## BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



## STATE OF CALIFORNIA



In Attendance: COMMISSIONER MARTHA GUZMAN ACEVES
ALJ ASSISTANT CHIEF KIMBERLY KIM
ALJ ASSISTANT CHIEF ANTHONY COLBERT

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE CAMILLE WATTS-ZAGHA, presiding

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

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Reported by: Andrea L. Ross, CSR No. 7896 Shannon Ross Winters, CSR No. 8916

1 VIRTUAL PROCEEDING 2. AUGUST 16, 2021 - 9:04 A.M. 3 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE WATTS-ZAGHA: 4 5 Let's be on the record. My name is Administrative Law Judge 6 7 Camille Watts-Zagha and we are here for the Joint Status Conference in two related 8 9 proceedings, Rulemaking 21-02-014, addressing 10 arrearages in the energy sector due to the 11 COVID pandemic, and also Rulemaking 12 17-06-024, addressing a number of issues in 13 the water industry, including affordability, 14 low-income-rate assistance programs, as well 15 as arrearages due to the COVID pandemic. 16 We are joined today by the assigned 17 Commissioner for both of these proceedings, 18 Commissioner Guzman Aceves, and we also have 19 with us ALJs Assistant Chief Administrative 20 Law Judges Anthony Colbert and Kimberly Kim. 21 Before I ask the Commissioner to 2.2. make opening remarks, I think we should do a 2.3 roll call. This is a good opportunity for 2.4 parties who have confirmed their attendance 25 here to just do a quick audio check. 26 fact, we can go off the record for this 27 portion and we'll go back on right after --28 actually, I think I take that back. We will

1	remain on the record so parties may be
2	acknowledged on the record. I'm going to
3	call your name and affiliation and then I
4	would just simply like you to activate your
5	video screen and your audio and just say
6	"here."
7	We'll start with The National
8	Consumer Law Center, Charlie Harak.
9	MR. HARAK: Your Honor, Charlie Harak
10	here for NCLC. I'll note there's a typo in
11	the thing on the screen that says 21-01-014.
12	It's 21-02, I believe.
13	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: That's noted for the
14	record. I will now move to the Center For
15	Accessible Technology, Paul Goodman.
TO	necessible recimeragy, radi decaman.
16	MR. GOODMAN: Here, your Honor.
16	MR. GOODMAN: Here, your Honor.
16 17	MR. GOODMAN: Here, your Honor.  ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Right. Finally,
16 17 18	MR. GOODMAN: Here, your Honor.  ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Right. Finally,  Public Advocates Office, Ritta Merza.
16 17 18 19	MR. GOODMAN: Here, your Honor.  ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Right. Finally,  Public Advocates Office, Ritta Merza.  MS. MERZA: Here, your Honor.
16 17 18 19 20	MR. GOODMAN: Here, your Honor.  ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Right. Finally,  Public Advocates Office, Ritta Merza.  MS. MERZA: Here, your Honor.  ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: And do we also have
16 17 18 19 20 21	MR. GOODMAN: Here, your Honor.  ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Right. Finally,  Public Advocates Office, Ritta Merza.  MS. MERZA: Here, your Honor.  ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: And do we also have  Selina Shek with us from the Public Advocates
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	MR. GOODMAN: Here, your Honor.  ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Right. Finally,  Public Advocates Office, Ritta Merza.  MS. MERZA: Here, your Honor.  ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: And do we also have  Selina Shek with us from the Public Advocates  Office?
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	MR. GOODMAN: Here, your Honor.  ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Right. Finally,  Public Advocates Office, Ritta Merza.  MS. MERZA: Here, your Honor.  ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: And do we also have  Selina Shek with us from the Public Advocates  Office?  MS. SHEK: Yes, your Honor. Good
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	MR. GOODMAN: Here, your Honor.  ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Right. Finally,  Public Advocates Office, Ritta Merza.  MS. MERZA: Here, your Honor.  ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: And do we also have  Selina Shek with us from the Public Advocates  Office?  MS. SHEK: Yes, your Honor. Good  morning.
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	MR. GOODMAN: Here, your Honor.  ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Right. Finally,  Public Advocates Office, Ritta Merza.  MS. MERZA: Here, your Honor.  ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: And do we also have  Selina Shek with us from the Public Advocates  Office?  MS. SHEK: Yes, your Honor. Good  morning.  ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: All right, The

1	Greenlining Institute, Mad Stano.
2	MX. STANO: Here, your Honor.
3	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: All right. Small
4	Business Utility Advocates, I think we have
5	Ariel Strauss.
6	(No response.)
7	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Do we have a
8	different representative from the Small
9	Business Utility Advocates?
10	(No response.)
11	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Continuing on,
12	California Bottled Water Association,
13	International Bottled Water Association,
14	Jason Ackerman.
15	MR. ACKERMAN: Here, your Honor.
16	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: And we have
17	California Community Choice Association,
18	Evelyn Kahl.
19	MS. KAHL: Here, your Honor.
20	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Now we'll turn to the
21	utilities.
22	Southern California Edison, David
23	Gomez?
24	MR. GOMEZ: Here, your Honor.
25	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: And also Southern
26	California Edison, Eric Lee?
27	MR. LEE: Good morning, your Honor.
28	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Morning. Southern

