## BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION







COMMISSIONER MARTHA GUZMAN ACEVES, ASSISTANT CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANTHONY COLBERT and ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE CAMILLE WATTS-ZAGHA, co-presiding

	) )	EVIDENTIARY HEARING
Order Instituting Rulemaking to Address Energy Utility Customer Bill Debt Accumulated During the COVID-19 Pandemic.	)	Rulemaking 21-02-014

REPORTERS' TRANSCRIPT
Virtual Proceeding
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Reported by: Doris Huaman, CSR No. 10538 Carol Ann Mendez, CSR No. 4330 Andrea L. Ross, CSR No. 7896

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1	VIRTUAL PROCEEDING
2	MAY 27, 2021 - 10:02 A.M.
3	* * * *
4	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE WATTS-ZAGHA:
5	We will be on the record.
6	This is Rulemaking 21-02-014, the
7	Commission's proceeding addressing energy
8	utility customer bill debt.
9	We met yesterday, on May 26th, at a
10	status conference where we met. We tested
11	out our sound and video. We established
12	today's participants, and we will introduce
13	them during today's hearing at the
14	appropriate time. And since yesterday's
15	status conference, we also posted to the
16	Commission's web page for this proceeding
17	some updated reports from each utility as to
18	their numbers of customers who've applied for
19	the Emergency Rental Assistance Program.
20	We've heard from many of the
21	utilities that they have updates, so we'll be
22	happy to receive these today. And I did want
23	to let you know that you should probably pull
24	up the web page and refer to the utility
25	reports if you'd like to follow along during
26	today's proceeding. I believe that is our
27	one document that we'll be using primarily.
28	And I see we have with us

1 Commissioner Guzman Aceves. So I would like to ask if she would like to make some 2. 3 welcoming remarks. 4 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: Thank you, 5 Judge Watts-Zagha. 6 I'm very happy to be here today, and 7 I want to thank everyone for being here as 8 I also am very excited about the 9 prospect of the state legislature 10 appropriating at least a billion dollars of 11 what the governor has proposed in his May 12 revision for dealing with the issue of customer arrears. And this is an 13 14 opportunity, of course, for us to really 15 ensure that our collaboration with our sister 16 agency, Housing Community Development, is as 17 sharp as possible and in preparation 18 hopefully for what can be an even greater 19 opportunity for our customers and ensure that 20 if that appropriation takes place we are 21 ready to go with it. 2.2. And as you know, the appropriation 2.3 is proposed by the governor to be 24 administered by CSD, Community Services & 25 Development Department, not HCD. So there 26 will be an adjustment there for sure. 27 mostly want to make sure we are doing all

that we can with the current appropriation.

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I just want to share the importance of us
being prepared for the hopeful appropriation
of a billion dollars coming to us hopefully
with the June budget. So thank you for that.
And I very much look forward to hearing all
the updates from the utilities and all the
other parties on how we can improve this
relief for our customers.

Thank you very much.

ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you, Commissioner Guzman Aceves.

And as you know, we are today focused on the Emergency Rental Assistance Program that California launched a few months ago to help Californians who are behind in paying their rent and also behind in paying utility arrearages of all sorts including And since this is a new energy arrearages. program and a recent program, we also directed utilities to update us weekly on how many customers are able to access this relief, and as you all know, you've been engaged in this process for a month or two. And it's somewhat difficult to tell from the numbers what type of relief has been received so far from this program. And so that's why it seemed appropriate here today to ask you to each come with a witness primarily to find

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out from the people who are engaged in making this process happen and receiving this relief on behalf of your customers how the process is going.

And as the Commissioner indicated, this is just one of ideally additional state relief that will be forthcoming. So it's really important to understand from your perspective how this has gone so far. So I thank everyone for being here. I thank you for working with us to provide these weekly updates. And through this process today, we'll be able to better understand how it's been going from your perspective. And it's been clear from all the comments in this proceeding that everyone is focused on this common goal of reducing customers billed in all the different ways that are possible.

So as I mentioned yesterday, we're going to start with the small and multi-jurisdictional utilities. We've asked four of them to participate, and then we'll turn to the large investor-owned utilities. So I'll have -- I'll actually introduce you, your counsel, and then why don't we have the counsel introduce the witnesses.

So we have Mr. Gibson representing three of the small electric utilities. And

1	if you could please introduce your witnesses
2	for the record, and we'll swear them in as a
3	panel between the three electric utilities
4	and then the fourth small gas utility.
5	So go ahead, Mr. Gibson, please.
6	MR. GIBSON: Good morning, your Honor.
7	Jed Gibson on behalf of Bear Valley Electric
8	Service, Liberty Utilities and PacifiCorp.
9	The witness for Bear Valley is Sean
10	Matlock. The witness for Liberty is Dan
11	Marsh, and the witness for PacifiCorp is
12	Charity Spires.
13	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you. And now
14	the counsel for Southwest Gas, Catherine
15	Mazzeo.
16	MS. MAZZEO: Thank you. Good morning,
17	you Honor. Cathy Mazzeo on behalf of
18	Southwest Gas. Our witness today is Michelle
19	Ansani, and she's here with me in the room.
20	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Okay. So I will
21	ask I will swear you in, and then I will
22	ask each witness in turn to respond, please.
23	DAN MARSH, called as a witness by Liberty Utilities, having been sworn,
24	testified as follows:
25	CHARITY SPIRES, called as a witness by PacifiCorp, having been sworn,
26	testified as follows:
27	SEAN MATLOCK, called as a witness by Bear Valley Electric Service, having
28	been sworn, testified as follows:

1	MICHELLE ANSANI, called as a witness by Southwest Gas, having been sworn,
2	testified as follows:
3	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Mr. Marsh?
4	WITNESS MARSH: I do.
5	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Ms. Spires?
6	WITNESS SPIRES: I do.
7	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Mr. Matlock?
8	WITNESS MATLOCK: I do.
9	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: And Ms. Ansani?
10	WITNESS ANSANI: I do.
11	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you. So I
12	heard first yesterday from Bear Valley that
13	you had updates to the number of customers
14	that you've been in contact with about
15	Emergency Rental Assistance Program. So I'd
16	like to actually ask everyone to pull up our
17	tracking document that we have posted on the
18	website, and then I'll ask Mr. Matlock to
19	walk us through the rows in that tracking
20	document and provide any updates as a
21	beginning, and then we can have some
22	back-and-forth with you, Mr. Matlock.
23	So just give me a moment while I
24	pull up the document myself, and hopefully
25	others are able to do that independently.
26	(Interruption by reporter.)
27	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you, Doris, and
28	I would actually suggest, since we have four

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1 witnesses, that if Southwest Gas -- you could 2. be the last witness and take some time to 3 readjust while we're hearing from the 4 electric small utilities. That would be 5 quite helpful. 6 MS. MAZZEO: Sure. Sure thing. Thank 7 you. 8 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: All right. And I do 9 hear a rather -- sort of an echo in your 10 sound, Ms. Mazzeo. All right. 11 EXAMINATION 12 BY ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: 13 Let's turn back to Mr. Matlock, and 14 if you could walk us through -- I will -- I 15 will actually just ask you to begin by 16 responding with how is it going with securing 17 emergency rental assistance funding for your 18 customers, and then perhaps you could give us 19 the update on the particular numbers of 20 customers that you've been in touch with 21 about it. 2.2. And I will actually remind everyone 2.3 that when we issued a ruling back in April we 24 asked each utility not to report on any and 25 all customers that are receiving the funding 26 but simply to find customers that have high

arrearages and target a small group of these

and simply to report to us the progress of

1 the small group. And what happened is 2. since -- it seems that the progress of the 3 small group, there was zeros, that customers had not yet been validated or had been --4 5 their accounts had not been paid, then we 6 just turned -- opened it up to any and all 7 customers that you receive payments for. So it would be ideal if you could talk about the 8 9 group you've targeted, but then you may also 10 just turn to any and all customers who 11 receive payments from this program. 12 So I'll turn back to you, 13 Mr. Matlock, and first tell us what has your 14 experience been so far with the Emergency 15 Rental Assistance Program, and then feel free 16 to provide updates on your numbers. 17 WITNESS MATLOCK: Very good. Thank 18 you, your Honor, Commissioner, colleagues. 19 Great to be with everybody this morning, and 20 thank you for the opportunity to speak on 21 this very important topic. As far as getting 2.2 the program up and running, understanding and 2.3 how things are going with the ERAP program, 24 we did get off to a slightly sluggish start 25 that was due to just our internal process as 26 we had some staff changes, assimilating the 27 information, understanding the interaction 28

between the new ruling and our arrearage plan

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that we filed and then getting familiar with the HCD website. Housing is key, understanding the role for the rent -- between the renters and the landlords and what opportunities were there, what type of qualification would be required.

Having said that, I'm happy to report that our progress is going well as of today. I'm ready to move into some of the numbers if everybody is okay with that.

Q I think that's fine.

Α Okay. And so our approach was to focus on all of our CARE customers in the greater than 90-day aged category to start. We identified there was a total of 96 customers in that particular category group to which then we then sorted through to determine who was renters and who fell into other classes. Other classes may be owners or maybe just some unidentified applicant. They didn't state whether they were an owner or renter for some reason on the application. What we did then narrow down was to our pool of 32 prospective applicants, which is a little bit more than I think we were asked to do, which was 20. We did reach out to every single one of those customers for our initial assessment if they were willing to

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participate or not. Of the 32, 8 customers agreed to apply, and we -- of the 8, we have confirmed that one has actually applied. So that is our sample group.

Next steps for Bear Valley, we will be following up with all the remaining 24, and are probably 32 altogether, to see if they have continued with the process for the one or are they -- are they following through, have they applied for the aid and if they are willing to start this -- the initial steps on the program with the remaining. I think that will get us to at least our 10 sample -- customers within our sample group.]

Q So, Mr. Matlock, have you communicated with the program itself about what will be necessary on your end once the customer -- for instance, for this one customer who has applied?

A I have not. I have been on the website. They have some PowerPoints. I read through them. It seems to me to work very similar to the HEAP program, which we work with here in San Bernardino County. So we're going to be really relying at this, at least my understanding today, really from the customers for the proper feedback to bring back to the Commission.

1	Q All right. Now
2	ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: Excuse me,
3	your Honor. This is Assistant Chief Colbert.
4	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Yes, Chief Colbert.
5	EXAMINATION
6	BY ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT:
7	Q Mr. Matlock, hello.
8	WITNESS MATLOCK: Morning.
9	Q You indicated that you contacted 32
10	customers, 8 responded positively?
11	A Correct.
12	Q But all 32 had arrearages,
13	significant arrearages?
14	A Yes. They were all in the
1 F	greater than 00 day dobt gategory and greater
15	greater-than-90-day debt category and greater
16	than \$50.
16	than \$50.
16 17	than \$50.  Q But just to be clear, as the
16 17 18	than \$50.  Q But just to be clear, as the  Commissioner and the assigned judge are
16 17 18 19	than \$50.  Q But just to be clear, as the  Commissioner and the assigned judge are  looking at this, basically even though people
16 17 18 19 20	than \$50.  Q But just to be clear, as the  Commissioner and the assigned judge are looking at this, basically even though people had arrearages, only 25 percent responded?
16 17 18 19 20 21	than \$50.  Q But just to be clear, as the  Commissioner and the assigned judge are looking at this, basically even though people had arrearages, only 25 percent responded?  A Correct, yes.
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	than \$50.  Q But just to be clear, as the  Commissioner and the assigned judge are looking at this, basically even though people had arrearages, only 25 percent responded?  A Correct, yes.  ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: Okay. Thank
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	than \$50.  Q But just to be clear, as the Commissioner and the assigned judge are looking at this, basically even though people had arrearages, only 25 percent responded?  A Correct, yes.  ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: Okay. Thank you.
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	than \$50.  Q But just to be clear, as the Commissioner and the assigned judge are looking at this, basically even though people had arrearages, only 25 percent responded?  A Correct, yes.  ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: Okay. Thank you.  Thank you, your Honor.
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	than \$50.  Q But just to be clear, as the Commissioner and the assigned judge are looking at this, basically even though people had arrearages, only 25 percent responded?  A Correct, yes.  ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: Okay. Thank you.  Thank you, your Honor. ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Absolutely.

1 there is really two parts of this 2. conversation. One is the outreach to 3 customers and how they respond to the program itself, and then, secondly, the more 4 5 technical aspect of interacting with the 6 program about actually taking that payment on 7 behalf of the customer. So, Mr. Matlock, it sounds like you 8 haven't established that second half of the 9 10 process yet. It is our understanding -- and 11 we may hear more from other utilities -- that 12 there is going to need to be contact between 13 the utility and the program in order to 14 validate the amount of the customer 15 arrearages and then figure out how you will 16 receive that payment on behalf of the 17 Is that your understanding? customer. 18 WITNESS MATLOCK: Yes, understood. 19 Very similar to the HEAP program. 20 usually some kind of income qualifications, 21 making sure that they're a legitimate 2.2 customer with a legitimate arrearage, and 2.3 then there is a follow-up process once we 2.4 receive the payment. That's right. Uh-huh. 25 Will it be yourself or someone 26 under your supervision that will be reaching 27 out to the administrators of this relief

program to find out exactly how to facilitate

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1 taking that money on behalf of that customer? 2. It will be one member of my supervision, a staff member, the supervisor 3 4 of customer service will be reaching out directly. 5 6 Okay. And do you have any timeline 7 on that or just specifically what are your 8 next steps? 9 Our next steps are to follow up 10 actually tomorrow, the 28th of May, with all 11 the customers that are still pending. So I 12 think we'll have a little bit more 13 information and hopefully spur them along a 14 little bit. I think one final piece of 15 feedback from my perspective -- there was one 16 particular customer who was concerned that 17 maybe this might have been a scam. It's not 18 too often that the utility reaches out 19 directly for something and points a customer 20 to a third-party website. So there was at 21 least one of our sample group who had a 2.2. concern about that particular element. 2.3 That's interesting feedback. 0 Ιt 2.4 also makes sense, but I just wondered about 25 the next steps regarding your contact with 26 the relief program administrators themselves. 27 Do you have any next steps on that?

My understanding was that they were

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going to reach out once an applicant applies, but I can certainly follow up on that as an action item.

Q And to your knowledge, how would they do that outreach? Do you know who they might -- do they know who they might contact or do you know what action they might take?

1-800 number, our customer service team would direct them to a certain desk that handled the HEAP and these type of additional payments. Internally we have that person with the knowledge to engage them to get them everything they need, so we're hoping they reach out and call us. I'd be happy to reach out directly to them, if that's how today's events take place. And that's the better course of action.

Q Okay. Well, we will probably learn more as time goes along, but it seems that might fall under the category of facilitating the process so --

A Okay. Very good. Thank you.

ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Let's turn to each -I will ask Commissioner or Chief Colbert. If
you have anything further to add to ask
Mr. Matlock, feel free. If not, we could
turn to perhaps -- let's see, why don't we

1 turn to PacifiCorp's witness. 2. ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: Well, 3 Commissioner, did you have any questions? 4 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: No. We 5 can move on. 6 ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: Mr. Matlock, 7 before we move on -- and this question 8 applies to everybody who is going to testify 9 today, and I appreciate Mr. Matlock's point. 10 It's concerning that you only have a 11 25 percent response rate, and, as Mr. Matlock 12 said, some people may think it's a scam or 13 something else. 14 Has there been thoughts for your 15 utility -- and I want the other participants 16 to think about this too -- about going 17 forward with the new program that the 18 Commissioner referenced and the increased 19 amount of arrearage relief funds to have some 20 kind of general public service announcements 21 or something else that would give the public 2.2. a sense that this program is real, that it is 2.3 available, and that there is really -- it's 24 to their benefit, and there's no strings 25 attached to it? 26 You may not have thought about that, 27 but going forward, it may be something to 28 consider and it would be appreciated if other

1 parties could address that as Judge 2. Watts-Zagha goes through the hearing this 3 morning. 4 WITNESS MATLOCK: Absolutely. Thank 5 you for the feedback. We will certainly take 6 that as an action item and make sure that we're doing proper advertising for both 7 8 programs once they develop. 9 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you, 10 Mr. Matlock. 11 All right. We'll now have 12 Ms. Spires. If you could introduce yourself, 13 please. 14 WITNESS SPIRES: This is Charity Spires 15 with PacifiCorp. Can you hear me okay? 16 Thank you so much. Yes. 0 17 giving everyone a chance to introduce 18 themselves and we're pausing, not only for 19 the benefit of the court reporters, but for the benefit of all of us to be able to spot 20 21 each other on the screen. 2.2. Ms. Spires, if you could start with 2.3 your overall experience so far with the 24 Emergency Rental Assistance Program and then 25 walk us through the customer's application 26 steps so far. 27 Α So overall, the process --28 PacifiCorp has not received response from

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1 customers on this program. From the very 2. beginning, we reached out to customers -- and 3 actually I am the one that is reaching out to the customers on our list and providing them 4 with our -- my direct contact information 5 for -- to work with the case management of 6 7 their application. 8 And like I've mentioned, to date,

And like I've mentioned, to date, we have not received responses from those customers that I've reached out to. To date, we've had -- initially the very first week I reached out to 11 customers and, thereafter, 5 customers each week. So as of the beginning of this week, I've reached out to a total of 41 customers and no responses as of yet.

I send them an e-mail. It includes my contact information, my e-mail, my phone number, and also a flier for the program to ensure hopefully that that will ensure that -- to customers that this is not a spam e-mail.

How the customers were selected for the pool -- these are customers that have been customers in the past two years and have arrears greater than 90 days and they are currently enrolled in paperless billing so we do have their e-mail address on file that we

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can e-mail directly. These customers may, you know -- they may have paperless -- enroll for paperless billing, but they may also receive a paper statement so it could be both, but they do have an e-mail address on file.

We did find with other programs that we have in Oregon and Washington in calling customers we're not able to make that contact. We leave messages. So I figured doing the outreach by e-mail initially would be a better or maybe increased response rate possibly. That has been PacifiCorp's approach on this program, and I am primarily the contact person for the program.

Q Thank you. Ms. Spires, when this program launched, we realized that other than the customer themselves, only the utility knows who has a lot of debt with the utility. So in addition to the age of the debt being greater than 90 days, did you look at customers that have the most debt?

