, of his  
12 income having to go back to work. And he's  
13 not alone. There are many peoples. We're at  
14 a -- this an extraordinarily difficult time.  
15 Never before have we ever experienced such  
16 things. And then to consider raising the  
17 costs of our electricity, which we all need,  
18 so vital to everyone, I just think we need to  
19 stop and pause a minute. We are dealing with  
20 human beings on the end of this need who  
21 needs this stuff. This is what we need in  
22 order to live. And they are human beings.  
23 These are just not numbers. There are  
24 people, families on the end of this. How  
25 then can we help? And I just think we need  
26 to reconsider that. And I -- that's my take  
27 on that. And I was working part-time. And  
28 due to -- and I had to do that being retired

1 and on a limited income. And that part-time  
2 job was taken away due to the Corona virus.  
3 It was affected extremely. So now it's even  
4 more difficult. And the requirements you  
5 have to live on every day, the food and your  
6 electric bill and your water bill and all  
7 those things still come. But an increase?  
8 It's already difficult enough, but an  
9 increase, it's totally unmanageable. So I  
10 would hope and plead that they will  
11 reconsider to do that.

12 And that's my take on that, and I  
13 appreciate your time. Thank you.

14 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Harris.

15 Operator, please call on the next  
16 speaker.

17 THE OPERATOR: Our next comment comes  
18 from Joyce Cathcart. Your line is open.

19 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER CATHCART

20 Hello. My name is Joyce Cathcart.

21 It's spelled J-O-Y-C-E C-A-T-H-C-A-R-T, and  
22 I'm a 30-year resident of Newport Beach.

23 I'm in the real estate industry, and  
24 obviously, everyone knows how that's  
25 affecting our income pretty substantially for  
26 a long time totally all this year and part of  
27 last year actually. I don't have any  
28 air-conditioning. So I don't use a lot of

1 utilities, but my bills keep go going up.  
2 And I like Mr. Jackson's comment and  
3 suggestion of checking with other states that  
4 are less expensive than we are. If we are  
5 the -- I'm -- we are the most expensive state  
6 that I know of to live in for many things,  
7 gas prices and taxes and groceries. For us  
8 to be the highest priced or within the sixth  
9 highest price of electricity and then have  
10 increases, it doesn't make any -- it doesn't  
11 make any sense to me. I like his idea of  
12 comparing with other states as to what their  
13 success cases -- what are they doing that  
14 we're not doing and analyze that. I'm all  
15 for safety. I think safety is the most  
16 important thing of all the three increments  
17 that was mentioned. But I think that there  
18 must be other ways that we can achieve that  
19 and accomplish that, other sources of  
20 revenue. Are we getting any revenue from the  
21 Federal Government? So I appreciate the  
22 opportunity to talk. I think this increase  
23 amount is very high. It's almost ludicrous.  
24 And I'm still not clear as to what  
25 exactly is going to do -- what this is going  
26 to do for our safety and our customer  
27 interaction. What does that mean? It  
28 doesn't mean a lot to me. But it would if

1     it -- if you were to say that it would mean  
2     that instead of waiting online for 20 minutes  
3     or my bills would be clearer or the calls  
4     would be answered quickly -- you know, I just  
5     had an outing from 4:00 o'clock until 12:00  
6     o'clock at night. And one of the crews came  
7     out, and they said, "Well, we don't know what  
8     it is. We think it might be the switch." So  
9     I asked, "Are you going to fix it?" And they  
10    said, "Well, no because -- the fix-it crew.  
11    We're just in here checking out what it is.  
12    So we think they'll come out pretty soon."  
13    Well, they did pretty soon. But the  
14    equipment seems to be fairly new, and they  
15    keep replacing things. So I'm not satisfied  
16    that we're doing best job we can with what we  
17    have now. I'd like to have more appreciation  
18    for that. And I appreciate everyone's  
19    comments. I agree with most everyone. And  
20    thank you for letting me speak.

21           ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Cathcart.  
22                   Operator, please call on our next  
23    speaker.

24           THE OPERATOR: Okay. As a reminder, if  
25    you would like to make a comment, please  
26    press star one along with spelling your first  
27    and last name as well as your city and  
28    location. Our next comment comes from Ana

1 Devera. Your line is open.

2 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER DEVERA

3 Yes. Hi. I'm sorry. This is Ana  
4 Devera, A-N-A D-E-V-E-R-A, and I live in  
5 Jurupa Valley, California.]

6 Like most people said, this is not  
7 the best time seeing the limit. And most of  
8 the jobs are getting furloughs or having  
9 minimal time to work. And in my case, I have  
10 already a solar panel, but it still doesn't  
11 help because I still have a high (inaudible.)

12 We have to work from home and my  
13 kids have student -- do distant learning. So  
14 I hope you guys take consideration not to do  
15 the increase at this time.

16 Thank you.

17 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you Ms. Sadera.

18 Operator, please call on the next  
19 speaker.

20 THE OPERATOR: The next comment comes  
21 from Shavonda Christmas. Your line is open.

22 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER CHRISTMAS

23 Hello. This is Shavonda Christmas.  
24 S-h-a-v, Victor, o-n, Nancy, d, David, a.  
25 Last name Christmas just like the holiday.  
26 C-h-r-i-s-t-m-a-s.

27 So thanks for allowing me to speak.  
28 I do agree with many of the other speakers,

1 but I come from a different perspective. I'm  
2 fully employed. I have regular bills. I  
3 could afford to pay the fee, the additional  
4 fee that's added. However, I do think that  
5 it is, one, redundant to continue to ask  
6 those who you serve to increase the amount  
7 that they're paying for the same level of  
8 service.

9           You mentioned that this might --  
10 would increase the service, but it really  
11 does not. We still have long delays on phone  
12 calls, and we need response. We still have  
13 wait times that exceed what is quote unquote  
14 normal or necessary for fixes. Things that  
15 need to be repaired or things that need to be  
16 just assessed before it gets repaired as one  
17 of the speakers just noted.

18           It would be very considerate that  
19 you would at least consider the proportion --  
20 a proportional approach to it. So that folks  
21 who can afford to pay more do so. And those  
22 who cannot, pay less. I understand that  
23 there are plans. But those plans are not  
24 adequate when you're talking about increasing  
25 it every single year. And sometimes it seems  
26 more than once a year that notices come out  
27 indicating that there are additional  
28 increases to your SCE bill.

1           Please consider people who are  
2 really just making life work. Consider  
3 people who are really not able to continue to  
4 escalate their bill payment because you are  
5 not the only utility out there. There are  
6 many other utilities and everyone is asking  
7 for their piece of the pie. That said, I  
8 think it's very important that we all look at  
9 why are we using this much energy. Why is  
10 this the case when we are supposed to be  
11 meeting various goals and objectives?

12           And we should not be using as much  
13 as we have in the past and yet the total  
14 amount on the bill never goes down. So if  
15 we're not using as much energy, then why is  
16 the cost of the energy still skyrocketing  
17 except that you are increasing the amount  
18 that it costs per unit.

19           So that's pretty much it. I really  
20 urgently ask you to reconsider and hear the  
21 voices of the people who have spoken and  
22 consider people who haven't spoken because  
23 they don't necessarily know to get to a line  
24 like this and to present their opinions.

25           But please do consider others than  
26 yourselves and other than those who you've  
27 heard commend you for doing what has  
28 typically been done and do it differently.



1 We're looking at systemic racism. This is a  
2 way that you can contribute to eliminating  
3 systemic racism by contributing to households  
4 that have less instead of taking away from.

5 Thank you.

6 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Christmas.

7 A general reminder to all of the  
8 speakers. Please start by spelling your  
9 first and last names and indicate the city  
10 you are calling from.

11 Operator, please call on our next  
12 speaker.

13 THE OPERATOR: Our next comment comes  
14 from Ki Hulley. Your line is open.

15 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER HULLEY

16 Hello, yes. My name Ki Hulley.  
17 That's spelled, K-i. And then last name is  
18 Hulley, H-u-l-l-e-y.

19 And just like everyone else, I am a  
20 single mom with a child that has special  
21 needs. And even listening to the other  
22 comments and everything like that, I have to  
23 charge my cell phone to wait my turn. I'm  
24 also using electricity that way. If there is  
25 an increase with my electricity, it will take  
26 away from even, like, his care or even his  
27 food that he has to eat that's special for  
28 his disability.

1           Also because of the Corona Virus as  
2 well, my job has also decreased whereas I was  
3 getting a nice income before, and then now  
4 it's decreased at least by 15 percent. I  
5 also commute. So even just \$12 or \$5, that  
6 would cause my gas for me to drive to work to  
7 not be able to pay for things such as that.

8           I urge you guys to please at this  
9 time of everybody you need to not increase  
10 it. Maybe just like one other person said,  
11 just go across and do it slowly. Some of us  
12 had to come up with triple the rent by June,  
13 which was totally impossible when we've been  
14 laid off by that time being.

15           I'm a resident of Temecula. I'm  
16 sorry I forgot to say that. I commute all  
17 the way to Oceanside.

18           That's all I have for right now, and  
19 thank you for hearing my comments.

20           ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Hulley.

21           Operator, please call our next  
22 speaker.

23           THE OPERATOR: Our next comment comes  
24 from Wayne Shishido. Your line is open.

25           STATEMENT OF SPEAKER SHISHIDO

26           Hi. My name is Wayne Shishido.  
27 It's W-a-y-n-e. Last name spelled,  
28 S-h-i-s-h-i-d-o. I'm in Westminster,

1 California.

2 I've been laid off, and I'm also  
3 taking care of my mom. It's been pretty  
4 rough, and I've been cutting back on  
5 everything. And every time I cut back on  
6 whatever utilities, on any kind of bill, it  
7 seems like the bills keep on going up. And I  
8 basically cut down as much as I can.

9 When I saw this, I was just shocked.  
10 It's just such a big increase, and you're  
11 planning to do it through three years, and  
12 it's expensive enough to live in California.  
13 And the increases are -- just keep on  
14 happening from everybody.

15 I think you really need to look at  
16 this especially with what's going on with  
17 Corona Virus right now. A lot of people have  
18 lost their jobs. It's hard enough to make  
19 ends meet as it is. And I think it's just --  
20 I think it's just wrong to do the increase  
21 especially at this time, and it's rough as it  
22 is with (inaudible) income. And I appreciate  
23 you letting me speak at this time.

24 Thank you.

25 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Mr. Shishido.

26 Operator, will you please call on  
27 the next speaker?

28 THE OPERATOR: Yes. As a reminder, if

1 you would like to make a comment, please  
2 press star-one along with spelling your first  
3 and last name as well as your city and  
4 location.

5 Our next comment comes from Faban  
6 (phonetic) Morales. Your line is open.

7 SPEAKER MORALES: Is it Faban or  
8 Fabian?

9 THE OPERATOR: Fabian. I'm sorry.

10 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER MORALES

11 That's all right. You know, I was  
12 not going to speak, but I feel as if I need  
13 to. More people should take the opportunity  
14 to speak while we have the chance to do so.  
15 Now Ms. Pierre at the beginning of the  
16 meeting I believe hit the nail right on the  
17 head when she spoke on the topic of corporate  
18 greed.

19 I lived in Florida and worked from  
20 home and ran the AC all day and night, and my  
21 bill never came close to what I'm being  
22 charged here in California. Rates have gone  
23 up regularly in the past five and a half  
24 years I have been back in California. And  
25 they obviously continue to do so.

26 I've been in the aftermarket --  
27 automotive aftermarket for the past 20 years,  
28 and I was released from my unemployment due

1 to the impact of the Corona Virus. I'm going  
2 on four months now. I've not been able to  
3 find a job for the first time in my life.  
4 I've been working since I was 17. I've never  
5 gone through anything like this, and the jobs  
6 that we have in sales in the aftermarket,  
7 there were people with 35 years with the  
8 company. They were just kicked to the curb.  
9 Those jobs will never come back.

10 So I've got two kids at home.  
11 They've suffered a lot with everything going  
12 on with electric rates. I can't run the  
13 air-conditioning. I mean, my air  
14 conditioning is like \$150. To a lot of you  
15 that's probably not a lot. There's people  
16 probably paying \$300 or \$400. But at the end  
17 of the month, that's really an impact and  
18 prices have only gone up.

19 No matter how much I try to reduce  
20 electricity, it just seems like I'm paying  
21 the same amount, you know. I mean, I've gone  
22 as far as to try to reach out to the electric  
23 company and try to figure out who is reading  
24 the meter. I mean, why are my bills  
25 remaining the same when I'm, like, using a  
26 quarter of the electricity I was using when I  
27 first moved back to, you know, California.

28 And, you know, people are suffering

1 right now with the increases. And, you know,  
2 people on fixed incomes, you know. And I  
3 probably won't be able to find a job for  
4 another two, three months. You know, and the  
5 job that I do find will probably pay me less  
6 than half of what I made, you know, with my  
7 company.

8 So I mean, you know, I mean, use  
9 the Florida electric companies' model, you  
10 know, business model. And figure out how it  
11 is that we can do what they're doing.  
12 Because I mean I was not paying not even less  
13 than a quarter of what I pay out here in  
14 California, and I hardly ever use any  
15 electricity.

16 So, you know, like I said, I wasn't  
17 going to take a moment to speak today, but I  
18 felt like I had to when I see so many people  
19 suffering out there. And I just wanted to,  
20 you know, speak a little bit and let you know  
21 what I've been going through.

22 You know, basically that's it for  
23 me. Just people are suffering and the  
24 increases, you know, like I said fixed  
25 incomes just people are going to suffer more.  
26 And it's just corporate greed. That's all it  
27 is. That's it for me. Thank you the  
28 opportunity to speak.

1 Thank you.

2 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Mr. Morales.  
3 Would you mind spelling your first and last  
4 name for our court reporters?

5 SPEAKER MORALES: It's F-a-b-i-a-n,  
6 M-o-r-a-l-e-s.

7 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you.

8 A general reminder for all the  
9 speakers to please spell your first and last  
10 name and indicate the city you are calling  
11 from.

12 Operator, will you please call on  
13 our next speaker.

14 THE OPERATOR: Our next comment comes  
15 from Janet Chu. Your line is open.

16 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER CHU

17 Hi. Can you hear me? Hi can you  
18 hear me?

19 ALJ SEYBERT: Yes. We hear you.

20 SPEAKER CHU: Oh. Hi. Janet Chu,  
21 J-a-n-e-t. Last name, C-h-u. I would just  
22 like to thank you all for giving us the  
23 opportunity to speak and giving the public an  
24 opportunity to let you know what we think  
25 about this.

26 I agree with everybody who has  
27 spoken so far. I think this is just a really  
28 bad time to be increasing rates for everybody

1 especially right now with many people losing  
2 their jobs. People who have to work from  
3 home and using a lot more electricity than  
4 they normally would.

5 And it's just such a big increase  
6 for the first year only \$12. Even though it  
7 doesn't sound like a lot per month, if you  
8 add it up for the year it's a lot.

9 I agree with person who said that,  
10 you know, the executives -- why not look at  
11 the executives and see how much money they're  
12 making compared to the money that their --  
13 that SCE is asking all of the customers to  
14 pay. With their high salaries if they really  
15 cared then, you know, why not look at their  
16 incomes and decrease a little bit. Maybe  
17 they get paid a little bit less, but then  
18 everybody else doesn't have to pay that much.

19 So I just think this is a really bad  
20 time to be increasing rates. And, you know,  
21 I would hope that SCE would think about the  
22 people that they're serving. And just have  
23 some more compassion during this time.

24 Thank you for letting us speak about  
25 this.

26 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Chu.

27 Operator, will you please call on  
28 the next speaker?



1 THE OPERATOR: Our next comment comes  
2 from Rob Gib. Your line is open.

3 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER GIB

4 Hello. Rob, R-o-b. Last, G-i-b.  
5 Mission Viejo.

6 First I'd like to have a question  
7 answered if you could. The first speaker  
8 that had a rebuttal. He was a public  
9 advocacy organization I believe. He  
10 mentioned this rate increase for the first  
11 year. And I don't -- I couldn't understand  
12 what he said.

13 The lady who spoke after him  
14 mentioned that the rate increase would be \$43  
15 a month. Does anybody know what the rate  
16 increase was that that gentleman spoke?

17 ALJ SEYBERT: I believe -- this is  
18 Judge Seybert. I believe the average  
19 residential rate increase for 2021 is around  
20 \$13.

21 And I will note that all of the  
22 parties have submitted -- just submitted  
23 testimony in this proceeding. We're about to  
24 go through evidentiary hearings. And so they  
25 will continue to look at the record, and that  
26 number may adjust as we do so.

27 SPEAKER GIB: Well, I would like to  
28 find out, you know, if there is a comparison

1 because that's a quite a bit of difference.  
2 One person saying \$43, the other is saying  
3 \$13. They're both high. But which one would  
4 be closer to the realistic number?

5           Whatever the number is, I agree with  
6 all of the adjectives mentioned. Nobody has  
7 said "outrageous." I think the rate is  
8 outrageous. And it's (inaudible).  
9 Unfortunately SCE is a monopoly. So, you  
10 know, there's not a lot that can be done to  
11 them other than if somehow the State could  
12 approve and somebody could come forward and  
13 build another source of electrical service.

14           If we could have a comparison so we  
15 could have a choice to see who we would like  
16 to have provide our electricity.

17           Every time I open a bill from SCE,  
18 almost every month I see the terrible leaflet  
19 in it that says they're asking for a rate  
20 increase. And I don't understand why they  
21 are asking for a rate increase practically  
22 every month.

23           They're either terribly inefficient  
24 or they're terribly greedy. They want these  
25 rate increases going on almost every month.  
26 It's just absolutely unbearable.

27           As many people that talked to you  
28 said, and I work with several people who are

1 on a fixed income. Fixed income, Social  
2 Security has only gone up about 1 percent for  
3 the year. That 1 percent would be totally  
4 wiped out multiple times by just this one  
5 increase by the electrical companies. So it  
6 just is unbearable. And it's certainly going  
7 to impact negatively.

8 People on Social Security and all  
9 the thousands -- hundreds of thousands of  
10 people that are -- lost their jobs. Many of  
11 those people spoken already on this media  
12 here. So we really -- I would hope and pray  
13 that there's going to be something that looks  
14 into this seriously, and that there's going  
15 to be a back off into this humongous rate  
16 increase they're asking for.

17 Thank you.

18 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Mr. Gib.

19 Operator, please call on the next  
20 speaker.

21 THE OPERATOR: Our next comment comes  
22 from Beverly McCarthy. Your line is open.

23 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER MCCARTHY

24 Yes. My name is Beverly McCarthy.  
25 B-e-v-e-r-l-y, M-c-C-a-r-t-h-y. I'm in  
26 Highland, California.

27 And my question is -- I have a  
28 question and a comment. Will the Time of

1 Use, TOU, structure be mandated? The bill  
2 structure from going from tier to Time of  
3 Use.

4 ALJ SEYBERT: This is Judge Seybert.  
5 We're not considering the TOU rate as part of  
6 this application.

7 As a more general matter, we're  
8 taking comments today. Unfortunately, due to  
9 voluminous filings in this proceeding, we  
10 won't be able to address all customer  
11 questions.

12 But I do invite you, if you have  
13 questions, to reach out to our public  
14 advisor. That's public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov.

15 SPEAKER McCARTHY: Okay. So I'll make  
16 a comment then. ]

17 I did call into SCE to request to  
18 stay on the tiered model because -- the  
19 tiered bill structure because I'm able to  
20 stay into Tier 1. And if I'm switched to  
21 time of use, which it sounds like it may be  
22 mandated, if that's so, my bill will be  
23 increased by \$40 a month after doing all the  
24 calculators that are online. So if I'm  
25 switched to time of use, that's \$40 there a  
26 month plus these extra traditional \$14 or \$12  
27 this year. So that's around \$53, \$64  
28 increase in a month if people have to be

1 switched over through tiered bill structure  
2 to the time-of-use structure. So I don't  
3 know if everyone is aware of that, but that  
4 will increase bills as well, the time-of-use.

5 Thank you.

6 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. McCarthy.

7 Operator, will you please call on  
8 the next speaker.

9 THE OPERATOR: Our next comment comes  
10 from Guy Roubian. Your line is open.

11 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER ROUBIAN

12 Guy Roubian, G-U-Y R-O-U-B, as in boy,  
13 I-A-N. Ontario, California.

14 I urge the Commission to freeze  
15 Edison rates at least through the 2021  
16 calendar year because of these unprecedented  
17 times and the unknown seriousness of the  
18 state's current downturn. Our state budget  
19 will experience a serious deficit for years  
20 to come, and all state agencies and  
21 departments will be making cuts accordingly.  
22 I don't see why Edison shouldn't be making  
23 cuts also. It is important to remember that  
24 schools -- because of the pandemic, children  
25 will be going to school on a hybrid-type  
26 program, or they will only be going to school  
27 every other day. So to help them with their  
28 learning, they will be home every other day

1 and may need air-conditioning and obviously  
2 lighting -- appropriate lighting, computers.  
3 So families' electrical use is going to  
4 increase significantly for at least this next  
5 school year because of distance learning.

6 So I think freezing the rates at  
7 least through next year would be advantageous  
8 and helpful for families with children.  
9 Edison needs to live within their current  
10 budget because the state and its agency and  
11 many out-of-work people are going to be  
12 making cuts to their budget. I'm only  
13 requesting that the Commission freeze their  
14 rates at this particular time. And remember,  
15 Edison's top three executives total salaries  
16 are over 3 million dollars.

17 Edison urged us to curtail our  
18 energy use so that they could provide service  
19 to everyone. So people bought efficient  
20 air-conditioning. People bought solar. And  
21 now all that work we've done is coming back  
22 to haunt us as Edison now uses that against  
23 us to say they need an increase in rates. I  
24 wish Edison had made this choice on their own  
25 and didn't allow their arrogance and their  
26 greed to come -- force the Commission to make  
27 a decision they shouldn't have to make.  
28 Edison should have seen on their own that

1 this pandemic and the downturn in the  
2 economy, that this was not the time to ask  
3 for such a huge increase or any increase at  
4 all.

5 Thank you for your time. I  
6 appreciate the opportunity to speak to the  
7 Commissioners.

8 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Mr. Roubian.  
9 A gentle reminder for callers that may have  
10 just joined. Before you speak, please spell  
11 your first and last name and indicate the  
12 city that you are calling from.

13 Operator, please call on the next  
14 speaker.

15 THE OPERATOR: Next comment comes from  
16 Wendy Taylor. Your line is open.

17 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER TAYLOR

18 Hi. Thank you so much. My name is  
19 Wendy Taylor. W-E-N-D-Y T-A-Y-L-O-R.

20 So where do I even begin here. I  
21 mean, I'm so disappointed in SCE, and I'm in  
22 full agreement with the gentleman that just  
23 spoke. I tell my husband I was going to get  
24 on here and just bag on corporate greed and  
25 all that. But I think we all know that. I  
26 think that's all very clear here.

27 So what really, really bothers me  
28 the most is that my family has really done

1 everything we've been asked to do. Just like  
2 I've heard other people say too. We have cut  
3 back on everything. We've gotten LED lights.  
4 We've done all the energy-efficient  
5 appliances and all of that. We've cut down  
6 on air-conditioning to the extent where we're  
7 all sweaty all the time and not even using  
8 air-conditioning. And it doesn't help. I  
9 mean, where is the light at the end of the  
10 tunnel. We hear people talking to you, Mr.  
11 Snow, and your colleagues telling you that  
12 they go out and get solar panels and they are  
13 still being way overcharged. I mean, we were  
14 talking about that, and we're just not even  
15 sure that's even going to help anymore.

16 Also, I wanted to talk as a  
17 caregiver, because I am a caregiver. And I  
18 have aging parents. And you know, I went  
19 over to my dad's house, and I -- they live in  
20 Mission Viejo. And I -- I don't think I've  
21 ever seen my dad -- his face like that  
22 because his electricity bill was almost \$400.  
23 And you know, I don't know if he's in the SCE  
24 area. But the point I'm trying to make is  
25 that the elderly and people on fixed income,  
26 they can't run their electricity -- they  
27 can't run their air-conditioning. They  
28 can't, you know, use fans even. They don't



1 watch TV. They just -- they do without so  
2 much already. And to raise rates right now  
3 in the pandemic too, it's just -- it's so  
4 much almost for me. I'm like holding my head  
5 right now because it's just so much to think  
6 of how these executives they -- they can do  
7 this. I mean, I think you guys need to look  
8 inside your own organization there, SCE, and  
9 find other ways. Because you are not helping  
10 us.

11 I personally would really like to  
12 know what percentage of this billions of  
13 dollars of increase that you're looking at in  
14 the next three years is going in your pockets  
15 or to your salaries. I mean, you know, don't  
16 get me wrong. My husband and I live well.  
17 We understand, you know, making a profit just  
18 like a couple of the other people have said.  
19 We get that. But, yeah, when we do  
20 everything you're asking us to do and we're  
21 still just, you know, asked to pay more and  
22 more and more, it just is just unacceptable,  
23 and it just cannot happen. And I would urge  
24 the judge and, you know, everybody else who's  
25 listening here just you cannot let this  
26 happen.

27 There is one other thing I was going  
28 to say. Um, well, anyway, I do appreciate

1 the chance to talk here. I got to tell you  
2 I'm 68 years old. I've lived in the  
3 Saddleback Valley/Orange County area my whole  
4 life. And I've never done this. And I  
5 decided to do this because this just is  
6 unacceptable. And you know, in time of  
7 change, when everybody is looking at change  
8 and systemic racism change and all of that,  
9 you guys -- the executives in this company,  
10 SCE, you need to look harder for a way to  
11 help and make change. You know, I don't  
12 think everyone needs to make \$2-, \$300,000 a  
13 year. You can give up maybe some of that in  
14 just the next two years, maybe take a cut in  
15 just a couple years and help us pay for  
16 whatever it is you need is just a hole other  
17 thing. I don't understand, you know, why --  
18 why this all, you know, has to be done  
19 anyway. The amount of money is staggering.  
20 I can't even write it. It's staggering. And  
21 I'm educated.