1	California Gas
2	MS. LEE: Good morning, your Honor,
3	Shawane Lee here.
4	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you.
5	Betty Tran?
6	MS. TRAN: Here, your Honor. Good
7	morning.
8	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Okay. I'm calling on
9	two other Southern California Gas
10	representatives who have RSVP'd, Ivonne Meza?
11	MS. MEZA: Here, your Honor.
12	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Alice Lee?
13	MR. VERDUZCO: Hi. Actually this is
14	Octavio Verduzco. Good morning. I'm filling
15	in for Alice Lee. Present.
15 16	in for Alice Lee. Present.  ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Verduzco? Octavio
16	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Verduzco? Octavio
16 17	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Verduzco? Octavio Verduzco?
16 17 18	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Verduzco? Octavio Verduzco? MR. VERDUZCO: Octavio Verduzco,
16 17 18 19	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Verduzco? Octavio Verduzco?  MR. VERDUZCO: Octavio Verduzco, Verduzco with a V.
16 17 18 19 20	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Verduzco? Octavio Verduzco?  MR. VERDUZCO: Octavio Verduzco, Verduzco with a V.  ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: That's helpful.
16 17 18 19 20 21	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Verduzco? Octavio  Verduzco?  MR. VERDUZCO: Octavio Verduzco,  Verduzco with a V.  ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: That's helpful.  Thank you.
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16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Verduzco? Octavio  Verduzco?  MR. VERDUZCO: Octavio Verduzco,  Verduzco with a V.  ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: That's helpful.  Thank you.  MR. VERDUZCO: Thank you.  ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: And San Diego Gas &
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Verduzco? Octavio  Verduzco?  MR. VERDUZCO: Octavio Verduzco,  Verduzco with a V.  ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: That's helpful.  Thank you.  MR. VERDUZCO: Thank you.  ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: And San Diego Gas &  Electric, we have one representative, Laura
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Verduzco? Octavio  Verduzco?  MR. VERDUZCO: Octavio Verduzco,  Verduzco with a V.  ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: That's helpful.  Thank you.  MR. VERDUZCO: Thank you.  ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: And San Diego Gas &  Electric, we have one representative, Laura  Fulton.

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1
     Catherine Mazzeo.
 2.
           MS. MAZZEO: Good morning, your Honor,
 3
     here.
 4
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: And from Pacific Gas
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     and Electric, I have three representatives,
 6
     Jerry Huerta?
 7
           MR. HUERTA: Good morning, your Honor.
     I'm here.
 8
 9
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you. Neil
10
     Singh?
11
           MR. SINGH: Here, your Honor.
12
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: And Lorenzo Hagos?
13
           MR. HUERTA: Your Honor, this is Jerry
14
     Huerta again, PG&E. Mr. Hagos is not
15
     available today. He's under the weather.
16
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you,
17
     Mr. Huerta.
18
               And California Water Association,
19
     Lori Dolqueist.
20
           MS. DOLQUEIST: Good morning, your
21
     Honor.
2.2.
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: PacifiCorp, I'm going
2.3
     to ask for the representative today for
24
     PacifiCorp, Liberty Utilities, CalPeco
25
     Electric, and Bear Valley Electric Service,
26
     Jed Gibson.
27
                        Here, your Honor.
           MR. GIBSON:
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           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: San Gabriel Valley
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     Water Company, Joel Reiker?
 2.
               (No response.)
 3
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: All right. Golden
 4
     State Water Company, Joseph Karp?
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           MR. KARP: Your Honor, Joe Karp is
 6
            I don't believe I have video
     capability this morning, but I am here.
 7
 8
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Audio only. Thank
 9
     you, Joe Karp. And Cal Am Water Company, Wes
10
     Owens.
11
           MR. OWENS: Yes, I'm here.
12
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: California Water
13
     Service, Greg Milleman.
14
           MR. MILLEMAN: Yes, I'm here, your
15
     Honor.
16
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Great Oaks Water
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     Company, Tim Guster.
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           MR. GUSTER: I'm here, your Honor.
19
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA:
                             Suburban Water
20
     Company, Carmelitha Bordelon.
21
           MS. BORDELON: Here, your Honor.
2.2.
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Okay. That is
2.3
     everybody who confirmed attendance for this
24
     status conference. I will pause for a
25
     moment. If you were not called and you
26
     intend to speak today, please introduce
27
     yourself slowly.
28
               All right we will now turn to
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1 Commissioner Guzman Aceves, the assigned 2. Commissioner for both proceedings, to offer 3 some introductory remarks. 4 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: Thank you, Judge Watts-Zagha, and good morning, 5 6 This has been a very adaptive everyone. 7 proceeding, both of these proceedings, and I'm very glad that we're sitting here today 8 9 with a lot of resources that the state and 10 federal government have pulled forward to try 11 to contribute to at minimum lessening the 12 arrearage gap and hopefully in some cases 13 curing it entirely. 14 I hope we have a really thoughtful 15 discussion about how to be as efficient and 16 coordinated as possible with these 17 state-administered programs with a lot of 18 federal funding. 19 I know our sister agencies, 20 particularly the California Community 21 Services Development Department and the State 2.2. Water Resources Control Board -- both of 2.3 their tremendous programs and many 2.4 conversations will need to be very 25 coordinated on facilitating, validating, and 26 that includes significant data sharing that 27 we are looking to do. 28 Some of you are already doing that