A That is correct. So initially the outreach was for those customers that had debt over a thousand dollars. That was the initial approach. With the month of May, I did pull a refreshed data and tried to do -- and did an outreach for new customers that I

1 had not reached out to prior that had high 2. arrears. 3 And the new data that I pulled for 4 the month of May was not limited to just customers within the -- that's been our 5 6 customers in the past two years, but I just 7 brought, you know, just active customers that 8 we currently have. 9 And if we could turn -- (speaker's 10 audio dropped) -- your contact with the ERAP 11 program itself. Have you identified who in 12 the PacifiCorp service area is administering 13 the ERAP program and who would that be? 14 So the local agencies that are 15 helping customers with this is Community --16 I'm sorry, Great Northern Services, which 17 serves Siskiyou County; Del Norte Senior 18 Center, which serves Del Norte County; and 19 T.E.A.C.H., Inc., I believes, serves Shasta. 20 But I primarily have been in contact with 21 Great Northern Services. So those are the 2.2. three that I am aware of that are local 2.3 contacts for the program. 2.4 And have you prepared -- (speaker's Q 25 audio dropped). 26 I'm sorry, did my sound cut out? 27 THE REPORTER: Yes, it did. Thank you,

Judge. This is the court reporter.

## 1 BY ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: 2. All right. Have you prepared to 3 validate the customer's amount of debt and 4 receive payment on their behalf should a 5 customer successfully apply? 6 WITNESS SPIRES: I'm sorry. Say -- ask 7 that again. 8 How have you prepared to validate 9 the customer's utility amount of debt and 10 then take the payment from the program if any 11 of your customers do apply? 12 I have not prepared, and so that is 13 an action item that I will be looking into, 14 although I do have this list of customers 15 that -- the pool of customers that I've done 16 outreach to and checking their accounts to 17 see what maybe they directly applied through 18 the housing. So that's what I've done is to check in the accounts to see whether there's 19 20 been any activity on their account as far as 21 payments. 2.2. ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Chief Colbert and 2.3 Commissioner, do you have any questions at 2.4 this point? 25 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: Yes. 26 Thank you. 27 /// 28 ///

## 1 EXAMINATION 2. BY COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: So you're saying that no one has 3 Q 4 benefited yet from this program in the PacifiCorp territory. Is that what I heard 5 6 correctly? 7 WITNESS SPIRES: The customers that 8 I've reached out to, they have not -- they 9 have not applied or reached out to me. As 10 far as if any customer has applied, that I 11 have not identified yet. 12 Well, but you would be receiving a 13 check from, yeah, the local jurisdiction or 14 HCD, so you haven't --15 I have not verified that, correct. 16 You haven't verified it or it 0 17 hasn't taken place sounds like. And what was 18 the total amount of customers that you 19 identified? 20 I've reached out to 41 customers so 21 Initially the count of customers from 2.2 the initial identified group was 55 2.3 customers. I reached out to 23 of those 2.4 customers from the first data set. And then 25 the next data set is where I identified the 26 next group of customers to reach out to. 27 Okay. Let me just make sure I am 28 understanding clearly.

1 In PacifiCorp territory, there's 2. only 55 low-income customers that are over 90 3 days in arrears? 4 I apologize. That was just from Α the first data set of just customers that are 5 6 customers within the past two years. 7 Two years of customers, 90 Okay. 8 days of debt, low income? 9 Α Correct. 10 0 You only have 55? 11 Α Well, let me go back. Those are 12 the ones that had the higher debt. I focus 13 on customers with debt greater than a 14 thousand, in that, yes. 15 Okay. I would be interested in the 0 16 universe, you know, because I think as we are 17 talking about, particularly the smaller 18 utilities, your work -- your great individual 19 work of reaching out to folks is a strategy 20 that might be worthy, if you're talking about 21 55 customers, but there may be a more, you 2.2 know, more resources on, you know, marketing 2.3 in particular; like you're saying it sounds 2.4 like you put an electronic insert into 25 e-mails with this? Correct. I include the flier from 26 Α 27 Housing is Key. 28 And does that go out to all 0

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customers with debt?

A So, for all the customers that I've reached out to, that's included. The company does include a link on our website promoting the ERAP program. And on that website, we have a link to Housing is Key, as well as the flier. And in our inserts and onserts (sic), we include the flier as well.

Q To all low-income customers?

A To all customers that are in arrears, correct.

O To all customers in arrears.

A Correct.

Q Okay. Well, thank you for your efforts. Part of what we're learning here today is what hopefully we'll get to, obviously some of your colleagues have been more successful. And I do think the -- some of your colleagues have had the fortune of dealing with their local jurisdictions that received an appropriation directly, so the cities and counties. You may be in the category of the state funding that's gone through some of the -- the partnership with some of the local NGOs, but the administration is still being done by the state contractor. Okay. So --

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

My apologies. And my understanding

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May 27, 2021 1 is that the local CBOs are referring 2. customers to the Housing is Key. They are 3 not actually administering the funds. They are just helping assisting customers with the 4 5 application process through Housing is Key. COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: 6 7 Thank you very much, Ms. Spires. 8 Thank you. 9 EXAMINATION 10 BY ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: 11 Commissioner and Ms. Spires, this 12 is consistent with what we've notated on the 13 weekly report for PacifiCorp that it appears 14 that it is -- the administrator for your 15 service territory is the State Housing and 16 Community Development Department. 17 And in great part, some of this 18 direction to the utilities was motivated by 19 expecting utilities to reach out directly to 20 the administrator to, at least as we 21

discussed earlier with Ms. Matlock, give that funding entity a good contact to reach the utility when they were ready to pay on the customer's behalf. As you acknowledged, you may not know every customer that applies, because you might not reach the ones who are applying directly yourself.

So just to facilitate the process

1 and also make sure that payment comes in, in 2. a timely manner we are expecting, you know, 3 you to make that contact. 4 Α Okav. I am not going to refer you to the 5 6 proper contact number because I haven't been 7 part of that, but perhaps some other 8 witnesses will have that, you know, state 9 contact information or you can check in with 10 our staff, particularly the staff that you 11 report to weekly about this progress, and 12 perhaps he can put you in touch with 13 somebody. 14 Α All right. Thank you. 15 appreciate that. 16 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: I will remind other 17 parties that we will have a chance for you to 18 add in a few questions when we conclude with 19 the four small utilities. 20 Okay. Do we have next Mr. Marsh 21 with CalPeco Electric? 2.2. ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: Just a 2.3 moment, your Honor. 2.4 WITNESS MARSH: Yes, your Honor. 25 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Sorry. One moment, 26 Mr. Marsh. Chief Colbert. 27 28 ///

1	EXAMINATION
2	BY ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT:
3	Q Yeah. Thank you.
4	Ms. Spires, as some of the
5	questions from the judge and from the
6	Commissioner Guzman Aceves, there is no
7	participant no one is participating in the
8	program right now, that is as far as you
9	know, correct?
10	WITNESS SPIRES: That is correct. Not
11	for the ones that I've reached out to.
12	Q Do you have any thoughts about,
13	especially going forward and as the
14	Commissioner has referenced, with the state
15	potentially doing, providing a greater amount
16	of funds to do this, as opposed to just
17	identifying who has arrearages over 90 days
18	and just automatically, maybe considering
19	automatically having the bills paid as
20	opposed to having them opt-in?
21	A For the new funding that is coming
22	through?
23	Q Well, if under the current funding
24	if no one is availing themselves of it, and
25	the previous witness indicated that also, it
26	may be for a variety of reasons and in my
27	conversations with the assigned judge, it is
28	consistent, these numbers. It is not a

1 surprise that there is these low uptake 2. numbers, but the arrearages are, in fact, 3 real; is that correct? 4 Α That is correct. And if a disconnection moratorium 5 0 6 is ended, people with arrearages could 7 possibly face disconnection; is that correct? 8 Α That is correct. 9 So I quess my question for you, and 10 you may not have thought about it, but maybe 11 it is something to think about, and for the 12 other party, is instead of having to 13 effectively look for customers, you have this 14 opportunity to do this, just say they're 15 signed up and if the arrearages can be 16 confirmed by you and the other utilities, 17 that a certain percentage would just be paid 18 through this program. 19 That is certainly something that I 20 have not thought about, but something that we 21 certainly would discuss internally to 2.2 determine if that is something that, you 2.3 know, how we would approach that. 2.4 ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: Thank you, 25 your Honor. 26 EXAMINATION 27 BY ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: 28 Let's turn now to Mr. Marsh with Q

1 CalPeco Electric. 2. Thank you, your Honor. WITNESS MARSH: 3 So, do you want me just to give you an update 4 on what we've done? 5 0 Please do. 6 Α We've also, similar to PacifiCorp, 7 identified 30 customers, CARE customers, 8 low-income customers that have the highest 9 arrearages and we have reached out to them 10 directly through e-mail offering our 11 assistance in filling out the application to 12 get the funding. And, unfortunately, we have 13 also not heard back from any of our customers 14 to date. 15 We've also, in April and May we've 16 sent out in our monthly customer e-mails that 17 we sent to all customers, we notified them of 18 this program, provided a link and more 19 information about applying. 20 We've also targeted our whole --21 all of our CARE customers that have any 2.2. arrearages at all and sent them a targeted 2.3 e-mail providing information on the 2.4 availability of the funding, how to apply and 25 where to apply with the link. 26 So we've done all that, but we 27 haven't heard from any customers to date.

And we also haven't reached out to HCD.

Α

1 have made a note of that and we will look 2. into that and do that as soon as we can. 3 Tomorrow I will be meeting with our Customer Care and billing teams to determine our next 5 steps to that, and we will be reaching out to 6 them. 7 And, Mr. Marsh, are you -- oh, 8 please go ahead. 9 I was just going to say -- share a 10 little more. We have also reached out to all of 11 12 our community partners to make sure they're 13 aware of this ERAP program and to offer our 14 assistance in providing, you know, bill 15 validation or arrearage validation to them to 16 help fill out applications and we've also 17 trained all of our customer care 18 representatives to be able to provide 19 arrearage and validate arrearages for 20 customers when they get a call asking for 21 something like that. 2.2 And, Mr. Marsh, do you have a 2.3 contact for Energy Division, Ben Menzies, 24 that was in our ruling, or perhaps Mr. Gibson 25 has that contact? Because I'd like you to 26 connect with Energy Division that you should 27 be reporting to weekly via e-mail.

Yes, I do have his contact and I

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will reach out to Ben.

Q Okay. And similar to what Chief Colbert asked about PacifiCorp, what would happen to these customers if the moratorium ends and they're in debt? What sort of outreach would PacifiCorp do for these customers prior to disconnecting them? I'm sorry. I meant CalPeco Electric. I said PacifiCorp, but I was thinking back.

A Well, you know, I don't have the details, exactly the outreach. I wasn't prepared for that question. I'm sorry, but I will get the information for you.

But there will be, you know, I
think in another filing we made, there would
be a month of us reaching out to them and
notifying them that they're in arrearage.
And I think with that proposed decision that
came out, we would be putting them on the
payment plans automatically. So there will
be some time before we get to the point of
having to disconnect any customers.

But we will do direct outreach to all customers that are facing disconnection ahead of time, to try to either get them, you know, on a payment plan or to make other arrangements to limit as much as we can any disconnections we have to do.

1 Well, I appreciate you taking a 0 2. stab at that question, even without any prior 3 notice that it would be coming. But on that topic, when you say "direct outreach" -- and 4 I am curious about this because in your 5 6 filings, your utility does talk about working 7 with customers and, you know, the opportunity 8 to engage with the utility to resolve the 9 arrearage, and what do you mean when you say 10 "direct outreach," and specifically, does 11 somebody talk to the customer? 12 Well, we do -- well, I quess, you 13 know, initially they'd get letters or mail 14 direct, you know, notifying them that they're 15 late, but 72 hours before we would ever 16 disconnect anyone, we do go to the home 17 directly and leave a note, you know. And if 18 someone is there, we will talk to them 19 directly about disconnections and try to make 20 arrangements for resolving and, you know, not 21 having to disconnect, making other 2.2. arrangements. Door hangers is the word I was 2.3 looking for. We do door hangers, but we also 24 try to contact the customer, when we go out 25 to do the door hanger. 26 I see -- excuse me one moment. 27 see our hearing reporter. Did you need to interject? No. All right. 28

1	And in terms of working or contact
2	with the customer, what about phone
3	conversations? Is their a role for CalPeco?
4	Do you have a staff person who does that?
5	A I don't believe so, but I'll look
6	into that and get back to you on that one. ]
7	Q I see excuse me one moment. I
8	see our hearing reporter. Did you need to
9	interject?
10	THE REPORTER: (Shaking head.)
11	BY ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA:
12	Q No. All right.
13	And in terms of working or
14	contact with the customer, what about phone
15	conversations? Is there a role for CalPeco
16	to have a staff person who does that?
17	A I don't believe so, but I'll look
18	into that and get back to you on that one.
19	Q Okay. I appreciate, you know
20	A Are you talking about outreach to
21	customers through the phone or
22	Q Well, I would also be interested in
23	if the customer calls do they speak to a live
24	representative, but I am, in this case,
25	interested in phone calling. Yes, outbound
26	phone calling. I think our first witness,
27	Mr. Matlock with Bear Valley, referenced that
28	they were actually making phone calls to

1 customers, not to all customers but for a 2. small sample group of 5 or 10 customers to 3 try and get them to apply to this program. 4 Α Right. So to date, you know, we've only done e-mail, and it doesn't seem like 5 it's effective. So I think I'll take that 6 7 back to our customer care team and see if --8 you know, like Commissioner Guzman Aceves was 9 talking about, we have a smaller customer 10 base and a smaller number of customers that 11 are low income and in arrears that we'll look 12 into possibly reaching out directly via phone 13 instead of e-mail. 14 I think that's helpful considering, 15 of course, this is, you know, a different 16 program and a different. So we're not -- so 17 we're departing somewhat from some of our 18 standard practices based on the nature of the 19 times. 20 Are there other questions? 21 (No response.) 2.2 EXAMINATION 2.3 BY COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: 2.4 Well, you know, just kind of Q 25 building off of that for all the utilities is 26 if they -- and --27 (Interruption by reporter.) 28 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: Thank you.

them.

1 0 Let me see. Let me rephrase this. 2. Are all of your customer service reps trained 3 on the availability of this assistance? You know, I know many of you are familiar with 4 5 the LIHEAP program, and I would assume that 6 when folks call they can refer them to that 7 eliqibility? 8 And it just was concerning that --9 you know, you should know if anyone has 10 participated in the program because, again, 11 you are going to receive the check from HCD. 12 And so are you talking both ends of the 13 company here at the, you know, very -- on the 14 ground level with your customer service reps 15 to make sure they are aware, and on your 16 accounts receivable and that end, that they 17 are aware that if you're receiving a check 18 from HCD then there's someone participating? 19 Not so much of a question, but 20 happy to take anybody's thoughts on that. 21 Yes. WITNESS MARSH: So our customer 2.2 care representatives are trained on providing 2.3 information to customers about the ERAP 2.4 program and what the qualifications are so 25 when they do have contact with the customer, 26 you know, possibly calling us about a past 27 due bill we can provide that information to

1 But Commissioner Guzman Aceves, you 2. made a good point that I'm going to follow-up 3 on to make sure that, you know, the other end of receiving -- receiving checks from customers just to make sure that our accounts 5 receivable organization is looking for HCD 6 checks and providing -- and updating customer 8 care and our regulatory department when they 9 do receive them. So we'll make a note to 10 make sure we're doing that. 11 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: This is ALJ 12 Watts-Zagha. 13 And I believe other witnesses you 14 could address this same question going 15 forward. But the one clarification I did 16 want to add is that I believe prior to 17 receiving the check there will have to be an 18 affirmative action from the utility. So just 19 adding on that there will be two steps there, 20 and probably that was part of the question as 21 well. But ideally HCD would know how most 2.2 easily in your organization to reach the 2.3 proper person who could confirm the amount of 2.4 the customers' arrears. 25 Chief Colbert, do you have 26 additional questions here? 27 ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: No. Thank 28 you, your Honor. I do not.

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## EXAMINATION

BY ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA:

Q Okay. I'd like to get ready to turn to Ms. Mazzeo and her witness, and -- and I do hope -- I do strongly encourage the witnesses so far to make contact with our Energy Division and just -- well, you know, that might be an easy source of information just based on the experience we've had so far in receiving these reports from other utilities.

All right. And let's see how the sound and (inaudible) for Southwest Gas are this morning. Please go ahead.

WITNESS ANSANI: Hi, your Honor. I'll start with -- if everyone can hear me okay, I'll start with going first into we identified that our sample pool of candidates would be 110. So we immediately got into identifying what customers would be good candidates to reach out to, to hit our 110 number. We identified customers that were over \$25 in arrears from the time period of April 2020 -- April 1st, 2020 to March 31st of 2021. And we identified a tabulation of sixteen-and-a-half-thousand customers. In order to get to our population, we took two different routes. Well, I should -- I'll

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classify it as three different routes actually. One, we put all of our customers into an automatic dialer to let them know of the funds available and the eligibility necessary and to contact a direct-target group of representatives to enroll and to find out additional information.

Then we began outbound calling our customers. And to date, we have called -- we have outreached to 769, again, through manual dialing. We've spoken to 306 customers, and we've gotten 134 customers to agree to apply, to reach out to the programs in one of the two avenues we identified to receive the funds.

What we've also done -- the third approach is we've used social media and our website to promote the funds that are available. We really just wanted to make sure that any of our customers in arrears who may be struggling financially have the opportunity to find out about the program that is available through ERAP and to know where to call in order to get that information. But we're pleased, to date, that we've gotten the 134 to agree to apply. So far we've confirmed 5 have applied, and we're now working directly, as of yesterday,

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with HCD to do the validation going forward so we're not having to continue to reach out to the 134 to confirm with the customer that they've applied -- that we can do more of a pure validation. 0 I see. And what is your intention with regard to the customers going forward? Α Yeah. We've gotten a pretty big response on our outbound dialer, and we have right now several hundred voicemail messages that we're returning. We want to continue --I know we've reached the threshold. Now, of course, we still have case management and validation to occur. So I know we're not there yet, but we want to continue to offer this program to other customers and let them know who to connect with and how to engage to

Q Okay. And then just let me ask. So you're the counsel for Southwest Gas, right?

go further. So we're going to continue to

work with those customers.