22 So anyway, I will -- my last thing  
23 is I also used to -- well, I still do every  
24 now and then -- but I volunteer for an  
25 outreach. And, you know, their business  
26 model was get the homeless before they go  
27 homeless. You need to help these people  
28 before they go homeless. And you know why

1 they were going homeless was because they  
2 could barely afford all of their bills, and  
3 you know -- and then they couldn't eat so  
4 they'd end up at the outreach for food.

5 But you know, if you keep doing  
6 this -- I mean, even my husband and I, who  
7 make good money -- but you keep doing this  
8 and doing this and doing this, you're pushing  
9 people into their cars is the bottom line  
10 here is what's going to happen to a lot of  
11 people. I mean, you know, they just can't  
12 afford these rates.

13 So I would urge you not to do this  
14 in this time especially -- wait it out. Give  
15 it three years. Find a way to make it work  
16 for three years, and then revisit it.

17 Thank you very much - - -

18 COURT REPORTER HUAMAN: Excuse me.  
19 This is the court reporter. Can I get the  
20 location of that last speaker, please.

21 SPEAKER TAYLOR: I am in Lake Forest,  
22 California.

23 COURT REPORTER HUAMAN: Thank you.

24 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Taylor.

25 Operator, please call on the next  
26 speaker.

27 THE OPERATOR: It comes from Tony  
28 Fryer. Your line is open.

1 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER FRYER

2 Thank you for taking my call. And oh,  
3 boy. I liked the last speaker. She didn't  
4 know where to start. I just made a couple of  
5 notes.

6 ALJ SEYBERT: Mr. Fryer --

7 SPEAKER FRYER: T-O-N-Y F-R-Y-E-R, like  
8 in chicken, calling from Mammoth Lakes. Can I  
9 continue?

10 ALJ SEYBERT: Yes, please.

11 SPEAKER FRYER: Sorry. I apologize.  
12 Okay. I'm on a fixed income. It's social  
13 security. I've been on it now for two years.  
14 It's been brought up before. The social  
15 security went up 1.6 percent. SoCal Edison  
16 is looking at, what, 10 percent, 13 percent,  
17 something -- some number, which a gentleman  
18 earlier had said, "Well, that just eats up  
19 whatever social security paid." I get the  
20 feeling -- and this is something I've voiced  
21 with regard to bond issues that seemed to pop  
22 up -- we just want 60 more dollars a year.  
23 It's like going out to dinner once in a while  
24 with your wife. \$60 is a lot of money today,  
25 and I pleaded with the politicians, in this  
26 case, "Please don't bleed us dry." Not  
27 everybody is working in Silicon Valley, and I  
28 don't begrudge anybody who is. But I'm

1 concerned that, as has been voiced earlier,  
2 the rate increases seem to be, "Well we're  
3 just going to do another rate increase." And  
4 yet where I live in Mammoth Lakes surrounded  
5 by trees, it looks like the money that these  
6 rate increases have paid in the past didn't  
7 go to maintaining the infrastructure. So a  
8 gentleman earlier had said, "Postpone the  
9 increase for at least a year." I would  
10 mirror that and also say and revisit how you  
11 are maintaining your equipment and show us  
12 after a year that you're paying clients what  
13 improvements you've made to your  
14 infrastructure that can save money.

15 On a side note, the disastrous tree  
16 chopping that's been done, I just hope you  
17 stop that or hire an arborist. Spend some  
18 money there. Do it right. And then I'm just  
19 going to close with it's like the cable  
20 companies. They just keep raising the rates.  
21 And why are you raising the rates? Well,  
22 we're improving the infrastructure. And it's  
23 been voiced on this call earlier. We're not  
24 seeing these changes or we're making  
25 adjustments to a refrigerator Energy Star.  
26 We are putting solar panels up. We're doing  
27 everything that you're telling us to do, and  
28 yet if our bills keep going up, I want to

1 know where is the money being spent? I don't  
2 begrudge any executive for making a lot of  
3 money. Good for them. But is it greed? Or  
4 is it incompetence that's going on where the  
5 mismanagement of the money that's coming in,  
6 like a gas tax, supposed to repair the roads.  
7 Our roads are terrible. We got to increase  
8 the gas tax. I just -- I'm mirroring what  
9 the lady said before. Just hold off. Give  
10 it a year. Or the gentleman before. But  
11 don't do the increase. Actually, show us in  
12 a year what improvements you made to justify  
13 perhaps an increase like along the lines of  
14 social security, 2 percent, but not 10  
15 percent.

16 Thank you very much for your  
17 patience. I'm a little nervous. I'm also --  
18 first time I've called, but I'm getting fed  
19 up here. And please don't bleed us dry.

20 Thank you again. Goodnight.

21 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Mr. Fryer.

22 A gentle reminder again for those  
23 who wish to speak, please start by spelling  
24 your first and last name and indicate the  
25 city that you are calling from.

26 Operator, please call on the next  
27 speaker.

28 THE OPERATOR: Our next comment comes

1 from Ember Wyman. Your line is open.

2 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER WYMAN

3 Hello. My name is Ember Wyman. That's  
4 E-M-B-E-R W-Y-M-A-N. I'm from Ventura,  
5 California. V-E-N-T-U-R-A.

6 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you. Please  
7 proceed.

8 SPEAKER WYMAN: I just wanted to call  
9 in and reiterate what all of these callers  
10 are saying tonight. I just can't believe the  
11 crippling amount to families this exponential  
12 increases SCE is proposing, and I hope that  
13 you will consider all of these people that  
14 are just pleading with you to not allow this  
15 to happen. I don't believe that the  
16 expenditures are being utilized in the proper  
17 manner. And with everything that's happening  
18 right now in the world with the pandemic, I  
19 just feel like the extra cost to families is  
20 going to be -- it's just going to cripple  
21 people. COVID-19 has dropped my family's  
22 income. And the cost of utilities should not  
23 be rising at this time of financial crisis.

24 These -- I just thank you for  
25 allowing us to all speak, and I hope that you  
26 will take all of our thoughts into  
27 consideration and our concerns and worries  
28 for our families, that the students today who

1 are having to have their distance learning at  
2 home is going to seriously increase the  
3 amount of electricity use for our families.  
4 And I just -- I just don't know how people  
5 are going to make it.

6 So I appreciate your time and  
7 consideration. Thank you.

8 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Wyman.

9 Operator, will you please call on  
10 the next speaker.

11 THE OPERATOR: Our next comment comes  
12 from Michael Negrete. Your line is open.

13 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER NEGRETE

14 Oh. Hi. Thank you for taking my call.  
15 I just wanted to spell my name. So it's  
16 Michael. It's M-I-C-H-A-E-L. Last name is  
17 Negrete, spelled N-E-G-R-E-T-E. I'm calling  
18 you from Whittier, California.

19 Pretty much just reiterating as far  
20 as what's going on apparently. And I'm  
21 wondering just -- Southern California Edison  
22 is asking us to pay for upgrades, and they  
23 are a public utility for the public. It's  
24 more of a question that they are serving us.  
25 But I think they are serving themselves. For  
26 example, if you have your home and you need  
27 to repair your roof or something, you better  
28 start saving some money or take a loan out to



1 replace those items. And we buy energy  
2 efficient appliances, lights. We cut back on  
3 our electricity use but still our rates go  
4 up. And just like the other gentlemen said,  
5 instead of hearing that they need to increase  
6 their rates, I don't think we've ever heard  
7 that they've made cost savings to serve us.

8 And with the solar panel issues, I  
9 know we have thought about applying those to  
10 our home. We have a fairly large rooftop,  
11 and I guess you're limited to the amount of  
12 solar panel you can put up, and I ask the  
13 question why. And I guess if you were to  
14 have more solar panels placed, the additional  
15 electricity that you would generate, you  
16 wouldn't be able to really accrue any profit  
17 from it. So you're limited to the size of  
18 solar panels being placed. And it doesn't  
19 seem quite right if you're going to pay for  
20 something to be placed up there and -- with  
21 your money. Why not just add some more and  
22 maybe you can get a refund, like they were  
23 promoting from the -- I guess like Edison  
24 Company, you would get actually compensated a  
25 small amount. But I don't believe that's  
26 happening.

27 And Southern California Edison was  
28 the primary supplier of Southern California

1 for electricity. So, therefore, they  
2 captured pretty much all the electric  
3 ratepayers in this area, Southern California.  
4 ]

5 And due to the -- pretty much the  
6 primary electric company that's here is  
7 Southern California Edison. They also have,  
8 of course, benefits for their employees. And  
9 from what I understand their own employees  
10 get a break. They get 20 to 25 percent if  
11 they're within their service area on their  
12 electric bill, and they work for Southern  
13 California Edison.

14 And maybe they should look into a  
15 way of saving by removing that from their  
16 employees. And also just like the others  
17 have said maybe holding those bonuses,  
18 holding pay increasing, go lean for a bit,  
19 run lean. Maybe you even have to lose some  
20 positions like other companies have been  
21 doing.

22 And so that's pretty much all I have  
23 to say. Just kind of a little different than  
24 what I've heard. But also the same of what  
25 I've heard. It's not the right time. It's  
26 too much to be asking for, and we'd like to  
27 see where the money's actually going before  
28 they ask for more.

1           And that's all I have to say, and  
2           thank you for the time.

3           ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you.

4           Operator, will you please call on  
5           the next speaker?

6           THE OPERATOR: Our next comment comes  
7           from David Berger. Your line is open.

8           STATEMENT OF SPEAKER BERGER

9           Is that David Berger?

10          ALJ SEYBERT: Yes, please.

11          SPEAKER BERGER: David Berger,  
12          D-a-v-i-d. Berger, B-e-r-g-e-r. Irvine,  
13          California.

14                 I just want to reiterate going from  
15          -- scale down these comments. I was  
16          astounded when I got this letter, which is  
17          why I'm calling in, why I'm listening in to  
18          this thing today.

19                 I ask what other business has made  
20          these kinds of rate increases at any time,  
21          but especially now at this time. I'm  
22          astounded that they're able to do so. And  
23          we're a captive audience from what I can  
24          tell. Although, I have been to places where  
25          electricity is a commodity and sold  
26          competitively. That doesn't appear to be the  
27          case here in Southern California. Maybe that  
28          needs to be re-looked at. Because I think if

1 this was a competitive bid, we wouldn't be  
2 seeing this.

3 I really question how they've looked  
4 at cutting their cost and what they're going  
5 to do to be competitive. But if they're not  
6 competitive because they don't have to be,  
7 then what's the motivation?

8 I would ask them to review lowering  
9 the cost. I would say in this unprecedented  
10 time, they shouldn't be increasing rates at  
11 all. And to increase them to the rates  
12 they're proposing, and I'm astounded they'd  
13 even have the balls to propose it.  
14 Absolutely ridiculous.

15 You need to find a way to make this  
16 work. And as the lady earlier on, whose name  
17 I didn't catch, quite correctly said that  
18 this is going to increase our homeless  
19 problem that we already have in Southern  
20 California.

21 Thank you for my time.

22 ALJ SEYBERT: Operator, please call our  
23 next speaker.

24 THE OPERATOR: Our next comment comes  
25 from Vicky Avakian. Your line is open.

26 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER AVAKIAN

27 It's actually Christine Avakian,  
28 C-h-r-i-s-t-i-n-e A-v-a-k-i-a-n, from Los

1 Angeles. You can hear me, right?

2 ALJ SEYBERT: Yes.

3 SPEAKER AVAKIAN: So I just want to  
4 start off by saying, like, everyone has  
5 really great points. And I just want to  
6 thank everybody for speaking. Like,  
7 literally I'm just sitting here thinking,  
8 "Yeah, that's a great point. Yeah, that's a  
9 great point."

10 And just reiterating some of the  
11 things that other people have said. Like  
12 14.4 percent, that's a lot. I really just --  
13 I don't even understand the reasoning behind  
14 that, and I would like to.

15 I mean everyone is at home right now  
16 using electricity. People are working from  
17 home. Someone brought up the fact that  
18 schools are going to be doing hybrid  
19 schedules. People in college are going to be  
20 doing the same thing.

21 So I just don't understand why you  
22 are going to be raising the prices when  
23 people are going to be using electricity  
24 more. I mean it seems really crooked to be  
25 honest.

26 Like, the reasoning behind it is  
27 better customer service. Personally I don't  
28 care. I'll wait on hold and not take this

1     increase if I was given the choice. That's  
2     fine. I don't really care about the customer  
3     service. I mean, I would rather keep my  
4     money.

5             And just that I know some people  
6     have brought it up already, but we've done  
7     everything you guys have asked. Setting our  
8     thermostats super high. Even though it's hot  
9     and sweating, like, in the California sun.  
10    And using the electricity only during certain  
11    times of the day, not washing during the  
12    daytime, all this stuff. And now you just  
13    want to come with a outright raise of  
14    14.4 percent?

15            You can't do it gradually or less or  
16    maybe at a different time? People are  
17    literally struggling to survive. And all you  
18    care about is lining your pockets. I mean, I  
19    don't understand it. Like, what about the  
20    low-income families? What about people who  
21    have been laid off? Like, what are they  
22    going to do? Literally sit in the dark with  
23    no electricity? You're going to make people  
24    homeless.

25            To be honest, like, when we're going  
26    into a recession, it doesn't make sense to  
27    raise the price of things that could stay the  
28    same. Because then people aren't going to be

1 spending money on anything besides them  
2 bills.

3 If you understand economics then you  
4 know that will create a worse situation that  
5 we're already in. And honestly, I mean, you  
6 should just be ashamed. All these people  
7 have to get on here and scold you like you're  
8 children. It's embarrassing. I would be in  
9 hysterics if I was you.

10 And I think that's everything.

11 Thank you.

12 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Ms. Avakian.

13 Operator, will you please call on  
14 the next speaker?

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your Honor, the  
16 next speaker is Richard Orona.

17 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER ORONA

18 Hello, your Honor. This is Richard  
19 Orona, R-i-c-h-a-r-d, O-r-o-n-a. From  
20 Winchester, California.

21 Like a few others, this is actually  
22 my first time joining a forum and speaking.  
23 And as others have stated, this is just poor  
24 timing.

25 I am one of two children that have  
26 had to study from home. I actually have a  
27 degree. I like others have changed out all  
28 my lights to LED. I try to run my air

1 conditioner as little as possible. I use a  
2 smart power strip to reduce my consumption.  
3 And just like all others, my bill keeps going  
4 up.

5 I have tried to look at solar, and I  
6 just can't afford it right now. I'd rather  
7 have solar. Now the evening rates are higher  
8 than even my regular rate.

9 So I just think this is ill timed  
10 like others. I do agree that companies do  
11 have a right to make a profit. Just like the  
12 company I work for, those profits should be  
13 put back into the company at times. Not  
14 always to big bonuses for the execs.  
15 Although, yes. They and their employees do  
16 deserve them. I do get bonuses.

17 The company I work for always tries  
18 to make things cheaper as possible for our  
19 customers. So I know it's just a repeat of  
20 everything that's been said. But thank you  
21 for the time. You have a good evening.

22 ALJ SEYBERT: Thank you, Mr. Orona.

23 I believe that includes all of the  
24 speakers who signed up to speak today. If  
25 anyone would to like to provide additional  
26 input or comments after this hearing, you may  
27 submit written comments on the docket card  
28 for this proceeding, which can be found on



1 the Commission's website at  
2 [www.cpuc.ca.gov/SCE2021GRCPublicComments](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/SCE2021GRCPublicComments).

3 If you need assistance with  
4 providing additional comments, please contact  
5 the Commission's Public Advisor Office. That  
6 concludes this evening's public participation  
7 hearing. Thank you all for your input and  
8 comments.

9 We will now be off the record.

10 (Off the record.) ]

11 (Whereupon, at the hour of 7:49 p.m.  
12 this matter having been continued to  
13 2:00 p.m. July 1, 2020, the Commission  
then adjourned.)

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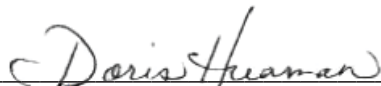
BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDING

I, DORIS HUAMAN, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER  
NO. 10538, IN AND FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DO  
HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE PAGES OF THIS TRANSCRIPT  
PREPARED BY ME COMPRISE A FULL, TRUE, AND CORRECT  
TRANSCRIPT OF THE TESTIMONY AND PROCEEDINGS HELD IN  
THIS MATTER ON JUNE 30, 2020.

I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE  
EVENTS OF THE MATTER OR THE OUTCOME OF THE PROCEEDING.

EXECUTED THIS JULY 06, 2020.

  
DORIS HUAMAN  
CSR NO. 10538

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDING

I, JASON STACEY, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER  
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HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE PAGES OF THIS TRANSCRIPT  
PREPARED BY ME COMPRISE A FULL, TRUE, AND CORRECT  
TRANSCRIPT OF THE TESTIMONY AND PROCEEDINGS HELD IN  
THIS MATTER ON JUNE 30, 2020.

I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE  
EVENTS OF THE MATTER OR THE OUTCOME OF THE PROCEEDING.

EXECUTED THIS JULY 06, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JAS STACEY', written over a horizontal line.

JASON A. STACEY  
CSR NO. 14092

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<b>\$</b>		<b>10</b> 20:17 32:9 86:25 89:12 96:19 164:16 166:14	<b>2019</b> 5:13,20 47:10,12 49:22 89:5,13,15 101:13,18
<b>\$1.18</b> 89:24,28	<b>\$400,000</b> 73:7		
<b>\$1,000</b> 34:1 36:3	<b>\$423</b> 115:28	<b>10.1</b> 27:3	
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<b>\$1,600</b> 33:27	<b>\$486</b> 10:16	<b>12</b> 46:12 49:22 57:27 128:12	<b>2021</b> 9:2 10:15,20,26 15:18 17:20 20:4,21 27:3 28:23 35:28 64:11, 28 104:27 106:11,15,20 109:28 111:4 113:3 115:2,21 153:19 157:15
<b>\$1,900</b> 33:28	<b>\$5</b> 10:27 18:22 106:21 114:2 122:8 146:5	<b>12,000</b> 15:25 111:10	
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<b>\$1.2</b> 10:14 128:2	<b>\$500,000</b> 73:7	<b>12:00</b> 141:5	
<b>\$1.5</b> 118:24	<b>\$503</b> 10:16	<b>12th</b> 49:26	
<b>\$10</b> 59:5	<b>\$514</b> 116:3	<b>13</b> 164:16	<b>2022</b> 9:2 10:16,26 18:23 20:25 26:5 104:27 106:12,20 114:3 115:26
<b>\$100</b> 34:25 61:16	<b>\$53</b> 156:27	<b>14</b> 79:14	
<b>\$1000</b> 31:9	<b>\$6</b> 11:1 18:23 106:23 114:3	<b>14.4</b> 47:25 48:1	<b>2023</b> 9:2,10 10:17,28 18:23 20:27 23:26 26:6 104:27 105:7 106:12,22 114:3 116:1 118:13
<b>\$12</b> 57:22 58:25 90:1 125:4,7 146:5 152:6 156:26	<b>\$60</b> 164:24	<b>15</b> 17:23 77:16 113:5 125:7 146:4	<b>2024</b> 9:8 15:18 17:20 105:5 111:4 113:3
<b>\$12.71</b> 10:25 106:19	<b>\$600</b> 33:26 118:17	<b>16</b> 22:23 47:20 117:10	
<b>\$125</b> 116:8	<b>\$618</b> 115:24	<b>16th</b> 47:13 49:23,24	<b>2030</b> 91:7,8 92:1 96:28
<b>\$13</b> 18:20 113:28 153:20 154:3	<b>\$64</b> 156:27	<b>17</b> 149:4	<b>21</b> 14:8 18:22 114:2 138:11
<b>\$14</b> 156:26	<b>\$65</b> 136:9	<b>1752</b> 65:24	<b>21,000</b> 71:24,25
<b>\$150</b> 149:14	<b>\$7.55</b> 10:20	<b>18</b> 89:18,23 128:11	<b>22.5</b> 130:27 131:12
<b>\$16</b> 121:17	<b>\$75</b> 76:15	<b>18.1</b> 10:21 106:15	<b>25</b> 77:16 170:10
<b>\$180</b> 115:27	<hr/>	<b>180</b> 20:26	<b>263</b> 20:28
<b>\$2-</b> 162:12	<b>(</b>	<b>19-08-013</b> 4:11,26 39:18 100:11	<b>27</b> 73:4
<b>\$2.45</b> 50:1	<b>(626)</b> 34:13 42:27	<b>194,000</b> 28:23	<b>2:12</b> 4:2
<b>\$2.65</b> 47:15 49:27	<hr/>	<b>1978</b> 5:15 101:15	<hr/>
<b>\$20</b> 46:15	<b>0</b>	<b>1999</b> 5:15,25 101:15,18, 24	<b>3</b>
<b>\$263</b> 116:2	<b>0</b> 64:10		
<b>\$3</b> 70:15	<b>0283</b> 34:16	<hr/>	<b>3</b> 17:4 86:25 158:16
<b>\$300</b> 32:19 36:2 76:17 149:16	<hr/>	<b>2</b>	<b>3,200</b> 11:27 107:18
<b>\$300,000</b> 162:12	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 16:22 38:9 39:9 87:1 166:14	<b>30</b> 4:2 18:27 87:12 114:6 131:17
<b>\$34</b> 122:8	<b>1</b> 16:4 22:25 38:13,14 64:10 155:2,3 156:20	<b>2.8</b> 89:15	<b>30-year</b> 139:22
<b>\$4.15</b> 89:7	<b>1.1</b> 20:23		<b>300</b> 66:1
<b>\$4.5</b> 73:2	<b>1.2</b> 106:10	<b>20</b> 5:15,20,21 101:15,21 141:2 148:27 170:10	<b>302-0283</b> 42:28
<b>\$4.70</b> 89:6	<b>1.25</b> 87:3	<b>2014</b> 28:19	<b>302-0828</b> 34:14
<b>\$40</b> 156:23,25	<b>1.5</b> 24:8 89:13		<b>32.8</b> 89:10

<b>35</b> 149:7	<b>70-year-old</b> 96:12	26	<b>added</b> 143:4
<hr/> <b>4</b> <hr/>	<b>700,000</b> 80:23	<b>AC</b> 51:17 61:17 66:10 72:21 123:1 148:20	<b>adding</b> 61:11
<b>4.08</b> 47:16 49:21,28	<b>70s</b> 90:18	<b>accelerating</b> 16:12 111:25	<b>addition</b> 11:21 16:17 21:2 64:6 74:24 87:14 93:25 94:10 107:13 110:12 112:1 116:4
<b>40</b> 24:7 28:19 87:11,13 93:23,25 116:26 118:22	<b>72-year-old</b> 70:13	<b>accept</b> 35:9	<b>additional</b> 10:15,26 18:22 24:12,14,22,24 28:25 63:27 82:16,21, 28 87:12 106:11,20,22 114:2 118:28 119:2,11, 13 136:2,5 138:8 143:3, 27 169:14
<b>418</b> 26:2	<b>75</b> 73:10	<b>acceptable</b> 96:12	<b>address</b> 9:17 14:16 21:21 38:4 42:26 44:3 58:24 105:14 110:7 156:10
<b>423</b> 20:27	<b>7:00</b> 76:2	<b>accepted</b> 38:13	<b>addressed</b> 40:10 75:17 96:17,25
<b>45</b> 22:28 117:14	<hr/> <b>8</b> <hr/>	<b>access</b> 38:19 94:7	<b>addressing</b> 77:4
<b>486</b> 106:11	<b>8,000</b> 15:26 111:11	<b>accident</b> 31:14	<b>adequate</b> 17:21 29:9 71:12 84:16 113:4 143:24
<b>4:00</b> 72:14 141:5	<b>85</b> 71:25	<b>accommodate</b> 67:26	<b>adequately</b> 68:7
<b>4:22</b> 99:10	<hr/> <b>9</b> <hr/>	<b>accompanying</b> 27:15	<b>adjectives</b> 154:6
<hr/> <b>5</b> <hr/>	<b>90</b> 87:11,14	<b>accomplish</b> 140:19	<b>adjourned</b> 99:11
<b>5.48</b> 26:4	<b>92234</b> 59:21	<b>account</b> 26:14	<b>adjust</b> 153:26
<b>500</b> 71:23	<b>92407</b> 41:20	<b>accountable</b> 96:9	<b>adjustment</b> 64:11
<b>501(c)(3)</b> 25:24	<b>9:00</b> 72:14 76:2	<b>accounted</b> 23:21 118:8	<b>adjustments</b> 64:7 80:4,7 165:25
<b>503</b> 106:12	<hr/> <b>A</b> <hr/>	<b>accrue</b> 169:16	<b>administration</b> 73:4 77:11
<b>514</b> 21:1	<b>A-G</b> 63:6	<b>accustomed</b> 68:19	<b>administrative</b> 4:4,13 6:16,17 22:14 80:28 100:4,13 108:7 116:28
<b>534</b> 26:5	<b>A-G-U-I-L-A-R</b> 34:9 63:5,8	<b>achieve</b> 29:20 140:18	<b>administrators'</b> 74:10
<hr/> <b>6</b> <hr/>	<b>A-I-L-E-Y</b> 61:3	<b>acknowledge</b> 17:10 112:22 135:10,14,18	<b>adopt</b> 8:18,20 104:14, 16
<b>6.64</b> 26:6	<b>A-L-L-I-S-O-N</b> 92:11	<b>acknowledging</b> 6:23 102:21	<b>adopted</b> 9:4 104:28
<b>60</b> 164:22	<b>A-N-A</b> 142:4	<b>acquiesce</b> 74:1	<b>Adrian</b> 93:8,12
<b>600</b> 24:2	<b>A-N-D-E-R-S-O-N</b> 52:14	<b>act</b> 23:4 31:24 35:3 117:18	<b>advantage</b> 67:23
<b>618</b> 20:24	<b>A-R-T-H-U-R</b> 71:8	<b>action</b> 68:18	<b>advantageous</b> 158:7
<b>626 302-0283</b> 34:11,15 56:25 63:1	<b>A-R-Z-O-M-A-N-D</b> 47:8	<b>actions</b> 23:5 117:19	<b>advisor</b> 12:3,10,26
<b>68</b> 162:2	<b>A-V-A-K-I-A-N</b> 126:12 172:28	<b>actively</b> 25:27	
<b>6:00</b> 99:2,11 100:1 126:25	<b>AARP</b> 80:21 81:19 82:1	<b>activities</b> 8:9 26:28 27:28 28:5 104:6 105:11	
<b>6th</b> 15:7 110:22	<b>abhorrent</b> 48:7 54:3	<b>activity</b> 9:14 27:11	
<hr/> <b>7</b> <hr/>	<b>ability</b> 26:11 59:28 72:24 79:5	<b>actual</b> 8:3 27:7 33:14 81:14 103:28	
<b>7</b> 22:25	<b>absolutely</b> 31:22 32:6 55:24 74:19 121:7 154:26 172:14	<b>acumen</b> 84:1	
<b>7.55</b> 106:15	<b>abundance</b> 79:22,25,	<b>add</b> 29:13 30:2 55:26 73:16 119:25 152:8 169:21	
<b>7.625</b> 26:4			