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1 with some of the programs that have been in 2. existence like the ERAP program, but really 3 excited about the CAP program and the program that the State Water Board has. It's a 4 5 really long acronym. I wanted to recognize in particular 6 7 that we did receive a letter back in March from the LIOB, the Low-Income Oversight 8 9 Board, and then a more recent letter from an 10 organization called Access which is a 11 coalition of local service providers that are 12 focused on preventing disconnections. 13 Both of these letters really call on 14 us to go a little deeper with a certain 15 subset of customers that need more continuous 16 So I would really like for you to 17 consider those customers in your comments. 18 It was in the updated scoping but there was 19 not an explicit question on it. 20

We certainly will share those letters again for everyone to have, and some of them were very specific about the need. It's more of a case-management approach with these customers, but I just call on you to really look at that, that need, that I feel is still unserved. We will be getting advice letters from the utilities on reporting on the relationships that they do currently have

1 with local providers. 2. So hopefully with kind of the status 3 of what we have and all of your thoughts on what it could be in response to this pretty 4 well identified need that the locals are 5 6 pointing to us that we can come up with some 7 progress on that issue. 8 Other than that, I just want to 9 thank everyone for this effort to really try 10 to help, particularly our most vulnerable 11 Californians in this recovery. I know some 12 of you like myself are taking off this week 13 or maybe have already kicked off this week 14 with return to school or return to work, and 15 I just want to acknowledge this very unique 16 time that we are in and the amount of 17 collaboration that it requires. So thank 18 you. 19 With that, Judge Watts-Zagha, I'll 20 return it back to you. 21 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you, 2.2 Commissioner. 2.3 I wanted to let all participants 24 today know about our agenda. I will have a 25 few questions, particularly about 26 coordination, and then we will give parties 27 who have gathered here an opportunity to

specifically address any concerns you have

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with the scope, and then we will conclude by going over the schedule and any housekeeping issues that parties wish to raise.

But as the Commissioner indicated, we do hope to have a thoughtful discussion, particularly about the highest priority topic in both proceedings — in the next phase of both proceedings, which is coordinating and securing arrearage relief to defray some of the arrearages accumulated during the pandemic period.

With that, I will actually ask the first question. I would like to start with each utility, energy utilities first, and then followed with the water utilities in response to this question, and then I will turn to other parties in the proceeding.

This is a particular question that you may have information to. If you do not, that is also fine. But I would like to start by asking the utilities based on the information you have about the state relief available for energy customers, how much of the arrearages accumulated in the past year and a half do you believe the state relief will cover, do you know for which customers it may be covered, and can you share with us any communication and information you have

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1
     had from the agencies distributing this
 2.
     relief?
 3
               I'd like to start first with
 4
     Southern California Edison. I will just ask
 5
     the representative from Southern California
 6
     Edison best able to answer this question to
 7
     state their name and then go ahead.
 8
           MR. LEE: Good morning, your Honor.
 9
     This is Eric Lee, E-r-i-c, L-e-e, on behalf
10
     of Southern California Edison so I can give a
11
     high level of where we're at. So as I think
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     a lot of people know, there is a survey that
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     is due on September 1st that will kind of
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     give a general idea of how much in arrears
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     that are outstanding at each of the
16
     utilities.
17
               However, the survey asks for data as
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     of 8-15, so starting today where we're
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     actually pulling -- pulling that data
20
     together and what that looks like, that the
21
     reason that they used 8-15 was presented
2.2.
     60 days after the 6-15 cutoff date for when
2.3
     the arrears would stop. However -- oh,
24
     sorry. Is there a question?
25
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Eric Lee, could you
26
     be more specific about the survey, from
27
     which --
28
           MR. LEE:
                     Sure.
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ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: -- state agency it 1 was issued. And then if you could repeat the 2. 3 information about data through August 15th --4 MR. LEE: Yeah, absolutely. 5 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: -- so there may be an assumption that everybody is familiar with 6 7 this information, but --8 MR. LEE: Sure. 9 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: -- I think we may 10 have a situation of the, you know, elephant. 11 Everybody has a little bit -- some --12 additional information to contribute and 13 others may not know this information. 14 MR. LEE: No problem. So let me start 15 again. So CSD, right, has asked for a survey 16 to be filed or to be filled out by all the 17 utilities, and that survey is supposed to be 18 filled out on September 1st. What that 19 survey contains is very high level 20 information in terms of number of customers 21 and total amount of arrears broken out into 2.2. the various customer classes. 2.3 Using that information, it's our 2.4 understanding that CSD would then go back and 25 kind of start calculating or getting a 26 general idea of how much in arrears that they 27 are able to cover. So, for example, I 28 believe for the investor-owned -- energy