A I'm the director of the call center actually.

Q Oh. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. It's very hard to tell on the video who -- thank you so much. And the computer screen is showing the name of your counsel. So that's

1 why -- that was my error. Perfect. 2. And could you please explain to us 3 who in SouthWest Gas' service territory is 4 administering the ERAP program? And I think 5 we have some notes on this in our report, but 6 I'd just like to hear directly from you how 7 many entities -- how many separate entities 8 you need to work with when you do that pure 9 validation? 10 We're working with Housing is Key, 11 and we're working with the -- we're directing 12 customers to the state portal. And we're 13 validating our customers with HCD now. We've 14 just established the engagement model, I 15 should say. We will begin doing that now. 16 And how you did make contact with 17 HCD to perform the validation? 18 In a phone call. Α 19 Did you call them, or did they call Q 20 you? 21 Α We called them? 2.2 MS. MAZZEO: Yeah. 2.3 WITNESS ANSANI: We called them 2.4 directly. 25 BY ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: 26 Great. Do they have a time frame 27 for you on how -- is validation a discrete 28 process, or is it a multi-step, multi-day

process?

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WITNESS ANSANI: We haven't started the validation process. We just received confirmation that we may begin that. So I can't speak to the length of time but I believe it to be a discrete process that only our authorized personnel can conduct this validation. We just haven't worked through our first one yet.

Q I'm just trying to get a sense of how long it's going to take to work through the first one.

A We can follow-up after we've conducted our first one, which I believe we will be doing in the next few days, just to say logistically how that occurred.

Q All right. I'm interested in that because it does seem like that is the affirmative action on the utilities' part, and then as part -- do you have a payment -- a way to receive the management in place as well, or is that something you're going to be working through and how?

A That is something we've discussed as well. And today our process is that we receive checks for payment, but it's not an electronic transfer.

Q Is that process just for any

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customer paying their bill, or are you saying just with this ERAP program, that's your process?

A It's actually with -- it was the same process we used to receive CARE's funds. It's the same process we receive as agency funds. So it's not just ERAP, but it's when we have a separate entity paying on behalf of other customers is how it works.

Q Okay. That's helpful. And do you have any way that you will know if a customer who you've not reached out to and encouraged to apply -- if just other customers find out about the program and apply, will you know and track the payments on those customer accounts and how?

A We will. We are in the process of adding this payment code classification, which we do for all of our agencies today. We do for CARE's fund as well. Every time we have a new payment stream, we add an additional classification of that payment stream so we can continue to monitor the accounts that we're receiving funds on that. So we're adding our own classification that is titled ERAP.

Q Do you have any sense of whether the full 12 months or the full amount of

1 arrears are going to get paid through this 2. program for those five customers? 3 For the -- do I have a --4 0 Well --In terms of what funds are 5 Α available and how much they owe in arrears? 6 7 Sorry. Just getting back to the 8 bigger picture goal, this program seems to 9 have no dollar limit. It's just the full 12 10 months of the Coronavirus period for ERAP 11 purposes is available to be paid. Do you 12 expect those 5 customers to have all their 13 arrearages paid through ERAP once the process 14 is complete? 15 The 5 customers we have looked at Ά their delinquencies, their delinquencies are 16 17 within these past 12 months. So based on 18 what we know of the program, I would say it 19 is likely that that would get covered again 20 because their arrears do not date back prior 21 to the prior -- the last 12 months. 2.2 believe that I -- we'll certainly continue to 2.3 monitor to see if that holds true. 2.4 0 Okay. Great. And then back again 25 to the bigger picture for the next iteration 26 of relief funding for your customers. 27 there any particular difficult points or

recommendations you have when we -- for the

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next program for relief that you could point to? What are barriers and recommendations to overcome them based on your experience with ERAP?

A I -- yes. I think for Southwest
Gas, our customers weren't surprised by this.
We've been doing a great deal of outreach
over the past 13 months based on what has
been -- has been occurring and have used all
of our payment stream. So I don't believe
we've caught any of our customers off guard
with what we're attempting to do to identify
customers who need our help.

I would say one of the biggest obstacles to overcome specifically with ERAP is just making sure that we've got that interconnectivity with the entities that are going to be distributing the payments, making sure that we've got that good connection and can validate. Because what I did not want to continue to do was to continue to call customers that we've called multiple times to say, "Hey, you said you were going to do it. Have you followed up and did it?" That's — it's good to get to the point to where the HCD is going to validate for us. So I think that is definitely something we want to carry forward with future plans so that we're

1 validating it with the entity distributing 2. the funds. 3 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Okay. I'd like to 4 open it up for additional questions. 5 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: I don't 6 have any additional ones, Judge Watts-Zagha. 7 But I want to thank Southwest Gas for some of 8 their proactive work in this area and other 9 areas, and I'm glad that that connection with 10 HCD has been connected, and it really seems 11 to be a critical element for success. 12 Thank you. 13 BY ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: 14 Actually, one other question Yes. 15 has come to my mind. And you do work with 16 your overlapping water utilities; is that 17 right? 18 WITNESS ANSANI: We did an information 19 We did an information exchange with -- yes. 20 them, your Honor. From that -- that was 21 where we started actually, and we were only 2.2. to identify 7 common customers that met the 2.3 criteria. So that's when we expanded our 2.4 pool and took the additional avenues to 25 broaden our population. 26 Have any of those 7 customers 27 pursued the application?

I will have to follow-up on that.

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1 I know they are not one of the 5, but I want 2. to follow-up if they were of the 134 that 3 agreed to apply, and I can provide that 4 response to you. Okay. And did you understand the 5 6 intent behind that coordination --7 coordinating with your overlap? 8 Α Identifying the customers that had 9 a common need between the two organizations? 10 Q (Nodding head). 11 Α Yes. 12 Yes. It seemed likely, you 0 Great. 13 know, if a customer has utilities -- it 14 doesn't seem likely. It seems possible that 15 they might have utilities -- arrearages with 16 two utilities, and since the application is 17 one event, that they could address both 18 arrearages at the same time. 19 I think at this point, we Okay. 20 are going to now actually call -- if there 21 are -- this is a good opportunity for all 2.2 parties to understand the experience of the 2.3 small and multi-jurisdictional utilities with 2.4 regard to this program as we're all 25 continuing to develop recommendations going 26 forward. So I did want to now suggest other

question for any of these four witnesses, I

parties participating. If you have a

1 am going to be taking a look at the screen 2. and see if anyone is able to raise their 3 electronic hand ideally. And if the electronic hands -- I think that is the best 4 option for indicating your interest if you 5 6 have a question you'd like to ask. 7 And if you would also like to turn 8 on your screen and raise your real hand, 9 that's an option as well, but I'm not 10 actually seeing any parties at this point 11 raising their hand. Oh, I do. I do see a 12 party. 13 I think Center for Accessible 14 Technology, Melissa Kasnitz, please put your 15 hand down and turn on your microphone and 16 proceed. Ms. Kasnitz, I would also suggest 17 you turn on your camera as well as 18 That would be quite helpful, if microphone. 19 you can? 20 MR. HAGA: I have made Melissa Kasnitz 21 a panelist so she can control her microphone 2.2 and camera. 2.3 Thank you. This is MS. KASNITZ: 24 something that you've covered, your Honor. 25 EXAMINATION 26 BY MS. KASNITZ: 27 So maybe I'm just being redundant 28 But I'm extremely surprised that only here.

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1 Southwest Gas of the speakers has reached out 2. to the program and established contact. 3 understanding back from the initial ruling was that was something that the utilities 4 were being directed to do. 5 6 So to the extent that this is a question, I guess the question is how did the 7 8 other utilities interpret the direction to 9 establish this process without including the 10 need to reach out to the program to 11 facilitate in exchange of information? 12 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Ms. Kasnitz, is that 13 a question for a particular witness, or is it 14 for me? 15 MS. KASNITZ: It's, I quess, to all of 16 the witnesses except Southwest Gas since 17 Southwest Gas clearly did interpret the 18 ruling to mean that, and I don't know whether 19 it has a good answer. But I don't want to 20 take up too much time, but --21 ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: Your Honor. 2.2 MS. KASNITZ -- it's a source of 2.3 concern. 2.4 ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: Your Honor, 25 this is Assistant Chief Colbert. I think the 26 more relevant question is going forward.

not sure it's necessarily beneficial to ask

them how they interpreted the direction.

1 This is not the purpose of this. 2. MS. KASNITZ: Thank you, your Honor. 3 agree. That's more helpful. 4 ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: Do you understand going forward what the program is 5 intended to do, what Commissioner Guzman 6 7 Aceves and Judge Watts-Zagha want to make 8 sure that the program is adopted, you know, 9 what was understood and not understood, okay, 10 fine. But what is understood now. 11 MS. KASNITZ: (Nodding head.) 12 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Okay. This is ALJ 13 Watts-Zagha. 14 So we won't have anyone answer this 15 question. But I also did want to note that 16 Bear Valley has also made calls to their 17 customers, and they were the first witness to 18 speak on this. 19 Let's ask if -- Greenlining. Okay. 20 Mad Stano, are you available to ask a 21 question, and please put your hand down. 2.2 EXAMINATION 2.3 BY MX. STANO: 2.4 Thank you, your Honor. 0 So my 25 question also, similarly, is for all the 26 witnesses with the exception of Southwest Gas 27 who already addressed this. If you could 28 please share more information on whether or

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1 not you all conducted any outreach activities 2. to intentionally reach customers who speak 3 languages other than English and may lack 4 access to e-mail or the internet. 5 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Okav. So the 6 question is with regard to in-language 7 outreach specifically or just a strategy for 8 customers who speak languages other than 9 English? 10 MX. STANO: Yes. If they conduct any 11 in-language outreach and if the other 12 parties, with the exception of Southwest Gas, 13 could address if they conducted outreach to 14 intentionally reach folks that lack -- that 15 may lack internet or e-mail access. 16 EXAMINATION 17 BY ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: 18 All right. Well, I definitely 0 19 think the phone calls on Bear Valley's part 20 do answer that question. But let's go back 21 to Bear Valley's witness. We'll go in the 2.2. same order with regard to in-language 2.3 outreach. Let me see who -- I hope you're 2.4 all still with us. 25 Mr. Matlock, if you could unmute. 26 WITNESS MATLOCK: Thank you for the

follow-up question. Bear Valley did reach

out to the entire sample group, and we do

file.

1 have bilingual assistance available in both 2. Spanish and English. As far as the other 3 languages, the specific outreach was not 4 done, for example, maybe Tagalog or one of 5 the other languages. It's primarily in 6 English and Spanish. 7 Mr. Matlock, just did you call --8 did you have Spanish speakers make those 9 phone calls? 10 But we have staff available --Α No. 11 multiple staff that's available making the 12 calls. So they could have spoken either 13 English or Spanish. 14 That's helpful. And then as Okay. 15 we turn to Mr. -- Ms. Spires and then 16 Ms. Ansani -- oh. Not Ms. Ansani. 17 MR. HAGA: ALJ Watts-Zagha, you're 18 muted. 19 BY ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: 20 Oh. I was suggesting that you also 21 identify which languages are spoken by some 2.2. of your customers other than English. That 2.3 might be helpful too. 24 Let's turn to Ms. Spires. 25 WITNESS SPIRES: The outreach that I 26 conducted was primarily in English, and these 27 are customers that have e-mail address on

1	However, on our website where we
2	provide a link to the ERAP program, that is
3	in both English and Spanish, and in our
4	outreach (inaudible) and inserts are in
5	English and Spanish as well. Those are
6	primarily
7	WITNESS MARSH: This is Dan Marsh
8	from
9	WITNESS SPIRES: Sorry.
10	WITNESS MARSH: Oh, sorry. Go ahead,
11	Charity.
12	WITNESS SPIRES: So those it was
13	just I just wanted to say that the primary
14	two languages is English and Spanish.
15	BY ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA:
16	Q Okay, Mr. Marsh.
17	WITNESS MARSH: Thank you for the
18	question. We our communications that
19	we've sent out and they've only been
20	through e-mail to date were in both
21	English and Spanish. And we also have
22	bilingual customer service reps that would
23	take any calls, and then when we do reach out
24	directly to targeted customers, we will
25	utilize bilingual customer service reps.
26	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you.
27	Mad Chang do real barro anything
	Mad Stano, do you have anything

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1 No. MX. STANO: Thank you, your Honor. 2. ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Great. Since we're 3 doing this in a panel format, ideally -- yes, 4 just listen to each other's questions and 5 just pick a topic that we haven't honed in on And I see there's two other parties 6 7 that would like to ask. We have Connie Cho with the California Environmental Justice 8 9 Alliance, and then after that we'll have Cal 10 Advocates Ritta Merza ask a question. And I 11 think that's all we have right now. 12 Please go ahead, Ms. Cho. 13 EXAMINATION 14 BY MS. CHO: 15 So for the panel, I am curious to 16 know what process you have in place now to 17 follow-up and collect feedback from the 18 customers that receive additional outreach 19 but have yet to apply for the ERAP program 20 relief now. I imagine that reengagement 21 would be critical to understand how your 2.2 outreach can be more effective or what 2.3 outstanding questions they may have, you 2.4 know, invitations to focus groups or 25 standardized follow-up reminders and survey 26 questions. Perhaps they have preferences for

they'll need to understand that it's not a

community-based partner outreach or --

1 scam, as Bear Valley pointed out. 2. Thank you, Ms. Cho. ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: 3 And since we are going in a round, I'm going 4 to suggest that Ms. Merza also ask her 5 question, and then each witness can answer two questions at one time, and I can remind 6 7 you of the question, or the counsels could 8 remind you of the question. 9 So, Ms. Merza, thank you for 10 understanding. 11 MS. MERZA: Thank you, Judge. 12 EXAMINATION 13 BY MS. MERZA: 14 My question is on a similar note 15 regarding the application process. What 16 information do your customers receive when 17 they complete an application, and is there a 18 way for customers to check on the status of 19 their application? 20 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Okay. And Ms. Merza, 21 that's specific to the ERAP application. Ιs 2.2. that what you're asking? 2.3 Correct, yes. Thank you, MS. MERZA: 2.4 Judge. 25 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Okav. So to the 26 extent that the witnesses know. Great. I'm 27 glad those are related. Let's go again in 28 the same order.

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Mr. Matlock.

WITNESS MATLOCK: Very good. Thank
you. Our approach is to call each member of
the sample group that has not responded to
us, to follow-up directly with them. We are
walking them through the entire process step
by step. We are giving them links to the
website. We're making sure that they have a
level of comfort and understanding of what
they qualify or may qualify for. We walk
them through exactly what criteria they need.
So we are really having that personal element
with all of our follow-up at this point in
time. It's a manageable sample for us. So
that's our approach moving forward at this
point in time with our smaller sample group.

As far as the remainder of the process, I'm not a hundred percent sure. We do not have an applicant that has completed that. My understanding is that it's going to work very similar to the LIHEAP program, which Bear Valley is very familiar with. So I -- that's where my level of understanding is with the finishing of the process at this point in time, the actual application itself.

ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: And, yes, Ms. Spires, go ahead.

WITNESS SPIRES: (Speaker muted.)

1 Ms. Spires, you're muted. MR. HAGA: 2. WITNESS SPIRES: There you go. 3 Apologize for that. So to answer the first 4 question as far as -- I believe the question was the follow-ups with those customers that 5 6 I've done outreach with, and I provide these 7 customers with my direct e-mail address and 8 phone number as well as the flyer for the --9 for the program. I have not received a 10 response yet to determine, you know, what 11 would be the next step. Considering that I 12 have not received any responses, the next step is maybe to try phone calls. 13 So that is 14 another strategy that I'm looking into. And 15 then if you can just -- the second 16 question --17 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: You know, I don't 18 think it's relevant because it's actually 19 about the application -- the ERAP application 20 process, and you haven't gone through that 21 process yet. 2.2. WITNESS SPIRES: Right. 2.3 So I'm also eager, in ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: 24 the interest of time, to move onto the large 25 investor-owned utilities because we're 26 actually learning quite a bit from this 27 group, and I assume they will have quite a

bit to share as well. So we will just have,

1 if you could briefly, Mr. Marsh and 2. Ms. Ansani, and then we will move on. 3 Thank you. 1 Okav. Real briefly, 4 WITNESS MARSH: 5 since we -- it appears that our e-mail was 6 not effective in getting customers to 7 participate in the ERAP, we will be looking 8 into direct contact through phone calls and 9 we can also ask them at that time if they 10 received the e-mail and what their thought 11 was on that e-mail and whether, you know, 12 they thought it was some kind of a scam or 13 whatnot. 14 And then ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Yes. 15 Ms. Ansani, and then I will ask -- I know 16 Mr. Gibson representing electric utilities 17 wants to make a final statement. 18 So go ahead, Ms. Ansani, if you have 19 something to add. 20 WITNESS ANSANI: Yes, we just got to 21 the statement confirming with our customers 2.2 that they have applied so we haven't had any 2.3 need to check in to see what is the status of 24 that application. We're getting to that 25 phase now, so we'll ask that question and 26 find out fairly shortly if that's a 27 possibility. 28 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you.

1	Mr. Gibson, go ahead, and then,
2	Ms. Mazzeo, if you want to conclude with
3	anything.
4	MR. GIBSON: Thank you, your Honor. I
5	actually had a procedural question. It looks
6	like we'll be turning to the large IOUs next.
7	I know that one of our witnesses from
8	PacifiCorp has a potential conflict at noon,
9	so I was wondering, if she is no longer
10	needed, if she could be excused at noon,
11	assuming we run past the initial allotted
12	timeline?
13	I'm sorry, your Honor, your
14	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: The small utilities'
15	witnesses may be excused after this.
16	I will also note that we will take a
17	break at noon if we are still going if
18	this proceeding is still going along, we will
19	take a one-hour lunch break
20	MR. GIBSON: Thank you, your Honor.
21	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: for planning
22	purposes.
23	Ms. Mazzeo, do you have anything
24	before we move on?
25	MS. MAZZEO: Just briefly, your Honor.
26	First, obviously, thanks to you and all of
27	the panelists, Commissioner, the Chief for
28	your time today. We appreciate this forum to

1 kind of talk about best practices and where 2. we may be able to make improvements as we go 3 through this process. 4 One small point of clarification --5 because we just got a note from our team 6 while other panelists were speaking -- on 7 your question regarding the data exchange with our water utilities. We did, in fact, 8 9 have one customer from that data exchange 10 that was among the five who we have confirmed 11 applications for. 12 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you for that 13 clarification. That is very interesting. 14 MS. MAZZEO: Sure. Thank you. 15 ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: And, your 16 Honor, just one point of clarification. I do 17 appreciate the promotion, but I'm Assistant 18 Chief, not Chief. 19 MS. MAZZEO: My apologies. Thank you. 20 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you, everyone. 21 We will swear in the witnesses for Southern 2.2 California Edison, Pacific Gas and Electric, 2.3 Southern California Edison, and San Diego 2.4 Gas & Electric as a group. 25 I will call upon the attorneys for 26 each of these companies and if you could 27 please introduce your witness.