82:23 107:28 108:26 156:14	<b>agrees</b> 63:24	172:22	<b>appalled</b> 132:12
<b>Advisor's</b> 101:3 103:14	<b>agricultural</b> 5:18 101:17	<b>allergies</b> 125:13	<b>apparently</b> 46:22 168:20
<b>Advisors</b> 5:5 7:17 107:22 108:11	<b>agriculture</b> 48:5 124:23	<b>Allison</b> 7:16 12:2,9 92:7,10 101:3 103:13 107:21,27	<b>applauds</b> 27:19
<b>advocacy</b> 18:4 113:14 116:23 153:9	<b>Aguilar</b> 14:21 34:8 36:1,7 42:25 56:13,22 61:16 62:24,28 83:16 110:13	<b>allowed</b> 10:1 105:25	<b>apple</b> 30:24,25 93:13, 14,16
<b>advocate</b> 15:4 20:5 115:4	<b>ahead</b> 39:3	<b>allowing</b> 52:16 58:21 123:18 128:26 142:27 167:25	<b>appliances</b> 78:3 160:5 169:2
<b>advocates</b> 13:15 19:21 20:3,4,7 21:5 94:27 109:10 110:19 114:23 115:1,3,6 116:7	<b>air</b> 5:14,15 55:15 91:22 101:14,15 149:13	<b>alternate</b> 8:20 104:16	<b>application</b> 4:9,11,26 7:13 8:25 9:12,21 10:9 11:23 26:1 39:18 45:18 84:21,22 100:9,11 103:10 104:22 105:9,17 106:5 107:15 108:6,9 156:6
<b>advocating</b> 25:26	<b>air-conditioning</b> 64:1 66:6 139:28 149:13 158:1,20 160:6,8,27	<b>alternative</b> 91:13	<b>applications</b> 90:24 91:3
<b>affect</b> 23:22 24:19 59:28 60:16 118:9	<b>airlines</b> 44:11	<b>amenities</b> 122:15	<b>applied</b> 27:14
<b>affected</b> 51:21 127:27 137:21 139:3	<b>Albeit</b> 65:25	<b>American</b> 96:20	<b>applying</b> 169:9
<b>affecting</b> 26:17 139:25	<b>alert</b> 7:25 103:22	<b>amount</b> 8:13 32:18 44:1 47:28 48:14 57:22 60:6 104:10 121:25 125:3,9 126:15 140:23 143:6 144:14,17 149:21 162:19 167:11 168:3 169:11,25	<b>appointed</b> 5:11,17 8:6 101:11,16 104:3
<b>affects</b> 119:8	<b>Aliso</b> 55:11	<b>amounts</b> 44:6 79:28 87:23 92:22	<b>appointment</b> 5:13 101:13
<b>afford</b> 26:12 56:20 64:2 72:16,26 93:23 94:1 121:21 143:3,21 163:2, 12	<b>alive</b> 56:9	<b>Ana</b> 141:28 142:3	<b>appreciated</b> 60:21
<b>affordable</b> 17:24 18:7 113:7,17	<b>ALJ</b> 6:22 13:1 19:19,23 21:18,24 22:1,7 25:1,7, 19 29:25 30:18,20 34:3, 15 35:17 36:11,25,28 38:2 39:11 40:1,18,20 41:10 42:23 45:15 46:27 49:3 51:2 52:5,21 53:15 55:2 56:11,21,27 57:6,9,18 58:23 59:8,10 60:20 62:5,28 63:4,8,10 65:5 67:4 69:10,16 70:28 74:15 75:6 78:17 80:14 82:4,9,13,27 84:5,7 85:1,16 86:4,7, 14 88:6,24 90:7 92:3,28 95:3,14,18 97:8 98:18, 23 102:20 109:6 114:21 116:12 119:20 120:15, 22 121:4,10 123:20 124:8 125:27 126:6,9 127:17 129:1 130:17 131:5,7,26 132:26 134:26 135:6 136:25 137:8 139:14 141:21 142:17 145:6 146:20 147:25 151:2,7,19 152:26 153:17 155:18 156:4 157:6 159:8 163:24 164:6,10 166:21 167:6 168:8 171:3,10	<b>analyze</b> 140:14	<b>approach</b> 134:19 143:20
<b>aftermarket</b> 148:26,27 149:6		<b>analyzed</b> 26:25	<b>approval</b> 8:28 29:17 104:25
<b>afternoon</b> 4:7,22 13:22 19:28 22:10 25:11 67:10 71:6 88:12 116:18 129:14		<b>and/or</b> 37:24	<b>approve</b> 8:12 46:1 98:12 104:9 154:12
<b>afternoon's</b> 99:4		<b>Anderson</b> 52:9,12,14, 21	<b>approved</b> 6:10 10:4, 18,23 23:13,26 26:13, 20 67:15 69:4 102:8 105:28 106:13,17 117:27 118:13
<b>agencies</b> 44:12 157:20		<b>Angeles</b> 124:15	<b>approximately</b> 10:20, 25,27 11:1 106:14,19, 21,23
<b>agency</b> 8:1 73:12 103:26 158:10		<b>announcement</b> 36:12 128:1	<b>April</b> 20:16 35:28 64:27 115:15
<b>aging</b> 160:18		<b>annual</b> 9:22 47:10,16 49:23,24,26,28 64:21 81:13 105:19 121:25	<b>APS</b> 70:14,16
<b>agree</b> 61:3 65:22 141:19 142:28 151:26 152:9 154:5		<b>annually</b> 23:25 24:6 118:12,21	<b>arborist</b> 165:17
<b>agreement</b> 137:23 159:22		<b>anticipated</b> 9:10 65:19 105:7	<b>Arcadia</b> 69:15
		<b>anybody's</b> 35:7	
		<b>anymore</b> 78:5 160:15	
		<b>apologies</b> 81:27	
		<b>apologize</b> 85:1 121:4 122:19 164:11	

<b>area</b> 51:27 62:1 72:9 74:23 76:16,23 160:24 162:3 170:3,11	<b>audio-visual</b> 5:7	155:15 158:21 160:3 169:2	<b>beautiful</b> 25:15
<b>areas</b> 46:8 66:7 71:22	<b>audited</b> 98:14	<b>background</b> 5:10 7:14 101:10 103:12	<b>bedding</b> 55:22
<b>Arizona</b> 70:14	<b>August</b> 8:26 104:23	<b>backs</b> 31:16	<b>beg</b> 56:9 92:25
<b>arrange</b> 73:28	<b>Author</b> 71:4	<b>bad</b> 43:26 151:28 152:19	<b>begin</b> 13:10 159:20
<b>arriving</b> 72:21	<b>authorization</b> 17:14 112:25	<b>bag</b> 159:24	<b>beginning</b> 8:23 15:7 104:19 110:21 148:15
<b>arrogance</b> 158:25	<b>authorized</b> 10:22 20:19 106:16 115:19	<b>Bailey</b> 60:25,28 61:1,2 62:5	<b>begrudge</b> 164:28 166:2
<b>Arthur</b> 71:5,7 74:15,18	<b>authorizes</b> 9:25 105:21	<b>balance</b> 17:13 19:2 68:12 112:25 114:9	<b>behalf</b> 19:21 21:26 25:4 74:4 80:20,23 81:19 114:22 116:14 124:17 137:17
<b>article</b> 49:17,25	<b>automated</b> 42:1	<b>balanced</b> 23:17 118:4	<b>beings</b> 46:10 68:28 138:20,22
<b>Arzomand</b> 47:3,6,7	<b>automotive</b> 148:27	<b>balls</b> 172:13	<b>belief</b> 23:10 117:24
<b>asinine</b> 32:6	<b>Avakian</b> 126:3,4,7,10, 11 127:17 172:25,26,27	<b>Balnet</b> 95:10,11,12,15, 18,21,22 97:8	<b>benefit</b> 29:4
<b>aspiring</b> 23:16	<b>average</b> 18:20 24:5 47:24,26 57:24 58:25, 26 59:4 113:28 118:21 153:18	<b>bankruptcy</b> 44:15	<b>benefits</b> 77:10 170:8
<b>assessed</b> 73:26 143:16	<b>avoid</b> 16:25,28 65:3 112:9,12	<b>Barbara</b> 43:19	<b>Benjamin</b> 65:24
<b>assessing</b> 36:2	<b>aware</b> 157:3	<b>bare</b> 48:11 117:4	<b>Berah</b> 129:12,16
<b>assigned</b> 4:12,17,24 100:13,17,24	<b>awareness</b> 23:4 117:19	<b>barely</b> 32:17 33:26,27 34:25 122:11,18,26 133:9 163:2	<b>Berger</b> 171:7,8,9,11,12
<b>assistance</b> 82:21 122:25		<b>bargaining</b> 5:19 101:19	<b>Bernardino</b> 41:19
<b>assume</b> 38:15		<b>base</b> 28:4 42:18	<b>Bessie</b> 67:8 69:13
<b>assumed</b> 27:7		<b>based</b> 8:20 20:17 21:2 27:8 30:2 42:20 50:5 58:26 81:16 104:16 115:17 116:4 134:18 135:25	<b>Beverly</b> 155:22,24
<b>assuming</b> 41:24 137:16			<b>bid</b> 172:1
<b>assumptions</b> 27:15	<b>B</b>		<b>big</b> 41:22 46:8 60:15 75:28 87:25 94:23 122:17 147:10 152:5
<b>assure</b> 92:19	<b>B-A-L-N-E-T</b> 95:22		<b>bigger</b> 75:28 78:2
<b>assured</b> 86:25	<b>B-A-U-T-I-S-T-A</b> 25:10		<b>biggest</b> 124:23
<b>astounded</b> 171:16,22 172:12	<b>B-E-R-A-H</b> 129:17		<b>bill</b> 14:14 18:13,14,17, 20 19:7 24:2 31:7,9 33:4 35:5,10 36:2 41:28 42:3,7,16 46:11 51:18 54:12 56:12 60:1 61:13, 15 62:15 65:3 68:23 70:16 73:24,26 76:15 110:5 113:22,26,28 114:15 118:17,20 123:14 136:19 139:6 143:28 144:4,14 147:6 148:21 154:17 156:1, 19,22 157:1 160:22 170:12
<b>astronomical</b> 46:2 60:6	<b>B-E-R-G-E-R</b> 171:12		<b>billing</b> 15:22 34:7 42:26 62:23,26 73:22,25
<b>attacks</b> 16:18 112:2	<b>B-E-S-S-I-E</b> 69:13		
<b>attendance</b> 67:17	<b>B-E-V-E-R-L-Y</b> 155:25		
<b>attended</b> 25:13	<b>B-L-A-N-C-A</b> 81:28		
<b>attending</b> 19:12 114:19	<b>B-O-Y-E-T-T-E</b> 49:13		
<b>attention</b> 7:8 11:7 103:5 106:28	<b>B-U-R-N-S</b> 19:27 114:26		
<b>audience</b> 171:23	<b>back</b> 14:26 17:1,16 31:28 37:9,24 46:13 66:17 73:19 77:21 81:8 84:7,26 85:13 110:14 112:13,27 120:22 123:15 128:22 130:27 131:7,11 138:12 147:4, 5 148:24 149:9,27		
<b>audio</b> 101:5			



111:7	<b>Brown</b> 7:16 12:2,6,7,9 13:1 101:3 103:13 107:21,24,25,27 109:6	<b>C-O-H-E-N</b> 65:14	80:15 83:2 88:7 89:1 90:8 92:4 93:1 95:4,6 97:9 98:19 117:4 120:9 123:22 127:18 129:2 130:18 131:27 132:27 134:27 137:2 139:15 141:22 142:18 145:11 146:21 147:26 151:12 152:27 155:19 156:17 157:7 159:13 163:25 164:2 165:23 166:26 167:8 168:9,14 171:4 172:22
<b>billion</b> 10:14,20 20:23 24:8 26:4 106:10,15 115:23 118:24 128:2 133:11	<b>budget</b> 21:8 27:5 28:17,24 29:17 73:11 116:9 123:3 157:18 158:10,12	<b>C-O-N-S-T-A-N-C-E</b> 22:5 116:19	<b>called</b> 23:3 42:8 117:18 166:18
<b>billions</b> 73:16 161:12	<b>build</b> 6:18 15:9 102:15 110:23 135:12,16,21 154:13	<b>C-O-R-D-E-R-O</b> 124:12	<b>caller</b> 45:20,21 49:15 59:3,4 61:26
<b>bills</b> 8:4 10:7 17:7 19:5 23:25 24:5 55:14,25,27 56:20 61:9 64:2,28 73:10 104:1 106:3 112:19 113:23 114:13 118:12 121:23,24 122:10 131:17 136:7, 13,18,21 140:1 141:3 143:2 147:7 149:24 157:4 163:2 165:28	<b>built</b> 50:12,23	<b>cable</b> 165:19	<b>callers</b> 58:3 61:4 159:9 167:9
<b>bit</b> 5:10 33:13 56:17 60:5 71:17 95:24 96:10 121:15 125:13 150:20 152:16,17 154:1 170:18	<b>bump</b> 128:1	<b>calculators</b> 156:24	<b>calling</b> 31:2 35:21 53:2, 11 59:22 71:8 93:20 124:17 137:1 145:10 151:10 159:12 164:8 166:25 168:17 171:17
<b>Blanca</b> 80:18 81:28	<b>bunch</b> 44:25	<b>calendar</b> 157:16	<b>calls</b> 141:3 143:12
<b>bleed</b> 164:26 166:19	<b>burden</b> 26:11 48:6,12 49:2 50:3 53:10 134:7	<b>California</b> 4:10,25 5:12,14 6:2,19 7:11,19 8:2,12,25,26 9:7,12,22 10:5,13,18 11:3 13:14 14:4 20:6 22:24,26 27:25 30:13 31:4 34:6, 10 35:24,25 37:5 41:20 42:21 43:10 45:28 47:11,18 48:28 49:14 51:11 52:15,17 53:3,26 54:3,16,24 55:12 57:16 58:14 59:21 63:19 65:15 70:1 71:9,15 73:20 75:1 78:26 80:21, 24 81:10 82:2 83:9,16 84:14,21 85:8,21,27 88:4,14,27,28 89:14,21, 26 90:16 92:12 93:20, 21 94:22 95:16 96:18, 28 97:4 100:10,25 101:12,14,28 102:17 103:8,16,27 104:9,22, 23 105:4,8,18 106:1,9, 13,24 108:12,13 109:9, 24 115:5 117:10,12 124:13 129:18 130:22, 25 131:10 133:6 135:20 136:6,9,10 142:5 147:1, 12 148:22,24 149:27 150:14 155:26 157:13 163:22 167:5 168:18,21 169:27,28 170:3,7,13 171:13,27 172:20	<b>campaign</b> 27:21
<b>board</b> 5:14,18,19 81:9 83:14 101:14,17,19	<b>Burns</b> 19:20,22,26,27 20:2 21:24 114:21,24, 25,28	<b>California's</b> 48:19	<b>Campos</b> 43:4,7,9
<b>boards</b> 97:19,24,25	<b>business</b> 9:15 28:13, 26,27 90:20 91:13 92:1 97:28 105:12 122:2 125:2 150:10 162:25 171:19	<b>Californian's</b> 113:6	<b>candlelight</b> 127:2
<b>bond</b> 164:21	<b>businesses</b> 16:23 28:22 29:6 68:9 112:7	<b>Californians</b> 17:23 74:5	<b>candles</b> 122:16
<b>bonuses</b> 170:17	<b>busy</b> 13:27 109:20	<b>call</b> 22:18 30:10 32:13 36:1,19 41:11 46:28 51:3 52:6,22 53:16 55:3 56:28 57:21 60:22 62:6 63:11 65:6 67:5,18 69:17 71:1 75:7 78:24	<b>capital</b> 6:9 9:17 21:7 30:24 72:1 102:8 105:13 116:9
<b>bothers</b> 159:27	<b>buy</b> 122:16 169:1		<b>CAPS</b> 26:25 27:1,3
<b>bottom</b> 163:9	<b>Bye</b> 52:20 134:25		<b>captive</b> 171:23
<b>bought</b> 158:19,20	<hr/> <b>C</b> <hr/>		<b>capture</b> 11:14 107:8
<b>box</b> 132:16,22 137:27, 28 138:7	<b>C-A-M</b> 43:9		<b>captured</b> 170:2
<b>boy</b> 61:3 157:12 164:3	<b>C-A-R-O-L</b> 78:25		<b>car</b> 31:14 32:20
<b>Boyette</b> 49:8,11,12 51:2	<b>C-A-R-O-L-Y-N</b> 55:10		<b>card</b> 11:19,24 39:13 82:18 107:12,16 108:24
<b>bread</b> 94:10	<b>C-A-S-T-I-L-L-O</b> 53:25		<b>care</b> 18:25 31:24 35:3 54:7,10 59:27 68:3 75:21 78:14 114:5 125:6,24 145:26 147:3
<b>break</b> 170:10	<b>C-A-S-T-R-O</b> 82:1		<b>cared</b> 152:15
<b>breakdown</b> 27:26	<b>C-A-T-H-C-A-R-T</b> 139:21		<b>careful</b> 7:8 103:5
<b>briefly</b> 8:24 38:3 49:17 104:21	<b>C-H-R-I-S-T-I-N-E</b> 172:28		
<b>bring</b> 17:1 112:13	<b>C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S</b> 142:26		
<b>brings</b> 18:12 113:21	<b>C-H-U</b> 151:21		
<b>brought</b> 164:14	<b>C-I-N-D-Y</b> 51:11		



<b>caregiver</b> 160:17	<b>challenging</b> 19:6 114:14 116:24	<b>Cindy</b> 21:12 51:6,10	<b>collection</b> 26:27
<b>Carol</b> 78:25	<b>chance</b> 148:14 162:1	<b>circumstances</b> 22:22 117:8	<b>collective</b> 5:19 101:19
<b>Caroline</b> 55:6 78:22	<b>change</b> 32:21 46:15 72:11,27 91:8 162:7,8, 11	<b>cited</b> 79:2	<b>college</b> 67:26 124:17
<b>Carolyn</b> 55:10	<b>changed</b> 9:4 18:8 81:4 105:1 113:18	<b>cities</b> 71:19	<b>color</b> 96:21
<b>carrier</b> 68:16	<b>changing</b> 43:21 72:13	<b>citizen</b> 31:4 33:15 96:5	<b>Colorado</b> 86:24
<b>carrying</b> 134:7	<b>channel</b> 28:3	<b>citizens</b> 23:9	<b>commend</b> 28:10 144:27
<b>cars</b> 163:9	<b>charge</b> 84:23 85:10 133:20 136:10 145:23	<b>city</b> 53:26 59:20 71:20 75:28 88:14,27 89:28 129:6,11 132:2,6 135:9 136:8,28 141:27 145:9 148:3 151:10 159:12 166:25	<b>commensurate</b> 129:22
<b>case</b> 4:9,17,25 7:15 8:9, 27 9:5,12 14:4,8 15:12, 16 16:1 17:19 20:4 100:9,18,26 103:13 104:6,24 105:1,9 109:24,28 110:26 111:2,15 113:2 115:2 142:9 144:10 164:26 171:27	<b>charged</b> 148:22	<b>civil</b> 54:19,20,26	<b>comment</b> 19:15 37:28 38:7 39:7,13 40:25,26 47:11 49:7 52:19 58:24 63:13 65:8 67:7 69:22, 23,25 78:21,25 80:17 86:10 88:9 90:10 92:6 93:8 95:9,23 96:16 97:11 108:10,16 120:18 124:3 125:12 126:2 127:6,20 129:9 130:20 132:4 133:1 135:1 137:5,10 139:17 140:2 141:25,28 142:20 145:13 146:23 148:1,5 151:14 153:1 155:21,28 156:16 157:9 159:15 166:28 168:11 171:6 172:24
<b>cases</b> 17:18 81:13 113:1 137:20 140:13	<b>charges</b> 61:21 73:11	<b>claiming</b> 44:2	<b>commentary</b> 21:16
<b>Castillo</b> 53:19,22,24,25 55:2	<b>charging</b> 89:23 91:16	<b>clarification</b> 38:8 40:13	<b>commented</b> 79:7
<b>Castro</b> 80:18,19 81:27, 28 82:4	<b>chasing</b> 83:27	<b>clean</b> 16:26 17:24 18:6 112:10 113:6,16 120:5	<b>commenter</b> 59:12 60:24
<b>cat</b> 31:1	<b>cheaper</b> 75:20	<b>clear</b> 23:6 29:19 117:21 136:7,13,18 140:24 159:26	<b>commenters</b> 79:3
<b>catch</b> 172:17	<b>check</b> 33:9 46:14 62:18	<b>clearer</b> 141:3	<b>comments</b> 7:24 10:12 11:4,22,28 12:16,19,24 19:13 21:10,21 22:19 30:5 34:4 45:16 49:4 50:28 60:21 65:12 74:17 75:14,15 79:16 80:25 82:16,17,22 85:23 86:20 94:18 97:20,26 98:2,25 99:6 101:2 103:21 106:8,25 107:14,19 108:17,23 109:5 114:20 116:11 117:4 119:27 121:13 123:21,26 129:15 134:18,24 141:19 145:22 146:19 156:8 171:15
<b>Cathcart</b> 139:18,19,20 141:21	<b>checked</b> 50:16	<b>clickable</b> 136:20	
<b>Cathedral</b> 59:20 71:20 88:14,27 89:27	<b>checking</b> 140:3 141:11	<b>clients</b> 75:22 165:12	
<b>caught</b> 15:10 110:25	<b>checks</b> 64:8	<b>close</b> 11:7 59:6 106:28 148:21 165:19	
<b>caused</b> 24:4 29:7 44:18,21 73:11 118:19	<b>chicken</b> 164:8	<b>closely</b> 27:10	
<b>causing</b> 138:8	<b>child</b> 145:20	<b>closer</b> 154:4	
<b>ceiling</b> 91:22	<b>children</b> 75:1 157:24 158:8	<b>closing</b> 69:3	
<b>cell</b> 145:23	<b>chime</b> 30:5 119:28	<b>clothes</b> 123:11	
<b>centers</b> 27:23 48:25	<b>choice</b> 68:16 154:15 158:24	<b>co-assigned</b> 4:14 100:14	
<b>central</b> 73:5 91:22 124:13	<b>choose</b> 54:10 70:11 123:14	<b>coalition</b> 13:17 25:5,22 26:24 27:24 28:8 29:16, 21 71:12 79:8 83:13 84:12	
<b>cents</b> 50:1	<b>chopping</b> 165:16	<b>code</b> 41:20	
<b>CEO</b> 25:21 77:10 83:14 89:11,14	<b>chords</b> 127:27	<b>Cohen</b> 65:9,10,13 67:4	
<b>chair</b> 71:12	<b>chose</b> 70:16	<b>coincide</b> 62:20 75:27	
<b>challenge</b> 65:16	<b>Christine</b> 172:27	<b>colleague</b> 92:16	
	<b>Christmas</b> 30:27 142:21,22,23,25 145:6	<b>colleagues</b> 160:11	
	<b>chronicling</b> 4:28 100:28		
	<b>Chu</b> 151:15,16,20 152:26		