1 utilities specifically, there's just under 2. \$695 million that has been allocated. 3 that would be the number that they would use combined with the surveys to kind of calculate how much would -- forgiveness would 5 be available to each of the utilities. 6 7 Following that survey, it is expected in early October, -- I believe it's 8 9 October 4th -- that the formal application 10 would then come out from CSD. And so what 11 the utilities would then be providing at that 12 point is actually the line-item details of, 13 like, customer account numbers and their 14 associated arrears that add up to the amounts 15 that have been requested by CSD. So it's 16 kind of a two-step process that we're looking 17 And so right now we're just kind of 18 looking at the survey that is due on 19 September 1st. 20 Within that survey, the directions 21 are to gather data as of August 15th. So the 2.2. reason for this and our understanding is that 2.3 because CAP is for arrears that are between 24 March 4, 2020, to June 15, 2021, and only 25 arrears associated with that, quote, unquote, 26 "pandemic period." 27 So the survey asking for data as of

August 15th makes sense because the

1 eligibility requirements are 60 days in 2. arrears. So assuming a customer's last day 3 was June 15th, 60 days drags you into August 15th, so that's why there's a very 4 5 specific requirement of pulling data as of 6 August 15th from CSD. 7 So August 15th was obviously 8 yesterday, meaning the IOUs are starting to 9 pull that data this week. So I'll kind of 10 pause there to make sure that that was clear 11 and we're okay before proceeding out to the 12 actual numbers. 13 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Yes, that was clear. 14 Thank you and continue. Okay. Great. So for the 15 MR. LEE: 16 numbers themselves, what we have right now, 17 as we're obviously still pulling the data, 18 are some high-level estimates. So for 19 Edison, what we used was the monthly 20 disconnection reports because, while those 21 only have residential data, when we kind of 2.2. added up all the arrears for all of the -- at 2.3 least the large energy IOUs -- the 24 residential arrears eclipse the \$695 million. 25 So the priority that's currently 26 right now is residential customers first, and 27 then later on inactive -- sorry, active 28 residential customers first, inactive

1 residential customers, and then finally 2. commercial customers. So our estimate right 3 now is that it's unlikely to get to commercial customers. ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Eric Lee, thank you. 5 About the prioritization, active residential 6 7 customers, then inactive and, following that, 8 commercial. 9 Where is that prioritization from? 10 MR. LEE: Sure. That prioritization is 11 written into the state legislature on CAP so 12 that's something that was -- not something 13 that the utilities came up with. 14 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: And about the Edison 15 residential arrearages that eclipse what you 16 believe is available, is it -- does that 17 include the inactive residential customers or 18 simply the active residential customers? 19 Sure. So if you'll remember, MR. LEE: 20 this time period of 3-4-2020 to 6-15-2021, 21 the -- while -- while -- on inactive -- for 2.2 the most part, there wasn't any, quote, 2.3 unquote, "disconnections" because we were 2.4 under emergency customer protections, so 25 there was no disconnection moratorium. 26 So any kind of inactive customers 27 with arrears were going to be based off of

like -- more like the customers voluntarily

1 doing it as opposed to utilities. So it's a 2. lower number than maybe historically. 3 Obviously there are still some there, but I quess what comes with the response of the 4 5 high level is -- to be clear, what Edison did 6 was we added up all of the utilities from the 7 disconnection reports that we can see, so all 8 four monthly reports. 9 When we added that up, that amount 10 for June 30, 2021, was already above a 11 billion dollars. So we kind of read that as 12 that eclipse of \$695 million that's currently 13 allocated for CAP. We understand that 14 there's going to be some arrears that were 15 after 6-15, there's going to be some arrears 16 that are before the 3-4-2020 date, but that 17 this will come as a general proxy of how much 18 and so that's kind of the number that we're 19 using to guide our response here. 20 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: That's very helpful. 21 And I do think that it would be good if I 2.2 could come back to you after we hear from the 2.3 other energy utilities in case they don't 24 pick up additional information and I still 25 have questions, but I think that was a good 26 summary to start off with. 27 Let me just ask the Commissioner and

the other Assistant Chief ALJs if they have

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1
     any questions before I move on. Okay, I
 2.
     don't see --
 3
           COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: No, thank
 4
     you.
 5
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Okay.
                                    Yes.
                                           Let's
 6
     turn now to Laura Fulton with San Diego Gas &
 7
     Electric.
 8
           MS. FULTON:
                        Good morning.
                                        SDG&E is
 9
     largely on the same page as what Mr. Lee from
10
     Southern California Edison just shared.
11
     covered a great deal of the background on
12
     AB 135, which established the CAP program.
13
     SDG&E is like Edison in completing its survey
14
     that was sent to -- or from CSD regarding
15
     outstanding arrearages.
16
               We believe that, in line with what
17
     Mr. Lee said, he added that CSD will
18
     ultimately come up with an allocation of
19
     funds for each utility based on the survey
20
     responses. As Mr. Lee -- or as Southern
21
     California Edison just reported, the
2.2.
     prioritization of customers is outlined in
2.3
     the current statute, but it is my belief and
24
     my understanding that there may be further
25
     clarity coming from the legislature on trying
26
     to achieve a little -- some slight changes,
27
     but I'm not sure if that will ultimately be
28
     adopted by the legislature with respect to
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like perhaps low -- prioritizing low-income customers first by statute.