Let's start with Southern California

1	Edison, David Gomez, I believe.
2	MR. GOMEZ: Thank you, your Honor.
3	This is David Gomez for Southern California
4	Edison.
5	Our witness is Eugene Ayuyao.
6	She'll also be able to clarify or update some
7	of the numbers from the document that was
8	circulated yesterday.
9	WITNESS AYUYAO: Good morning, your
10	Honor.
11	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Excellent. Yes, we
12	are expecting updates on the numbers and I
13	received notes from the many utilities that
14	you have updates.
15	Laura Fulton with San Diego Gas &
16	Electric?
17	MS. FULTON: Good morning, your Honor.
18	Laura Fulton on behalf of San Diego Gas &
19	Electric. Our witness today will be Steve
20	Rahon, the Director of Customer Operations at
21	SDG&E.
22	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you.
23	And Jennifer Reyes Lagunero, Pacific
24	Gas and Electric.
25	MS. REYES LAGUNERO: Good morning, your
26	Honor. For Pacific Gas and Electric, we will
27	be having Neil Singh, the manager for
28	income-qualified programs.

1	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Great.
2	And then with SoCalGas, Shawane Lee.
3	MS. LEE: Good morning, your Honor.
4	Shawane Lee for SoCalGas. Our witness today
5	is Ivonne Meza and she is the mass credit and
6	collections manager.
7	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you.
8	To the witnesses: Do you promise to
9	tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing
10	but the truth?
11	Ivonne Meza?
12	WITNESS MEZA: I do.
13	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Great.
14	Neil Singh?
15	WITNESS SINGH: I do.
16	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Eugene Ayuyao?
17	WITNESS AYUYAO: I do.
18	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: And Steve Rahon?
19	WITNESS RAHON: I do.
20	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you.
21	IVONNE MEZA, called as a witness by Southern California Gas Company, having
22	been sworn, testified as follows:
23	NEIL SINGH, called as a witness by Pacific Gas & Electric Company, having
24	been sworn, testified as follows:
25	EUGENE AYUYAO, called as a witness by Southern California Edison Company,
26	having been sworn, testified as follows:
27	/// ///
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STEVE RAHON, called as a witness by San Diego Gas & Electric Company, having been sworn, testified as follows:

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## EXAMINATION

BY ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA:

Q I would like to start this process with Southern California Edison. So, Eugene Ayuyao, if you would like to generally tell us your activities to date with the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and then provide any corrections to the reported metrics if you would like.

WITNESS AYUYAO: Thank you, your Honor. We appreciate the opportunity to provide updates to our work on the ERAP program. As far as the updates, I'd like to really divide it in three parts. First is our progress on our outbound calls, second is our update on promotions, and, third, updates for our (indecipherable) engagement with HCD and other jurisdictions.

In terms of the outbound calls, as soon as we received resolution April 5th, we quickly reviewed the file that we share with the water agencies and from there identified CARE customers, low-income customers, who had existing arrears. After doing so, we identified those customers who are renters.

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From that initial list, we got around 3,300 customers who might be eligible for the programs. After running those lists in our call registry, we ended up with 2,730 customers in our list.

The ruling requirement was for SCE to case manage 450 customers approximately, and we would need to call approximately 1,600 customers to get to the 450 customers who are likely. And, you know, we'll be helping them with case management work.

Going through the table, the number of sample customers who have agreed to apply is about 132 customers. With that, we interpret that those customers have expressed strong interest in participating in the program and, therefore, are willing to send their application.

With the follow-up calls that we've made, we determined that there were four customers who have confirmed submitting their application. We have not received any requests for validation for those four customers to date. So that is the update for the specific tables.

As far as those customers outside of our sample group, we reviewed the tables that were sent out yesterday and there were some

Α

Okay.

1 differences in the numbers provided. 2. like to provide some updates on those. terms of --3 4 Let me interrupt and just sticking 0 5 with the sample group. So we didn't have any of those numbers, as you'll notice, so I'm 6 7 just wondering what is the date? Did those not reach us? When did those -- did that 8 9 sample group activity you described happen? Your Honor, as of our report on 10 Α 11 May 24th, we actually stated that we were 12 able to identify over 2,000 customers, sample 13 customers, of -- potential customers who are 14 willing and eligible in the program -- who 15 might potentially be willing and eligible in 16 the program, and that was part of the weekly 17 report on the 24th of May. 18 All right. And so then when did 19 you find out that these several customers 20 from the sample group are applying or have 21 applied? You said four or five? 2.2. Α Yes, your Honor. There were four 2.3 confirmed customers. And that occurred, I 24 believe, this week, early this week. 25 Thank you. And, yes, feel 0 Okav. 26 free to discuss any and all customers that 27 you've validated and received payment on now.

1 ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: Your Honor, a 2. point of clarification. 3 Was it 132 customers participating 4 or four -- what -- how many are 5 participating? So there are four 6 WITNESS AYUYAO: 7 customers who have confirmed that they 8 submitted their application. We made that 9 determination through actual calls made to 10 the customers, follow-up calls. And in terms 11 of the line item 2, which says, "Number of 12 sample customers who have agreed to apply," 13 there are 132 customers who express strong 14 interest in participating in that program. 15 We interpreted it as customers who are 16 agreeing to apply. 17 ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: And the total 18 sample size was 2,000? 19 The total sample size WITNESS AYUYAO: 20 was 2,730 to date. We have called a total of 736 customers as of last night. 21 2.2. ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: So all the 2.3 people in the sample size, the 2,700, only 2.4 less than a third have actually been 25 contacted? 26 WITNESS AYUYAO: Yes. 27 ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: Okay. Thank 28 you.

1 Thank you, your Honor. 2. WITNESS AYUYAO: Okay. So I am going 3 to proceed with the next table, "Customers 4 Excluding Sample Group Metrics." In terms of the number of customers 5 6 actually validated, we have validated 209 7 customers from Inland SoCal United Way. In terms of number of customers receiving 8 9 relief, we have 180 customers who have 10 received the relief and whose accounts have 11 been updated. 12 Inland SoCal of United Way provided 13 the 209 customers, but we have not received 14 the payment to date so we have not included those numbers into the number of customers 15 16 receiving relief. So those are the 17 clarification that we would like to make. 18 In terms of the numbers of the 19 amount of relief received, the checks that we 20 would -- we actually receive from United Way 21 Orange only amount to about \$91,000. 2.2 doesn't include -- even if we validated 209 2.3 from Inland SoCal, we haven't included those 2.4 relief funds as part of that line item 25 because we did not get the payment. 26 BY ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: 27 Ms. Ayuyao, I must confess I am not 28 sure how to understand the updates you've

1 just provided to the table called "Customers 2. Excluding Sample Group Metrics." There are 3 some numbers that we wrote whereas of May 24th, and so the numbers you just read 4 5 are different and they are lower. So I'm not 6 sure if what you're talking about is 7 additional to what's on the table or it is a correction to the table in and of itself. 8 9 I'll also note I understand from 10 the company's perspective you may track 11 payments jurisdiction by jurisdiction and 12 this table is simply one total number. 13 didn't really understand what you read out. 14 I wonder if you could try again and start 15 with is this a total company number? 16 Α This is a --17 Go ahead. 0 18 This is a total company number. Α Ιt 19 is a correction to the numbers that were 20 submitted -- that were sent to us yesterday. 21 There are differences when we checked our 2.2 record. I just want to make that -- report 2.3 those changes. 2.4 That's helpful now. Q Okay. 25 course I hope you can work with the Energy 26 Division to reflect that better in next 27 week's report. We'll take what's -- we'll

note what you've said today as well. But if

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you see, you know, misinterpretations in the future, that you do have access to the Energy Division to help us better understand what you're reporting.

A Yes, your Honor.

Q And so now the next question is:
You refer to one juris -- administering
jurisdiction. Did you want to share with us
how many different jurisdictions you expect
to be working with, and with each of those
jurisdictions, do you have your validation
process in place or, if not, what steps are
you taking to put that validation process in
place?

A Yes. We have -- currently we're only working with United Way Orange County and Inland SoCal United Way. But there are 79 jurisdictions that we would have to work with, I mean in terms of case management as per the ruling. So that's how we came up with the 450 customer list.

As soon as the ruling came out, we have multiple engagement with HCD specifically discussing of topics around the data exchange process as well as the payment process. We had to set up secure file-transfer platforms in order to make sure that when we exchange data with HCD, that

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we're protecting customer information. That is currently being -- that was worked out already.

At the same time, we also worked out on submitting, like, the template in receiving all of the information of -- all of customer information because we're not looking at just hundreds of customers, but thousands of customers potentially. At the same time --

Q Let me interrupt, if I may, because you're providing so much information at one time. You used the term "data exchange."

I'm curious why you used that term. To my understanding, validation is a -- I'm just wondering what data is actually being exchanged between yourself and HCD. Could you explain that.

A From my understanding, your Honor,
HCD would be providing us with service
account numbers and reported arrears of those
customers who have applied to the program.

From there, we would have to look -- match these customer account numbers with service addresses and at the same time confirm that the arrears provided are accurate and they were accumulated during the time frame of the protection period which was

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from March 2020 until June 2021. So that was the extent of the data sharing that needs to take place in order for us to validate the information that HCD is providing.

Q Yes. And I'd like to follow up.

Is what you tell HCD more than a yes or no?

Yes, that is correct, the amount and the time period, or do you actually send them actual data on amounts and time periods if what you've received is not correct? I'm curious about the exchange from Southern California Edison to HCD. Do you actually provide data?

A The information we provide, from what I understand -- I have not seen the actual template, but from what I understand is that we are supposed to provide addresses to the service accounts. We will only receive service accounts and the arrearage that were reported during the customer enrollment.

We will have to say yes or no -yes, that is correct. We will have to say
yes or no if the arrears are accurate and
they are indeed from the time frame
specified.

Q And it's your understanding that you're actually adding a service address to each account number --

1	A That was
2	Q and sending that?
3	Did you say yes?
4	A That was my understanding, yes,
5	your Honor.
6	Q Okay. Fine.
7	A Okay. And then
8	Q And then if we could go back to the
9	number of jurisdictions. You've got the
10	system in place with one of them. But is HCD
11	the payor for any and all applications
12	ultimately or do you have to work with other
13	jurisdictions to validate and receive payment
14	as well?
15	A We have to work with other entities
16	to validate payments and some actually
17	some entities do not require us to validate
18	payments. And we have had that experience
19	with United Way Orange where we receive a
20	payment and no validation was required.
21	That is why part of the work that
22	we're doing is to standardize some of the
23	submission of customer list to us, as well as
24	the payment process, because there are
25	jurisdictions who have less complex
26	capabilities in terms of submitting payments.
27	So there are entities who just send
28	checks only and Excel formats in terms of the

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customer data information, and there are entities who could actually send that electronically in a format that we -- our system could automatically read and adjust customer accounts.

Q I see the Commissioner's head is nodding, so maybe others were aware that sometimes the payment -- the validation step might have been skipped for customers.

That's new information to me and interesting. Where does the payment get sent? How do you know which customer's account to apply it to if there was no prior validation?

A Well, when we received the check payments, the first check payments that we received, they have a list of customers' accounts and the arrearage. We applied those as listed on the check payment stub.

For others, they require validation and we only had one experience of an actual entity outside of HCD that required us to validate. Those were the 209 customers from Inland SoCal United Way. We received those manually, I mean in a format that we had to do manual validation for those 209 customers.

So we thought that standardizing a process for all other entities was critical in order to expedite because if you're

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talking about thousands of customers who we will need to verify, the process might take longer, and it is for best practices important that we do have a process to make sure that this relief is given to customer expeditiously.

Q You may have heard one of the smaller utilities' witnesses talk about how they wanted to make sure they were prepared once -- before they outreach to customers. They didn't want to keep telling customers apply and then not be able to complete their steps.

So for those five customers that have applied that you've confirmed from your target group, you know, which jurisdictions are they from and are you expecting and prepared to be able to receive payments on their behalf? Have you worked it out for all five customer jurisdictions or where are you at with that because do you share the same concern that you don't want to tell a customer to do this and then find out there's some snags in the process?

A If the customers are from HCD, the process is already established to validate. We just need HCD to send a validation request. Once that's done, we're able to

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validate quickly. We are ready for that because we've established all of the processes with HCD moving forward.

Q Do you think all those five customers are with HCD or could they be from other jurisdictions and then what steps are you going to take to prepare to receive payments for those customers?

A I cannot confirm that, your Honor. I could get back to you to confirm if all of those customers are coming from HCD or other jurisdictions at this time.

Q Okay. I could just ask you generally about barriers, but I'd just like to check in with Assistant Chief Colbert and Commissioner Guzman Aceves first about any technical questions of this nature or anything you'd like to ask.

COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: No. I think it's helpful to understand how, you know, HCD is obviously being more thorough in the verification, I guess, and many of the locals took the customer kind of affidavit as, if you will, for their debt amount and seeing the need for the utilities to be adaptive to each of those approaches is so critical.

But it really sounds like the

1 communication with the HCD is fundamental 2. here, so looks like you're getting that going 3 and -- yeah, so I think that -- I don't have 4 any specific questions, just to say that seems to be the most critical piece. 5 6 ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: Thank you, 7 your Honor and Commissioner. We're talking about the current 8 9 process with HCD. But as the Commissioner 10 referenced in her opening remarks, it's 11 anticipated that there will be a larger 12 program administered by the state. You've 13 discussed -- I think you discussed -- that 14 some of the challenges have been the 15 different agencies and entities you're 16 dealing with have different processes. 17 Would a standardized process -- if 18 new funding source comes online, would a 19 standardized process to address customers 20 arrearages be helpful? 21 WITNESS AYUYAO: I believe so. 2.2. ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: Thank you. 2.3 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you. I think 2.4 I'd like to turn now to -- I'd like to say 25 thank you to you Eugene Ayuyao. 26 Let's turn to Pacific Gas & 27 Electric and Neil Singh. If you would like 28 to walk us through your ERAP experience, both

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your target group experience and then also your administrative processes in receiving payments.

WITNESS SINGH: Absolutely. Number one, I'd like to affirm that PG&E remains committed to supporting customers as they try to access all available sources of financial assistance and fully complying with the ruling from the Commission.

As of our debt, less data requests, PG&E has called 576 customers and had 96 customers confirm that they would indeed apply to the ERAP program. As of last night, that number is now in excess of 700 outbound calls made.

PG&E has already stood up -- I believe we were the first to stand up a process with HCD where we are validating the accounts. To date, PG&E has validated over 8,900 service agreements, which equate to 2,668 unique customer accounts.

Prior to the ruling, PG&E had also directed resources to marketing the ERAP program, which include providing ERAP program information to our call center representatives who are currently calling residential customers as to arrearages.

Since COVID began, over 180,000 customers

since co.12 logan, over 100,000 cascement

1 have been called as a part of this effort. 2. Secondly, there is ERAP information 3 on the PG&E website that is translated into a 4 multitude of languages. We have mentioned 5 the ERAP program in our residential customer 6 newsletter. We will be sending an e-mail to 7 all renters with a past due balance in June, 8 as well as a physical letter or postcard to 9 customers that do not have an e-mail address 10 identified. 11 We are also leaving ERAP collaterals 12 behind in the homes of qualified ESA 13 customers via our ESA contractors. We also 14 have various social media ads. We have 15 mentioned the ERAP program in multiple press 16 releases, which include our financial 17 assistance press release and our climate 18 change press release, and we have also 19 mentioned the ERAP program to our LIHEAP 20 providers so that they can share the 21 information with customers that come into 2.2 their offices. 2.3 Yes. Let me interject with a few 0 24 questions if I may. What is the difference 25 between a customer and a service agreement? 26 Like, why did you reference that we validated 27 over 8,000 service agreements? 28 Α So when we're providing information

1 to HCD, we're providing arrearages on the gas 2. account and arrearages on the electric 3 account. So, a typical customer who's receiving both gas and electric from PG&E 4 5 would have two service agreements that correspond to one account. 6 In the future to 7 reduce confusion, we will reference unique 8 customers. So we have validated over 2,600 9 unique customer accounts. 10 ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: You're muted, 11 Judge Zagha. 12 BY ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: 13 So 26 customers have been 14 validated, you said? 15 WITNESS SINGH: Correct. 16 And have any of those customers 17 received payment on their account? 18 Α None of those customers have 19 received payment on the account. We spoke to 20 HCD has everything they need from PG&E 21 to issue payments. They anticipate making --2.2. submitting their first payment filed to PG&E 2.3 sometime next week. 2.4 How long is that process taking Q 25 from the point of validation to payment then? 26 According to HCD's estimate, this 27 is roughly a seven-day period. And in

response to that, PG&E is protecting the --

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once we validate the customer account, we are protecting the account from disconnection for 30 days.

Q I appreciate that. And I also appreciate you mentioning that when you send the information to the Commission, you know, in the coming weeks, if you just use the high-level terms for reporting, that would be quite helpful.

A Absolutely.

Q And okay. And so I'm not sure what else to ask because beyond the validation process, there hasn't been an experience -- oh, yes. With the customers that you're expecting to have relief applied on their accounts, the 2,600 customers in the next seven days, how will those customers know that their arrearages have been paid; do you expect?

A So they should be receiving communication from HCD. In addition to that, they should see the less payment dates on their bill.

Q So, when their monthly bill comes, they will see -- what will it -- how will they understand it?