<b>Commission</b> 4:5 5:12, 28 7:7,15,28 8:5,22,28 9:3,9,25 11:5 15:8,17 17:27 20:7,22 24:19 27:17 29:3,18 35:25 77:25 78:27 80:27 81:11 85:18 99:11 100:6 101:12 103:4,12, 25 104:2,18,25,28 105:6,21 106:26 107:28 108:13 110:23 113:10 115:5,22 119:7 128:22 157:14 158:13,26	155:5 165:20 170:20	<b>concludes</b> 82:14 99:3 85:28 109:1	
<b>Commission's</b> 7:17 12:2,15 39:14 40:3 82:19,22 98:26 103:14 107:21 108:4	<b>companies'</b> 150:9	<b>conditioning</b> 55:16 149:14	<b>context</b> 37:13 119:17
<b>commissioner</b> 4:17, 18,20,24 6:22 12:13 13:25 19:28 22:15 25:18 35:18,20 36:9 40:20,22 41:8,10 77:3, 24 80:22 100:18,19,21, 24 102:20 108:2,8 109:19 114:27 117:1	<b>company</b> 4:10 9:2 15:17 18:8 49:20 51:27 55:27 56:2,8 61:27 63:24 76:27 91:11 96:3 97:18,23 98:4,6,7,8,14 100:10 104:26 111:3 113:18 122:3 130:7 131:13 135:16,22 149:8,23 150:7 162:9 169:24 170:6	<b>conditions</b> 16:12 26:14 81:17 111:25	<b>contingencies</b> 98:13
<b>commissioners</b> 8:5, 10,17,18 11:6,18 104:2, 7,13,14 106:27 107:11 159:7	<b>comparable</b> 48:15	<b>condone</b> 32:11	<b>continue</b> 15:9 16:9 17:22 42:6 62:26 64:28 73:15 102:13 110:23 111:22 113:5 136:26 138:5 143:5 144:3 148:25 153:25 164:9
<b>commitments</b> 17:25 113:7	<b>compare</b> 46:16 48:4 133:14	<b>conducting</b> 27:20	<b>continued</b> 99:10
<b>commodity</b> 171:25	<b>compared</b> 133:21 134:8 152:12	<b>confirm</b> 82:5	<b>continues</b> 73:17 84:18
<b>common</b> 129:24	<b>comparing</b> 140:12	<b>confirmed</b> 8:7 104:4	<b>continuing</b> 6:15 29:2
<b>communicate</b> 17:6 68:22 112:18	<b>comparison</b> 153:28 154:14	<b>conflicting</b> 57:20	<b>continuously</b> 15:15 66:10 111:1
<b>communication</b> 27:21	<b>compassion</b> 69:6 152:23	<b>connections</b> 27:10	<b>contractors</b> 15:26 111:11
<b>communications</b> 27:19,27	<b>compensated</b> 169:24	<b>conscionable</b> 50:2	<b>contribute</b> 97:7 145:2
<b>communities</b> 6:25 7:1 14:12 15:27 16:5 25:27 26:18 102:23,27 110:3 111:13,19 112:7	<b>competition</b> 58:9 80:11	<b>conscious</b> 6:8 102:6	<b>contributing</b> 145:3
<b>community</b> 16:23 23:20 63:18,23 83:9,26 84:13,26 85:13 118:7 124:18,19,26	<b>competitive</b> 172:1,5,6	<b>consecutive</b> 47:14,20 49:23,24	<b>convert</b> 42:10
<b>commute</b> 146:5,16	<b>competitively</b> 171:26	<b>conservation</b> 72:3	<b>converted</b> 41:26 42:15
<b>companies</b> 44:11,13, 14 68:15 126:20 137:28	<b>complaints</b> 28:1	<b>conserve</b> 24:22 119:10	<b>coordinator</b> 20:2 115:1
	<b>complete</b> 69:2	<b>conserving</b> 78:10	<b>Cordero</b> 124:4,5,10,12 125:27
	<b>completely</b> 31:5 32:23 89:2 90:4 124:24	<b>considerate</b> 143:18	<b>core</b> 18:5 113:15
	<b>complicated</b> 87:6	<b>consideration</b> 34:21 41:1 128:26 142:14 167:27 168:7	<b>Corona</b> 139:2 146:1 147:17 149:1
	<b>Compounding</b> 86:26	<b>considered</b> 39:1 56:24 92:15	<b>corporate</b> 84:24 85:12 116:25 148:17 150:26 159:24
	<b>comprehensive</b> 83:17	<b>considers</b> 125:4	<b>corporations</b> 48:23 94:19
	<b>computers</b> 46:18,21 158:2	<b>consistent</b> 20:10 27:1 73:18 115:9	<b>corrected</b> 41:28
	<b>conceived</b> 72:7	<b>consists</b> 26:27	<b>correction</b> 49:19
	<b>concern</b> 133:7 135:23	<b>Constance</b> 22:4,11 116:18	<b>corrections</b> 74:1
	<b>concerned</b> 42:16 165:1	<b>constantly</b> 48:8,11	<b>correctly</b> 40:24 128:1 172:17
	<b>concerns</b> 14:7 27:24 34:7 42:27 109:27 126:14 134:17 167:27	<b>construction</b> 27:11	<b>cost</b> 9:8,20 43:22 56:4 58:6 72:5 73:1,6 89:22 113:23 133:17 144:16 167:19,22 169:7 172:4, 9
		<b>consumer</b> 15:4 18:3 20:5 28:1 62:2 84:17 88:14,28 93:21 97:16 113:14 115:4 116:23,25	<b>cost-effective</b> 26:21
		<b>consumers</b> 47:22 48:11 81:7 98:16 105:25	
		<b>contact</b> 35:13 36:6 56:13 61:16 82:22	

<b>cost-of-living</b> 64:7,11 80:3,7	<b>cpuc.ca.gov</b> 12:26 39:15 108:26	68:16,19 80:24 102:13, 17 103:9 106:2,18 110:3 111:13,19 113:17,20 114:1,4,6 115:7 116:5 118:17,22 125:2,8 136:14 152:13	<b>day-to-day</b> 8:9 104:6 125:19
<b>costs</b> 9:1,9,25,28 10:4 15:24 18:14,16 19:4 20:20 24:19,22 26:16, 20 28:21 72:25 73:3 80:5 104:25 105:5,6,16, 22,24,28 111:8 113:25 114:11 115:20 119:7,10 134:13,14 138:17 144:18	<b>create</b> 128:2,19		<b>days</b> 61:19
<b>counter</b> 110:20	<b>creating</b> 28:24		<b>dead</b> 46:23 56:6
<b>counterproposals</b> 15:5	<b>creative</b> 138:2	<b>customers'</b> 9:23 10:7 118:12	<b>deaf</b> 67:14
<b>country</b> 54:2 60:14 133:23	<b>credit</b> 26:25,27	<b>cut</b> 48:22,27 61:8 66:25 70:15,16 73:14 75:3 80:12 85:2 87:26 130:28 131:12,14,19,22 147:5,8 160:2,5 162:14 169:2	<b>deal</b> 136:17
<b>counts</b> 122:19	<b>credits</b> 79:24		<b>dealing</b> 32:5 138:19
<b>county</b> 5:25 22:27 50:17 51:11 71:22 101:24 117:13 130:21 162:3	<b>crew</b> 141:10	<b>cuts</b> 44:16,23,27 45:12 48:18 73:11 74:9,12 157:21,23 158:12	<b>death</b> 70:18
<b>couple</b> 21:19 71:22 74:18 75:13 87:2 89:4, 28 161:18 162:15 164:4	<b>crews</b> 76:24,26 96:23 141:6	<b>cutting</b> 122:14 147:4 172:4	<b>decade</b> 45:1 51:13
<b>court</b> 4:28 11:9 40:13, 26 81:21,23 84:2,3 88:1,16,17 95:20 100:27 107:3 131:2,3 151:4 163:18,19,23	<b>cripple</b> 23:15 118:1 167:20	<b>cyber</b> 16:18 112:2	<b>decide</b> 8:11,18 17:28 104:8,14 113:10
<b>cover</b> 9:13 33:12,28 64:8,12 71:23 73:14 90:25,26 91:2,5 105:10	<b>crippling</b> 125:9 167:11	<b>cycle</b> 9:5,6 105:2,3	<b>decided</b> 64:22 162:5
<b>coverage</b> 72:9	<b>crisis</b> 6:6 102:4 167:23		<b>decides</b> 8:1 54:25 103:26
<b>covered</b> 34:2	<b>critical</b> 93:27 94:6 124:26		<b>deciding</b> 63:28
<b>covers</b> 15:17 64:19 111:3	<b>critically</b> 125:21		<b>decision</b> 8:16,19,20,22 9:4,9 11:6 43:14 69:7 104:12,15,19 105:1,6 106:27 158:27
<b>COVID</b> 25:17 29:24 39:2 61:7	<b>crucial</b> 78:8		<b>decision-making</b> 12:15 108:4
<b>COVID-19</b> 6:7,24 14:13 21:5 27:12 29:1,7 68:20,25 70:4 73:12 74:6 81:3 102:5,22 110:4 116:7 121:28 131:13 167:21	<b>Cucomonga</b> 132:11	<b>D</b>	<b>decisions</b> 23:5,22 65:2 68:11 104:16 117:19 118:9
<b>CPUC</b> 12:10 23:28 25:16,28 84:22 85:9 101:27 118:15	<b>cue</b> 21:21 30:2,4,11 47:1 60:23 82:7,8,10, 12,25 83:1 103:23	<b>D-A-V-I-D</b> 171:12	<b>declined</b> 69:4
	<b>curb</b> 149:8	<b>D-CARE</b> 56:15,16	<b>decrease</b> 27:1 152:16
	<b>current</b> 18:19 24:19 49:28 64:3,14,22 81:1 113:26 119:7 157:18 158:9	<b>D-E-V-E-R-A</b> 142:4	<b>decreased</b> 146:2,4
	<b>curtail</b> 158:17	<b>D-I-A-N-A</b> 75:12	<b>decreasing</b> 28:17,20
	<b>customer</b> 14:15,18,21 15:22 16:13 17:4 18:21 23:25 24:18 27:9,14,18 28:3 37:8 42:26 46:7, 23,25 49:13 68:23 83:19 90:17 93:21 105:20 106:3 110:7,9, 13,19 111:7,26 112:16 119:6 127:9 140:26 156:10	<b>D-O-R-A</b> 69:28	<b>dedicated</b> 28:25,26
	<b>customer's</b> 58:28	<b>D-O-U-G</b> 13:23 88:2 109:17	<b>deeper</b> 23:4,7 117:18, 22
	<b>customers</b> 6:14,20 7:12 10:1,6,24 14:11 15:28 16:5 18:7,11,25, 26 20:9 21:3 24:1,6 28:12 37:8 48:3 52:17 61:25 63:23 65:1 67:19	<b>dad</b> 160:21	<b>deficient</b> 75:25 83:22
		<b>dad's</b> 160:19	<b>deficit</b> 157:19
		<b>daily</b> 6:26 23:23 67:25 102:24 118:10	<b>definitive</b> 13:5
		<b>dare</b> 132:13	<b>delaying</b> 60:4
		<b>dark</b> 56:19	<b>delays</b> 143:11
		<b>dashes</b> 39:20	<b>deliberate</b> 23:22 118:9
		<b>date</b> 41:25 46:16,20	<b>delinquent</b> 42:4
		<b>David</b> 47:9 142:24 171:7,9,11	
		<b>day</b> 15:11 18:15 23:2 24:14 110:26 113:24 117:17 119:2 127:11 139:5 148:20 157:27,28	

<b>deliver</b> 9:15 105:11	<b>digit</b> 70:17	<b>distribute</b> 47:19	<b>drag</b> 86:17
<b>demand</b> 73:10	<b>diligence</b> 73:21	<b>distributed</b> 10:5 16:27 37:24 106:1 112:11 128:14	<b>drastically</b> 59:28 60:16
<b>demanding</b> 48:16	<b>dinner</b> 76:13 164:23	<b>distribution</b> 15:21 83:25 111:6	<b>drawing</b> 81:9
<b>demands</b> 50:7	<b>direct</b> 29:5 34:5,9 39:21	<b>district</b> 5:23 71:11,16 72:3 73:2,4,7 74:13 101:22	<b>drive</b> 25:13 146:6
<b>democratic</b> 58:22 81:20	<b>directing</b> 29:5	<b>district's</b> 73:22	<b>drop</b> 39:26
<b>demographics</b> 27:26	<b>directly</b> 7:11 9:28 21:22 88:20 103:8 105:24	<b>districts</b> 74:11	<b>dropped</b> 167:21
<b>denied</b> 52:2 74:7 84:22 85:9	<b>director</b> 5:22 14:3 22:12 71:10 101:21 109:23 116:21 124:15	<b>diverse</b> 28:3 97:1	<b>dry</b> 164:26 166:19
<b>dent</b> 87:18	<b>disability</b> 59:25 93:27 145:28	<b>Diversity</b> 13:17 25:5,22 26:24 27:24 28:8,9,11, 16 29:12,16,17,21 83:13 84:12	<b>ducks</b> 75:2
<b>deny</b> 27:17 66:16 79:1	<b>disabled</b> 31:15 35:2 55:13 59:23,24 60:13	<b>dividend</b> 47:13,17 49:25,27 50:1 73:19	<b>due</b> 21:3 43:24 48:20 55:17 60:5 64:21 68:20 70:3 71:27 116:5 138:28 139:2 148:28 156:8 170:5
<b>department</b> 27:28 28:16 29:12 50:17	<b>disagree</b> 89:2	<b>dividends</b> 47:21 48:8, 22,27 49:21 74:8 79:5	<hr/> <b>E</b> <hr/>
<b>departments</b> 157:21	<b>disappointed</b> 159:21	<b>division</b> 14:22 110:13	<b>E-D</b> 47:8
<b>depend</b> 16:23 58:27 80:10 112:8	<b>disaster</b> 44:18	<b>docket</b> 11:19,24 39:13 82:18 107:12,16 108:24	<b>E-L-I-Z-A-B-E-T-H</b> 53:24
<b>dependent</b> 94:12	<b>disastrous</b> 165:15	<b>documentation</b> 46:9	<b>E-M-B-E-R</b> 167:4
<b>Depending</b> 13:2	<b>disconnected</b> 35:27	<b>documents</b> 12:23 108:22	<b>e-mail</b> 12:26 108:23
<b>desert</b> 71:19,21,24 72:20	<b>disconnects</b> 64:27	<b>dollar</b> 20:24 47:28 48:14 122:19	<b>e-mailed</b> 34:11
<b>design</b> 10:9 106:4	<b>discontinue</b> 29:14 67:13	<b>dollars</b> 20:23,26,28 21:7 73:16 89:12,13,15, 16 133:12 158:16 161:13 164:22	<b>e-mails</b> 12:22
<b>designated</b> 27:28	<b>discount</b> 36:6 51:16	<b>Dora</b> 69:23,27	<b>earlier</b> 9:3 19:9 57:21 68:4 89:5 92:16 96:27 101:8 104:28 164:18 165:1,8,23 172:16
<b>designed</b> 50:12,23	<b>discounts</b> 36:5	<b>Doris</b> 5:2 81:23 100:27	<b>earn</b> 8:2 10:1 103:27 105:25
<b>desire</b> 63:24	<b>discovered</b> 65:25	<b>double</b> 72:12	<b>earners</b> 72:19 118:27
<b>desk</b> 60:7	<b>discovery</b> 14:28 110:16	<b>double-digit</b> 57:27	<b>earnings</b> 89:6
<b>determine</b> 10:4 105:28	<b>discriminated</b> 94:5	<b>doubt</b> 129:21	<b>ears</b> 67:14
<b>detrimental</b> 122:7	<b>discussing</b> 49:18	<b>Doug</b> 13:22 14:2 86:11 88:2 109:17,23	<b>easements</b> 96:4
<b>development</b> 25:26 29:15 66:2	<b>discussion</b> 124:28	<b>downtown</b> 28:28	<b>easy</b> 15:10 17:5 110:25 112:17
<b>Devera</b> 142:1,2,4	<b>disgusting</b> 55:22	<b>downturn</b> 21:4 116:6 157:18 159:1	<b>eat</b> 145:27 163:3
<b>Diana</b> 75:9	<b>disparity</b> 96:17	<b>drafted</b> 81:3	<b>eats</b> 164:18
<b>died</b> 43:21 70:14,18	<b>disputes</b> 28:1		<b>economic</b> 6:6 21:4 25:25 26:14 48:12 71:27 72:23 102:4 116:6
<b>difference</b> 78:5,6 154:1	<b>disruption</b> 17:3 112:15		<b>economy</b> 24:10 29:1 51:20 58:8,11 118:26
<b>differently</b> 144:28	<b>distance</b> 6:12 102:11 158:5 168:1		
<b>difficult</b> 37:16 51:14 68:11 131:20 138:14 139:4,8	<b>distancing</b> 6:12 102:10		
<b>difficulties</b> 48:12	<b>distant</b> 142:13		
<b>dig</b> 23:7 39:24 117:22			

159:2	134:13 136:19 139:6	163:4	<b>estate</b> 139:23
<b>Ed</b> 47:2,7	149:12,22 150:9 170:2, 6,12	<b>ends</b> 122:11,27 133:9 147:19	<b>estimated</b> 8:21 104:18
<b>EDGE</b> 29:15	<b>electrical</b> 154:13 155:5 158:3	<b>endure</b> 43:28	<b>estimates</b> 81:15
<b>Edison</b> 4:10,25 6:20 7:12,19 8:2,26 9:26 10:1,19 13:15 14:4,9 27:25 34:6,10,18 35:25 42:25 47:11,19 48:28 49:19 51:26 54:4,16,24 58:14 68:5,17 75:15,20 76:4,7,20,28 77:5,17,24 80:24 83:16 85:8,21,27 88:28 89:11,14,21 93:22 96:18,28 97:5 100:10,25 102:17 103:8,16,27 104:23 105:22,25 108:14 109:10,25,28 132:21 133:28 135:11,20,27 136:1,23 157:15,22 158:9,17,22,24,28 164:15 168:21 169:23, 27 170:7,13	<b>electricities</b> 126:27	<b>endured</b> 43:20	<b>estimating</b> 81:16
<b>Edison's</b> 6:2 8:12,25 9:8,12,18,22 10:6,13 11:3,23 84:21 101:28 104:9,22 105:4,9,15,18 106:2,9,13,24 107:15 115:27 134:18 158:15	<b>electricity</b> 5:24 9:15,27 16:20,24 17:9,24 18:7 23:11 51:25,28 54:17 61:18 62:18,19 64:27 65:25,28 70:12,15 72:5, 25 73:1,3 75:22 76:1 86:22 89:23 101:23 105:12,23 112:4,8,21 113:7,17 117:25 122:28 123:10 129:24 130:2 131:1,19 133:17,21 135:13 136:1,4 138:17 140:9 145:24,25 149:20,26 150:15 152:3 154:16 160:22,26 168:3 169:3,15 170:1 171:25	<b>enduring</b> 69:1	<b>ethnic</b> 28:6
<b>educate</b> 78:4	<b>eliminating</b> 145:2	<b>endusers</b> 73:20	<b>eucalyptus</b> 93:18
<b>educated</b> 162:21	<b>elimination</b> 87:7,8	<b>energies</b> 91:12	<b>evaluate</b> 8:15 104:11
<b>education</b> 27:23	<b>Elizabeth</b> 53:19,23	<b>energy</b> 16:27 24:7,19, 22,25 27:22,23 72:2 79:23,24 80:12 90:26 91:19,24 112:11 118:23 119:7,10,13 144:9,15, 16 158:18 165:25 169:1	<b>evaluating</b> 20:14 115:13
<b>Edward</b> 59:20	<b>email</b> 86:5 108:26,27	<b>energy-efficient</b> 160:4	<b>evening</b> 100:1,7,23 102:18 109:16 114:26 135:4
<b>effected</b> 80:2	<b>emails</b> 108:22	<b>engagement</b> 7:6 103:3	<b>evenly</b> 37:23 128:14
<b>effectiveness</b> 28:5	<b>Ember</b> 167:1,3	<b>enormous</b> 26:2 137:22	<b>event</b> 87:17
<b>efficiency</b> 77:4 78:3	<b>emotional</b> 122:20	<b>ensure</b> 6:10 23:19 98:14 102:8 118:6 120:4	<b>everybody's</b> 86:19 126:17 134:22
<b>efficient</b> 77:26 91:19, 25 131:18 158:19 169:2	<b>emphasize</b> 7:5 103:3	<b>enter</b> 70:4	<b>everyday</b> 123:9
<b>efforts</b> 16:9 27:20 111:22	<b>emphasizing</b> 58:3	<b>entertain</b> 28:13	<b>everyone's</b> 61:19 141:18
<b>egregious</b> 50:4	<b>employed</b> 96:22 143:2	<b>environment</b> 81:1	<b>evicted</b> 33:25 54:21
<b>Ehren</b> 4:11 100:12	<b>employee</b> 97:22 98:4	<b>environmental</b> 16:12 20:12 70:19 111:25 115:11	<b>evidence</b> 8:15,21 27:6, 13 104:11,17
<b>elderly</b> 80:1 160:25	<b>employees</b> 9:14 15:25 16:16 44:14 97:21,27 98:15 105:10 111:11,28 170:8,9,16	<b>environments</b> 78:13	<b>evidentiary</b> 15:8 41:1 110:22 153:24
<b>elected</b> 5:22 101:21	<b>employees'</b> 127:10	<b>epidemic</b> 137:21 138:8	<b>exact</b> 35:5
<b>electric</b> 8:4 14:14 18:20 31:7,9 33:4 54:12 68:15,23 104:1 110:5	<b>employment</b> 67:27 77:7	<b>equality</b> 25:25	<b>examine</b> 23:3 117:18
	<b>encourage</b> 24:17 36:1 56:13,22 77:20 119:5	<b>equation</b> 58:20 130:12	<b>examiner</b> 70:20
	<b>end</b> 9:10 15:11 46:14, 23 51:26 60:1 85:2 89:8 105:7 110:26 127:11 138:20,24 149:16 160:9	<b>equipment</b> 9:18 16:11, 20,25 24:4 68:7 105:15 111:24 112:4,9 118:19 141:14 165:11	<b>exceed</b> 55:15 143:13
		<b>equitable</b> 23:8 117:22	<b>exceeded</b> 28:18
		<b>errors</b> 73:24,25,28	<b>excessive</b> 20:20 26:7 115:20
		<b>escalate</b> 144:4	<b>excuse</b> 32:20 81:21 84:2 88:16 90:28 125:12 127:25 131:2 163:18
		<b>essential</b> 12:14 19:3 26:12,22 28:4 108:3 114:10	<b>executive</b> 35:23 71:10 133:10 166:2
		<b>established</b> 73:18 74:25	<b>executives</b> 44:5 152:10,11 158:15 161:6 162:9
			<b>exhibit</b> 69:5



<b>exhibiting</b> 69:2	<b>extremely</b> 139:3	<b>fat</b> 61:10,20	<b>fiscal</b> 45:5
<b>exhibits</b> 68:27		<b>fault</b> 33:10	<b>fix</b> 32:12 141:9
<b>existed</b> 58:9	<hr/> <b>F</b> <hr/>	<b>faults</b> 79:10	<b>fix-it</b> 141:10
<b>exorbitant</b> 91:18	<b>F-A-B-I-A-N</b> 151:5	<b>faulty</b> 50:13	<b>fixed</b> 33:13 87:19,22 127:28 137:20 138:9 150:2,24 155:1 160:25 164:12
<b>expand</b> 28:21 29:13	<b>F-A-E-Z</b> 57:15	<b>favoritism</b> 98:2	<b>fixes</b> 143:14
<b>expansion</b> 16:13 111:26	<b>F-A-I-T-H</b> 25:10	<b>fed</b> 166:18	<b>Florida</b> 148:19 150:9
<b>expected</b> 9:1,8 104:25 105:5	<b>F-R-Y-E-R</b> 164:7	<b>Federal</b> 140:21	<b>Floyd</b> 23:2 117:17
<b>expecting</b> 48:22	<b>Faban</b> 148:5,7	<b>fee</b> 57:26 143:3,4	<b>flyers</b> 131:1
<b>expenditure</b> 21:7 116:9	<b>Fabian</b> 148:8,9	<b>feedback</b> 7:8 19:14 103:6 114:20	<b>focus</b> 43:14 58:6
<b>expenditures</b> 27:27 167:16	<b>Fabulous</b> 124:10	<b>feel</b> 32:5,20 44:7 45:4 53:10 96:2,16,24 148:12 167:19	<b>focused</b> 45:10
<b>expenses</b> 9:11,16,22 26:26 27:2,5 48:20 51:14 64:19 68:13 76:11 105:8,13,19 121:21 122:15	<b>face</b> 160:21	<b>feeling</b> 133:12 164:20	<b>focusing</b> 25:24
<b>expensive</b> 51:18 68:14 133:16 140:4,5 147:12	<b>facility</b> 71:15	<b>feels</b> 96:8	<b>folks</b> 94:18,23 98:24 135:11 136:3 143:20
<b>experience</b> 5:27 24:18 35:22 64:9 101:26 119:6 157:19	<b>facing</b> 14:12 110:3	<b>fees</b> 136:3,8	<b>follow</b> 34:7 72:5
<b>experienced</b> 138:15	<b>fact</b> 33:15 37:11 43:15 50:5 58:6 76:10 79:14 86:28 89:8 134:4	<b>fellow</b> 65:22	<b>follow-up</b> 85:27
<b>experiences</b> 23:20 118:7	<b>fact-finding</b> 41:22	<b>felt</b> 150:18	<b>followup</b> 39:12
<b>experiencing</b> 21:3 116:5	<b>Faez</b> 57:11,15	<b>figure</b> 32:16 98:7 123:2 128:13 149:23 150:10	<b>food</b> 23:11 31:21 54:12 68:2 70:11 117:25 123:11 139:5 145:27 163:4
<b>exploitive</b> 70:7	<b>failure</b> 79:6	<b>file</b> 38:11 44:15	<b>force</b> 32:15 158:26
<b>exponential</b> 167:11	<b>fair</b> 23:8 62:1 74:16 78:10 117:22 123:8	<b>filed</b> 10:10 12:23 22:26 106:6 108:23 117:12	<b>forced</b> 24:20,23 31:21 70:10 119:9,12
<b>exposure</b> 70:19	<b>fairly</b> 141:14 169:10	<b>filings</b> 39:21 156:9	<b>forces</b> 33:12
<b>expressed</b> 11:8 107:1	<b>faith</b> 25:21 78:28 83:9, 14 84:13	<b>final</b> 85:20	<b>forecast</b> 18:19 27:8,17 113:27 115:18,20
<b>expressing</b> 40:28	<b>fall</b> 10:10 67:13 106:6	<b>finally</b> 7:21 24:26 84:23 103:18 119:14	<b>forecasting</b> 81:10
<b>extensions</b> 34:24	<b>families</b> 23:16 67:24 68:28 72:13,16,23,25 94:23 118:2 122:21 125:10 138:24 158:8 167:11,19,28 168:3	<b>financial</b> 25:25 29:7 47:19 48:19 50:5 167:23	<b>forecasts</b> 20:18,20 27:9
<b>extent</b> 160:6	<b>families'</b> 158:3	<b>financially</b> 70:23	<b>Forest</b> 129:18 163:21
<b>extra</b> 134:6 156:26 167:19	<b>family</b> 55:19 94:11 122:13 159:28	<b>find</b> 12:20 18:15 37:27 49:17 68:25 85:11 108:20 113:24 122:27 134:15 136:5 138:3 149:3 150:3,5 153:28 161:9 163:15 172:15	<b>forever</b> 35:11
<b>extraordinarily</b> 18:10 113:19 138:14	<b>family's</b> 71:27 167:21	<b>finished</b> 56:10	<b>forgot</b> 146:16
<b>extraordinary</b> 18:9	<b>fan</b> 61:17	<b>Fire</b> 43:20 44:19 50:16, 17	<b>form</b> 13:11 46:5 72:17
<b>extreme</b> 16:11 22:21 32:18 111:24 117:8	<b>fans</b> 64:1 66:5 91:22 160:28	<b>fires</b> 24:3 50:14,15,18 118:19	<b>formal</b> 12:23
	<b>fantastic</b> 86:27		<b>fortunate</b> 53:5 122:1
	<b>farm</b> 5:19 101:19 124:22		<b>forum</b> 58:22 65:13
			<b>forward</b> 6:15 7:3 12:16 19:13 21:9 39:25 45:17