But it is SDG&E's understanding that there may be changes to that in the next -- I think the legislative session ends in the coming month, so we'll know something about that sooner rather than later.

oh, and I will answer for SDG&E, it is also our understanding that the amount of arrearages total from our disconnection monthly reports will probably exceed the available relief through the CAP program consistent with what we've heard from Southern California Edison.

ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you, Laura Fulton. And I actually will follow up and ask about the disconnection reports that both you and Eric Lee referred to as the source of the arrearages that you're providing to the survey.

I didn't hear specifically if those numbers are from your disconnection reports being reported to Community Services and Development and I would like for all parties and myself here to understand that even though we see disconnection reports monthly as of the end of the month, the numbers that

1 you'll be providing in the survey are going 2. to be very similar to what's in those reports 3 just with the adjustment for the end date, but otherwise that we would have an idea of what those numbers are because they are in 5 6 the disconnection reports; is that correct? 7 MS. FULTON: Yes. As I understand it, the numbers will be based on the same 8 9 calculations that we use in the disconnection 10 monthly report and they will reflect arrears 11 60 days or older similar to -- exactly as we 12 report it in the disconnection OIR. 13 And there are some questions that 14 I'm actually seeing -- and I can 15 clarify whether or not those numbers will 16 include -- I think they include for the CSD 17 survey are arrearages to our CCAs as well, 18 and I am -- I will get some confirmation 19 whether those are included in our 20 disconnection monthly report. 21 For SDG&E specific, our CCA 2.2 arrearages are a little bit different. 2.3 have some new CCAs that have come online this 2.4 year so we may be in a slightly different 25 position than the other large IOUs, large 26 electric IOUs on that front. 27 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you, Laura 28 Fulton. That reminds me that perhaps before

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we go to the small electric utilities and
Southwest Gas that perhaps we will have
California Community Choice Association join
the conversation and answer the question
about what they will be reporting to CSD as
well.

Okay. I'd like to turn now to Southern California Gas. And please amongst your representatives decide who is best to answer this question and start with your name, please.

MS. TRAN: Good morning, your Honor.

My name is Betty Tran from the Southern

California Gas Company. I will be speaking
on behalf of SoCalGas. Just to align with
what Eric and my counterpart -- and Laura
stated earlier, we did utilize our
disconnection OIR monthly numbers in order to
determine whether or not the allocation that
would be provided by CAP would cover all of
the arrearages.

Based on our preliminary findings, you know, that amount of arrearages just for residential customers alone would exceed the amount that we would be receiving. So our plan is to go down the prioritization groups as they were outlined by AB 135. However, we are aware that there will be customers that

1 will not be receiving funding from the lower 2. prioritization groups. 3 So our total for residential, we 4 have, you know -- we are talking internally and we are still looking for clarification as 5 6 to which customer groups amongst residential 7 prioritization to maybe perhaps CARE 8 customers, and that clarification is to come, 9 but we're looking at, you know, those at risk 10 followed by those residential not at risk. 11 As Eric mentioned, next comes the inactive 12 customers for which we don't have that many. 13 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you, Betty 14 Tran. Can you remind me of the next date on 15 your schedule with regard to this program 16 after the survey is completed on 17 September 1st. 18 MS. TRAN: Sure. So after the survey 19 period, the applications are released. 20 anticipate that October 4th the applications 21 will be released, and then shortly after, in 2.2. December, December 6th actually, the 2.3 applications will be due. So within, I don't 24 know how many days, the funds will start to 25 be disbursed. 26 However, we are told tentatively 27 that by January 31st all CAP funds will be

fully disbursed, and within 60 days of

1 receiving CAP benefits, we must apply to 2. customer account. So we're looking at the 3 applications being submitted as of December 6th. 4 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: What is the source of 5 6 the October 4th and the December 6th dates, 7 please. 8 MS. TRAN: These were provided to us by CSD. 9 10 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: In a letter? In a 11 meeting? 12 MS. TRAN: We received -- we had our 13 preliminary meeting with CSD to discuss CAP, 14 and those were the timeline dates that were 15 referenced in the presentation that was also 16 made available to us. ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Let's turn to Pacific 17 18 Gas and Electric, if we could do the same 19 thing with your representative, introducing 20 themselves again. 21 MR. SINGH: Hi, good morning. My name 2.2. is Neil Singh, Manager of Low Income Programs 2.3 at Pacific Gas and Electric. 24 So similar story to the other IOUs, 25 we received the survey request from CSD, 26 which is due on September 1st. We are 27 populating our arrearage information in 28 there. Similar to the other IOUs, the first

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prioritization bucket being customers who have 60-days-plus arrearages that are at risk of disconnection.

so the total pool of funds are not enough to cover that entire population set, but, as other IOUs mentioned, we reached out to CSD looking for further clarification as far as how we can incorporate our CARE/FERA customers potentially prioritizing them ahead of the other segment of customers as that was initially not laid out in the legislature. It's just the first -- the first set of customers, it's strictly not based on income, customers that are over 60-plus days in arrearages.