A They should see the amount that was credited, the last payment amount, on their

1 bill. 2. Okay. Does PG&E have any way to 3 indicate how that last amount was paid or 4 will it just be a dollar amount, like will it 5 reference that you are -- this is from ERAP? And --6 Α No. 7 (Crosstalk.) 8 Not that it should. I'm just 0 9 wondering from a customer perspective, if I 10 look at my bill and you see all of a sudden, 11 you know, there's a different amount, how do 12 you trace back what that was? It might be 13 obvious, but I am just curious about the 14 message to the customer that they know that 15 this process was successful. 16 Α And I believe they will be Right. 17 getting communication from the actual ERAP 18 program, once they have successfully 19 validated and they receive a check, but there 20 will not be any ERAP-specific wording on the 21 PG&E customer bill. 2.2. 0 What about your sample customers 2.3 who are applying and you're tracking their 2.4 application process; do you have any 25 conclusion with them, once they're 26 successful, in place? 27 Absolutely. So, and I can get back Α

to the correction of the metrics, but before

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I do that, initially PG&E's intention was to place the outbound calls to this sample customer group. And then we had a process that stood up with HCD where they would agree to confirm that the customer applied and then tell us if the customer was accepted or rejected.

Coincidentally, on the day we uploaded that first file for validation, we received a ruling that instructed the IOUs and I believe all of the utilities, not to ask HCD for any specific reporting requests. So based on that, we rescinded that request, and since then, we have been placing manual phone calls to customers.

with that, is that only roughly 20 percent of customers we are making contact with, of the 180,000 phone calls that I mentioned earlier that are happening outside of ERAP, it's consistent with that as well. So we're only making contact with 20 percent. And then customers that do say they applied, for example, one week we had 46 customers agree to apply, and then when we called them back the next week, only 23 of them we're actually able to make contact with.

Q Certainly. Certainly. I

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understand. And that's the idea of a sample group is a small number. So this isn't a mass activity here.

And then I did want to also ask:
When you reference data going to HCD, do you actually create and send any data for HCD or are you simply validating and confirming the data you've received from them?

A HCD on a weekly basis sends us an account or a spreadsheet with one column of account IDs. We return the same spreadsheet back with the address, city and zip code of the customer, so that they can validate, along with the arrearages that were incurred between April 2020 and March 2021.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're muted.
BY ALJ WATTS ZAGHA:

Q You do not actually receive from HCD any amounts of arrearages for each customer account; is that correct?

WITNESS SINGH: In our discussions with HCD, we determined that the amount listed on the customer application would not serve up any relevance, because customers, at best, know the total past due amount that is on their bill. So in order to exchange only the most relevant information, we know exactly how much the customer incurred between that

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period, so we're providing that information. So they're not providing any dollar amount for us to validate. We're telling -- they're saying, "Hey, here are the account numbers" and we're telling them this is how much these people incurred during the COVID window.

Q So, out of curiosity, if a customer did want to find out the past due amount on their bill, what months they -- it's from, how would they go about doing that?

I do not believe they would be able to determine that. So they definitely cannot determine it on their customer bill, because that has to be total past-year arrearages, and even if they were to call into our call centers, that's not how we -- that's not how we bucket debt. In order for this initiative, we have a separate process set up with our credit department, where they are -they have the in-detail information as for as buckets of debt, 30 days, 90 days, 120 days, et cetera. So there's not really a clear way for the customer to know which is one of the challenges of ERAP.

Q Well, would you say that's a challenge for a customer who is behind on their bill in general, that it's hard for them to know where it came from, or is it

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particular to ERAP?

A No. I would say for ERAP, in comparing ERAP to CARE's funding, CARE's funding does not specify a window of arrears. So, CSD is able to utilize existing data sharing agreements. They're able to utilize our existing portal and just run with it.

What makes ERAP a challenge is that the ERAP program only pays out arrearages from a certain window. So now we get into this a different validation. We have to stand up different processes. We have to have had a manual process going on. So that's what makes it challenging.

From the customer perspective, it's great that PG&E -- we're validating the information on behalf of them to HCD, but there's no real process for the customer to get that information on their own from their bill.

Q Thank you, Mr. Singh. It is interesting to me because of course ERAP is one of many tools a customer may use and of course the goal of this proceeding is really to help them address arrearages completely.

So just, again, from a customer perspective, so they've applied to ERAP and how will they understand how ERAP affected

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the past due -- I guess what they see on a monthly bill is one sum number, this is how much you owe, right? Is that how the bill looks?

A Right.

0 And if the customer, so is it a surprise to the customer after the ERAP payment is applied how much of that is defrayed or if they wanted to understand, for instance, if there's something outstanding, how would they go about understanding why it was partially paid, or what amount was paid, or say for instance it's a month where they also had their climate credit applied or some other credit to their bill, or if they had overpaid from the prior month. I'm just hoping from a customer perspective to understand how they could manage arrearages that may not, you know, once this ERAP payment is applied; like how does that customer get that information?

A Right. So when the customer applies to the program either through the statewide portal or through one of the LSPs, there is information on the website that details kind of what the window is. If a customer is going through a the LSP, they would have that conversation.

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But after that initial application, the customer, based on the information they get from ERAP, totalling, telling them how much they were paid out, it's up to the customer to understand, based on their initial interpretation of the program that let's say if the customer owed \$1,000 but only \$800 was covered through the ERAP program, they would still have a balance. So it would be difficult for the customer to interpret that.

Q Okay. I do think this is all very helpful and it was -- I did notice when you said it was actually so difficult for the customer to tell the ERAP program how much they were eligible to receive from ERAP that actually now HCD has turned to PG&E to provide that information because it's not accurate or possible, possibly for the customer to even provide that information. So I thought that's an interesting nuance here.

All right. And I know we are nearing the lunch hour. I'm sorry that we are taking so long, but at the same time, I can do think that each utility's experiences is very instructive for the relief we're trying to get applied to customer bills. So

1 I think we should probably see if there's any 2. additional questions for Mr. Singh and then 3 we'll take a lunch break. 4 EXAMINATION BY COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: 5 6 I just wanted to understand, make 7 sure I understood correctly, Mr. Singh, so 8 the first time you submitted a validation to 9 HCD was a few days ago? No. We submitted -- so HCD 10 Ά 11 completed their PG&E third-party security 12 review on April 30th. So they were eligible 13 to send us files after April 30th. 14 received our first file for validation on May 15 10th and we returned it to them the next day 16 on May 11th. Since then, they have continued 17 to send us files. 18 Okay. You still have not received 19 any payment from them? 20 Α That is correct. And we spoke to 21 HCD yesterday. They anticipated to send 2.2 their first the payment file to PG&E sometime 2.3 next week. 2.4 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: Okay. 25 Thank you. 26 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: All right. I am not 27 hearing any questions from Assistant Chief 28 Colbert; is that right?

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           ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT:
                                       (Nodding.)
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           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: All right. Okay. I
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     would like to resume at 1:00 p.m. And it's
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     just the large utilities that we'll be
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     resuming with at 1:00 p.m.
               We'll be off the record.
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                (Off the record.)
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                (Whereupon, at the hour of 11:59
           a.m., a recess was taken until 1:00
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           p.m.)
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1	AFTERNOON SESSION - 1:00 P.M.
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5	IVONNE MEZA, NEIL SINGH, EUGENE AYUYAO,
6	STEVE RAHON,
7	resumed the stand and testified further as
8	follows:
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10	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: I am going to go back
11	on the record.
12	This is Administrative Law Judge
13	Watts-Zagha and we are continuing with our
14	hearing in Rulemaking 21-02-014.
15	EXAMINATION
16	BY ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA (Resumed):
17	Q Before lunch, we heard from two of
18	the four large investor-owned utility
19	witnesses. And one of those witnesses for
20	Southern California Edison, Eugene Ayuyao,
21	would like to make a clarification to
22	something she said earlier, and then we will
23	go next to the San Diego Gas & Electric
24	witness.
25	Go ahead, Ms. Ayuyao.
26	WITNESS AYUYAO: Thank you, your Honor.
27	So I just wanted to clarify a
28	statement I made regarding the date of
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validation with HCD.

After remembering our discussions with our meeting, back meetings, HCD will not be able to provide us with customer arrears information. And similar to PG&E, they have challenges in providing that data. So when we give them back the information, we not only provide the addresses, but we will also provide the customer arrears.

So that was it, your Honor. That was the clarification. Thank you.

Q So, I have a follow-up. You've already exchanged data with HCD, correct?

A We have not, your Honor. We have not started that process, but the secure file transfer process and everything else is in place. So when HCD submits a request for validation, we are ready to validate and we are going to provide them with the service addresses as well as the customer arrears, as we can.

Q Can you refresh my memory though of the payments you received? You corrected that for the record earlier. Were those all received without validation?

A The payments that we received, yes. We applied those payments without validation, without a request for validation.

1 0 Right. I see. Okay. That's 2. helpful. 3 All right. I'd like to ask Laura 4 Fulton, if you could -- well, actually we are 5 just going to go straight to the San Diego Gas & Electric Witness Steve Rahon. Are you 6 7 with us? 8 WITNESS RAHON: I am. Good afternoon, 9 your Honor, and I'm pleased to be with 10 everybody today. 11 I wanted to start off by stating for 12 the record that SDG&E supports all federal 13 and state funding to assist our customers 14 with arrearage balances due to COVID. 15 I am going to talk about our 16 interaction with our local jurisdictions 17 first, and then I am going to move on to our 18 marketing, education and outreach activities, 19 and then I will conclude with talking about 20 our sample group activities and the work 21 around that. 2.2. So, with regards to our four local 2.3 jurisdictions, SDG&E has been working with 24 each of those jurisdictions since February 25 and early March. And what's unique about the 26 SDG&E service territory is when the ERAP 27 program began, HCD was not administering ERAP

in SDG&E's service territory. We had four

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1 local jurisdictions that were administering 2. the program. And beginning in those -- with 3 those early discussions, we found that it was really important that we establish really 4 5 tight procedures around the exchange of customer information and ensuring that that 6 7 information was going to be shared securely. 8 We felt that it was really important to 9 establish a standardized spreadsheet template that each of the four jurisdictions would use 10 11 in exchanging information with SDG&E, so that 12 when ERAP payments were authorized by the 13 local jurisdictions, we could process those 14 requests very quickly. 15 And then, lastly, we also developed 16 a validation tool in-house, so that when 17 local jurisdictions submitted their payments 18 or asked for validation of data, we could 19 turn around those requests very, very 20 quickly. 21

As a result of that work, we actually began receiving ERAP payments from our local jurisdictions in April. And I'm -- and then as we moved into May, and we solidified the processes with each of the local jurisdictions, we are now receiving ERAP payments and customer files to validate from all four local jurisdictions.

1 And I'd like to, at this time, 2. update the table that was distributed in 3 advance of this hearing. As of Tuesday, May 25th, just two days ago, we've now processed 4 5 and validated ERAP payments for 2,541 6 customers, and the amount of those ERAP 7 payments that we have received is over 8 \$2 million. It's \$2,070,096. So we feel 9 like where we're at currently working with 10 our local jurisdictions, that we have the 11 processes in place to process ERAP payments 12 accurately and expeditiously as they're 13 shared with us. 14 I'd like to interrupt you and ask 15 for your update on the table from May 24th, 16 please. 17 So the table, the first line Α Sure. is number of customers validated. 18 That would 19 be 2,541. 20 Sorry. And you're right. 21 focus on those highlighted boxes, customers 2.2. validated and payments received, but you 2.3 mentioned the update you gave was from 24 Tuesday; is that correct, May 12th -- May 25 10th? 26 Α That is correct, yes. 27 And so I'm trying to understand on 0 28 Monday the 24th, what were the numbers?

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A The numbers on the 24th are the numbers reflected in the table. It says for the numbers of customers validated, it should have been 688.

O That's fine. That's fine. That's

Q That's fine. That's fine. That's all I wanted to know. Please go ahead.

A I would just point out in our weekly report for Monday the 24th, we did highlight that we did have some very large pending payments that were in the process of being processed.

Q Yes. Mr. Rahon, you just also mentioned that you started receiving payments in April.

A That's correct.

Q And that's what led to my question about how many since -- on Monday, you know, there were about 600 payments. So I just was wondering how many payments you started receiving in April, because it's, you know, that's about four or five weeks ago.

A Right. That has really ramped up very, very quickly. I mean when we started to receive payments in April, you know, those initial payment files and customer files, they're smaller in nature as we get comfortable with the process with the local jurisdictions, and what's happened since

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April is that that process is much more streamlined, and the numbers of approved ERAP payments from customers is increasing significantly. And we feel like we're really well-positioned to continue to process ERAP payments expeditiously going forward.

Your Honor, I think you're on mute.

Q Did you say you exchanged data so you also send customer data to the local jurisdiction; can you specify what type of customer data you're sending to the local jurisdiction?

A We do not proactively send information to the local jurisdictions until they send us their customer files and payment files. So we're validating the data as they send it to us. And then we would, if there was some data that that was of a -- that we needed to point out as an exception that needed to be looked at, we would communicate that back to the local jurisdiction.

Q Do you provide the correct data or do you just communicate back there was an exception and ask them to resend?

A Where we can identify correct data, we will. If it's something that we don't have insight into, we just indicate that it -- we can't process the payment.

1 0 Thank you. Okay. Go ahead. 2. So I would like to next Α Riaht. 3 move into our marketing, education and 4 outreach activities. So, in early April, we started 5 6 promoting the ERAP program. We began to 7 promote it on our website, specifically on 8 our COVID and our customer assistance pages. 9 And we also began to promote it through 10 social media channels as well. We then 11 followed that up with interacting with our 12 community-based organizations. We have a network of about over 180 CBOs. We provided 13 14 them with materials related to ERAP, so that 15 they could be responsive to the customers 16 that they were interacting with. 17 We also armed our energy service 18 specialists in our call center with talking 19 points, so that when customers were calling 20 indicating that they had some financial 21 hardship, we could be responsive to those 2.2. calls and to assist customers. 2.3 We've also began to participate in some community events, labor council through 2.4 25 distribution drives. We participate in those 26 events. They've been held in April and May. 27 We provide information related to customer

benefits, including the ERAP program. And we

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actually do have an event coming up here, I think it's tomorrow actually, where we're going to be at a City of San Diego event with an iPad, where we can help customers enroll in ERAP if they need it. And we can do that for them at the event.

We've also incorporated in our transition plan related to the end of the emergency customer protections, communications specifically to customers that are potential renters to also highlight the ERAP program, and we have been doing that throughout the month of May, as we have been communicating with customers.

Lastly, I would just add that what we have planned for June is that we will have a bill onsert (sic) in the month of June related to end of the customer protections, but also continuing to promote the ERAP program. And we will also modify our transition plan communications for June as well to incorporate the ERAP program.

Q Thank you. And as you turn to the sample group now, I would ask if you could also let us know how any customers in the sample group will be made aware -- or the process will conclude for those communications; will you be communicating

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with them about how much you receive from ERAP?

So, as I move into our -- the work Α that we have been doing around the sample group, the way that we approach this was the first thing we had to do was we identified customers that were -- had arrearage balances and they were potential renters. Our records don't necessarily track customers that are identified as renters or non-renters, but we do have some information in our system that gives us a strong indication whether or not a customer is a renter or not. So we first identified that population, and of that population, which was just over 80,000 customers, we identified our low-income customers that had arrearage balances greater than \$50. And that was the general population that we used. And then we used a randomized selection method to identify customers to reach out to.

The sample or the -- yeah, the sample group size we were targeting was around -- was 60 customers, based on the ruling. And we expected that we were going to have to call over 500 customers to be able to get a sample of that number of customers. We ended up trying to call over 600

1 customers. We called them at least two or 2. three times. And from that -- that outreach, 3 we were able to identify 103 customers as 4 part of our sample group. And so if I turn to the table, so 5 our sample group is 103. We have 69 6 7 customers that agreed to apply and we have 34 8 customers that have applied out of that 9 sample group. And of those sample customers, 10 we validated 6 customers and we received 11 payments for 6 customers. And those payment 12 amounts have been for just over \$3,000. 13 Four or six customers total? 14 Α Yeah. So on average, it's actually 15 \$506 per customer. 16 Do you have a sense of whether 0 17 those six customers now have -- are current on their bills? 18 19 I do not have that information in 20 front of me, but you know, I will say that 21 based on those six customers, we do know that 2.2. the debt relief that they received on average 2.3 was 78 percent of their COVID period debit. 2.4 So... 25 Thank you for that, that 0 26 percentage. That's helpful. And was it from 27 more than one jurisdiction, or was it just

from one jurisdiction, these six customers?

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A I don't have that breakdown, but we can provide that later in our weekly reports, if you need it.

The other thing I would add with regards to our calling campaign, because I think these are -- these may go to the questions of barriers, one is, is that over 60 percent of the customers we attempted to contact we were not able to reach. that population of over 600 customers, we tried to call we either had to leave a message or we were not able to leave a message for customers even though we had attempted to reach, you know, to contact them two or three times. And so, you know, one of the things about -- what we speculate is that, you know, customers that are past due would not expect to receive a call like that from us, and so they could -- they could think that it's a scam, or they could think it's maybe a collection agency. You know, perhaps that might be -- might be the reason why we didn't have as many customers engage with us when we reached out to them in that fashion.

Q Did you -- you mentioned that you randomly selected, and so did you choose customers with the highest debt or it could

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have been any amount of debt -- between any range of debt?

A Any range of debit. Yeah, we just took a randomized sample. They had to be more in than \$50 in arrears, but it was randomized. We also, though -- we made sure that we did select of our sample group 20 customers that have -- that overlap with our water agencies, and we -- and we identified that -- those customers through the low-income exchange data that we exchange with those water agencies. So they were also part of our sample group.