96:26 102:13 103:1 109:4 114:19 116:10 122:4 154:12	<b>G-I-L-L</b> 41:19	<b>giving</b> 77:21 126:13 129:6 151:22,23	<b>groceries</b> 140:7
<b>found</b> 20:19 73:23 82:19 115:19	<b>G-L-O-R-I-A</b> 90:15	<b>global</b> 22:22 23:1 117:8,16	<b>grocery</b> 122:15
<b>four-year</b> 9:6 105:2	<b>G-O-N-Z-A-L-E-S</b> 78:26	<b>Gloria</b> 90:11,14	<b>gross</b> 125:15
<b>fourth</b> 128:13	<b>G-U-Y</b> 157:12	<b>goal</b> 20:9 28:19 115:8 121:20 122:9 127:8	<b>grossly</b> 124:20
<b>Franklin</b> 65:24	<b>gas</b> 131:22 140:7 146:6 166:6,8	<b>goals</b> 20:12 115:11 126:19,20 144:11	<b>ground</b> 77:13
<b>freaking</b> 32:19	<b>gathering</b> 38:15	<b>Goldmayor</b> 137:5,6,8	<b>grounded</b> 113:8
<b>free</b> 58:8 71:26	<b>gatherings</b> 7:5 103:2	<b>Gonzales</b> 78:22,23,25 80:14	<b>group</b> 97:2
<b>freeze</b> 157:14 158:13	<b>gave</b> 28:8		<b>groups</b> 18:4 28:6 79:8 113:14
<b>freezing</b> 158:6	<b>Gavin</b> 135:2,9	<b>good</b> 4:7,22 13:22 19:28 22:10 25:10 45:4 64:18 67:10 71:6 83:24 88:12 91:11 100:7,23 109:16 114:26 116:17 122:21 128:20 129:14 135:4 163:7 166:3	<b>growth</b> 27:15 47:27
<b>frequent</b> 98:1	<b>Gee</b> 44:28	<b>Goodnight</b> 166:20	<b>guess</b> 39:8 84:19,25 87:6,16 123:17 131:25 169:11,13,23
<b>Fresno</b> 75:28	<b>general</b> 4:9,25 7:15 8:27 9:4 14:3,8 15:12 16:1,21 17:17,19 20:4 36:12 47:22 63:23 100:9,25 103:12 104:24 105:1 109:24,28 110:26 111:15 112:5 113:1 115:2 120:16 122:3 123:24 129:4 131:28 136:26 145:7 151:8 156:7	<b>goods</b> 26:9	<b>guessing</b> 128:15
<b>friends</b> 67:28	<b>generally</b> 9:13 10:8 28:17 85:20 105:9 106:4	<b>gouging</b> 67:20,23	<b>guilty</b> 43:23 77:26
<b>front</b> 37:15,22 38:25 60:8	<b>generate</b> 135:28 136:2 169:15	<b>government</b> 73:12 74:26 122:24 130:9 140:21	<b>gung-ho</b> 78:7
<b>frontline</b> 65:15 66:22	<b>Genevieve</b> 4:16,23 40:23 100:17,23	<b>governor</b> 5:11 8:6 35:23 64:26 101:11 104:3	<b>Guy</b> 157:10,12
<b>frustrated</b> 37:9	<b>gentle</b> 159:9 166:22	<b>granted</b> 17:25 23:28 118:15	<b>guys</b> 30:16 31:23,27 32:12 33:5,8 34:27 47:27 48:16,20,21 60:4, 15 67:2 136:17,22 142:14 146:8 161:7 162:9
<b>frustrating</b> 96:2	<b>gentleman</b> 49:15 57:20 61:6 92:21 137:25 153:16 159:22 164:17 165:8 166:10	<b>GRC</b> 18:8,19 20:14 113:18 115:13	
<b>Fryer</b> 163:28 164:1,6,7, 11 166:21	<b>gentlemen</b> 169:4	<b>great</b> 25:11 29:23 37:3 53:28 86:7 95:15 135:8, 13	<b>H</b>
<b>full</b> 87:12 123:16 159:22	<b>George</b> 23:2 117:17	<b>greater</b> 29:20 64:18	<b>H-A-R-R-I-S</b> 137:15
<b>fully</b> 143:2	<b>Gib</b> 153:2,3,27 155:18	<b>greatly</b> 51:20	<b>H-A-S-A-N</b> 97:15
<b>function</b> 40:4 72:22	<b>gig</b> 24:10	<b>greed</b> 76:9 116:25 148:18 150:26 158:26 159:24 166:3	<b>H-E-L-E-N</b> 62:12
<b>fundamentally</b> 98:5	<b>Gill</b> 41:14,17,18	<b>greedy</b> 154:24	<b>H-U-L-L-E-Y</b> 145:18
<b>funded</b> 74:26	<b>give</b> 17:1 69:7 77:9,13 86:3 87:24 112:14 120:16 128:19 162:13 163:14 166:9	<b>grid</b> 16:14,17 111:27 112:1	<b>Haga</b> 101:6
<b>funding</b> 15:2,12,16 16:2 17:21,28 110:18, 27 111:2,16 113:4,11		<b>grief</b> 6:24 102:22	<b>half</b> 20:23 115:24 134:14 148:23 150:6
<b>funds</b> 74:14			<b>handle</b> 46:21 55:25 66:20
<b>furloughs</b> 142:8			<b>handy</b> 19:8 114:16
<b>future</b> 17:17,20 42:17 69:8 87:4 90:19 113:1,2 128:21 136:15			<b>happen</b> 86:28 123:6 161:23,26 163:10 167:15
			<b>happening</b> 77:28 95:25 147:14 167:17 169:26
<b>G</b>			
<b>G-A-V-I-N</b> 135:9			
<b>G-I-B</b> 153:4			

<b>happy</b> 60:14	<b>hearings</b> 7:2 14:1 15:8 23:18 41:2 67:12 79:1 101:8 102:28 110:22 153:24	<b>hole</b> 162:16	57:25 121:22 122:7,23
<b>hard</b> 126:16,23 127:7 131:24 147:18	<b>heart</b> 56:8	<b>holiday</b> 142:25	<b>household's</b> 129:19
<b>harder</b> 162:10	<b>heat</b> 70:17,19 90:28	<b>Holland</b> 95:7	<b>households</b> 125:5 145:3
<b>hardship</b> 6:24	<b>heater</b> 90:27 91:1	<b>holly-jolly</b> 30:26	<b>housing</b> 67:27 68:1 71:13
<b>hardships</b> 14:12 102:22 110:4	<b>heating</b> 55:16 91:23	<b>home</b> 6:13 9:15 42:10 51:13,19 61:19 67:19, 25 70:8 72:22 73:13 94:6 96:4 102:11 105:12 121:27 122:28 135:24 142:12 148:20 149:10 152:3 157:28 168:2,26 169:10	<b>Huaman</b> 5:3 81:21 84:2 88:16 100:27 131:2 163:18,23
<b>hardware</b> 46:18	<b>heavy-based</b> 26:3	<b>homebound</b> 67:26,27	<b>huge</b> 58:6,11 64:4 87:18 125:10 128:10 159:3
<b>haring</b> 11:17	<b>hefty</b> 61:24	<b>homeless</b> 56:4,6 162:26,27,28 163:1 172:18	<b>Hulley</b> 145:14,15,16,18 146:20
<b>harm</b> 29:7 72:7,18	<b>Helen</b> 62:9,12	<b>homes</b> 77:23	<b>human</b> 23:12 46:10 66:16 68:2,28 117:26 138:20,22
<b>Harris</b> 137:11,12,13,15 139:14	<b>helpful</b> 86:1 128:24 129:7 158:8	<b>honest</b> 35:14	<b>humanity</b> 55:28 56:2 69:2 125:24
<b>Hasan</b> 97:12,14	<b>helping</b> 29:6 161:9	<b>Honestly</b> 70:2	<b>humongous</b> 155:15
<b>hate</b> 70:21 88:1	<b>Herrera</b> 28:14	<b>Honor</b> 19:22 40:12,17 114:25	<b>hundred</b> 59:24
<b>haunt</b> 158:22	<b>high</b> 33:4 43:16,22 48:3,10 51:18 52:1 62:21 68:9 126:28 134:7 140:23 142:11 152:14 154:3	<b>Honors</b> 19:28 114:27	<b>hundreds</b> 155:9
<b>head</b> 32:17 49:16 148:17 161:4	<b>higher</b> 26:18 72:23 78:2,12 94:4	<b>hope</b> 32:11 39:9 40:23 45:9 46:3 54:23 67:14 84:10 87:28 94:16 119:16 127:25 128:26 132:21 137:15 139:10 142:14 152:21 155:12 165:16 167:12,25	<b>hurt</b> 131:13,21 138:8
<b>heads</b> 33:23	<b>highest</b> 72:13 89:25,26 140:8,9	<b>hoping</b> 121:13 125:20	<b>hurting</b> 70:22 131:22
<b>health</b> 6:28 54:7,9 65:3 70:10 94:15 102:26	<b>Highland</b> 155:26	<b>horrendous</b> 45:14	<b>husband</b> 31:14,19 159:23 161:16 163:6
<b>healthy</b> 93:28	<b>highly</b> 35:28 64:23	<b>horrible</b> 54:8	<b>hybrid-type</b> 157:25
<b>hear</b> 7:11,18,21 11:2 13:12 29:26 30:16,19, 20 36:25,26,28 85:3,15, 18 86:13 88:23 92:9,21 95:13 103:7,15,18 106:23 109:7 119:21 121:12 124:6,7,8 126:5, 7,9 127:25 128:27 144:20 151:17,18,19 160:10	<b>hike</b> 53:28 54:4,17 67:22 69:3 93:23	<b>horribleness</b> 54:1	
<b>heard</b> 15:3 23:20 42:24 53:13 57:19 80:26 83:11,13,18 108:5 110:19 118:7 119:18 127:28 135:5 137:16 144:27 160:2 169:6 170:24,25	<b>hikes</b> 26:7 54:13 67:16	<b>horrific</b> 60:3 61:4	
<b>hearing</b> 4:1,9,15 5:9 6:19 7:10 11:8,10 19:13 25:12 33:17 43:12 67:15 81:5 82:17 88:21 94:17 99:2,4 100:9,16 102:16 103:7 107:2,4, 10 108:17 109:3,22 114:19 118:5 134:3,25 146:19 169:5	<b>Hill</b> 78:26	<b>hospital</b> 94:2,5	
	<b>Hills</b> 63:19 66:8	<b>hosts</b> 28:4	
	<b>hire</b> 165:17	<b>hour</b> 48:13 89:24 90:2 99:10 121:17	
	<b>Hispanic</b> 83:8	<b>hours</b> 24:10,12,14 95:27 118:26,28 119:2	
	<b>historical</b> 27:1	<b>house</b> 55:17 76:12 91:19,20,21,24 127:13 160:19	
	<b>history</b> 65:20	<b>household</b> 31:3 53:6	
	<b>hit</b> 32:8 60:7 72:12,16 148:16		
	<b>hitting</b> 60:12		
	<b>hold</b> 74:8 96:8 166:9		
	<b>holding</b> 7:1 23:1 65:12 102:27 117:14 161:4 170:17,18		



<b>impactful</b> 114:8 121:27	66:7 78:12 87:22 93:24	27 106:11 118:25	<b>initiatives</b> 17:16
<b>impacts</b> 19:8 21:3	94:12 121:16 127:28	121:26 130:4 132:13,15	112:28
114:15 116:5	128:3 129:27 132:17	133:7 140:10 143:28	<b>injustice</b> 72:18 125:15
<b>imperative</b> 69:5	138:12 139:1,25 146:3	147:13 150:1,24 154:25	<b>input</b> 12:14 14:6 82:16
<b>implement</b> 50:23	147:22 155:1 160:25	165:2,6 167:12 171:20	99:5 108:3 109:26
<b>implemented</b> 75:25	164:12 167:22	<b>increasing</b> 6:8 18:17	<b>inquiries</b> 28:2
<b>implementing</b> 72:4	<b>incomes</b> 87:19 128:9	48:8 50:10 58:16 74:12	<b>insensitive</b> 68:26
<b>imply</b> 38:12 72:1	137:20 138:9 150:2,25	81:6 102:7 113:26	<b>inside</b> 98:6 161:8
<b>important</b> 6:7 7:6 9:19	152:16	143:24 144:17 151:28	<b>insightful</b> 45:16
13:28 14:15 16:7 18:10	<b>incompetence</b> 166:4	152:20 170:18 172:10	<b>inspect</b> 15:19 111:4
94:21 102:6 105:16	<b>incorrect</b> 73:24	<b>incredible</b> 132:19	<b>inspiration</b> 119:17
109:21 110:6 111:21	<b>increase</b> 10:14,21,25,	<b>increments</b> 140:16	<b>inspiring</b> 118:2
113:19 124:26 134:4	27,28 17:10 18:19,22,	<b>incurs</b> 9:26 105:23	<b>install</b> 17:8 112:20
140:16 144:8 157:23	27 19:5 20:22,27 21:1	<b>Indeed.com.</b> 97:25	<b>installed</b> 135:24
<b>importantly</b> 7:21 81:16	23:14,24,26,27 24:1	<b>independent</b> 20:5	<b>instance</b> 27:7
103:18	26:2,5,6,13 27:4,7	115:4	<b>instituted</b> 78:9
<b>impose</b> 26:10	28:24 29:11 37:14,19	<b>indicating</b> 143:27	<b>institutions</b> 77:15
<b>imposed</b> 6:25 102:23	42:14,19 43:18 45:7	<b>indigenous</b> 93:14,17	<b>instruction</b> 72:1
<b>impossible</b> 146:13	47:13,16 48:1 49:23,24,	<b>Indio</b> 90:1	<b>insufficient</b> 27:13
<b>improve</b> 15:14 16:2	28 50:4,21 52:1,19	<b>individual</b> 58:28 74:3	<b>insulation</b> 75:21 76:12
46:8,10 111:1	53:12 56:17 57:22,28	86:18,23	91:20,21
<b>improvement</b> 46:6,24	58:7,11,19,25,27 59:27	<b>individuals</b> 53:6 76:6,	<b>insurance</b> 24:2 43:22
<b>improvements</b> 165:13	60:6,17 62:17,21 63:21	26 77:14	118:18
166:12	64:13,16 66:14 68:5,8	<b>industries</b> 124:23	<b>interaction</b> 112:16
<b>improving</b> 46:6 111:16	70:3,9,26 73:1,6 74:7,	<b>industry</b> 48:24 139:23	125:1 140:27
165:22	20 77:8 79:4,15,20,27,	<b>inefficient</b> 98:9 154:23	<b>interactions</b> 17:4
<b>in-depth</b> 28:9	28 80:5 83:12,20 84:21	<b>inevitable</b> 34:23	<b>interest</b> 98:15,16 115:7
<b>inaudible</b> 30:25 35:1,	85:8 86:26 87:18,25,26	<b>inflation</b> 47:25,26	<b>interests</b> 20:8 29:4
26 36:6,21 43:10,18	89:7,16,19 90:5 91:4	76:14 129:21	<b>interface</b> 16:14 111:27
45:9 62:19 73:27 74:14	106:10,16,19,21,22	<b>information</b> 5:6 12:21	<b>internal</b> 98:3
84:1 89:20 118:26	112:22 113:27 114:2,6,	13:6 14:17,19,23 17:2	<b>International</b> 49:20
129:25 130:12 131:14,	13 115:23,27 116:3	19:10 37:7,10,25 38:14,	89:11
15 134:5 142:11 147:22	117:28 118:11,13,14,16	16,23 39:9 83:25,27	<b>interrupting</b> 121:5
154:8	122:6 125:16 128:3,10,	84:27 85:11,14 101:5	<b>interruption</b> 78:13
<b>include</b> 63:21	18 129:20,22,27	108:14,20 109:1 110:8,	<b>intervenor</b> 25:23
<b>included</b> 8:3 9:11 10:7	131:15,20 132:17,20	10 112:14 114:17	<b>introduce</b> 7:16 103:13
103:28 105:8 106:3	133:25 139:7,9 140:22	<b>informed</b> 11:5 16:19	<b>invest</b> 76:6
<b>includes</b> 9:16 16:2	142:15 143:6,10 145:25	106:27 112:3	<b>invested</b> 135:11
18:2 71:19 105:13	146:9 147:10,20 152:5	<b>infrastructure</b> 9:17	136:14
111:16 113:12	153:10,14,16,19	50:11 58:18 105:14	
<b>including</b> 18:3 36:5	154:20,21 155:5,16	165:7,14,22	
61:13 73:20,24 113:13	156:28 157:4 158:4,23	<b>initially</b> 128:18	
121:17 136:8,13	159:3 161:13 165:3,9	<b>initiative</b> 28:10 29:15	
<b>income</b> 18:26 26:19	166:7,11,13 168:2		
31:26 32:1 35:8 55:15	169:5 172:11,18		
	<b>increased</b> 61:13		
	156:23		
	<b>increases</b> 10:15 24:9		
	26:8 27:17 29:10 46:3,		
	26 47:20,23 48:16		
	49:19,21 50:7 63:25		
	64:8 72:5 73:15 75:3		
	79:2 87:24 90:25 91:23,		

<b>investigate</b> 73:28	<b>J-U-L-I-E</b> 71:7	<b>Joyce</b> 139:18,20	<b>Ki</b> 145:14,16
<b>investigating</b> 50:18	<b>Jack</b> 83:4,7 84:11	<b>judge</b> 4:4,14,21 6:16,17 8:8 11:6,17 12:8,12,24 13:24,25 18:18 40:23 66:15 80:21 81:22 84:3 88:17 100:4,15,22 102:14 104:5 106:27 107:10,26 108:2,24 109:18 120:15 131:3 153:18 156:4 161:24	<b>kicked</b> 149:8
<b>investment</b> 84:26 85:13 135:17	<b>jack@mirandacenter.com.</b> 86:6	<b>judges</b> 4:13 6:16 8:14, 19 14:23 22:14 80:28 86:20 88:3 100:13 102:14 104:10,15 108:7 116:28 136:17	<b>kids</b> 123:12 142:13 149:10
<b>investments</b> 17:22 113:5	<b>Jackson</b> 133:2,3,4,5 134:26		<b>kill</b> 56:18
<b>investors</b> 61:9 135:12	<b>Jackson's</b> 140:2		<b>kilowatt</b> 24:13 89:24 90:2 119:1
<b>invite</b> 12:1 107:20 119:23 156:12	<b>James</b> 127:21,23 133:2,4		<b>kind</b> 48:16 55:28 57:25 65:20 94:10 123:13 134:9 147:6 170:23
<b>involved</b> 12:20 108:19 129:16	<b>Janet</b> 151:15,20		<b>kinds</b> 44:12 45:12 94:7 171:20
<b>irresponsible</b> 90:3	<b>January</b> 5:13 10:15 101:13 106:11		<b>kitchen</b> 73:5
<b>Irvine</b> 171:12	<b>Jason</b> 5:3 100:28	<b>Julie</b> 71:3,7	<b>kite</b> 65:27
<b>island</b> 30:25,28	<b>Jay</b> 49:8,12	<b>July</b> 15:7	<b>Kneider</b> 57:12,14,15,19 59:3,9
<b>isolated</b> 55:18	<b>Jaymie</b> 60:25 61:1	<b>jump</b> 61:27	<b>Kransky</b> 45:22,25,26
<b>issue</b> 41:22 44:8 134:15	<b>Jeanell</b> 137:11,13,14	<b>junction</b> 18:10 113:20	<b>Kristin</b> 95:10,12,21
<b>issues</b> 14:16 39:2 44:4 55:17 56:5 75:18 78:15 96:17 110:7 134:1 164:21 169:8	<b>Jeff</b> 88:10,13,25	<b>June</b> 4:2 110:21 146:12	
<b>item</b> 39:27 136:21	<b>jeopardize</b> 70:10	<b>Jurupa</b> 142:5	<b>L</b>
<b>itemized</b> 27:26	<b>jeopardy</b> 87:5	<b>justification</b> 29:9 37:14	<b>L-A-P-A-S-H-I-N</b> 121:8
<b>items</b> 37:10 169:1	<b>Jerry</b> 14:21 34:8 62:24 63:4 110:12 130:21,24	<b>justified</b> 37:20	<b>L-E-A-N-Z-A</b> 55:11
	<b>jerry.aguilar@sce.com.</b> 34:12	<b>justify</b> 68:7 79:19 166:12	<b>L-U-X-E-M-B-E-R-G</b> 75:12
	<b>Jessica</b> 101:4	<b>K</b>	<b>L.A.</b> 22:27 54:14
<b>J</b>	<b>job</b> 8:14 23:1 31:17,18, 19 48:13 53:5 97:19,24 104:10 117:15 122:2 125:22 139:2 141:16 146:2 149:3 150:3,5	<b>K-12</b> 73:13	<b>LA</b> 117:13
<b>J-A-C-K-S-O-N</b> 133:5	<b>jobs</b> 31:17 66:23 142:8 147:18 149:5,9 152:2 155:10	<b>K-A-R-E-N</b> 43:9	<b>labor</b> 5:18 28:20 29:10 101:17 124:22
<b>J-A-M-E-S</b> 127:24 133:5	<b>Joe</b> 101:6	<b>K-A-T-H-E-R-I-N-E</b> 65:14	<b>lack</b> 69:2
<b>J-A-N-E-T</b> 151:21	<b>joined</b> 4:16 22:18 100:16 117:4 159:10	<b>K-E-N</b> 37:3	<b>lacking</b> 79:21
<b>J-A-Y</b> 49:12	<b>joining</b> 43:12 136:28	<b>K-I</b> 145:17	<b>lady</b> 125:17 153:13 166:9 172:16
<b>J-A-Y-M-I-E</b> 61:2	<b>Jolly</b> 30:26	<b>K-N-E-I-D-E-R</b> 57:16	<b>Laguna</b> 63:19 66:8
<b>J-E-A-N-E-L-L</b> 137:14	<b>Jolly-rincon</b> 30:13,15, 19,22,23 34:13,16 35:21 36:8	<b>K-R-A-N-S-K-Y</b> 45:27	<b>laid</b> 66:26 73:9 146:14 147:2
<b>J-E-F-F</b> 88:26	<b>Josephine</b> 132:7,10	<b>K-R-I-S-T-I-N</b> 95:22	<b>Lake</b> 129:18 163:21
<b>J-E-R-R-Y</b> 34:8 63:4 130:24	<b>Joshua</b> 95:7	<b>Karen</b> 43:4,9	<b>Lakes</b> 164:8 165:4
<b>J-O-L-L-Y-RINCON</b> 30:27		<b>Katherine</b> 65:9,13	<b>Lakewood</b> 53:26
<b>J-O-S-E-P-H-I-N-E</b> 132:10		<b>keeping</b> 16:17,18 57:27 112:1,3	<b>land</b> 71:23
<b>J-O-Y-C-E</b> 139:21		<b>Ken</b> 37:3	<b>landlords</b> 33:24

<b>language</b> 28:2 32:20	<b>letter</b> 42:2,3 171:16	<b>LMI</b> 84:16	<b>lower</b> 18:26,27 26:19 43:17 45:9 62:16 66:7 114:7
<b>Lapashin</b> 120:26	<b>letting</b> 141:20 147:23 152:24	<b>load</b> 55:20	<b>lower-income</b> 72:18, 25 114:5
<b>large</b> 48:4 87:25 96:23 132:13,20 169:10	<b>level</b> 17:28 46:24 55:14 69:6 113:10 143:7	<b>loaded</b> 37:15,22,24 38:25	<b>lowering</b> 172:8
<b>larger</b> 17:11 65:3 112:23	<b>levels</b> 20:11 26:19 29:8 83:10 115:10	<b>loan</b> 127:13 168:28	<b>lowest</b> 20:10 115:8
<b>largest</b> 23:27 118:14	<b>Levine</b> 101:4	<b>local</b> 6:27 102:25	<b>Lucas</b> 65:15
<b>Lascor</b> 97:24	<b>life</b> 43:20 56:3,4 144:2 149:3 162:4	<b>location</b> 36:23 41:15 43:5 45:23 49:9 51:7 52:10,26 53:20 55:7 57:4,13 59:14 60:26 129:6,11 132:6 141:28 148:4 163:20	<b>ludicrous</b> 140:23
<b>latest</b> 23:24 118:11	<b>lift</b> 119:18	<b>logical</b> 92:20	<b>lunch</b> 71:26
<b>Latino</b> 84:13	<b>light</b> 160:9	<b>long</b> 25:14 68:19 70:6 78:7 87:9 92:12 93:19, 20 122:5 124:21 139:26 143:11	<b>Luxemberg</b> 75:10,11 78:18
<b>laundry</b> 55:21 126:25	<b>lighting</b> 48:4,5 158:2	<b>longer</b> 68:21	<hr/> <b>M</b> <hr/>
<b>law</b> 4:4,13 6:16,17 17:25 22:14 67:21 74:28 80:28 100:4,13 108:7 113:8 116:28	<b>lights</b> 66:6 160:3 169:2	<b>looked</b> 32:25,26 97:23 172:3	<b>M-A-R-C-I-A</b> 52:13
<b>lawsuits</b> 44:26	<b>limit</b> 13:4,5 36:15 55:22 142:7	<b>Los</b> 124:14 172:28	<b>M-C-C-A-R-T-H-Y</b> 155:25
<b>lay</b> 68:11	<b>limited</b> 139:1 169:11,17	<b>lose</b> 170:19	<b>M-I-C-H-A-E-L</b> 41:18 168:16
<b>layoff</b> 44:14 126:21 130:26 131:11	<b>lines</b> 15:21 50:12,19 111:6 166:13	<b>losing</b> 91:4,5 152:1	<b>M-I-L-L-E-R</b> 92:11 130:25
<b>lead</b> 6:4 102:2	<b>listed</b> 70:18	<b>loss</b> 48:13,21	<b>M-I-R-A-N-D-A</b> 70:1 83:8
<b>leadership</b> 94:28	<b>listen</b> 14:6 109:26	<b>losses</b> 43:23 45:14 90:25,26 91:2	<b>M-I-R-Z-A</b> 97:15
<b>leading</b> 25:19 94:13	<b>listening</b> 4:15 55:1 100:15 130:15 133:8 136:22 145:21 161:25 171:17	<b>lost</b> 31:17,19 43:21 54:6 90:27 138:11 147:18 155:10	<b>M-O-R-A-L-E-S</b> 151:6
<b>leads</b> 65:1	<b>literally</b> 55:16 70:9 74:11	<b>lot</b> 43:24 56:19 79:17 81:3,4 83:27 94:18 96:6 121:14 124:22 133:8, 13,23,27 134:11,20 139:28 140:28 147:17 149:11,14,15 152:3,7,8 154:10 163:10 164:24 166:2	<b>M-O-R-T-O-N</b> 88:3
<b>leaflet</b> 154:18	<b>literature</b> 74:1	<b>love</b> 28:11	<b>made</b> 39:22 44:27 45:4, 13 48:18 64:26 66:13 68:11 92:22,23 133:26 136:7 150:6 158:24 164:4 165:13 166:12 169:7 171:19
<b>lean</b> 170:18,19	<b>live</b> 15:27 16:15 23:7 33:4,7 49:14 53:25 59:25,26 62:1 65:14 76:19 111:12,28 117:21 124:13 129:17 130:25 131:10 138:22 139:5 140:6 142:4 147:12 158:9 160:19 161:16 165:4	<b>loud</b> 23:7 117:22 128:27	<b>magnitude</b> 130:4
<b>Leanza</b> 55:6,9,11 56:11,15,26	<b>lived</b> 23:19 118:6 148:19 162:2	<b>low</b> 31:25 32:1 35:8 57:26 71:26 72:15	<b>main</b> 39:15 72:26
<b>learn</b> 14:6 57:23 75:4 109:26	<b>lives</b> 6:26 23:23 66:3 67:25 93:26 102:24 118:10	<b>low-income</b> 31:4 33:15 64:3 72:13,16	<b>maintain</b> 50:24 51:14
<b>learned</b> 66:4	<b>living</b> 25:15 26:16 55:23 63:18 125:18 127:1		<b>maintaining</b> 165:7,11
<b>learning</b> 6:13 15:2 102:11 110:17 142:13 157:28 158:5 168:1			<b>maintenance</b> 26:26
<b>leased</b> 51:13			<b>major</b> 31:14 37:11 38:24
<b>leave</b> 17:17 112:28			<b>make</b> 4:18 12:18 17:5, 21 19:20 21:26 23:22 24:21,23 25:3 26:22 28:7 31:10 33:26 34:24
<b>LED</b> 160:3			
<b>left</b> 31:15			
<b>legal</b> 18:1 113:11 124:15			
<b>let alone</b> 55:26 66:11 72:22			