Also, I'd like to point out we're using the disconnection reports as a proxy, so the disconnection reports will include all arrearages; whereas, for this program, a customer could owe money before the COVID period, they can have arrearages after the COVID period.

We're currently working internally to develop the numbers for our survey that are inside of that specific period, but just to reiterate, we're using the disconnection data as a proxy.

ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: So what do you mean

1 by using it as a proxy? 2. So the disconnection MR. SINGH: 3 information includes arrearages that occur outside of the window that was defined for 5 CAP arrearages. So the disconnections data 6 will have more arrearages than what we will 7 actually use for CAP because that consists of 8 a window for arrearages. 9 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: (Muted.) 10 MR. SINGH: I believe you're on mute, 11 your Honor. 12 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you. You're 13 pointing this out to sort of preemptively 14 note the difference from what one might 15 observe in the disconnection --16 MR. SINGH: Absolutely. 17 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: I see. Okav. Great. 18 And then you were the first one to 19 reference a criteria for customers that are 20 at risk of disconnection, for prioritization 21 of customers, and relative to the orders in 2.2. the Decision 21-06-036, and action you're 2.3 taking with regard to customers who are in 2.4 arrears. Does that impact your 25 interpretation of what "at risk of 26 disconnection" means? 27 MR. SINGH: So that's a question many 2.8 of the IOUs had. We had portrayed that to

1 CSD because currently at risk of 2. disconnection, the moratorium period just 3 We will, of course, be placing these ended. customers on pay plans. So, technically, no 4 one per se is at risk of disconnection and 5 6 that is the first, kind of, need state. The 7 second need state is customers that have 8 60-days-plus arrearages and are not at risk 9 of disconnection; the third need state, 10 inactive customers, and the fourth being 11 commercial. 12 So we are just looking at different 13 options while we are awaiting further 14 quidance as far as can we incorporate all of 15 our CARE/FERA customers, which it looks like 16 we can; what it looks like for the total 17 population, and if we will even get to those 18 second, third, and fourth need states, which 19 it does not look like we will get to those 20 customers with the allocated funding. 21 Neil Singh, ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Yes. 2.2 you've also referenced further quidance, and 2.3 I know Laura Fulton also addressed this. Do 2.4 you have any specifics about the further 25 quidance that you referenced? 26 MR. SINGH: So we are currently in 27 touch with CSD regarding how we can apply

that, our interpretation. When we submit the

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survey, which in a nutshell just says, Hey, for these four buckets, these are the associated dollar amounts.

Is it on the utility to provide the customers we would like to provide these CAP arrearages to? Can we just take that upon ourselves to apply it to CARE/FERA first if we deem so or does it have to be in the spirit of the original legislature and we do not even look at our low-income customers in prioritizing them first because it's not specifically laid out.

ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: I appreciate that information. As the Commissioner started us off this morning saying that we are all being adaptive as conditions change. So I really appreciate you sharing this information even though it's subject to change.

MR. SINGH: Right.

ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: And on that note, when you say we're in discussion or negotiations with CSD, I'm trying to understand better the forum for those conversations, and if they are just direct between PG&E and CSD, if they are in coordination with any other utilities, which utilities --

MR. SINGH: Absolutely.

1 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: -- or other parties, 2. and do you have, like, another meeting scheduled or is it via written communication? 3 4 If you could just give us more specifics. 5 MR. SINGH: Sure. So we had a meeting -- by "we," I'm referring to all of 6 7 these large IOUs -- with CSD where we raised 8 some of these concerns. I'm not sure if any 9 of the other smaller utilities or anyone else 10 was on the call. I don't believe so. 11 And that is where we -- and we had a 12 couple of these meetings. That is where the 13 representative from one of the other IOUs 14 mentioned the implementation timelines and 15 dates of October 4th, December 6th, et 16 cetera. So all of the IOUs are collectively 17 in conversations with CSD through the webinar 18 format as well as some back and forth e-mails 19 that have occurred afterwards. 20 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you. 21 MR. SINGH: Also, just that one point 2.2 of clarification, the CPUC was also included 2.3 at the meeting, and there's another meeting 2.4 for the small municipal utilities upcoming 25 with CSD. 26 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you, Neil 27 I'm now going to ask California 28 Community Choice Association to give us