And so -- and then -- and then one other follow-up. To the customers that we were unable to reach, we actually -- actually, we did it to all customers. We actually sent a follow-up e-mail after we had tried to reach out to these customers, again, to promote the ERAP program and to let them know that, you know, our outreach to them wasn't a scam. We're not a debt collector. We're there to help them and encourage them to take advantage of the ERAP program if they are, in fact, eligible. And they can reach out to us if they have -- have any more questions. So we did close the loop on the calling campaign with an e-mail to all of

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1 those customers. 2. Did you have any barriers or --3 from the administrative process with the four 4 jurisdictions that you would identify? 5 You know, it was a challenge to 6 work with them to ensure that we had a 7 consistent customer file and payment 8 template, you know, to overcome some of the 9 customer privacy concerns that existed and 10 ensure that we were using tools that 11 protected the customer information, 12 particularly in transit, as we were exchanging information. 13 Those were 14 challenges. We overcame them. And I think 15 now we're working really well together, and I 16 think we've got a really good process going 17 forward. 18 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: All right. I will 19 turn and see if there are other questions 20 from the virtual dais. 21

COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: I don't have much of a question. I just wanted to acknowledge that -- the stark difference and appreciate the proactivity that San Diego has I know that early on in our discussions with the HCD, it was helpful to have San Diego already having successfully working with their locals to kind of have,

1 even HCD, you know, learning as they are 2. going as well. And of course, there is so much more 3 4 still to be done, but I think it is very good 5 to see that you have a uniform template, that you have a continuous adaptive approach to 6 7 this. And certainly the numbers are 8 proportionately higher for San Diego. think you have shared a lot of strategies 9 10 that hopefully your colleagues can adapt 11 quickly -- adopt them quickly. Thank you. 12 WITNESS RAHON: Thank you, 13 Commissioner. 14 ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: Do you have 15 any thoughts -- as the Commissioner noted, 16 your success rate has been higher than 17 other -- other -- other parties we have heard 18 from today. But a question that I asked this 19 morning, do you have a thought or opinion 20 about -- which is essentially a program where 21 customers with arrearages opt in as opposed 2.2 to something where you're placed into the 2.3 program and the standardized method is used 24 to address the arrearages, if that makes 25 sense? 26 WITNESS RAHON: It does and it's a 27 really good question. Yeah. This -- the 28 ERAP program is an opt-in program, and

1 therefore, you do need the customer to act, 2. and then we need to set up the business and 3 the system process. This is to ensure the customer receives payment. A more 4 5 streamlined approach would certainly be 6 providing the stimulus moneys directly to the 7 utilities. We do know which customers are in arrears. And we could, with the right, clear 8 9 direction from either the state or the 10 Commission as to how to apply those payments, 11 we could do that in a more streamlined 12 fashion. 13 What we would be looking for is -- I 14 think the thing that you would really need to 15 ensure is that we did get clear direction on 16 how the moneys are to be applied. But we 17 certainly, as the utilities, know which 18 customers are in arrears and likely need 19 assistance. 20 ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: 21 BY ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: 2.2. All right. I'd like to turn now --2.3 thank you, Mr. Rahon. 24 And I will turn now to Southern 25 California Gas Company. If we could have 26 Ivonne Meza introduce herself, please. 27 WITNESS MEZA: Good afternoon. Ivonne 28 Meza representing SoCalGas.

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And I wanted to start out by walking you through some of our process of what we did. We did -- performed outreach based on the ALJ's ruling staring April 5th. We also worked with HCD and customers that had applied directly through HCD apart from our outreach as well as worked with counties in our service territory to make these goals and these numbers.

So one of the first things we did was identify a pool of likely and willing and eligible customers. We started with the water exchange with the water utilities for our CARE customers. And there were six water utilities that we were working with. We were able to obtain customers that were likely renters, based on the information in our system, as well as had outstanding debt from the period that HCD was requesting, which was April 1st, 2020 through March 31st of 2021.

Through that exchange, we identified 9,540 likely to be renter CARE customers that would meet the criteria at a glance. We also obtained a list of 62 customers that had previously applied for our arrearage management plan that started in February and for some reason or another had not qualified or had not signed up. We identified that

1 they might likely be customers that were 2. customers that were needing assistance. 3 on April 5th, when the ruling came down, we started discussing these possible avenues of 4 5 customers to reach. And on April 7th, we 6 developed the list of customers that we would 7 start our outreach for. 8 Prior to starting our actual 9 outreach on the 7th, we started going through 10 the ERAP website and validating the 11 information, making sure that we were aware 12 of when we call customers what we would be 13 sharing with them and what information may be 14 required. We also made sure that our 15 website, as of April the 6th, so the day 16 prior, had information about the Emergency 17 Rental Assistance Program so that we can also 18 reference customers. And we made sure that 19 our social media team also posted information 20 on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. 21 recognize that calling customers to notify 2.2 them about such programs might put them on 2.3 alert, that it might not be something that is 2.4 not a scam, right? So they might think it's 25 a scam, so we tried to circumvent all that 26 prior to starting our outreach. 27 Once we had the list on the 7th and 28 we had the information available as far as

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who we were going to start calling, we also developed some talking points so that we can discuss with the customers the requirements of the program and anticipate some questions they might have and also how to communicate with our call center in case customers called to verify we were an authentic group calling them for this service.

On April the 8th, the Thursday after the ruling, we started making calls. one of the first people to start making calls because I didn't have available resources to help me with the calls. So I had two employees that I was going to assign that they needed to clear out their schedules to make time for this effort. So I started calling customers, and so those first couple calls took us probably about 15 minutes once the customer agreed that they were going to apply. We walked the customers through the website. We orally gave them the link, which was a little bit difficult because sometimes customers were on their phones trying to also access the link while talking to us as well as answering any questions.

Some of them were unsure of how much money they owed and if everything would be covered. So we had to answer a lot of

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questions when we actually did reach customers. There was quite a high number of customers that didn't answer our calls or that we left messages for to return our calls later in there.

Q Could I ask you, when the customers had questions about how much they owed, did you have that information available for them?

A Yes. We used our customer information system, and we had that information available because we knew that that was part of their requirements of the program. So we were able to inform them -- yeah, we also offered them something within our service, which we call a statement of account, that we can narrow it down to that specific period to send them in case they need it for validation.

Q Thank you.

A On -- I would say the next day, on the 9th, is when I sent -- had two other people join me in making calls. On that first week after the 9th, so the following Monday, the 12th, I believe we had reached 93 customers, because we were still trying to fine-tune our process. We also developed -- we realized that one of the hard parts of explaining to customers about the website was

1 that they may not write it down correctly if 2. we're telling somebody orally. So we set up 3 an e-mail in-box so that we could e-mail the customers if they were okay with it. So we 4 asked them if they would be okay with it. 5 6 Most of them were. And they said, "Sure. 7 E-mail me the information." So we e-mailed 8 them links directly to just click, and then 9 it would take to the Housing is Key website. 10 As of May the 24th, we reached out 11 to 736 customers in total. Some we just left 12 the message, as I mentioned earlier. 13 have been no answer or no voicemails. Other 14 ones have not answered when we called but 15 then called us back subsequently. When we 16 leave our messages, we always make sure to 17 leave our phone number, our direct lines as 18 well as the phone number for our customer 19 service center as well as to communicate with 20 those -- to our customer service center or 21 call center. We memo the accounts so that if 2.2 the customer calls to inquire on why they 2.3 received a call from us our customer contact 2.4 center would be able to say it was part of 25 this outreach. 26 Our customer contact center was 27 also trained during that first week to help 28 customers with those questions that they may

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have about the program, maybe not directly part of our outreach but maybe just to assist in answering if they had heard about it from a neighbor or through some of our social media campaigns.

We called -- we made sure -- apart from the Water Utility Exchange, we also called -- we made sure to call different counties within our service territory. So we called Los Angeles County, Orange County, San Luis Obispo, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura, Tulare, Fresno, Kerns, Kings County, Inland, and Santa Barbara. So we were trying to get customers in every area to be able to take part in this program.

As of May the 24th, we had -- we initially had 221 customers that agreed to apply as part of our effort. We now have 182 customers that have agreed to apply for ERAP, but the difference there -- the majority of the difference is because some of the customers have actually gone ahead and applied. A few of them have told us -- about four of five of them have told us that they've changed their mind or they feel they may not qualify. They've also shared with us that one of the difficult parts is that the application is so long, 36 pages. So in

1 order to help customers with that, we've 2. reviewed the sample application online when we do the initial outreach call. 3 If the 4 customer requests, we'll ask them, you know, it's a long application, and we'll go through 5 6 a couple of pages with them to show them what 7 is being asked of them and kind of offer 8 advice, if they have questions, about what 9 type of documents they might need to submit 10 based on the information that's there. 11 Customers that are agreeing to 12 apply we're calling them back to check on 13 their status. 14 ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: Excuse me. 15 Sorry. 16 WITNESS MEZA: Go ahead. 17 EXAMINATION 18 BY ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: 19 When you say "what kind documents 20 they need to submit," this is the 21 documentation that's required in the 2.2. application? 2.3 Like T WITNESS MEZA: Correct, Yes. 2.4 believe some of the customers have been 25 unsure of how much they've owed during that 26 period since they might have gone into the 27 pandemic with some debit already, or they 28 have bills that have come out after March

31st, 2021.

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Q If -- and sorry to interrupt. So if there was -- obviously you know for your customers how much debit there -- how much arrearages there is, correct?

A Correct.

Q And would it be a more -- could there be a streamlined process that if you all know what the amount of arrearage is that that could be communicated more directly as opposed to -- let's say it's 36 -- because since you -- you are the holder of the arrearages, you don't have to confirm that they actually have those arrearages; is that correct?

A I believe we -- well, we have to confirm with HCD prior to them making the payment. I believe they ask us to validate that for the customer.

Q No, I under -- I understand that if, but if there was not that intermediary, I assume you are aware what your customers' arrearages are.

A Right. So you're right. It does not normally split up for the specific period that HCD is paying for, the April 1st, 2020 through March 31st, 2021. What the customer receives will be a lump -- like a lump-sum

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payment of all of their arrearages through their regular bills.

ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: Thank you. Sorry to interrupt what you were saying to Judge Watts-Zagha.

## EXAMINATION

## BY ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA:

Q Oh, no. And if you don't mind, if you would identify if you did run into any language issues or internet-access issues, that might be helpful since you did have such a step-by-step experience in reaching out to these customers?

Right. So we didn't WITNESS MEZA: have any language issues. The reps that were calling, along with myself, we speak Spanish as well. So we speak English and Spanish. We had a stand-by rep in Vietnamese, and we also had -- we just came across one customer that spoke Armenian, and we offered to call a language-line service to help assist with that translation for him, but the customer ended up declining. They said they would call us back, and when we followed up, they weren't interested. So we had services that we were going to offer for LLS, but they -we didn't end up needing them or using them.

For the internet issue, the only

thing we've heard is a lot of customers don't 1 2. have like a home computer. So they are 3 trying to work off their phone. And I 4 believe that's where a lot of them are getting held up. However, we've gone around 5 that. We've partnered with a local 6 initiative. So it's called the LISC, Local 7 8 Initiative Support Corporation, and they are 9 partnering with local partner networks to 10 help customers. So they are setting up 11 appointments if the customer is interested, 12 and they'll help walk them through the 13 process. I'm not sure what their process is, 14 but I know that they agreed to help customers 15 with the applications with these barriers. 16 Of the customers -- of the 51 17 customers that we specifically reached out 18 to -- so 51 of them agreed that they would 19 We have confirmed that 17 of them 20 have actually applied through our data 21 exchange with HCD. So we seen that they came 2.2. through on the HCD information that we had to 2.3 confirm, and their payments will total just 24 under \$10,000. So \$9,985. We set up 25 processes with HCD. Sorry to back up. So we 26 set -- reached out to HCD on April the 9th, 27 on that Friday after the ruling, and we met 28 with their team on April the 13th, the

1 following week. And we had various meetings 2. with them to discuss how it is that we would 3 validate the information that they needed. 4 Similar to PG&E's process, they send us an 5 account number, and then we sent back a 6 service address as well as the amount in arrears for the period of April 1st, 2020 to 7 8 March 1st, 2021. It did take a lot of meetings back and forth because of 9 10 cybersecurity concerns as well as 11 ensuring that -- making sure that the data 12 would benefit both parties that was needed. 13 We had our first -- we agreed on our 14 process on May the 14th, and we had our first 15 data exchange on May the 17th. It did take 16 longer than we originally anticipated. 17 took us about a week to filter through the 18 data. We came across some scenarios, such as 19 customers who gave like a closed account 20 number, so maybe had moved somewhere in the 21 process and gave an old account number versus 2.2 their current one. So these were details we 2.3 had to work out with HCD, because it 24 originally would have just said "zero 25 balance" to the customer. But we said, "Hey, 26 there is still a balance in their future 27 account." So there was a lot of discussions 28 that needed to be had and meetings set up

this process?

1 with them as well as you see HCD's working 2. with a lot of the other utilities. So it's 3 not always same-day service when we call them 4 for a meeting or we need clarification. Of the customers, the 17 that we 5 6 were able to verify, the debt that was 7 incurred during the pandemic will be repaid. 8 However, some of these customers did enter 9 into the pandemic with a balance. So some of 10 those customers, we've noticed that six of 11 them will be eligible to enroll in our AMP 12 program based on what we can see in our 13 So we'll be reaching out to them 14 once the payment is there to see if they are 15 interested in enrolling in that. Those that 16 have balances below the AMP requirement, they 17 range from \$5.43 to \$220. And there's about 18 five customers that have balances less than 19 So we are trying to see how it is that 20 we can help those customers still so that 21 they are in the clear or to get more 2.2 assistance if needed, maybe notifying them 2.3 about LIHEAP as well. 2.4 And, you know, because you had Q 25 direct conversations, what was the tenor of 26 the conversations with these customers? 27 was the feedback you received from them in

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So a lot of customers -- at the Α initial calls, a lot of customers were really grateful and saying that they did need help, and they were worried about how they were going to pay the balances that they owed us and, you know, sharing their stories. we did the follow-ups, a lot of them did let us know that they felt overwhelmed with the application because it was so long. So a lot of them we were able to help convince them to just, you know, apply. And it does allow you -- from what we can see on the website -we haven't filled one out -- but it does allow you to stop because we noticed there's a process that says, "Continue Application." So we've tried to convince the customers to maybe, you know, do a few pages at a time and then come back. And then we've also provided the LISC's phone number for that secondary assistance if needed. Okay. As of May the 25th, we've verified arrears with HCD for a total of 2,693 customers, and the amounts we anticipate receiving from those as a payment is \$435,000 with 500 -- sorry. Four thousand five -- four thousand thirty five hundred thousand -- I'm sorry. I can't read. About \$450,000 I anticipate -- I'm sorry. Too many

1 numbers. Beginning next week, we will start 2. to see payments trickle in for these accounts 3 based on HCD's conversations we've had with 4 them. Apart from that, that's part of --5 There's 26 -- 2,693 customers are 6 7 customers that applied directly through HCD. 8 From our outreach, it was just under \$10,000. 9 We've also worked with the counties in our 10 service territory to offer assistance. 11 Riverside County was actually one of the 12 counties that we partnered with to work on 13 this prior to the ALJ ruling. They had 14 reached out to us, and we had been in 15 discussions with them because they had --16 they were helping customers with these --17 with funds for utility bills. So we agreed 18 that we would partner with them. So far with the counties, we have verified arrears for 19 20 over a total of 249 customers, which is 21 anticipated to be just under \$76,000. 2.2 date, we've received about \$31,000 for 135 of 2.3 those 249 customers. For those customers, 2.4 the guidelines are a little bit different for 25 the counties. They are a little more loose 26 than the specific pandemic period. 27 those customers, almost all of them, it 28 satisfied a hundred percent of their arrears,

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so not -- not like the HCD ones where there's a balance left.

Q Those jurisdictions have the discretion to make that choice?

A Yes. Yeah. For payments -- one of the things with payments, for the counties, they've asked for payments to be set up in different ways. Some have asked to wire us the money. As well as some have asked for an actual paper check to be sent to us. For those with a paper check, we established a special Post Office -- Post Office Box so that we would know exactly that that money was for ERAP versus our regular payment streams.

We've received wire payments so far from Orange County, United Way and a paper check from Kern. For HCD, we will be doing an electronic transfer. So right now we're in the process -- we haven't received any money from them yet because we're still doing a penny test to make sure the money goes into our account correctly and that there are no issues.

As part of our CARE promotion to let customers know about this program,
SoCalGas on April the 6th, posted on our social media, Instagram, Facebook, as well as

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Twitter about the Emergency Rental Assistance
Program and our information to call us and
contact us if they were interested. At the
beginning of this month, of May, we also sent
out letters to customers with a balance over
\$25 letting them know also that this program
was available if they were interested along
with other messages about -- that they are
currently in arrears.

On April the 29th, our customer assistance program manager made a presentation with the city -- with Riverside County and tenants and landlords, as well as the United Way was invited, as well as our public affairs manager, to let them know about the program and answer any questions that they may have and let them know about how to pay SoCalGas, if they have any questions or concerns.

We also recorded a YouTube presentation for -- for this program, and the Greater Riverside Hispanic Chamber's e-newsletter published a video link for their customers and people that went to their website to be aware of it. So we have that as well, and I believe we've made a couple of -- in working with the county, we've also notified them that we have that YouTube

1	available as well, if they would be
2	interested in using it or if they would like
3	us to come out and talk to them about some of
4	these programs. ]
5	Moving forward, we're just planning
6	to continue our outreach. We're still
7	following up at a weekly basis. We don't
8	want to be calling the customers too often
9	because we do want them to apply, but we're
10	calling them once a week to follow up and see
11	if they were able to apply or if they needed
12	any assistance, as well as we're still
13	getting calls from customers that we had
14	previously left messages for, so they call us
15	back and we talk to them probably daily as
16	well and tell them about the program.
17	Q Thank you. I don't have any
18	further questions.
19	Commissioner, Assistant Chief
20	Colbert?
21	COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: I wasn't
22	sure, Judge Watts-Zagha, if you were going to
23	look at the chat now or later, but there is a
24	question here for the gas company.
25	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Is it from UCAN's
26	representative, Jason Zeller?
27	COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: Yes.
28	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Yeah, I think we

1 should turn to questions from the parties 2. orally. I am not sure if -- I did want to 3 see, though, Assistant Chief Colbert, do you want to ask any follow-ups? 4 ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: 5 Thank you, 6 your Honor. 7 Commissioner, just to be clear, did 8 you have any questions before I ask a 9 question? 10 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES:  $N_{\odot}$ B<sub>11</sub>t 11 actually this is the first time I come to 12 appreciate that the application from HCD is 13 36 pages. You know, as I mentioned earlier, 14 it's very important to hear from all of you 15 what these hurdles have been because of 16 course we want to do our part to properly 17 inform the administration and the legislature 18 as they contemplate this additional 19 appropriation. 20 It's not only informative for the 21 current funding of how all the strategies 2.2 you're all working on can be enhanced, but, 2.3 you know -- we talked about this already --24 but I had not realized that that application 25 was so lengthy. 26 Thank you for your update, Ms. Meza. 27 ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: Thank you, 2.8 Commissioner.