35:19 36:16 44:16 46:9 58:13,14 59:23 60:11 64:15,17 74:9,11 75:13 78:5 86:16 91:24 92:25 97:2 100:19 108:16 112:17 113:4 114:22 116:14 118:9 119:9,12 121:17 122:27 128:7 129:8 130:7 131:1 132:4 134:20 136:12,18 140:10,11 141:25 147:18 148:1 156:15 158:26,27 160:24 162:11,12 163:7,15 168:5 172:15	156:7 <b>Mccarthy</b> 155:22,23,24 156:15 157:6 <b>means</b> 47:19 68:1 73:15 76:28 94:4 125:5 138:3 <b>meant</b> 72:15,18 75:4 <b>meantime</b> 42:1 <b>measure</b> 17:15 <b>measures</b> 24:21 112:26 119:9 <b>media</b> 28:2 155:11 <b>median</b> 26:19 <b>medical</b> 56:5 68:2 70:19 <b>Medicare</b> 80:5,6 <b>meet</b> 122:12,27 126:23 127:8 133:9 147:19 <b>meeting</b> 41:7 100:28 126:19,20 144:11 148:16 <b>meetings</b> 41:3 <b>member</b> 83:14 <b>members</b> 7:12 20:1 22:17 29:27 71:14 80:23 81:20 103:9 114:27 117:3 119:22 <b>men</b> 96:6,24 97:5 <b>mention</b> 34:4 <b>mentioned</b> 12:25 14:2 18:18 19:9 38:24 47:12 48:9 57:21 63:20 89:5 92:16 113:3 140:17 143:9 153:10,14 154:6 <b>menu</b> 39:27 <b>mercy</b> 65:23 <b>merit</b> 79:19 <b>met</b> 28:18 <b>meter</b> 27:9 46:15 96:22 149:24 <b>meters</b> 9:13 33:7 105:10 <b>method</b> 27:8	<b>Michael</b> 28:14 41:14,18 168:12,16 <b>middle</b> 14:27 70:17 94:1,17,19 110:15 <b>miles</b> 71:23 89:28 <b>Miller</b> 92:7,8,10,11,28 130:21,23,24 131:9,26 <b>million</b> 10:16 17:23 20:24,26,27,28 21:1,6 24:2 26:2,5 27:3 73:3 89:12,13,15,16 106:12 113:5 115:24,27,28 116:2,3,8 118:17 125:8 158:16 <b>mind</b> 21:18 57:27 69:11 129:6 151:3 <b>mindful</b> 18:13 47:27 113:22 <b>mine</b> 79:17 <b>minimal</b> 142:9 <b>minimize</b> 17:3 112:15 <b>minimum</b> 48:14 118:27 136:9 <b>minimum-wage</b> 24:11 <b>minority</b> 26:18 28:22 <b>minute</b> 125:3 138:19 <b>minutes</b> 13:4 30:5,6 36:15,16 119:27,28 141:2 <b>Mirage</b> 71:21 <b>Miranda</b> 69:23,26,28 70:28 83:4,6,7 84:10,11 85:1,5,16 86:2,5 <b>mirror</b> 165:10 <b>mirroring</b> 166:8 <b>Mirza</b> 97:12,13,15 98:18 <b>misconceptions</b> 65:26 <b>mismanagement</b> 166:5 <b>mission</b> 18:5 113:15 153:5 160:20 <b>mist</b> 92:13	<b>mitigate</b> 16:9 111:23 <b>mix</b> 85:20 <b>model</b> 150:9,10 156:18 162:26 <b>models</b> 135:25 136:15 <b>mom</b> 35:1 145:20 147:3 <b>moment</b> 4:27 22:14 100:26 116:27 150:17 <b>moments</b> 120:16 <b>money</b> 8:1 43:24 44:6, 25 45:4 48:25 56:1 58:13,15,17 68:21 77:21 81:15 87:23 90:26 91:4,5,26 92:22 97:3 103:26 125:9 126:15 133:26,27 134:6 135:12,16,26 138:1 152:11,12 162:19 163:7 164:24 165:5,14,18 166:1,3,5 168:28 169:21 <b>money's</b> 170:27 <b>money-saving</b> 14:20 110:11 <b>monitor</b> 130:28 <b>monopolized</b> 61:28 <b>monopolizes</b> 51:26 <b>monopoly</b> 154:9 <b>Monrovia</b> 31:4 <b>month</b> 18:20 22:25 24:13,25 33:27 34:1 36:3 46:12 57:23 59:5 76:15,17 114:1 117:11 119:1,13 122:8 149:17 152:7 153:15 154:18, 22,25 156:23,26,28 <b>monthly</b> 10:25,26,28 24:5 48:15 57:26 59:4 106:19,20,22 118:20 121:20 127:13 <b>months</b> 20:13 70:23 72:21 115:12 149:2 150:4 <b>moral</b> 44:8 <b>Morales</b> 148:6,7,10 151:2,5
---	--	---	---

<b>Morton</b> 86:11,12,15 88:3,6	<b>negatively</b> 122:14 155:7	128:4 153:26 154:4,5 164:17	71:4 75:10 78:22 80:18 83:5 86:11 88:10 90:11 92:7 95:7,10 97:12 105:23 120:27 124:4 126:3 127:21 129:12 130:22 132:8 133:2 135:2 137:7,11 139:18 142:1,21 145:14 146:24 148:6 151:15 153:2 154:17 155:22 157:10 159:16 163:28 167:1 168:12 171:7 172:25
<b>mother</b> 51:12	<b>neglecting</b> 44:6	<b>numbers</b> 22:23 46:17 57:20 81:14 117:9 121:19 138:23	<b>opening</b> 4:19 100:20
<b>motivation</b> 172:7	<b>Negrete</b> 168:12,13,17	<b>numerous</b> 25:28	<b>operate</b> 68:10
<b>mouth</b> 60:7	<b>neighbors</b> 96:13 131:18	<b>nurse</b> 54:7	<b>operating</b> 9:1,22 104:26 105:19
<b>move</b> 43:1 45:17,19 49:5 57:10 59:1,10 78:19 86:8 92:26 137:16	<b>nepotism</b> 98:2	<hr/> <b>O</b> <hr/>	<b>operations</b> 26:26
<b>moved</b> 76:13 149:27	<b>nervous</b> 94:13 166:17		<b>operator</b> 5:5 7:26 13:10 19:15 21:11 30:1, 10,12 36:18,20 41:11, 13 43:1,3 45:19,21 46:28 47:2 49:5,7 51:3, 5 52:6,8,22,24 53:16,18 55:3,5 56:28 57:2,9,11 59:1,10,12 60:22,24 62:6,8 63:11,13 65:6,8 67:5,7 69:17,22 71:1,3 75:7,9 78:19,21 80:15, 17 82:5,8,11,24 83:2,4 86:8,10 88:7,9 90:8,10 92:4,6 93:1,5 95:4,6,9 97:9,11 98:19,21 101:4 103:23 119:25 120:8, 11,24,26 123:22,28 125:28 126:2 127:18,20 129:2 130:18,20 131:27 132:3,27 133:1 134:27 135:1 137:2,4,10 139:15,17 141:22,24 142:18,20 145:11,13 146:21,23 147:26,28 148:9 151:12,14 152:27 153:1 155:19,21 157:7, 9 159:13,15 163:25,27 166:26,28 168:9,11 171:4,6 172:22,24
<b>moving</b> 96:26 122:4	<b>net</b> 136:3	<b>o-l-i-t</b> 69:14	<b>opinion</b> 58:4 65:21 97:17
<b>multiple</b> 37:16,17 155:4	<b>Network</b> 13:16 21:27 22:13 94:28 109:11 116:15,22	<b>o-n</b> 142:24	<b>opinions</b> 11:7 67:13 85:19 107:1 144:24
<b>multiyear</b> 70:5	<b>Newport</b> 139:22	<b>objectives</b> 144:11	<b>opportunity</b> 22:16 23:19 36:17 43:11
<b>Municipal</b> 5:23 101:22	<b>news</b> 49:17	<b>obligation</b> 67:11	
<b>murder</b> 23:2 117:16	<b>Newsom</b> 5:11 64:26 101:11	<b>obtaining</b> 20:9 115:8	
<hr/> <b>N</b> <hr/>	<b>Nia</b> 30:13,23	<b>occurred</b> 72:12	
<b>N-E-G-R-E-T-E</b> 168:17	<b>nice</b> 146:3	<b>Oceanside</b> 146:17	
<b>nail</b> 148:16	<b>night</b> 66:6 141:6 148:20	<b>offered</b> 29:14	
<b>nailed</b> 49:15	<b>night's</b> 128:20	<b>offers</b> 64:4 79:24	
<b>name's</b> 12:9 65:13 92:9	<b>non-income</b> 18:21 114:1	<b>office</b> 5:5 7:17 12:3 13:16 20:5,7,13 21:6 82:23 101:3 103:15 107:22 108:11 109:11 114:23 115:1,3,6,12 116:8	
<b>names</b> 81:25 145:9	<b>non-profit</b> 64:19	<b>Office's</b> 20:3	
<b>Nancy</b> 30:24,28 31:1 93:15 142:24	<b>nonlabor</b> 28:20	<b>offices</b> 74:26	
<b>nation</b> 134:8	<b>nonprofit</b> 25:24 63:18	<b>official</b> 15:9 110:24	
<b>National</b> 13:17 25:4,22 26:24 27:24 28:8 29:16, 20 83:13 84:11	<b>nonsense</b> 46:20	<b>offline</b> 51:1 85:15	
<b>nationally</b> 83:10	<b>normal</b> 143:14	<b>offset</b> 72:24	
<b>natural</b> 44:17	<b>North</b> 41:19	<b>on/turn</b> 15:23	
<b>NDC</b> 25:22 27:16,19 28:24 29:22	<b>note</b> 9:19 32:20 58:27 75:23 85:18 105:16 153:21 165:15	<b>one-person</b> 121:16	
<b>necessarily</b> 144:23	<b>noted</b> 143:17	<b>ongoing</b> 6:6 102:5	
<b>necessities</b> 23:12 117:26	<b>notes</b> 164:5	<b>online</b> 5:8 7:2 32:26 49:18 97:19 101:7 141:2 156:24	
<b>necessity</b> 123:16	<b>notice</b> 109:2	<b>Ontario</b> 70:1 157:13	
<b>needed</b> 9:14 62:20 105:11	<b>notices</b> 143:26	<b>open</b> 9:27 19:16 21:13 30:14 36:23 41:16 43:6 45:24 47:5 49:10 51:8 52:11,27 53:21 55:8 57:4,13 59:15 60:27 62:10 63:14 65:9 67:8	
	<b>notification</b> 32:2		
	<b>November</b> 93:17		
	<b>number</b> 13:2,6 24:13 30:3 34:9 36:13 39:17, 28 56:25 57:24 62:25 73:23 112:6,16 119:1		



108:5 117:2 118:6 121:2 126:13 140:22 148:13 150:28 151:23, 24 159:6	<b>overhead</b> 68:18	25 102:5 110:4 116:7 117:8 122:6 157:24 159:1 161:3 167:18	<b>patience</b> 166:17
<b>opposed</b> 48:1	<b>overpaying</b> 76:28	<b>panel</b> 142:10 169:8,12	<b>pattern</b> 67:14
<b>opposition</b> 67:15	<b>oversee</b> 71:28	<b>panels</b> 17:8 112:20 160:12 165:26 169:14, 18	<b>Paul</b> 69:14 124:11
<b>option</b> 70:8 136:20	<b>oversight</b> 42:12	<b>parent</b> 49:20 121:16	<b>pause</b> 138:19
<b>options</b> 56:23,24	<b>overtime</b> 121:18 122:3	<b>parents</b> 66:9 160:18	<b>pay</b> 11:7 24:13,24 32:18 34:1,25 43:24 44:25 54:11,22 56:20 59:25, 28 61:8 66:10,11,25 73:17 76:5 79:5,28 80:9 91:26 106:28 111:10 119:1,12 123:16 127:10,12 130:28 131:13,22 143:3,21,22 146:7 150:5,13 152:14, 18 161:21 162:15 168:22 169:19 170:18
<b>oral</b> 11:21 107:13	<b>overwhelming</b> 41:24 42:20	<b>Park</b> 4:15,21 6:17 8:8 11:6,17 13:25 22:15 25:20 80:21 100:15,22 102:14 104:5 106:28 107:10 109:18 116:28 120:15	
<b>Orange</b> 51:11 130:21, 25 131:10	<b>owe</b> 42:4	<b>Parkinson's</b> 127:26	
<b>order</b> 4:6 31:21 35:23 44:17,24,28 45:13 64:26 68:9,12,22 100:7 138:4,22	<b>owner</b> 79:13	<b>part</b> 9:21 65:23 76:4 96:9 105:18 124:27 125:2 128:23 135:15 136:10 139:26 156:5	<b>paycheck</b> 125:18
<b>ordered</b> 35:27	<b>owning</b> 9:1 96:5 104:26	<b>part-time</b> 138:27 139:1	<b>paying</b> 7:8 18:12 24:6 65:3 68:6 70:11 74:8 76:17 103:5 113:21 118:22 143:7 149:16,20 150:12 165:12
<b>orders</b> 6:27 27:12 29:2 102:25	<hr/> <b>P</b> <hr/>	<b>participants</b> 7:23 103:20	<b>payment</b> 26:25,28 32:19 56:23 144:4
<b>organization</b> 25:24 47:4 83:15 116:24 153:9 161:8	<b>P-A-L-O-S</b> 51:12	<b>participated</b> 25:28	<b>payments</b> 34:24
<b>organizations</b> 33:18 79:9	<b>P-E-T-E-R-S</b> 88:26	<b>participating</b> 12:12 13:27 41:9 108:1 109:21	<b>pays</b> 15:24
<b>organizing</b> 22:12 116:20	<b>P-E-T-R-I-C-K-O</b> 90:15	<b>participation</b> 4:1,8 5:8 12:4,14 13:28 25:12 99:2,4 100:8 101:8 107:23 108:3 109:3,22	<b>pensions</b> 76:5
<b>Oscar</b> 31:1	<b>P-I-E-R-R-E</b> 22:6 116:20	<b>parties</b> 7:20 13:13 15:1 103:17 109:8 110:16 153:22	<b>people</b> 6:11 13:2 15:13 23:5 32:13,14 33:20 38:24 43:21 44:13 46:19 51:22 54:5,9,21 56:2,8 60:12 61:7,12 62:17 70:7,22 76:8,16, 18 77:7,9,11,12,20,21, 22 78:10,12 81:4,24 94:11,22 97:2,4 98:6 102:9 110:27 117:20,23 121:14 123:9 125:5,16 128:9 129:25 130:9,10, 13 131:24 132:18,23 133:8 134:2 135:21,28 138:9,24 142:6 144:1,3, 21,22 147:17 148:13 149:7,15,28 150:2,18, 23,25 152:1,2,22 154:27,28 155:8,10,11 156:28 158:11,19,20 160:2,10,25 161:18 162:27 163:9,11 167:13,21 168:4
<b>out-of-work</b> 158:11	<b>p-o-s</b> 43:10	<b>party</b> 12:21 25:23 85:19,22 108:21 109:12	
<b>outages</b> 16:26,28 112:10,12	<b>p.m.</b> 4:2 72:14 76:2 99:2,10,11 100:1	<b>Pasadena</b> 53:3	
<b>outcome</b> 85:20	<b>Pacheco</b> 90:11	<b>passed</b> 9:28 89:19 105:24	
<b>outcry</b> 23:6 117:20	<b>package</b> 83:18	<b>past</b> 5:26 17:12 28:18 75:16 76:22 77:5 78:4 101:25 112:24 144:13 148:23,27 165:6	
<b>outing</b> 141:5	<b>paid</b> 42:6 47:17 91:17 152:17 164:19 165:6	<b>Pastor</b> 83:7	
<b>outlets</b> 48:28	<b>pain</b> 6:24 102:22	<b>path</b> 29:19	
<b>outpace</b> 26:7	<b>paint</b> 91:19		
<b>outrageous</b> 46:2 154:7,8	<b>Palm</b> 71:8,11,18,19,20, 21 73:1 86:18 88:3		
<b>outreach</b> 27:19 28:12, 22 83:22 84:18 162:25 163:4	<b>Palmdale</b> 45:28 133:6		
<b>overcharged</b> 160:13	<b>Palms</b> 71:21		
<b>overcharging</b> 77:18	<b>Palos</b> 21:12,14,23 51:6, 9,10 52:5		
<b>overemphasizing</b> 77:27	<b>pandemic</b> 6:7 14:13 21:5 22:22 27:12 29:1 32:9 35:12 43:26 44:11 48:26 51:20 54:2 55:18 64:14,22 65:17,19 67:21 70:4,24 73:12 77:6 92:14 94:1,17,20,		

<b>people's</b> 70:10	<b>phonetic</b> 70:14 97:24 148:6	<b>pop</b> 164:21	<b>previously</b> 42:24 66:13
<b>peoples</b> 138:13	<b>physical</b> 16:18 102:10 112:2	<b>position</b> 28:25 123:13	<b>price</b> 26:8 57:28 67:20, 22 140:9
<b>percent</b> 10:21 18:27 22:24,28 24:7 26:6 27:4 28:19 47:16,25 48:2 49:21 57:27 59:24 64:10 71:25 73:10 77:16 79:15 86:26 87:2, 3,11,14 89:10,18 93:23, 25 106:15 114:7 117:10,14 118:22 128:11,12 130:28 131:12,17 138:11 146:4 155:2,3 164:15,16 166:14,15 170:10	<b>pick</b> 39:27	<b>positive</b> 35:15	<b>priced</b> 140:8
	<b>picking</b> 42:21	<b>possibly</b> 65:19 92:17	<b>prices</b> 91:18 123:3 131:22 133:14 140:7 149:18
	<b>Pico</b> 49:14	<b>posted</b> 11:18 89:6 107:11	<b>primary</b> 169:28 170:6
	<b>pie</b> 144:7	<b>Postpone</b> 165:8	<b>prior</b> 5:13 25:28 29:8 79:16 89:14,17 101:13 125:17
	<b>piece</b> 144:7	<b>potential</b> 14:7 109:27 126:21	<b>priority</b> 44:3
	<b>Pierre</b> 21:25,28 22:4,6, 9,11 25:2 116:13,16 148:15	<b>poverty</b> 55:14	<b>private</b> 87:13 130:7
<b>percentage</b> 48:1 161:12	<b>pile</b> 64:28	<b>power</b> 17:1 48:4 50:19 70:16 78:28 90:22 96:3 112:13	<b>privatize</b> 54:15
<b>perform</b> 15:26 111:12	<b>pillow</b> 128:19	<b>practically</b> 154:21	<b>privilege</b> 14:5 109:25
<b>performance</b> 29:12,20	<b>pilot</b> 90:27	<b>practice</b> 6:11 102:10	<b>problem</b> 33:14 84:17, 18 133:18 172:19
<b>period</b> 14:28 26:10 77:2 110:16	<b>pinch</b> 133:13	<b>pray</b> 155:12	<b>problems</b> 50:22
<b>periods</b> 75:26	<b>place</b> 4:8 6:14,28 14:10,15 32:25,27 51:24 83:24 96:7 100:8 102:12,26 110:1,6	<b>precisely</b> 40:27	<b>proceed</b> 12:6 13:19,20 22:8 84:9 107:24 109:14 167:7
<b>perks</b> 53:8	<b>placement</b> 44:1	<b>predominantly</b> 83:10	<b>proceeding</b> 4:13 6:18 7:20 8:16,21 9:6,24 10:3,9 11:20,24 12:5,22 13:13 14:9,27 15:1 25:23 39:14,17,22 40:11 81:2 82:18 85:24 98:26 100:14 102:16 103:17 104:17 105:3, 21,27 106:5 107:12,16, 23 108:21 109:8 110:1, 14,17 113:27 153:23 156:9
<b>permanently</b> 31:15 55:13	<b>places</b> 31:12 34:20 44:13 76:23 171:24	<b>premiums</b> 24:3 118:18	
<b>Perris</b> 52:14	<b>plan</b> 29:22	<b>prepare</b> 16:26 112:10	
<b>person</b> 32:4 88:18 93:26 94:3 96:21 122:24 146:10 152:9 154:2	<b>planning</b> 17:19 113:2 147:11	<b>prepared</b> 6:4	
<b>personal</b> 68:1 97:17	<b>plans</b> 28:21 29:11,13 96:11 143:23	<b>preparing</b> 20:15 115:14	
<b>personally</b> 44:8 51:15 121:27 161:11	<b>plead</b> 139:10	<b>present</b> 144:24	
<b>perspective</b> 143:1	<b>pleaded</b> 43:23 164:25	<b>presentation</b> 47:28	
<b>Peters</b> 88:10,11,13,22, 25,26 90:7	<b>pleading</b> 167:14	<b>presentations</b> 21:19	
<b>Petricko</b> 90:12,13,15	<b>plenty</b> 133:25	<b>presented</b> 20:16 115:15 124:28	
<b>PG&amp;E</b> 44:19	<b>plug</b> 126:27	<b>presenters</b> 5:2	<b>proceedings</b> 26:1 39:16 40:2,27 85:19 104:12
<b>Phase</b> 38:9,13,14 39:8	<b>pockets</b> 161:14	<b>press</b> 7:25 13:9 19:17 21:20 29:28 93:6 103:22 119:24 120:13, 17 124:1 129:9 132:4 141:26 148:2	<b>process</b> 12:15 15:11 18:1 48:19 60:10 69:7 81:20 85:18 94:27 108:4 110:25 113:12
<b>phenomenal</b> 79:16	<b>point</b> 40:7 66:3 67:12 87:6 89:4,18,22 124:25 125:23 128:18 160:24	<b>pretty</b> 39:25 83:17 139:25 141:12,13 144:19 147:3 168:19 170:2,5,22	<b>product</b> 130:1 136:14
<b>phone</b> 7:2,25 13:10 19:18 30:1 38:20 62:25 95:28 102:28 103:22 108:24 119:24 143:11 145:23	<b>poles</b> 9:13 15:20 45:1 95:27 105:10 111:5	<b>previous</b> 31:17 61:6 79:3,7 135:25	<b>profit</b> 10:2 58:16 76:5 94:19,23 105:26 125:11 135:20 161:17 169:16
	<b>Polit</b> 67:8,9 69:10,13,14		<b>profiteering</b> 125:23
	<b>politicians</b> 164:25		