1 information about your participation in a 2. survey through CSD, and then I will turn to 3 the small energy utilities. 4 So, Evelyn Kahl, are you there? 5 MS. KAHL: Yes. Good morning, your 6 Honor. Evelyn Kahl for CalCCA. 7 CalCCA has been working with CSD as the IOUs have. We've met with them several 8 9 times, and we're scheduling a meeting with 10 the IOUs later this week and CSD, a joint 11 meeting, but the CCAs are not survey 12 respondents like the utilities are. So we 13 will not be reporting our arrearages. 14 utilities will be doing that, and then 15 breaking out the information in some way in 16 their survey results. And then the plan is for IOUs to 17 18 work with CCAs to allow them to validate 19 roughly what they're seeing in the IOU 20 numbers. So, essentially, the IOUs will say 21 to a CCA: Here's what I have for your 2.2. arrearages during this period. 2.3 At that point, the CCA will look at 2.4 its own billing system and make sure that 25 they're roughly validated, and then the CCA 26 is required to submit to CSD an attestation. 27 The attestations are currently due

on August 2nd, but we've been talking with

1 CSD about whether that date can be modified. 2. The surveys are not supposed to be modified 3 after August 9th. So, you, know the best I 4 can see it being modified out to is August 9th. 5 6 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Evelyn Kahl, those 7 two dates you mentioned, August 2nd and 8 August 9th, have passed. 9 MS. KAHL: Oh, I'm sorry. I have the 10 dates wrong. September 2nd. September 9th? I'm sorry. 11 12 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Take your time. 13 MS. KAHL: It's helpful -- it's 14 September, your Honor. 15 That is basically all I have to add 16 to the conversation. I think there's a lot 17 of work going on with CSD and we'll remain 18 involved. 19 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you. 20 So of the members of CalCCA, is 21 every single member doing this coordination 2.2 and participating in the meetings that you 2.3 referenced? 24 MS. KAHL: Yes. We had members of each 25 CCA of one or two in all of the discussions 26 with CSD, so they're all represented, and we 27 are also working out of CalCCA to coordinate 28

our own CCAs to respond to some of CSD's

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     questions.
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           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: We may come back to
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     you. I'll just simply pause in case there's
     other questions from the dais, and then we'll
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     turn to the smaller energy utilities.
               We's continue then with Southwest
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     Gas, Catherine Mazzeo, and if you know,
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     please let us know about the meeting between
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     CSD and the smaller utilities referenced by
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     Neil Singh.
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               (Audio feedback.)
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           MS. MAZZEO: Good morning, your Honor.
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     And maybe just to clarify on that point, I
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     believe the meeting Mr. Singh referenced --
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     and maybe he can clarify -- is for municipal
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     utilities. It's not for the small
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     multi-jurisdictional utilities. If it is,
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     we're not aware of it.
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           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: I must have misspoke,
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     and Mr. Singh, when you were talking about
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     utilities --
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               (Audio feedback.)
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           MR. SINGH: I believe there's a meeting
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     with --
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           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Let's go off the
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     record right now.
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               (Off the record.)
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           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Let's go back on the
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1 While we were off the record, I record. 2. asked Neil Singh from Pacific Gas & Electric if the allocation from CSD for Investor Owned 3 Utilities is discrete from the allocations 4 for municipal utilities, and he said, yes. 5 6 And now we'll have Catherine Mazzeo 7 with Southwest Gas speak. 8 MS. MAZZEO: Thank you, and hopefully 9 our echoing issues are resolved. If not, 10 please let me know. 11 Our understanding, at least of the 12 general information that's available, is the 13 same as what Mr. Lee and others have 14 articulated this morning. We also have been 15 in communication with CSD and are working to 16 complete the survey within the timeline 17 that's been discussed. 18 I know there was mention of IOU 19 meetings with CSD. I know from Southwest 20 Gas's perspective -- I don't want to speak 21 for the other smalls -- we'd, certainly, be 2.2. interested in either participating in those 2.3 meetings with CSD, if we're able to, or we 2.4 can also work separately with CSD if that's 25 their preference, but we also are hopeful to 26 maintain lines of communication with CSD as 27 we go through this.

ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Catherine Mazzeo --

1 (Audio feedback.) 2. ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Catherine Mazzeo, 3 please try muting, and let's see if that 4 resolves the echo problem. Sounds like it 5 did. Southwest Gas has not been present 6 7 at any meetings so far, I would say via 8 Webex, with CSD, and you're simply working on 9 information they're e-mailing you; is that 10 correct? 11 MS. MAZZEO: Yes. We've not been 12 involved in any meetings apart from just our 13 own conversations with them, and that's 14 generally the date that pertains to the 15 survey. 16 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you. Do you have a sense of whether the 17 18 available relief will cover the arrearages of 19 your customers? 20 MS. MAZZEO: We don't have a clear 21 sense at this time. I suspect that it will, 2.2. but subject to check. 2.3 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: (Muted.) 2.4 More details to why you expect that 25 it will. 26 MS. MAZZEO: I'm sorry. I missed the 27 beginning of your question. Are you asking 28 for more details?

1 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: I am. 2. MS. MAZZEO: Our arrears are smaller in 3 number than what you heard thus far this 4 morning, and I think we're going to likely 5 come under. Part of that, of course, depends 6 on what the ultimate allocation of funds is, 7 which we don't know yet. 8 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Let me clarify that 9 you do not report the arrearages in any 10 public forum on a regular basis; correct? 11 MS. MAZZEO: Correct. We are not 12 subject to the disconnect decision that has 13 prompted the reporting from the large 14 utilities. 15 (Audio feedback.) 16 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Is Southwest Gas 17 doing any arrearage reporting as part of 18 their transition? 19 MS. MAZZEO: We have built-in 20 reporting, at least with respect to the ERAP 21 and the reporting that came out of that, 2.2. which I understand is not public, but we do 2.3 still submit those e-mails every week. 2.4 don't believe -- I'm looking at some of my 25 colleagues here -- I don't believe we have 26 any public reporting. We do have a data 27 request, a monthly, standing data request

with COVID arrearages that we do submit.