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Thank you, Ms. Meza.

Kind of in line with questions I've asked a couple of other times in a different way, do you have any thoughts on what a more streamlined process going forward if the funding that the Commissioner has referenced several times goes forward? Can you envision a more streamlined, efficient process for addressing the arrearages for your customers?

WITNESS MEZA: So I think, you know, the application -- sorry. It's so long. I think a lot of our customers, especially in LA County and a lot of our counties, are -- their internet is on their phone so they're using -- so I think something a little bit more phone friendly.

As far as I think what's a little bit difficult for our customers too is that a lot of them entered the pandemic with a balance already that they were carrying over. I think since the period cuts off also at March 31st, we're at the end of May so these customers have received at least two more bills. If they're still having trouble making payments, even if they didn't enter the pandemic, that still leaves them with two outstanding bills that they're trying to cover.

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## BY ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA:

Q Ms. Meza, actually, let me ask the question in the chat from Mr. Zeller because I think it's a technical question and hopefully you know.

WITNESS MEZA: Okay.

Q When a customer applies to the program, do they apply for multiple utilities at once?

A I'm not sure to be honest with you.

Q All right. Yeah. We don't really have a program person with us, although it did appear from the applications that I've clicked through that there was a place to input arrearages from all utilities, hence the idea to confer with water utilities when targeting customers, but we can come back to that.

Actually, I think it is a good idea now to solicit additional questions from parties. We do have, obviously, a range of experience here amongst these four utility witnesses. So hopefully if you have some particular questions, we can take those now. I'll look for some hands.

A Actually, sorry, can I update the chart? I forgot that I needed to update the information on the charts.

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So for SoCalGas for the number of sample customers validated, it shows zero should be 2,942 customers, and the number of sample customers that received relief -- the amount we have received so far is 30,781, but we're anticipated to receive starting next week \$511,000 -- sorry, here I go with the numbers again -- about \$511,000. So we'll -- we can update that after, I think, in our reporting.

And of course you have another opportunity to provide it in your written report. We will continue to update these reports and post them on the website. Hopefully we can also streamline the reporting process with your focus just on the high-level information in these tables now that you are able to sort of report dollars and numbers of customers starting to receive payments, so thank you.

I see Commissioner Guzman Aceves.

COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: Well, I think it's really an excellent question. I certainly would want to follow up maybe with our team and HCD, you know, just looking at the numbers that San Diego has as an example. The fact that you're there, you know, you're in SCE's territory and LADWP, so there must

be a way to really, you know -- arguably your 1 2. numbers should be the highest because you 3 have so many more customers. 4 Maybe there's a way to build on all 5 of the existing customers that they have that 6 for whatever reason may not have already 7 sought the gas forgiveness, so maybe it's 8 something that we could help coordinate with 9 the HCD on. They're already eligible 10 clearly. 11 WITNESS MEZA: Right. 12 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: Right. 13 WITNESS MEZA: So HCD did inform us, I 14 forgot to mention, that they do have -- and 15 this was as of a few weeks ago --16 \$1.6 million that's already allocated for 17 SoCalGas. We were just waiting to go through 18 the validations and all the technical 19 processes in order to be able to get that 20 money. 21 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: You know, actually --2.2 this is ALJ Watts-Zagha. Now I've become 2.3 lost. Were we talking about applying for 24 multiple utility arrearages at once or are 25 we -- is it something else? 26 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: Oh, sorry. 27 It's kind of an iteration of that really, 28 just thinking that, if for whatever reason --

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1 I think the application allows for 2. that. But if for whatever reason, for 3 example, you know, some of the utilities have been walking through customers' applications 4 for their debt, but maybe for whatever 5 reason -- nothing nefarious here -- but there 6 7 hasn't been kind of the full package. I mean that's the case with the rental assistance 8 9 piece of it as well.

So I'm assuming HCD is looking at this dynamic in that they have individuals that have gotten just their electric bill forgiven or just their water bill forgiven or just their rental assistance forgiven. Maybe there's a base to build off of individuals who are already eligible, they meet the income criteria, there's been verification there, and maybe there only needs to be kind of the validation piece for the utility.

BY ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA:

Q You know, I'd actually like to ask
Neil Singh from Pacific Gas & Electric
because I noticed specifically in their
reports that they addressed water arrearages
separately from energy arrearages and said we
will now turn to calling customers with water
arrearages, which jumped out to me for this
very reason that I would -- I -- they

1 describe them uniquely and separately? 2. I wonder if we wouldn't -- if we 3 could bring Mr. Singh back on and see if he 4 has perspective on this. I know PG&E did request to update their numbers, so you 5 6 might -- you may also update your numbers at 7 this time, Mr. Singh. 8 WITNESS SINGH: Yes, absolutely. 9 with the water customers -- so the ruling captures 3 sets of customers referring 20 10 11 customers to the statewide portal, referring 12 15 outside of the data sharing agreement, and 13 then the largest piece, referring 5 customers 14 per LSP where the utility and the water 15 companies have customers in common. 16 We have coordinated with the water 17 utilities. Even though we have data sharing 18 in place, we asked them to provide the 19 arrearage information. So for that subset of 20 customers, we're calling customers with the 21 highest water arrearage. 2.2. Mr. Singh, is it your understanding 2.3 that then the customer could apply in one 24 fell swoop to relieve both their water and 25 energy arrearages through the application? 26 Yes. So they're -- on the 27 application there's a page for water, there's

a page for electricity, and there's a page

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for gas all in one application. It's my understanding they would not have to submit multiple obligations to get arrearage forgiveness for the different commodities.

Q All right. Well, since you're taking this tack and sort of a little bit earlier on in the steps with the customers,

earlier on in the steps with the customers,
maybe you can make a point of following
through with the results for these customers
that you've identified with high water
arrearages and see if they're able to address
both utilities' arrearages at the same time

since you'll be tracking the small group.

A Absolutely. And as far as the correction in data, for the first table, the number of customers in the sample group, PG&E's sample group should be 250 customers. This consists of the 20 customers to the statewide portal, 15, and then we have 43 unique LSPs. Five customers per LSP comes up to 250.

The number of sample customers that agreed to apply is 96. The number of sample customers that have actually applied, as per the customer verbally indicating so, is 5. So far HCD has validated one of those customers. As mentioned earlier, HCD will send us the first batch of payments next

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week. For the second table, we had validated 2,668 customers. For HCD specifically, this totals \$2.6 million that we are expecting to receive once they begin to issue check -- issue ACH payments to PG&E.

Also, PG&E has reached out to all of the other cities and counties administering ERAP in our service territory. We've reached out to them three times. Some of these cities and counties have not expressed interest in working with PG&E to validate arrears.

As I believe SCE mentioned earlier, some of them are just going ahead with the process issuing the check. When they issue the check, PG&E, for cities and counties that are not working with us, they issue the check, it comes in as a regular customer check.

For the other cities and counties that are working with us, like SoCalGas has mentioned, we have set up a different P.O. Box so that they can send these checks to and we can track them. So far from the nonHCD cities and counties, we've received payments totaling \$41,000, a little bit over \$41,000 for 55 customers.

I believe you're on mute, your

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1 Honor. 2. 0 Thank you for those updates. And, yes, thank you all the 3 4 witnesses. Let's take advantage of the detailed experience they've shared with us 5 now and we will turn to party questions. I 6 see a few hands in the list. I see one from Jamie Katz with the Leadership Counsel for 8 9 Justice and Accountability. 10 Please unmute yourself. 11 MR. KATZ: Thank you, your Honor. This 12 is Jamie Katz with the Leadership Counsel. 13 EXAMINATION 14 BY MR. KATZ: 15 I have a question specifically for 16 I appreciate that PG&E has instituted 17 a de facto disconnection moratorium by 18 committing to not disconnect customers for 19 30 days after their COVID arrears have been 20 validated but before payment is received from 21 HCD or local governments. 2.2 My two related questions are I want 2.3 to confirm that PG&E plans to extend this 2.4 protection after June 30th. Also, given the 25 numerous technical and coordination barriers 26 that have been identified in today's hearing, 27 does PG&E intend to disconnect customers

whose COVID arrears have been validated but

1 payment has not been received from HCD or 2. local governments within 30 days? 3 WITNESS SINGH: Thank you. So as per 4 the first question, PG&E will protect 5 customer accounts after the protections, and that is the intent as right now of course 6 7 everyone is protected. Would you mind 8 repeating the second part of that question. 9 Of course. Given that there have 10 been numerous technical and coordination 11 issues identified through today's hearing, 12 does PG&E intend that if payment has not been 13 received from HCD or local governments within 14 30 days after the arrears have been 15 validated, does PG&E intend to move forward 16 with the disconnection after those 30 days? 17 Α Thanks. We've set up the 30-day 18 protection based on feedback from HCD. As 19 the payments start rolling in, if it's 20 determined that 30 days is not enough, we 21 will work with HCD to extend this window if 2.2 necessary so that we are giving both HCD and 2.3 the customer enough time to receive that 2.4 payment so that we're not turning anyone off 25 that is intending to receive a payment, an 26 ERAP payment. 27 Thank you so much. MR. KATZ: 28 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you.

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           ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT:
                                      To follow up
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     on that, Mr. Singh, I assume -- and
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     Mr. Katz -- the question is asking these are
     customers who would have accepted or have
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     indicated that they want to participate in
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     the program, they just haven't gotten their
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     payments yet. You are not asking -- and I
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     guess I'm actually asking a clarification of
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     you, Mr. Katz.
                     Thank you. You are not
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     talking about customers who could avail
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     themselves of the program but who have not;
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     is that correct?
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           MR. KATZ: Correct. My question was
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     targeted specifically at customers who were
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     willing to avail themselves, had been
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     validated, but payment had not yet been
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     received.
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           ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: Okay.
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     you, sir.
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               Thank you, your Honor.
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           (ALJ Watts-Zagha's audio dropped.)
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           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: We have several
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     other -- (audio dropped.) I apologize.
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     having technical difficulties with the mute
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     button but it appears to be resolved.
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               I'd like to turn to parties in this
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     sequence now: Connie Cho, then we'll go to
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     Mad Stano, and finally Melissa Kasnitz.
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1 That's our queue. Please go ahead, Connie Cho. 3 EXAMINATION BY MS. CHO: 4 5 Thank you. I actually want to pick 6 up on something that the SDG&E representative 7 said I believe. To the other utilities, 8 given the extremely low success rate in 9 distributing the ERAP funds to date, do you 10 feel also that it would be more streamlined 11 and effective to make a rules change or 12 provide some kind of direction to have the 13 stimulus money directly go to utilities since 14 you know who's in arrears and you can apply 15 that on behalf of the customers? 16 It sounds like it would cut out the 17 process of this intensive validation and 18 coordination with HCD or any other agency 19 that might be involved. 2.0 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: We'll ask Steve Rahon 21 then since you directed the question to 2.2. San Diego Gas & Electric; is that right? 2.3 MS. CHO: I believe it was something 2.4 that Steve Rahon had expressed and then --25 and so I wanted to hear what the other 26 utilities actually thought of that. 27 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: I see. Okav. 28 How about Neil Singh with Pacific

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Gas & Electric.

WITNESS SINGH: Sure thing. So we do agree that it would be much easier if the funding would go straight to the utility. Something I would like to point out, as far as the dispersion of ERAP funds, we can only report out on the funding of cities and counties that have agreed to work with us and are interested in validating the arrears.

For example, in PG&E's service territory, the majority of cities and counties we reached out to were not interested in validating arrears with PG&E so they are sending checks on behalf of customers to the normal P.O. Boxes.

These checks are -- these few dollars are not identified as coming from ERAP, so we're actually -- whatever it is, we will continue to report on this second table. The reality is that it's much greater because there are various cities and counties that are administering the program who have opted not to partner with us.

ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: To follow up on Ms. Cho's question, however, going forward to potentially having the State provide funding for arrearage relief, that would not be going through ERAP, so obviously there is

1 the current situation and looking back. 2. looking forward, if there is a larger pool of 3 funds that do not specifically go through 4 ERAP, what would be a -- is there a more 5 efficient process that you can imagine? I would say, number 6 WITNESS SINGH: 7 one, the most efficient process would be 8 providing guidance to the utilities and then 9 having the utilities disseminate the funds 10 without third parties involved. 11 If that would not be a possibility, 12 I'm definitely a proponent of using CSD for 13 the fact that we already have data sharing 14 agreements set up, we have memorandums of 15 understanding, we have third-party security 16 reviews in place, and we also have our 17 pledging portal so that they already have 18 access to validate customer arrears via this 19 internet portal as opposed to reaching out 20 manually to the IOU on a weekly or otherwise 21 determined cadence. 2.2. ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: This is ALJ 2.3 Watts-Zagha. I'd like to see if Southern 2.4 California Edison would like to add to this? 25 WITNESS AYUYAO: I believe that routing 26 the funds directly to the IOUs will really 27 make the process stream -- will really

streamline the process. I think it would be

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so much better if we had like a batch payment, like a batch submission of customers with arrears. That would be the easiest way to validate and, you know, record all of the relief payments into our customers' accounts.

It's very similar to -- the way that we were thinking about it is that maybe we can adopt more of like a climate credit approach where once the funds are applied in the customer account, that we can reflect those on a customer's bill and say that this is a credit received from the relief of the funds coming from the State.

Certainly there's a lot of things that we probably need like an actual resolution to make that happen. For what PG&E has mentioned, if the money was directed through CSD and if the funds will still have to be case managed by the LSP, I think that will also be a viable option.

But you're looking at the timeline that it would take to process a payment or apply these funds to a customer's account. So in order to expedite the process and for the customers to immediately get the relief, you know, so routing the funds directly to the IOUs might be a better approach.

ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you.

1 Ivonne Meza, do you have additional 2. comments? WITNESS MEZA: Yes. I wanted to 3 4 actually address Ms. Cho's comment about the low success rate. I just wanted to say that 5 6 for our counties, we have over \$70,000 that's 7 going to be placed on customers' accounts 8 that we've already validated. We're just 9 waiting to receive the money. 10 From HCD, we have 1.6 million that 11 will hit customers' accounts per what they've 12 notified us. For the ALJ's outreach, we only 13 have \$10,000, a little under 10,000, but 14 that's because we've only been able to 15 validate the 17 customers through one data 16 exchange. We do believe that the other 17 customers that have applied we will see in 18 the subsequent data exchange. 19 To answer also Mr. Colbert's 20 comments about the -- how to best apply it, I 21 agree with PG&E and Edison's comments about a 2.2. climate credit or if it can be done a little 2.3 bit more direct, I think that will help as 2.4 well, more uniform across the customers. 25 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: And Steve Rahon, did 26 you also want to comment? 27 WITNESS RAHON: From what I had shared

earlier, I think the comments from the other

1 IOUs are consistent with that. I do think 2. that there's an opportunity here for a more 3 streamlined process so that we can get this 4 debt relief funding to our customers as 5 quickly as possible. 6 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you. 7 Mad Stano with Greenlining, your 8 question, please. 9 EXAMINATION 10 BY MX. STANO: 11 0 Thank you, your Honor. A question 12 for the panel, building off of the last 13 question actually and several threads 14 mentioned from the dais. Do you all think 15 there will be similar technical and 16 operational challenges, delays, complexities, 17 barriers to accessing funds for customers and 18 administrative burdens, as stated by all 19 representatives with ERAP implementation, if 20 new funding comes through CSD as written in 21 the May budget revise and budget change 2.2 proposal and do you have any recommendations 2.3 looking forward to mitigate some of those 2.4 potential challenges based on your 25 experiences with ERAP? 26 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're on mute. 27 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Mad Stano, I wanted 28 for my benefit and the benefit of many of us

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here, if you could share what is written specifically about how CSD would distribute funds as currently planned so we could get very specific about the challenges that are particular to the plan, the tentative plan, in place.

MX. STANO: Thank you very much, your I will do my best with the caveat of this proposal is in motion and this is my personal best working understanding. But the proposal as it's stated -- and I can drop a link in the chat to the information we have from the budget change proposal that offers a little more detail from the governor's proposal -- but we have a structure that mimics ERAP with a third-party intermediary being CSD, as opposed to HCD, where the funds go to CSD for relief through the application process that is stated to be a proposed reform that is not specified to the LIHEAP program and the individual applicant would be the customers or ratepayers.

There is a -- similar to ERAP, there is a focus on low-income customers. That's the level of detail I'm understanding. And I'm open if anyone wants to correct or add any additional relevant information to that.]

ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: This is ALJ

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     Watts-Zagha and I would like to add some
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     additional questions, because it is somewhat
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     speculative, and I do feel that we've heard a
 4
     few references to CS -- you know, CSD being
 5
     -- having some advantages as an
     administrative body. I feel like we've
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 7
     gotten pieces of answers to your question
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     already. So I would ask the next time that a
 9
     witness speaks that they could incorporate an
10
     answer to your question. But I would like to
11
     get another question in there as well.
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               And we do have next, I said Melissa
13
     Kasnitz with Center for Accessible
14
     Technology. And then on deck after that, we
15
     have Ritta Merza with the Cal Advocates.
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               So, please, Melissa Kasnitz.
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               (No response.)
18
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: It may be that
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     Melissa Kasnitz is -- I see. I've gotten a
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     note that this party needs to be promoted
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     from attendee to panelist, in order to ask
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     the questions.
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               So I am going to notify our host,
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     Joseph Haga, if you could work on that.
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           MS. KASNITZ:
                        Thank you. I have just
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     been promoted.
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## EXAMINATION

BY MS. KASNITZ:

Q I have perhaps it's a short array of questions, again, trying to help flesh out an understanding of how this could be, where the hurdles have been with the federal program and maybe where a state program could be more clear.