<b>profits</b> 24:8 92:23 118:24 130:11	<b>protect</b> 6:28 24:3 29:3 66:24 102:26 118:18	117:3,20 118:8 119:22 120:2,17 129:15 130:6 151:23 153:8 156:13 168:23	85:4,5,11,17,25 87:16, 20 93:6 120:13 124:1 127:14 129:11 130:20 132:7 137:4 153:6 155:27,28 168:24 169:13 172:3
<b>program</b> 31:11 34:28 35:10 41:27 42:12 59:27 62:15 83:24 87:21 90:27 91:1 124:16 157:26	<b>protection</b> 44:15 116:26	<b>public.advisor@ cpuc.ca.gov</b> 108:11	<b>question/comments</b> 37:6
<b>programs</b> 6:14 14:20 15:13 17:8 19:7 27:22 28:6,26 29:13,14 32:12 33:2 35:8 51:16 64:4 75:3 83:22 84:15 87:1 90:23 102:12 110:11,27 112:20 114:14	<b>protections</b> 14:15,18 110:7,9	<b>public.advisor@ cpuc.ca.gov.</b> 12:27 108:28 156:14	<b>questions</b> 14:25 41:4 47:9 82:11,24,28 85:6 98:22 108:8 120:11 156:11,13
<b>prohibited</b> 83:20	<b>protests</b> 23:1 117:16	<b>publicize</b> 130:8	<b>queue</b> 7:26 13:11 36:14,19,21 45:20 62:7 97:10 98:20,22 119:25 120:10,11 123:23 125:28
<b>prohibitive</b> 83:28	<b>proven</b> 50:13	<b>publicly</b> 11:19 107:11	<b>quick</b> 86:16
<b>project</b> 20:2 114:28	<b>provide</b> 7:24 12:3 13:5 15:13,21 17:22 19:3,4 22:19 30:5 38:6 48:27 56:14 74:28 75:21 82:16 103:21 107:22 110:28 111:7 113:5 114:10,11 117:4 119:27 120:18 123:26 132:2 154:16 158:18	<b>published</b> 22:25 49:22, 26 117:11	<b>quickly</b> 17:1 61:27 112:13 141:4
<b>projections</b> 64:10	<b>provided</b> 7:9 15:4 27:13 29:9 30:4 39:10 85:23,28 103:6 110:20 119:16,26	<b>pull</b> 126:27	<b>quote</b> 49:16 143:13
<b>projects</b> 6:9 15:12 72:2 102:8 110:27	<b>provider</b> 5:24 101:23	<b>Pullman</b> 70:14	<b>Quoting</b> 49:25
<b>prolonged</b> 34:23	<b>providing</b> 7:14 18:6 27:6 46:5 78:2 82:21 103:11 113:16	<b>Pump</b> 90:28	
<b>prominent</b> 18:3 113:13	<b>provision</b> 87:8	<b>puppy</b> 59:19	<b>R</b>
<b>promoting</b> 169:23	<b>prudence</b> 128:23	<b>Pura</b> 124:3,11	<b>R-I-C-H-A-R-D</b> 45:27
<b>pronouncing</b> 40:24	<b>prudent</b> 19:2 23:18 114:9 118:5	<b>purchase</b> 9:26 72:24 105:23	<b>R-I-L-E-S</b> 121:9
<b>proof</b> 31:28	<b>PSUD's</b> 72:1	<b>purpose</b> 7:10 103:7	<b>R-O-B</b> 153:4
<b>proper</b> 17:13 112:25 167:16	<b>public</b> 4:1,8 5:2,5,8,12 7:4,5,12,17,24,26,28 8:4 10:12 11:4,8,28 12:3,10,13,26 13:7,15, 28 16:19 17:14 19:15, 21 20:1,3,4,6,7,8 21:5, 10,21 22:17 23:6,21 25:12 29:4,27 30:7 35:24 41:2 43:12 47:22 50:3 67:12,13 73:20 74:27 77:25 78:4 82:23 89:12 91:10 94:15 99:1, 4 100:8 101:3,7,12 103:2,3,9,14,21,23,25 104:1 106:8,25,26 107:1,19,21,27 108:2, 10,12,26 109:2,10,21 112:3,26 114:23,28 115:1,3,5,6,7 116:7,11	<b>push</b> 123:15	<b>R-O-C-I-O</b> 53:1
<b>property</b> 43:22 96:1,7		<b>pushing</b> 163:8	<b>R-O-U-B</b> 157:12
<b>proportion</b> 143:19		<b>put</b> 14:14 35:10 39:28 48:6 65:2 76:11 79:23 87:17,18 110:6 135:12 169:12	<b>racial</b> 96:16
<b>proportional</b> 143:20		<b>putting</b> 118:25 165:26	<b>racially</b> 97:1
<b>proposal</b> 15:2 20:14 23:24 63:21 81:2 110:18 115:13 118:11		<b>puzzled</b> 38:22	<b>racism</b> 145:1,3 162:8
<b>proposals</b> 110:20		<b>qualified</b> 18:21 114:1	<b>rain</b> 93:13,16
<b>propose</b> 54:4 58:10 172:13		<b>qualify</b> 18:25 36:5 51:15 53:7 71:26 114:4 125:6	<b>raise</b> 24:4 31:6 32:7,22 64:20,22 70:7 80:9 92:15,21 118:20 126:15 127:4 128:2 161:2
<b>proposed</b> 8:16,19 9:16 21:6 50:4 65:18 66:14 102:2 104:12,15 105:13 116:8		<b>quality</b> 5:16 44:1 101:16	<b>raises</b> 126:24 127:3
<b>proposing</b> 16:8 19:1 38:18 63:26 64:13 111:22 114:9 167:12 172:12		<b>quarter</b> 149:26 150:13	<b>raising</b> 33:19 92:24 126:18 138:16 165:20, 21
		<b>question</b> 19:17 21:11, 15 32:24 38:4 40:6 41:21 42:11,22 44:10 45:11 52:18 58:2,25 62:9,22 75:14 84:19	<b>rake</b> 24:8 118:23
			<b>ran</b> 148:20



<b>Rancho</b> 71:20 132:11	<b>reached</b> 42:27 63:1	<b>reconsider</b> 138:26 139:11 144:20	<b>refuse</b> 54:14
<b>random</b> 32:1 123:9	<b>read</b> 46:15 97:26 136:9	<b>record</b> 4:5 6:18 15:9 19:18,25 22:3 25:8 30:9 40:17,18,19 67:17 84:4, 5,6,8,24 89:12 99:8,9 100:5 102:15 109:13 110:24 120:4,5,20,21, 23 121:6 129:7 131:4,5, 6,8 153:25	<b>regard</b> 62:23 164:21
<b>range</b> 133:11	<b>readability</b> 46:11	<b>recorded</b> 27:2,4 101:2	<b>region</b> 37:7
<b>rate</b> 4:9,25 7:15 8:27 9:5,12 10:8 14:4,8 15:12 16:1 17:18,19 18:25 20:4 23:14,27 24:1 26:7,13 27:15,20 37:14,19 42:5,6,7,14,19 45:7 46:2,26 48:9 49:27 50:1 52:19 53:12,27 54:4,13,17 58:19 63:21, 25 64:8,12,16 66:13 67:22 68:5 69:3 70:3,9, 26 72:14,15,28 73:6 74:7,25 75:2 79:2,3,15 81:13 83:12,18,20 85:7 89:2 93:24 100:9,25 103:13 104:24 105:1,9 106:4 109:24,28 110:26 111:15 113:1 114:5 115:2 117:28 118:14,16 126:16,23,28 129:19,20 130:4 131:15,20 133:24 135:25 136:15 153:10, 14,15,19 154:7,19,21, 25 155:15 156:5 165:2, 3,6 171:20	<b>reading</b> 60:7 149:23	<b>recoup</b> 45:13	<b>regular</b> 31:17 45:8 143:2
<b>rated</b> 37:9	<b>readjust</b> 67:25	<b>recover</b> 51:22	<b>regularly</b> 148:23
<b>ratepayer</b> 49:13 74:3 135:19	<b>ready</b> 13:18 19:20 21:25 25:3 114:22 116:13	<b>recovery</b> 9:25 40:8 105:22	<b>regulations</b> 5:16 101:16
<b>ratepayers</b> 26:17 50:3, 25 170:3	<b>real</b> 80:10 81:14 139:23	<b>recuperation</b> 43:27	<b>reinstate</b> 29:8
<b>ratepayers'</b> 26:11 29:4	<b>realistic</b> 154:4	<b>reduce</b> 19:7 20:22 24:21 68:12,18 76:10 114:15 115:22 119:10 121:20 129:23 134:16 149:19	<b>reiterate</b> 167:9 171:14
<b>rates</b> 6:5,9 8:3 9:23 10:6,14 20:10 26:16,19 31:6 32:7 33:19 46:9 47:24 50:4,21 64:3,23 67:16 70:7 73:25 74:12 81:7 92:15,21,24 102:3, 7 103:28 105:20 106:2, 10 115:9 126:18 127:3 134:16 148:22 149:12 151:28 152:20 157:15 158:6,14,23 161:2 163:12 165:20,21 169:3,6 172:10,11	<b>realities</b> 68:27	<b>reduced</b> 77:6 87:1 122:10	<b>reiterating</b> 168:19
<b>re-looked</b> 171:28	<b>reality</b> 59:6	<b>reducing</b> 18:16 36:14 77:15 113:24	<b>REITS</b> 48:24,26
<b>reach</b> 11:5 56:22 57:23 106:26 108:10 149:22 156:13	<b>realize</b> 18:28 19:5 33:18 114:7,13 125:21 129:26,28	<b>reduction</b> 20:24,25,28 21:6 115:25,26 116:1,8 129:28	<b>relate</b> 37:6
	<b>reason</b> 31:7 92:20,24	<b>reductions</b> 15:5 48:13 110:21 125:6	<b>related</b> 9:18 37:10,11 105:15
	<b>reasonable</b> 6:5 26:20 102:3	<b>redundant</b> 143:5	<b>relations</b> 5:18 101:17
	<b>reasoning</b> 133:20	<b>reevaluate</b> 61:22	<b>relatives</b> 67:27
	<b>reasons</b> 37:17 63:20 68:4 133:23	<b>refer</b> 14:28 37:13,27 110:15	<b>released</b> 148:28
	<b>rebuttal</b> 153:8	<b>referenced</b> 34:20	<b>reliability</b> 6:10 16:22 46:11 102:9 112:6 125:1
	<b>receive</b> 10:12 72:2 106:8 108:22	<b>referred</b> 10:8 106:4	<b>reliable</b> 15:14 17:23 18:6 20:11 110:28 113:6,16 115:10
	<b>received</b> 11:27 41:27 87:1 107:18 109:2	<b>reflect</b> 24:17 119:6	<b>relief</b> 53:8 83:17 84:15
	<b>recent</b> 17:12 21:4 112:24 116:6	<b>Reform</b> 13:16 21:27 22:13 94:28 109:11 116:15,21	<b>rely</b> 64:6 80:12 93:27 122:4
	<b>recently</b> 15:3 79:22,23 110:18	<b>refrain</b> 120:6	<b>remaining</b> 149:25
	<b>recession</b> 70:5	<b>refrigerator</b> 165:25	<b>remains</b> 7:6 103:3
	<b>recognize</b> 128:21	<b>refund</b> 169:22	<b>remark</b> 35:19 40:21
	<b>recognizes</b> 14:9 109:28	<b>refunds</b> 78:2	<b>remarkable</b> 79:4,26
	<b>recommend</b> 20:21,25, 28 64:23 115:21,26 116:1		<b>remarks</b> 4:19 12:4 13:4 100:20 107:22 128:26
	<b>recommendations</b> 20:15 115:14		<b>remember</b> 157:23 158:14
	<b>recommended</b> 126:23		<b>remind</b> 81:24 98:24
	<b>recommends</b> 27:16		<b>reminder</b> 13:8 30:7 69:19 93:3 120:2 123:24 129:4 131:28 136:26 141:24 145:7 147:28 151:8 159:9 166:22

<b>remotely</b> 50:6	23 11:3 14:23 15:6,10, 16 16:2 18:9 23:17	135:18	<b>risks</b> 9:18 105:14
<b>removed</b> 90:20	26:13 33:8 38:7 40:16	<b>respiratory</b> 55:17	<b>River</b> 76:22
<b>removing</b> 72:15 170:15	43:25 64:16 66:16 72:4 79:1,2,9,11,23 85:21 89:3 104:9 106:9,17,25 110:21,24 111:2,16	<b>response</b> 20:3 41:24 42:20 57:5,8 85:17 95:8 115:2 129:19 143:12	<b>Rivera</b> 49:14
<b>renewable</b> 79:24	113:19 115:22 116:2 118:4 136:16 156:17	<b>responsibility</b> 45:5 76:18 84:25 85:12	<b>Rivers</b> 75:17 76:16
<b>rent</b> 33:28 54:12,22 64:20 146:12	<b>requested</b> 6:2 20:22, 26 21:1 27:2 29:10 101:28 115:27	<b>rest</b> 62:22 80:8 134:8	<b>RN</b> 92:13
<b>renters</b> 33:23	<b>requesting</b> 15:24 17:11 28:23 43:18 50:8 66:15 68:5 111:9 112:23 158:13	<b>restore</b> 78:28	<b>road</b> 42:17
<b>reorganize</b> 44:17	<b>requests</b> 43:15 46:23 69:8 90:24	<b>result</b> 24:6 118:22	<b>roads</b> 166:6,7
<b>repair</b> 15:19 111:5 166:6 168:27	<b>require</b> 23:6 117:21 130:3	<b>resulting</b> 29:1	<b>roadside</b> 71:22
<b>repaired</b> 143:15,16	<b>required</b> 6:5 24:24 37:20 67:24 73:14 74:28 102:3 119:12	<b>resume</b> 7:4 103:2	<b>Rob</b> 153:2,4
<b>repairs</b> 66:10	<b>requirement</b> 10:19 26:4 40:9 106:14	<b>retired</b> 86:23,24 127:28 137:18,19 138:28	<b>Robert</b> 101:6
<b>repeat</b> 62:25 70:22 80:25 85:6 136:27	<b>requirements</b> 6:3 102:1 139:4	<b>retiree</b> 90:18	<b>Rocio</b> 52:25 53:1
<b>replace</b> 16:24 45:1 95:26 112:8 169:1	<b>requires</b> 27:5	<b>retirees</b> 87:20,22	<b>Roger</b> 30:28
<b>replaced</b> 44:28	<b>research</b> 66:1 75:24 78:6	<b>retirement</b> 86:28	<b>roll</b> 128:6
<b>replacing</b> 45:3 141:15	<b>reserves</b> 73:16	<b>retiring</b> 86:18	<b>roof</b> 32:17 33:22 91:19, 20 168:27
<b>reply</b> 135:5	<b>resident</b> 21:12 53:3 66:15 93:19 139:22 146:15	<b>return</b> 48:10 135:17	<b>rooftop</b> 169:10
<b>report</b> 23:1 47:10 48:9 89:9 117:14	<b>residential</b> 10:24 23:25 27:11 47:24 48:7 106:18 113:28 114:4 118:12 153:19	<b>revenue</b> 6:2 10:14,19 20:18 26:3 40:9 48:21 68:13 102:1 106:10,14 115:18 135:27 136:2,5 140:20	<b>room</b> 25:15
<b>reporter</b> 11:9,14 38:8 40:12,13,16,26 81:21, 23 82:3 84:2,3 88:1,16, 17 107:3,8 131:2,3 163:18,19,23	<b>residents</b> 16:22 22:28 53:4 63:28 65:1,22 66:20 112:7 117:14	<b>revenues</b> 138:4	<b>Roubian</b> 157:10,11,12 159:8
<b>reporters</b> 4:28 95:20 100:27 151:4	<b>resilience</b> 118:1	<b>reverse</b> 60:10	<b>rough</b> 147:4,21
<b>represent</b> 84:19	<b>resilient</b> 23:15	<b>review</b> 20:17 28:9 115:17 172:8	<b>roughly</b> 24:14 73:7 119:2
<b>representative</b> 13:14 31:3 34:5 42:9 73:27 84:12 109:9 124:19	<b>resources</b> 5:14 16:27 19:11 101:14 112:11 114:18	<b>reviewing</b> 20:14 73:21 115:13	<b>run</b> 51:17 63:28 66:11 97:28 98:8,9,15 130:9 149:12 160:26,27 170:19
<b>representatives</b> 34:17 109:12	<b>respect</b> 67:10 124:25	<b>reviews</b> 97:21	<b>running</b> 61:17 123:2
<b>represented</b> 47:14		<b>revisit</b> 163:16 165:10	<b>rural</b> 136:10
<b>representing</b> 82:1 83:8		<b>Richard</b> 45:22,26	
<b>represents</b> 20:8 47:16 115:6		<b>ridiculous</b> 31:23 32:24 54:18 172:14	<hr/> <b>S</b> <hr/>
<b>reprioritize</b> 17:16 112:27		<b>rigorous</b> 18:1 113:11	<b>S-E-B-R-I-N-G</b> 63:17
<b>request</b> 8:12,27 10:13,		<b>Riles</b> 120:26,28 121:4, 7,9,11 123:21 137:23	<b>S-E-I-F-F</b> 37:4
		<b>rising</b> 26:16 167:23	<b>S-E-V-I-L-L-A</b> 53:2
		<b>risk</b> 16:10 63:27 64:5 65:3 94:4,14 111:23 135:15,21	<b>S-H-A-V</b> 142:24
			<b>S-H-I-S-H-I-D-O</b> 146:28
			<b>S-L-I-D-E-R</b> 22:5 116:20
			<b>S-N-O-W</b> 13:23 109:17

<b>S-U-K-U-H-A-R-A</b> 62:13	21 29:7,11,13,18 37:11 42:13 43:23 44:18,23 45:12 49:14,19,21 50:2 56:13 61:4 63:20 64:2, 4,13,15,23 73:14,15,17 74:7,10,21 79:17,21,26 80:10,12 84:26 89:3,5, 23 90:4,17,19,24 91:8, 11,16 92:1 110:6 111:4, 13 115:18 118:16,22 119:6 125:7,11 126:15, 23 127:3,8,9,14 128:3 129:26 130:3,6 132:12, 15 133:27 137:26 143:28 152:13,21 154:9,17 156:17 159:21 160:23 161:8 162:10 167:12	<b>Seiff</b> 36:24,26 37:2,3 38:2,12 39:11,23 40:5, 23 41:6	23 21:18,24 22:1,7,15 25:1,7,19 29:25 30:18, 20 34:3,15 35:17 36:11, 25,28 38:2 39:11 40:1, 18,20 41:10 42:23 45:15 46:27 49:3 51:2 52:5,21 53:15 55:2 56:11,21,27 57:6,9,18 58:23 59:8,10 60:20 62:5,28 63:4,8,10 65:5 67:4 69:10,16 70:28 74:15 75:6 78:17 80:14, 21 82:4,9,13,27 84:5,7 85:1,16 86:4,7,14 88:6, 24 90:7 92:3,28 95:3, 14,18 97:8 98:18,23 100:4,12,22 102:15,20 109:6,18 114:21 116:12,28 119:20 120:15,22 121:4,10 123:20 124:8 125:27 126:6,9 127:17 129:1 130:17 131:5,7,26 132:26 134:26 135:6 136:25 137:8 139:14 141:21 142:17 145:6 146:20 147:25 151:2,7, 19 152:26 153:17,18 155:18 156:4 157:6 159:8 163:24 164:6,10 166:21 167:6 168:8 171:3,10 172:22
<b>Sacramento</b> 5:22,24 101:22,23		<b>selection</b> 68:17	
<b>sacrifice</b> 74:6		<b>senate</b> 8:7 104:4	
<b>sacrificed</b> 68:10		<b>Senior</b> 63:18	
<b>sacrifices</b> 64:18		<b>seniors</b> 64:6	
<b>sad</b> 122:25		<b>sense</b> 31:10 66:13 91:6 129:24 134:20 140:11	
<b>Saddleback</b> 162:3		<b>sensitive</b> 17:14 112:26	
<b>Sadera</b> 142:17		<b>sentences</b> 74:19	
<b>safe</b> 7:4 15:14 16:14, 17,19 17:23 18:6 20:11 39:25 50:24 93:28 94:7 103:2 110:28 111:27 112:2,4 113:6,16 115:9	<b>SCE's</b> 15:18 20:3,14, 19,22,26 21:1,7 23:24 27:20,28 28:23 61:20 72:8 79:1,5,9 85:12 115:2,13,19,22 116:2,9 118:11,19	<b>separate</b> 9:24 74:24 105:20	
<b>safety</b> 6:11 16:4,6 17:15 44:3 63:22,27 64:5 102:9 111:18,20 112:26 124:28 140:15, 26	<b>sce.com/billhelp</b> 14:19 19:10 110:10 114:17	<b>seriousness</b> 157:17	
<b>salaries</b> 15:25 77:9,14 111:10 133:10 152:14 158:15 161:15	<b>schedule</b> 109:20	<b>servants</b> 23:21 118:8	
<b>salary</b> 73:8 74:10 77:16 127:11 129:22	<b>schedules</b> 13:27	<b>serve</b> 16:5 23:18 71:24 111:19 143:6 169:7	
<b>sale</b> 129:28	<b>school</b> 71:11,13,15 73:2 74:11,13 123:1 157:25,26 158:5	<b>served</b> 5:25 60:13 101:18,20 130:6	
<b>sales</b> 149:6	<b>schools</b> 44:13 73:4,13, 20 74:25,27 157:24	<b>serves</b> 118:5	
<b>Sam</b> 59:19 121:9	<b>scrutinizing</b> 6:1 101:27	<b>service</b> 8:4 14:22 15:13,15,22 17:7 19:3,5 20:10,11 26:9,12,15,27, 28 46:6 96:22 104:1 108:9 110:13,28 111:1, 7 112:19 115:9,10 127:9 135:13 136:23 143:8,10 154:13 158:18 170:11	
<b>San</b> 41:19 65:14	<b>Seal</b> 37:4	<b>services</b> 26:23,25 63:22 74:28 114:10,12	<b>Shame</b> 94:20
<b>Santa</b> 43:19	<b>search</b> 39:16,19,24 40:4	<b>serving</b> 152:22 168:24, 25	<b>share</b> 47:15 49:18,27 50:1 52:17 89:6 108:5, 18
<b>satisfaction</b> 46:7,25	<b>Sebring</b> 63:14,15,16 65:5	<b>SESSION</b> 100:1	<b>shared</b> 49:25
<b>satisfied</b> 141:15	<b>SEC</b> 133:10	<b>set</b> 4:8 31:24 32:13,25 100:8	<b>shareholders</b> 24:3,7 44:4 47:21 50:26 89:20 118:18,23 130:11
<b>save</b> 17:9 33:1 62:15 68:21 112:21 131:19 138:1 165:14	<b>security</b> 64:8 87:10,15 155:2,8 164:13,15,19 166:14	<b>setting</b> 5:7 101:7	<b>sharing</b> 64:25
<b>saving</b> 135:26 168:28 170:15	<b>seek</b> 23:8 117:22	<b>severe</b> 21:2 44:16 116:4	<b>Shavonda</b> 142:21,23
<b>savings</b> 136:15 169:7	<b>seeking</b> 17:13 26:2 112:25	<b>severely</b> 132:18	<b>Sheila</b> 137:5,6
<b>savvy</b> 96:13		<b>Sevilla</b> 52:25,28 53:2, 15	<b>shelter</b> 23:11 27:12 117:25
<b>scale</b> 17:16 74:25 112:27 171:15		<b>Seybert</b> 4:4,12,21 6:17, 22 13:1,24 18:18 19:19,	<b>shelter-at-home</b> 6:27 102:25
<b>SCE</b> 14:14 15:27 20:18 24:1,4,6,18 26:1,9,15 27:2,5,7,13 28:4,10,18,			<b>shelter-in-place</b> 29:2
			<b>sheltering</b> 51:24