So, first the IOUs have mentioned that they worked to identify renters as potentially-eligible customers. But I know that is something that the IOUs in the past have said that they don't actually have information to do. So I was wondering first how the IOUs identified customers as likely renters. And then, while this -- the reports and program have focused on the rental assistance program, I know there's also a federal program that is meant to assist homeowners who are behind in their payments and I don't know how that works, so I was wondering if there have been similar challenges in implementing the mortgage assistance program and utility debt assistance combined with that, and if the state program is making a similar distinction between renters and owners and how we might do better on a state basis, than these two

1 separate federal programs that, you know, as 2. far as a customer's utility bill goes, it's 3 not necessarily clear whether it matters whether they own their home or rent their 4 home and how those forms of assistance all 5 6 aggregate. 7 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Melissa Kasnitz, in 8 terms of the state program, I am guessing you 9 mean the forthcoming state program. 10 (Crosstalk.) 11 MS. KASNITZ: Yes, hopefully-to-exist 12 state program, yes. Thank you. ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: 13 And I am sensitive to 14 just the moving target or the changes that 15 are evolving in that program, so I'm not 16 sure, you know, also in terms of the 17 knowledge of the witnesses before us, you 18 know, where they can go with that part of the 19 question. 20 MS. KASNITZ: Well, to see if the other 21 program maybe has been easier to administer 2.2. and might provide --2.3 ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: Stop for a 2.4 second. 25 To the reporter, I cannot hear 26 Ms. Kasnitz or Judge Watts-Zagha 27 intermittently. Are you having the same 28 issue, Ms. Mendez? So were you able to get

1 that exchange at all or not really? 2. (Reporter response.) ASSISTANT CHIEF COLBERT: Thank you. 3 4 Thank you, Ms. Mendez. Your Honor and Ms. Kasnitz, you 5 broke up, but for me to intervene, this has 6 7 been going on for a while. 8 Again, Ms. Kasnitz, I think your 9 questions may be slightly broad into what 10 we're trying to address here, but I think 11 that may have been what Judge Watts-Zagha was 12 getting at. But is your microphone working 13 now, your Honor? 14 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: I hope my microphone 15 is working now. It must have migrated. So let's ask Ms. Kasnitz to focus 16 17 the question then again, if you could, on the 18 current experience I think would be best. 19 And I know we are looking towards the next 20 program, but I do think our witnesses are 21 just best-equipped to answer questions about 2.2. the current experience. 2.3 BY MS. KASNITZ: 2.4 0 The most narrow question, thank 25 you, that would be helpful for me to 26 understand then is how the IOUs identified 27 the customers that they believe are renters 28 when they were targeting their outreach to

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     this program, because that's something I
 2.
     understand they have struggled with in the
 3
     past.
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           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA:
                            Thank you. Okay.
 5
     SoCalGas, Ivonne Meza.
                          Hi.
                               Yeah, for SoCalGas
 6
           WITNESS MEZA:
     you're right. We don't have the information
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 8
     readily available to us. We kind of backed
 9
     into it to find our renters. So we offer a
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     program called a continuous service agreement
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     for property owners, that when a renter moves
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     out, then service goes on in the owner's
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     name, so that they can clean the property or
14
     do whatever in between renters. So that's
15
     what we did. We kind of backed into it that
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     way.
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               We don't have the capability to see
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     every renter in our service territory, but if
19
     we had that continuous service agreement in
20
     our customer information system, we
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     identified that that would be a way to see
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     renters.
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               Some of the customers we called
24
     anyways, though, may not have met that, but
25
     the ones that applied were people that said
26
     that they were renters. So, yeah.
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1 EXAMINATION 2. BY ALU WATTS-ZAGHA: 3 And, Ivonne Meza, you know, I did Q want to follow up with Ms. Kasnitz' question 4 5 Do you have any relief program for 6 homeowners at this point that you're aware 7 of? 8 WITNESS MEZA: The only one that I'm 9 aware of right now is the Arrearage 10 Management Plan, which doesn't take renters 11 or homeowners into consideration, but we're 12 also providing customers with that 13 information when they indicate that they 14 don't qualify possibly for emergency rental 15 assistance. 16 And then Steve Rahon with San Diego 17 Gas & Electric. 18 WITNESS RAHON: Thank you. Very 19 similar response to SoCalGas. 20 We actually have the same type of 21 We actually call it Revert to program. 2.2 Owner. So it's a flag in our system that 2.3 indicates that a property would revert back 2.4 to the owner of the property. And so our 25 assumption then is that that is a renter at 26 that location. And so we use that as a proxy 27 to identify renters. We don't have a clear 28 flag in our system that knows which

2. which ones are not. Great. So Pacific Gas and 3 4 Electric. 5 WITNESS SINGH: So we do not know 100 percent who's a renter, but we do have 6 7 third-party information that identifies 8 customers as being a likely renter or not. 9 So we've been using the third-party data to 10 identify renters. 11 EXAMINATION 12 BY MS. KASNITZ: 13 May I clarify, is that like the 14 Experian data that I know the utilities use 15 for various purposes? 16 WITNESS SINGH: I'm not sure who the 17 specific vendor is. It may be Experian. Ιt 18 may be someone else. 19 But it's that type of third-party 20 data? 21 Α Right. 2.2. 0 Thank you. 2.3 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Then Eugene Ayuyao, 2.4 with Southern California Edison. 25 WITNESS AYUYAO: Similar with PG&E, we 26 use proxy data from a third-party and we have 27 used Axiom as the third-party information 28 from Axiom.

properties are actual rental properties and

1	The other thing is we do have some			
2	information from our energy savings			
3	assistance program, where we have customers			
4	who actually provide information if they're			
5	renters, but it's not exhaustive, so we			
6	needed to use additional information from a			
7	third-party.			
8	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you. Ritta			
9	Merza, do you have a question?			
10	MS. MERZA: Yes. Just briefly, Judge.			
11	EXAMINATION			
12	BY MS. MERZA:			
13	Q My question to the utilities is			
14	whether there is a way to streamline			
15	arrearage forgiveness from all utilities			
16	services at the same time.			
17	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Go ahead. Let's			
18	start in the same order, with Ivonne Meza and			
19	SoCalGas again.			
20	WITNESS MEZA: I am going to have to			
21	think about that or get back to you. I am			
22	trying to think of how we could do that.			
23	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Is there a witness			
24	who would like to start in response to			
25	Ms. Merza's question?			
26	WITNESS RAHON: I will go ahead, your			
27	Honor.			
28	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Was that Steve Rahon			

1 offering to respond? 2. WITNESS RAHON: Sure. I will respond 3 first. 4 I think it's a great idea if we 5 could actually coordinate across other 6 utilities to make it easier on our customers. 7 It's probably easier said than done. 8 There's certainly customer-privacy 9 issues, security issues, and so it's 10 something we'll take back and think about. 11 But from a customer perspective, good idea. 12 It might be really difficult to implement. 13 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Eugene Ayuyao, with 14 Southern California Edison, do you have a 15 response? 16 WITNESS AYUYAO: I think it's certainly 17 a great idea, but similar to what was 18 mentioned earlier, there's so many actors 19 that we have to consider about customer 20 privacy, consent for example. And without 21 knowing the processes and information from 2.2. the other utilities, I can't really say it's 2.3 feasible, but it's definitely a great idea 2.4 that we would like to consider. 25 WITNESS RAHON: And I believe I 26 understand the question now. 27 So, I would mirror what the other 28 IOU said, but from a customer's perspective

1	specifically with ERAP, they do have the			
2	ability to enter themselves the different			
3	arrearages they have for rents, water,			
4	electricity, gas, and I believe other types			
5	of fields may also be included as well.			
6	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you. Would any			
7	other witnesses like to respond? That's			
8	fine.			
9	I am not seeing additional questions			
10	from the parties. And let me turn back to			
11	the virtual dais.			
12	I will note that the Commissioner			
13	was unable to stick with us through this			
14	point and had to leave for another meeting.			
15	I do not hear a question from Assistant Chief			
16	Colbert.			
17	I would like to ask each utility			
18	representative to make any concluding remarks			
19	and then we'll adjourn.			
20	I will begin with Southern			
21	California Edison's representative David			
22	Gomez.			
23	STATEMENT OF MR. GOMEZ			
24	Thank you, your Honor.			
25	SCE appreciates the attention that			
26	the Commission is paying to state and federal			
27	funding issues and SCE agrees wholeheartedly			
28	with the Commission and the other parties			

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concerning the importance of all state and federal funding sources, as the country continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

SCE is committed to doing the right thing, helping customers in supporting communities that we have the honor to serve.

ERAP and other similar programs play an important role in these endeavors. This is why SCE has and continues to conduct outreach through direct calling and other methods to ensure that customers are informed about ERAP.

While no new programs are not without their challenges, SCE reiterates it has been expeditiously pushing to ensure that ERAP and other funds are available to its customers, both through HCD and through other organizations.

Furthermore, SCE believes that the utilities' experiences with this program can provide useful guidance from the application or management of potential future state relief funds. Specifically, SCE believes that not requiring individual enrollments for a future state-funded forgiveness program will allow for more rapid deployments of relief funds, as well allowing all arrears

1 prior to June 30, 2021, to be eligible for 2. state-funded forgiveness. 3 Depending on how it is implemented, 4 this streamlined future process may help avoid issues discussed today, including 5 issues related to outreach response rates, 6 7 application complexity and data sharing or validation issues. 8 9 SCE looks forward to continuing to 10 work with the Commission on all of these 11 issues and looks forward to providing any 12 additional information requested by the 13 Commission concerning this program. 14 Additionally, as reflected during 15 Ms. Ayuyao's testimony, SCE will be providing 16 clarified and fully updated figures in its 17 next status report to alleviate any 18 uncertainty or confusion surrounding its 19 numbers at this time. 20 Thank you, your Honor. This 21 concludes my remarks. 2.2. ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you, Mr. Gomez. 2.3 And after the other three representatives 24 speak, I will give some final guidance about 25 the weekly reports. 26 We'll turn next to Jennifer Reyes 27 Lagunero with Pacific Gas and Electric.

STATEMENT OF MS. REYES LAGUNERO

1 Good afternoon, again, your Honor. 2. PG&E remains committed to 3 supporting customers as they try to access 4 all available sources of financial assistance. PG&E looks forward to continue 5 6 its outreach to its customers regarding the 7 ERAP program and other types of programs, which includes via -- outreach via outbound 8 9 calls, leave behind direct mail and language 10 materials and partnering with community-based 11 organizations. 12 Also to minimize the risk of impact 13 to a customer's service, PG&E's customer 14 services are trained to offer customers 15 messaging about all applicable programs that 16 they may qualify for, such as AMP, CARE/FERA, 17 LIHEAP, ERAP and pay plans. 18 PG&E is grateful for this 19 opportunity to discuss the challenges with 20 the existing process that we've encountered 21 over the past few weeks, but we are 2.2. encouraged that we can remove any obstacles 2.3 that may prevent or discourage getting 2.4 much-needed relief to its customers. 25 Specifically, ideas of general 26 public service announcements or automatic 27 payments provided to the IOUs to apply to 28 customer arrearages as opposed to opt-in

1 programs are helpful. 2. PG&E also looks forward to 3 reestablishing its partnership with HCD, such that we can continue a seamless process for 4 5 these ERAP payments. Moving forward, PG&E hopes to use 6 7 lessons learned from today, like increasing 8 partnerships with cities and counties in 9 PG&E's territory, further opportunities for 10 streamlining and other ideas discussed from 11 today's hearing for increased success. 12 Thank you. 13 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you. 14 Laura Fulton with San Diego Gas & 15 Electric, please. 16 STATEMENT OF MS. FULTON 17 Good afternoon, your Honor, and 18 thank you. 19 SDG&E believes that accessing all 20 available federal and state relief programs 21 is essential for customers who have been 2.2. struggling during the pandemic and aiding 2.3 them as they try to alleviate any debt that 2.4 has accumulated during that time, and we 25 really appreciate the Commission's attention 26 and the opportunity to discuss our ideas and 27 experiences with the Emergency Rental 28 Assistance Program today.

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SDG&E, as laid out in our earlier testimony, recognized early on the importance of the ERAP program for our customers and worked to streamline and facilitate an efficient process that ensured that customers received relief as quickly as possible.

We also engaged in extensive

We also engaged in extensive marketing, education and outreach efforts aimed at addressing -- aimed at reaching as many customers as possible and promoting awareness of the program wherever (inaudible).

Like any new program, there are lessons learned that can be applied toward a new funding that comes with the future, and it's reassuring and we appreciate the Commission's efforts to try to come up with ways to streamline that process for customers, and we really appreciate the productive discussion that occurred this afternoon.

SDG&E looks forward to ongoing engagement with the Commission on these issues and we will continue to update the Commission with the ongoing efforts through the ERAP program and updated numbers in our weekly reporting.

Thank you.

1 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you, 2. Ms. Fulton. 3 And Shawane Lee with Southern California Gas. 4 STATEMENT OF MS. LEE 5 Thank you, your Honor. 6 7 SoCalGas recognizes the substantial 8 financial hardships that many of its customers have been enduring due to the 9 10 pandemic. That is why two days after your 11 Honor's ruling, SoCalGas began to implement 12 the requirements of the ruling. We felt it 13 was very important to help our customers 14 obtain arrearage relief. But even prior to 15 the ruling, SoCalGas had posted information 16 about ERAP and links to apply to SoCalGas' 17 social media and website on Twitter, Facebook 18 and Instagram. SoCalGas had already started 19 work with Option C providers, such as 20 Riverside City to verify arrears. 21 SoCalGas truly embraced the -- your 2.2 ruling, your Honor. Just three days after 2.3 the ruling, SoCalGas started calling the 2.4 sample pool of customers, and by May 24th, we 25 had made calls to 736 customers. From this 26 outreach, SoCalGas was able to achieve 51 27 customers who applied for ERAP. SoCalGas was 28 able to verify through the data exchange with

1 HCD that 17 of the 51 customers have 2. applications pending for grants, totalling 3 \$9,985 and the payments will begin posting 4 next week, according to HCD. We expect to see the remaining 34 customers we reached 5 6 pursuant to our outreach will appear on HCD's 7 list during our next data exchange, but 8 importantly, SoCalGas helped its customers 9 overcome the barrier of completing the 10 complex 36-page application by providing 11 support, reviewing sample applications with 12 customers to help guide them how to apply. 13 SoCalGas also established a 14 relationship with local initiative support 15 corporation, who provided a telephone number 16 for SoCalGas customers applying for ERAP to 17 call for application support. 18 In addition to SoCalGas' outreach 19 to our customers, through -- pursuant to your 20 Honor's ruling, we leveraged our regional 21 public affairs group to contact cities and 2.2 counties administering their own programs in 2.3 order to develop a partnership to begin 2.4 verifying arrears, and as a result of this 25 outreach, SoCalGas has verified arrears for 26 customers who applied through Orange County, 27 Kern, Inland, City of Anaheim, Santa Barbara,

and the City of Riverside. We have been able

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to verify arrears with the counties for a total of 249 SoCalGas customers for grants totalling \$75,500. And there is more to come.

To date, SoCalGas has received payments of \$30,781 for 135 customers and the company is waiting for additional payments from the counties, which we are receiving through a special post office box established for this purpose.

But separate to SoCalGas' outreach to the counties, the company established a relationship with HCD and developed a process to conduct a data exchange.

HCD and SoCalGas cybersecurity experts and analysts worked together to develop a process so that effective May 17th, the first data exchange took place, and as a result of that data exchange, SoCalGas has verified arrears for 2,963 customers who applied through the state ERAP portal for a total of \$435,538.00 in grants. And beginning next week, SoCalGas will start to receive payments for these grants, and there is more to come.

HCD has confirmed they have received grant applications from SoCalGas customers of over \$1.6 million. SoCalGas is

1 excited to continue working with HCD on more 2. data exchanges to obtain this funding for our 3 customers. As the Center for Accessible 4 Technology and the National Consumer Law 5 6 Center stated in their reply brief, quote, 7 "SoCalGas has demonstrated that it is taking 8 the ALJ's April 5th, 2021 ruling to leverage 9 federal funding very seriously." End quote. 10 We thank the Center for Accessible 11 Technology any National Consumer Law Center 12 for this observation. We do, and we are, 13 taking this very seriously. 14 It is our pleasure to do so, as we 15 know it is important to help our customers 16 who have arrears, the majority of whom are 17 low income, disadvantaged or vulnerable. 18 SoCalGas' goal is to help our customers 19 overcome their arrears and gain a better 20 footing to move forward and past the 21 financial difficulties they're facing as a 2.2. result of the pandemic. 2.3 And that concludes my remarks. Your Honor, thank you. 2.4 25 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you Shawane Lee 26 and thank you to all the participants, the 27 parties and the utilities and the witnesses

for joining us and sharing your experience

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here. I especially appreciate that you brought witnesses with detailed knowledge of this process and that was what made this hearing so instructive today.

And regarding the weekly reports, as

you may recall, the idea was simply to get a small group and follow those -- that small group through the application process. that is still the idea, and you are welcome to simply report the numbers in those five or six rows to the best of your ability for only your sample group of customers, if you would like. We began reporting any and all customer progress because it did take time to establish the sample group which we have a better understanding of this today. going forward, if you would like to reduce your reports to those types of numbers, I think and until the process with those customers is complete, as originally intended in that ruling, you're welcome to do so.

I strongly encourage you, if there is any additional clarifications in the coming weeks, as you follow these customers through, to communicate with Energy Division and you do have that contact that you can make with them.

And I also think this has been

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1
     extremely instructive with regard to general
 2
     customer outreach and the networks that you
 3
     work with.
 4
                That concludes today's hearing.
                                                   And
 5
     we are off the record.
 6
                (Off the record.)
 7
                (Whereupon, at the hour of 2:41
           p.m., this matter having concluded, the
 8
           Commission then adjourned.)
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1	BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
2	OF THE
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6	CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDING
7	I, ANDREA L. ROSS, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER
8	NO. 7896, IN AND FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DO
9	HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE PAGES OF THIS TRANSCRIPT
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11	TRANSCRIPT OF THE TESTIMONY AND PROCEEDINGS HELD IN
12	THIS MATTER ON MAY 27, 2021.
13	I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE
14	EVENTS OF THE MATTER OR THE OUTCOME OF THE PROCEEDING.
15	EXECUTED THIS JUNE 03, 2021.
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20	Andrew Toss
21	ANDRIA L. ROSS CSR NO. 7896
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1	BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
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3	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
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6	CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDING
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1	BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION			
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<b>\$1,000</b> 88:7	<b>11th</b> 89:16	<b>209</b> 68:6,13,22 74:22,25	<b>46</b> 83:24
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