<b>shift</b> 24:14 119:2	<b>sir</b> 82:25	<b>sold</b> 171:25	38:5,9,12 39:23 40:5,8, 15 41:6,12,13,17 43:2, 3,7 45:25 47:1,2,6 49:6, 11 51:4,5,9 52:7,8,12, 23,24,28 53:17,18,22 55:4,5,9 56:15,26 57:1, 2,10,11,14,19 59:2,3,9, 11,16 60:22,28 62:7,11 63:2,6,9,12,15 65:7,10 67:6,9 69:13,18,26 71:2,5 74:18 75:8,11 78:20,23 80:16,19 81:27 83:3,6 84:10 85:5 86:2,5,9,12,15 88:8,11, 19,22,25 90:9,13 92:5,8 93:2,10 95:5,11,15,21 97:10,13 98:20 107:25 109:15 114:24 116:16 119:26 120:9,25,28 121:7,11 123:23 124:5, 10,19 126:1,4,7,10 127:19,22 129:3,13 130:19,23 131:9,28 132:9,28 133:3 134:28 135:3,8 137:3,12 139:16,19 141:23 142:2,19,22 145:12,15 146:22,25 147:27 148:7,10 151:5,13,16, 20 152:28 153:3,7,27 155:20,23 156:15 157:8,11 159:14,17 163:20,21,26 164:1,3,7, 11 166:27 167:2,8 168:10,13 171:5,8,11 172:23,26
<b>ship</b> 61:27	<b>sitting</b> 25:15 75:2	<b>solve</b> 50:22	<b>speaker's</b> 81:26
<b>Shiroma</b> 4:16,20,23 13:25 20:1 22:16 25:18 35:18,20 36:9 40:22 41:8 80:22 100:17,21, 24 109:19 114:27 117:1	<b>situation</b> 34:22 43:25 44:6,20,21 45:11 50:6 60:5,15 70:21	<b>son's</b> 122:28	<b>speakerphone</b> 120:7
<b>Shishido</b> 146:24,25,26 147:25	<b>situations</b> 61:8	<b>Sophia</b> 4:14 25:20 100:15	<b>speakers</b> 7:27 13:7 30:2,3,7 36:13 74:16 82:6,10,14 103:24 119:26 120:2 123:25 132:1 136:27 142:28 143:17 145:8 151:9
<b>shocked</b> 89:1 147:9	<b>sixth</b> 133:16 140:8	<b>sought</b> 112:23	<b>speaking</b> 13:11 69:21 80:22 120:6 124:24
<b>shocking</b> 89:8	<b>size</b> 169:17	<b>sound</b> 78:13 152:7	<b>special</b> 91:18 145:20, 27
<b>shoes</b> 123:12	<b>skyrocketed</b> 22:23 117:9	<b>sounded</b> 30:6 119:28	<b>specific</b> 10:6 34:7 42:26 56:12 106:2
<b>shoestring</b> 55:24	<b>skyrocketing</b> 144:16	<b>sounds</b> 79:17 156:21	<b>specifically</b> 22:28 37:12 117:13
<b>shoestring's</b> 60:1	<b>sleep</b> 55:21 72:22 128:20	<b>source</b> 154:13	
<b>shopping</b> 48:24	<b>Slider</b> 21:25,28 22:4,5, 9,11 25:1 116:13,16	<b>sources</b> 90:21 91:14 140:19	
<b>short</b> 70:15	<b>Slider-pierre</b> 116:19	<b>Southeast</b> 54:14	
<b>shortage</b> 135:27	<b>slowed</b> 122:2	<b>Southern</b> 4:10,24 6:1, 19 7:11,19 8:2,12,25,26 9:7,11,21 10:5,13,18 11:3 13:14 14:4 27:25 34:6,10 35:25 47:11,18 48:18,28 52:17 54:3,16, 24 58:13 80:24 83:9,16 84:13,20 85:8,21,26 88:28 89:14,21 93:21 96:18,28 97:4 100:10, 25 101:28 102:16 103:8,16,27 104:9,22, 23 105:4,8,18 106:1,9, 13,24 108:13 109:9,24 135:19 168:21 169:27, 28 170:3,7,12 171:27 172:19	
<b>shortcomings</b> 79:18	<b>slowly</b> 11:13 107:7 120:5 146:11	<b>space</b> 30:24	
<b>shout</b> 28:14	<b>small</b> 28:13,26 29:6 33:5 122:17 169:25	<b>Spanish-speaking</b> 83:26	
<b>show</b> 165:11 166:11	<b>small-business</b> 79:13	<b>speak</b> 11:12,13 13:3,7, 9 24:27 29:27 36:15,17 67:18 82:15 92:22 107:6,7 119:15,22 120:5 121:3,14 122:22 123:19 126:13 137:17 141:20 142:27 147:23 148:12,14 150:17,20,28 151:23 152:24 159:6,10 166:23 167:25	
<b>showers</b> 55:23	<b>smart</b> 90:28	<b>speaker</b> 12:7 13:21 19:22,26 21:14,23,28 22:4,9 25:6,9 30:4,11, 12,15,19,22 34:13,16 36:8,19,20,24,26 37:2	
<b>shutoffs</b> 94:14	<b>SMUD</b> 5:23,28 101:22, 26		
<b>sic</b> 133:10	<b>Snow</b> 13:18,21,23 14:3 38:3,5,9 40:8 109:14, 15,17,23 124:24 125:22 160:11		
<b>sick</b> 54:9	<b>Snow's</b> 39:12		
<b>side</b> 135:24 165:15	<b>Socal</b> 135:11,27 136:1, 23 164:15		
<b>Signal</b> 78:26	<b>social</b> 6:11 28:2 64:7 72:18 84:24 85:12 87:10,15 92:17 155:1,8 164:12,14,19 166:14		
<b>signed</b> 24:27 82:14 119:15	<b>society</b> 130:3		
<b>significant</b> 16:9 48:2 111:22 135:26	<b>solar</b> 17:7 41:23,25,27 42:20 46:12,17 72:17, 24,26 77:20,22 80:12 90:22,26 91:15,17,18 112:19 135:23,24,28 136:13 142:10 158:20 160:12 165:26 169:8, 12,14,18		
<b>significantly</b> 48:10 158:4			
<b>signs</b> 136:2			
<b>Silicon</b> 164:27			
<b>similar</b> 49:1 70:21			
<b>Similarly</b> 27:18			
<b>simply</b> 67:22 128:5 132:12			
<b>single</b> 23:27 51:12 118:14 121:16 143:25 145:20			

<b>spell</b> 13:19 25:7 41:14 43:4 45:22 47:3 49:8 51:6 52:9,25 53:19 55:6 57:3,12 59:13 60:25 63:2 69:20,24 81:24 88:18 93:4 95:19 121:5 123:25 132:1 136:27 151:9 159:10 168:15	<b>stamps</b> 31:21	142:2,22 145:15 146:25 148:10 151:16 153:3 155:23 157:11 159:17 164:1 167:2 168:13 171:8 172:26	9,14 118:2
<b>spelled</b> 59:17,19 69:28 92:10 93:12 137:14 139:21 145:17 146:27 168:17	<b>standby</b> 48:5	<b>statements</b> 103:15	<b>stuck</b> 51:19 55:17
<b>spelling</b> 19:24 22:2 30:8 36:22 69:11 81:25 93:7 109:13 120:3,14 124:2 129:4,10 132:5 141:26 145:8 148:2 151:3 166:23	<b>stands</b> 23:10 117:24	<b>states</b> 133:15,17,22 134:13 140:3,12	<b>student</b> 142:13
<b>spend</b> 73:2 165:17	<b>Stanford</b> 101:6	<b>stating</b> 47:28	<b>students</b> 67:26 71:24, 25,26 72:8 75:4 167:28
<b>spending</b> 135:15	<b>star</b> 19:17 21:20 30:1 103:22 129:9 132:4 141:26 165:25	<b>status</b> 71:27	<b>studies</b> 124:16
<b>spent</b> 5:20 20:13 81:15 115:12 166:1	<b>star-one</b> 7:25 13:9 93:6 119:24 120:13,17 124:1 148:2	<b>statute</b> 102:4	<b>study</b> 22:25 117:11
<b>spoke</b> 125:17 128:27 137:26 138:10 148:17 153:13,16 159:23	<b>start</b> 6:23 7:14,26 19:23 22:1 30:8 57:17 69:20 76:8 88:22 102:21 103:11,23 109:12 120:3 129:4 145:8 164:4 166:23 168:28	<b>stay</b> 16:19 21:20 56:9, 19 70:8 93:28 94:6,7 112:3 126:22 156:18,20	<b>stuff</b> 138:21
<b>spoken</b> 34:17 137:24 144:21,22 151:27 155:11	<b>starting</b> 13:13 109:8	<b>steadily</b> 28:20	<b>submit</b> 45:7 82:17 98:25
<b>spread</b> 37:18 60:9 61:24	<b>state</b> 6:25,27 8:1,7 16:27 17:25 18:11 32:10 36:21 41:15 43:5 45:23 47:4 49:9 51:7 52:10,26 53:4,20 55:7 57:4,13 59:14 60:26 71:14 74:28 86:24 102:23,25 103:26 104:4 112:11 113:8,20 125:14 133:16,21 136:6,12,16 140:5 154:11 157:18,20 158:10	<b>Stephanie</b> 70:13	<b>submits</b> 18:8 113:18
<b>Springs</b> 71:9,11,18,20 73:1 86:19 88:3	<b>state's</b> 20:12 115:10 157:18	<b>stock</b> 49:21 89:10	<b>submitted</b> 8:27 11:23 104:24 107:15 153:22
<b>Springville</b> 95:16	<b>stated</b> 12:13 22:10 68:4 108:2	<b>stockholders</b> 55:28 73:18 74:9 77:28	<b>submitting</b> 11:21 12:24 62:21 107:13 108:23
<b>square</b> 71:23	<b>statement</b> 7:18 12:7 13:21 19:21,26 21:14, 26 22:9 25:4,9 30:15 37:2 41:17 43:7 45:25 47:6 49:11 51:9 52:12, 28 53:22 55:9 57:14 59:16,23 60:11,28 62:11 63:15 65:10 67:9 69:26 71:5 75:11 78:23 80:19 83:6 86:12 88:11 90:13 92:8 93:10 95:11 97:13 107:25 109:15 114:22,24 116:14,16 119:16 120:28 124:5 126:4 127:22 129:13 130:23 132:9 133:3 135:3 137:12 139:19	<b>stop</b> 67:16 81:1 91:27 138:19 165:17	<b>subscribing</b> 12:21 108:21
<b>stable</b> 28:20		<b>storage</b> 77:19 78:8	<b>substantial</b> 68:8
<b>Stacey</b> 5:3 100:28		<b>story</b> 65:27	<b>substantially</b> 139:25
<b>staff</b> 68:6,12 71:16 89:20		<b>straight</b> 39:25 47:14 49:16	<b>success</b> 140:13
<b>staffing</b> 29:8 73:14		<b>strange</b> 43:27	<b>suffer</b> 50:25,26 150:25
<b>stage</b> 57:21		<b>streams</b> 136:5	<b>suffered</b> 149:11
<b>staggering</b> 128:4 162:19,20		<b>street</b> 48:5 56:4	<b>suffering</b> 54:1 125:13 127:26 132:18 149:28 150:19,23
<b>stagnant</b> 26:15		<b>strengthening</b> 50:10	<b>sufficient</b> 27:6
<b>stakeholders</b> 18:2 113:12		<b>Stretching</b> 40:8	<b>sufficiently</b> 64:12
		<b>strikes</b> 19:2 114:9	<b>suggest</b> 75:19 76:3 128:5
		<b>strong</b> 23:10 117:24	<b>suggesting</b> 57:28
		<b>strongly</b> 23:13 117:27	<b>suggestion</b> 140:3
		<b>struck</b> 17:13 112:25	<b>suggests</b> 29:16 59:4
		<b>structure</b> 38:17 39:1 79:10 156:1,2,19 157:1, 2	<b>Sukuhara</b> 62:9,11,13 63:2,6,9
		<b>structured</b> 79:12	<b>sum</b> 86:27
		<b>struggle</b> 132:23 134:22	<b>summarize</b> 8:24 104:21
		<b>struggling</b> 23:16 32:8,	<b>summer</b> 42:5,7 72:20



<b>supplier</b> 28:9,11,16 29:12,15,17 169:28	67:23 78:24 86:16 87:13 107:5 109:20 110:1 121:12 125:24 129:15 135:15 145:4 147:3 156:8 164:2 168:14	153:23	80:9 81:6 82:8,12,25 84:20 85:7 86:16 87:13, 21,24 88:5 90:19 91:9 92:19 93:21 94:26 95:2 96:20,25 98:22 100:7 101:20,26 103:1,24 109:20 112:26 117:28 119:5 120:12 121:1,12 122:21 123:7,18 124:21 125:15,26 127:4 128:8, 24,25 130:16 131:25 134:21 138:6,14 139:13,26 142:7,9,15 146:9,14 147:5,21,23 149:3 151:28 152:20,23 154:17 155:28 156:2, 21,25 158:14 159:2,5 160:7 162:6 163:14 166:18 167:23 168:6 170:25 171:2,20,21 172:10,21
<b>supplying</b> 130:14		<b>thing</b> 16:7 40:28 58:1,2, 5 62:3 96:15 111:21 121:28 140:16 161:27 162:17,22 171:18	
<b>support</b> 6:14 27:14 28:27 29:5,21 33:21 68:1 69:8 102:12	<b>talk</b> 72:10,28 88:19 140:22 160:16 162:1	<b>things</b> 16:3 32:25,27 44:12 48:23 49:1 53:11 87:27 89:4 91:5 111:17 121:21,22 123:11 134:19 138:16 139:7 140:6 141:15 143:14,15 146:7	
<b>supporting</b> 53:6	<b>talked</b> 37:17 121:19 154:27	<b>thinking</b> 137:27 138:1	
<b>supports</b> 28:24	<b>talking</b> 9:20 38:10 42:14 60:2 105:17 143:24 160:10,14	<b>thinks</b> 50:2	
<b>supposed</b> 35:3 44:23 53:8 95:25 144:10 166:6	<b>tax</b> 166:6,8	<b>Thomas</b> 43:20 44:19 59:13,17 63:14,16	
<b>supposedly</b> 31:25	<b>taxes</b> 48:14 73:25 74:27 140:7	<b>thought</b> 17:12 98:11 130:1 169:9	
<b>surge</b> 41:23	<b>taxpayers</b> 74:22	<b>thoughts</b> 108:6 167:26	<b>time-of-use</b> 157:2,4
<b>surrounded</b> 165:4	<b>taxpaying</b> 96:4	<b>thousand</b> 71:14,21	<b>timer</b> 78:13
<b>survival</b> 131:14	<b>Taylor</b> 129:12,13,16 130:17 159:16,17,19 163:21,24	<b>thousands</b> 155:9	<b>times</b> 14:10 22:21 32:9 37:16 42:8 56:19 87:9 96:6 110:2 117:7 126:17 129:20 130:5 132:13,19 143:13 155:4 157:17
<b>survive</b> 29:6 31:22 44:17,24 66:2 94:24 123:10	<b>teachers</b> 72:8 73:8 76:6	<b>threatened</b> 66:23,27	
<b>sweaty</b> 160:7	<b>team</b> 5:7 28:11 101:6	<b>threatening</b> 42:3	
<b>switch</b> 141:8	<b>tech</b> 96:13	<b>three-month</b> 130:26 131:11	<b>timing</b> 43:25 58:4,5,7 60:2 68:25
<b>switched</b> 156:20,25 157:1	<b>technologies</b> 27:22	<b>three-tier</b> 124:27	<b>tips</b> 19:7 114:15
<b>Swope</b> 59:13,16,18 60:20	<b>technology</b> 5:6 101:5	<b>three-year</b> 9:5 81:10, 12 105:2	<b>today</b> 5:1,3 6:20 7:9,24 11:22,27 12:12,16,19 13:3 14:1 24:16 34:4 35:21 36:10,17 41:5 67:18 69:12 80:26 95:23 97:7 98:9 101:9 102:18 103:6,21 107:14,18 108:1,16 109:5,22 110:12 119:4, 18 123:19 150:17 156:8 164:24 167:28 171:18
<b>system</b> 16:25 112:9	<b>telephone</b> 11:12 107:6	<b>thriving</b> 58:8,12	<b>today's</b> 4:15 7:10 11:8, 10,16 23:18 69:1 100:16 103:7 107:1,4,9 118:5
<b>systemic</b> 145:1,3 162:8	<b>TELEPHONIC</b> 4:1	<b>tie</b> 46:5	<b>Tom</b> 30:23 69:14
<b>systems</b> 79:6	<b>teleworking</b> 6:12 102:10	<b>tied</b> 27:10	<b>tonight</b> 99:2 101:1 167:10
<hr/>			
<b>T</b>			
<hr/>			
<b>T-A-Y-L-O-R</b> 129:17 159:19	<b>telling</b> 32:28 33:6,9 35:22 160:11 165:27	<b>tier</b> 156:2,20	
<b>T-H-O-M-A-S</b> 59:18 63:17	<b>Temecula</b> 146:15	<b>tiered</b> 156:18,19 157:1	
<b>T-O-N-Y</b> 164:7	<b>Temple</b> 135:9	<b>tiering</b> 78:15	
<b>T-R-U-M-A-N</b> 19:27 114:26	<b>terms</b> 48:19 56:12 66:1 76:1 85:25	<b>tiers</b> 78:9	
<b>T-U-R-N-E-R</b> 127:24	<b>terrible</b> 154:18 166:7	<b>time</b> 4:7 5:21,27 7:3,27 13:5,26 17:14 23:14 24:17 26:10 31:26 33:19 36:10,14 39:6 42:10 43:12 45:6 50:26 51:15 53:28 61:23,25 63:26 64:16 65:4,20 67:1,13,20 68:9,17 70:3,25 72:10,11,27 75:24,26 76:27 77:2	
<b>Ta</b> 30:12,22	<b>terribly</b> 154:23,24		
<b>tab</b> 40:2	<b>territories</b> 26:9		
<b>taking</b> 11:11 13:26 14:10 31:23,28 35:5	<b>territory</b> 26:15		
	<b>testimony</b> 20:16 24:16 85:22 115:15 119:4		

<b>Tony</b> 163:27	<b>trouble</b> 88:21 134:23	<b>understand</b> 14:11 38:14 48:17 58:12 61:14,15 62:23 65:17 67:11 77:8 83:15 87:3 110:2 135:14 136:4,20 138:4 143:22 153:11 154:20 161:17 162:17 170:9	<b>upgrade</b> 15:20 58:17 111:5 112:9
<b>tools</b> 14:20 19:7 110:11 114:15	<b>true</b> 136:11		<b>upgrades</b> 95:25 168:22
<b>top</b> 31:26 40:2 74:9 131:16 158:15	<b>Truman</b> 19:27 20:2 114:25,28		<b>upgrading</b> 68:6
<b>topic</b> 40:9 148:17	<b>tunnel</b> 160:10		<b>urban</b> 16:13
<b>total</b> 10:19 106:13 144:13 158:15	<b>turmoil</b> 61:12		<b>urge</b> 80:27 81:8 146:8 157:14 161:23 163:13
<b>totally</b> 53:27 54:22,23 64:15 137:22 139:9,26 146:13 155:3	<b>turn</b> 15:22 22:12 23:10 50:15 72:21 116:21,23 117:24 126:26 145:23	<b>understandable</b> 46:10	<b>urged</b> 158:17
<b>TOU</b> 156:1,5	<b>TURN's</b> 118:25	<b>understanding</b> 33:24 61:22	<b>urgently</b> 144:20
<b>TOU's</b> 72:6	<b>turn-off</b> 111:8	<b>undertaken</b> 16:8 111:21	<b>usage</b> 58:26,28 75:24 129:24
<b>townhouse</b> 33:5	<b>turn-on</b> 111:8	<b>undocumented</b> 94:22	<b>USC</b> 22:25 117:11
<b>towns</b> 75:28	<b>turned</b> 135:28	<b>unemployed</b> 51:23 54:6 67:28	<b>usher</b> 23:2 117:17
<b>track</b> 27:25 28:2,4	<b>Turner</b> 127:21,22,23 129:1	<b>unemployment</b> 22:23, 27 26:16,18 39:2 68:8 117:9,13 148:28	<b>utilities</b> 5:12 7:28 8:5 11:5 20:6 35:24 37:12 77:25 90:1 91:10 93:28 94:8 101:12 103:25 104:2 106:26 115:5 124:27 140:1 144:6 147:6 167:22
<b>trade-offs</b> 24:20,23	<b>turning</b> 14:26 110:14	<b>unethical</b> 54:2 90:4	<b>utility</b> 5:23 13:16 20:8 21:26 22:12 23:28 26:12,20,22 29:5 37:8 73:10 94:28 101:22 108:12 109:11 115:7 116:14,21 118:15 144:5 168:23
<b>tradeoffs</b> 119:8,11	<b>TV</b> 161:1	<b>unfortunate</b> 53:10 137:19	<b>utility's</b> 45:11
<b>traditional</b> 156:26	<b>type</b> 38:22 42:16 60:12 122:24	<b>UNIDENTIFIED</b> 40:15	<b>utility-related</b> 37:10
<b>transcribing</b> 11:10 107:4	<b>types</b> 33:2	<b>Unified</b> 71:11,18,19 73:2	<b>utilized</b> 34:21 167:16
<b>transcript</b> 11:16 69:12 107:9	<b>typically</b> 144:28	<b>unit</b> 51:17 144:18	<b>utterly</b> 31:5
<b>transformers</b> 15:20 111:6	<hr/> <b>U</b> <hr/>	<b>United</b> 133:17	<hr/> <b>V</b> <hr/>
<b>transgender</b> 93:26 94:3	<b>u-r-a</b> 124:11	<b>units</b> 66:10	<b>V-E-N-T-U-R-A</b> 167:5
<b>Translating</b> 24:9	<b>ultimate</b> 121:20 122:9	<b>university</b> 124:16	<b>V-I-K-Y</b> 126:11
<b>transmission</b> 50:11	<b>ultimately</b> 8:10 17:27 104:7 113:9	<b>unknown</b> 157:17	<b>Valencia</b> 57:16
<b>transparency</b> 95:24 96:11	<b>unable</b> 49:1	<b>Unlike</b> 53:4	<b>Valley</b> 124:13 142:5 164:27
<b>transparent</b> 37:9	<b>unacceptable</b> 23:14 47:23 117:28 161:22 162:6	<b>unmanageable</b> 139:9	<b>Valley/orange</b> 162:3
<b>transplant</b> 124:14	<b>unaffordable</b> 26:23	<b>unmute</b> 19:17	<b>valor</b> 65:23
<b>travel</b> 44:11	<b>unawareness</b> 68:27	<b>unprecedented</b> 14:10 22:21 28:28 110:2 117:7 157:16 172:9	<b>Ventura</b> 167:4
<b>treatment</b> 23:8 117:23	<b>unbearable</b> 154:26 155:6	<b>unquote</b> 143:13	
<b>tree</b> 93:16 165:15	<b>uncertain</b> 128:9	<b>unreasonable</b> 26:11 64:15	
<b>trees</b> 165:5	<b>unconscionable</b> 48:7	<b>unrest</b> 54:19,20,26 92:17	
<b>tremendous</b> 44:1,5	<b>underrepresented</b> 124:21	<b>update</b> 16:25 79:6	
<b>trimming</b> 76:22,25	<b>underserved</b> 25:27 124:20	<b>upgradations</b> 28:7	
<b>triple</b> 70:17 146:12			

<b>Venture</b> 50:17	<b>W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S</b> 132:11	<b>whatsoever</b> 32:3	<b>workers</b> 5:20 15:19 16:6 22:26 24:11 66:23 96:18 111:4,20 117:12
<b>versa</b> 17:6 112:18	<b>W-O-P</b> 59:19	<b>white</b> 96:24 97:5	<b>working</b> 5:15 18:15 24:10 50:10 54:6 91:9 92:13 94:22 101:15 113:24 118:26 138:27 149:4 164:27
<b>version</b> 136:19	<b>W-Y-M-A-N</b> 167:4	<b>Whittier</b> 90:16 168:18	<b>workshops</b> 27:21
<b>versus</b> 77:11 78:11	<b>wage</b> 26:7 47:26 48:14 118:27	<b>whopping</b> 24:8 118:24	<b>world</b> 33:4 69:1 167:18
<b>veteran</b> 59:24	<b>wages</b> 26:15	<b>wife</b> 164:24	<b>worldly</b> 60:5
<b>vice</b> 17:6 112:18	<b>wait</b> 25:14 68:20 143:13 145:23 163:14	<b>wildfire</b> 6:11 9:17 16:10 102:9 105:14 111:23	<b>worries</b> 167:27
<b>Vicky</b> 172:25	<b>waiting</b> 141:2	<b>wildland</b> 16:13	<b>worse</b> 32:14 33:20 54:27
<b>victims</b> 72:27	<b>waits</b> 68:20	<b>wildland-urban</b> 111:26	<b>worst</b> 70:2
<b>Victor</b> 142:24	<b>walls</b> 91:21	<b>Williams</b> 132:7,9,10,26 137:24	<b>wrap</b> 74:17
<b>Viejo</b> 55:12 153:5 160:20	<b>wanted</b> 58:2 59:23 60:11 150:19 160:16 167:8 168:15	<b>windfall</b> 87:8 125:11	<b>write</b> 8:16 104:12 162:20
<b>view</b> 67:22	<b>Ward</b> 135:2,3,8,9 136:25	<b>winner</b> 94:11	<b>written</b> 11:16,22,27 20:16 82:17 98:25 107:9,14,19 115:15
<b>viewpoints</b> 18:3 113:13	<b>waste</b> 75:16 78:14	<b>winning</b> 116:25	<b>wrong</b> 33:6 58:4,5,20 98:5 147:20 161:16
<b>Viki</b> 126:3	<b>wasteful</b> 78:11	<b>winter</b> 42:8	<b>www.cpuc.ca.gov/sce2021grcpubliccomments.</b> 98:28
<b>Viky</b> 126:10	<b>watch</b> 161:1	<b>wiped</b> 155:4	<b>www.cpuc.ca.gov/sce2021grcpubliccomments.</b> 11:26 82:20 107:17
<b>virus</b> 139:2 146:1 147:17 149:1	<b>water</b> 23:12 54:13,15 91:1 117:26 139:6	<b>wires</b> 9:13 80:12 105:10	<b>Wyman</b> 167:1,2,3,8 168:8
<b>visit</b> 19:9 108:12 114:16	<b>wave</b> 70:17	<b>witnessed</b> 63:27	
<b>visual</b> 101:5	<b>Wayne</b> 146:24,26	<b>woeful</b> 77:5	<b>Y</b>
<b>vital</b> 138:18	<b>ways</b> 12:19 18:15 32:28 96:8 108:19 113:24 132:17,22 134:11,12 137:27 138:1,2 140:18 161:9	<b>woman</b> 96:27	
<b>vocal</b> 127:27	<b>web</b> 40:3	<b>wondering</b> 168:21	
<b>voice</b> 53:13 119:18	<b>website</b> 12:25 39:14, 15,26 82:19 98:27 108:13,14,25	<b>word</b> 54:1 98:1	
<b>voiced</b> 164:20 165:1,23	<b>week</b> 29:24 55:23	<b>words</b> 22:17 47:15 117:2	
<b>voices</b> 52:18 85:10 144:21	<b>weekend</b> 72:15 126:26	<b>work</b> 6:15 15:17,23,26 16:15,16 18:13,16 19:1 24:11,15 27:8,16 31:16, 19 63:17 76:26,28 77:1, 12 87:9 96:23 97:2,4 102:14 111:3,8,12,28 112:1 113:21,25 114:8 118:27 119:3 122:18 130:27 131:12 138:5,12 142:9,12 144:2 146:6 152:2 154:28 158:21 163:15 170:12 172:16	
<b>volume</b> 27:8,16	<b>weeks</b> 55:21	<b>workable</b> 65:21 66:18	
<b>volumes</b> 67:18	<b>well-being</b> 102:26	<b>worked</b> 5:14 39:5 70:23 101:14 148:19	
<b>voluminous</b> 156:9	<b>wellbeing</b> 6:28	<b>worker</b> 65:15 101:19	
<b>volunteer</b> 162:24	<b>Wendy</b> 159:16,19		
<b>vote</b> 8:11,22 53:11 74:22 104:8,18	<b>West</b> 124:14		
<b>voters</b> 74:20	<b>Westminster</b> 146:28		
<hr/> <b>W</b> <hr/>			
<b>W-A-R-D</b> 135:9			
<b>W-A-Y-N-E</b> 146:27			
<b>W-E-N-D-Y</b> 159:19			



**years** 5:15,20,21 9:2  
28:18 44:7,20 45:3  
47:20 60:14 66:1,17,18  
73:23 77:6,19 86:25  
87:2,12,13 96:19  
101:15,21 104:27  
116:26 128:6,7 147:11  
148:24,27 149:7 157:19  
161:14 162:2,14,15  
163:15,16 164:13

**yelling** 76:8

**yield** 95:2 136:15

**young** 125:17 138:10

**Yvette** 57:3

---

**Z**

---

**zip** 41:20

**zoo** 93:18