1 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: That's helpful. 2. Thank you. 3 And let's turn to Jed Gibson 4 representing three small electric utilities. 5 MR. GIBSON: Good morning, your Honor. 6 So I don't have a whole lot to add in terms 7 of the extent that we expect the CAP relief 8 to cover arrearages. I don't have specific 9 information on that unfortunately. 10 We're in a similar -- the three 11 small electric utilities -- Bear Valley 12 Electric, Liberty Utilities and PacifiCorp --13 are in a similar position to what Southwest 14 Gas has described. We haven't had any kind 15 of joint meetings with CSD, but I know that 16 each of the utilities have been coordinating 17 with CSD directly. 18 We also, similarly, do not publicly 19 report arrearage data like the large IOUs do 20 as part of their monthly disconnection 21 reports. Those requirements were not for the 2.2. small and multi-jurisdictional electric 2.3 utilities. 24 And then I'm happy to try to address 25 any further questions that you may have. 26 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: I'd like to know if 27 any of your three electric utilities have any 28 past or future communication planned with

1 CSD. 2. MR. GIBSON: I know they have been 3 coordinating with CSD in the past. 4 personally don't have information about any 5 plans, meaning -- or follow-up with CSD at 6 this time. 7 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Again, if you provide 8 any information on a regular basis to the 9 Commission about arrearages? 10 MR. GIBSON: I believe as part of the 11 transition plan, there are regular updates 12 provided to the Commission, but my 13 understanding is those are not public. 14 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Are you able to be 15 more specific about those reports or do you 16 have anyone from any one of the three 17 electric utilities who could be more specific 18 about those reporting metrics? 19 I have not been involved MR. GIBSON: 20 personally with those reports, and I don't 21 believe anybody else -- panelists that can 2.2. present anything at this time. 2.3 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Okay. Well, we can 2.4 turn to other parties, but I would like you 25

turn to other parties, but I would like you to see if, during the time we're together this morning, you can ask one of three electric utilities about the extent of their reporting on arrearages to the Commission or

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1 otherwise on a regular basis, if we could 2. come back to that question. 3 MR. GIBSON: Certainly. ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: I think it would now 4 be helpful to hear from water utilities about 5 the same question. And I would like to start 6 7 with Lori Dolqueist from CWA to provide 8 information that may be applicable to all the 9 Class A Water Utilities, and then we can ask 10 them to fill in additional details after 11 that. 12 I'll start with Lori Dolqueist from 13 CWA, please. 14 MS. DOLQUEIST: Thank you, your Honor. 15 There are a few programs that water 16 utility customers have access to, and just 17 for kind of the way I keep my notes, I'm 18 going to refer to them by the agencies that 19 administer them. That's kind of how we keep 20 track of them. 21 So the first is the program that's 2.2. going to be administered by the State Water 2.3 Resources Control Board, and this is 24 \$1 billion, and last week the State Board 25 issued a survey to determine the current 26 amount of water utility customer arrearages. 27 The surveys will be open until 28 September 10th, and the Board is expected to

1 adopt a resolution and related guidelines in 2. mid-September, and then there will be an 3 application window within 14 days of that resolution. And the application will include 4 5 the amount the utility will be seeking on 6 behalf their customers. 7 So the assistance is provided to the 8 utility, and then it's provided to the 9 customer bill. And there is a limit to how 10 much, during the time period, where these 11 bills -- what bills it can be applied to. 12 I know it starts in March, and I 13 can't recall this, if it's May or June is the 14 kind of end date, but it's March 2020 through 15 either May or June 2021. So there is a time 16 period where the bills can be applied. 17 There's also some issues right now 18 that are being worked out regarding the 19 taxability of the state assistance for 20 customers to receive more than \$600. So I 21 think that's being -- that's one of the 2.2 things that the board is looking into, but 2.3 there's going to be a public webinar for the 24 State Board program on August 19th, and 25 that's where public and, you know, utilities 26 can learn more about both the program and the 27 survey that they're going to be sending out.

So that's the first program, the State Board

program.

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There's also the CSD program that has \$116 million. They submitted a plan to the federal government on August 9th, and this is going to be for water customers that will be funds administered similar to the LIHEAP program. So this only for low-income customers that are eligible for this funding.

For this, the distribution plan should be approved in September with the funds being distributed later, basically by late fall, and this plan currently suggests about a -- I think it's going to be a cap on assistance of \$1,000. And this is funds to provide assistance for both pre-COVID and current debt. So it's not -- you know, it can be applied to COVID arrearages, but it's not necessarily limited to that.

And then there's also the program through the Department of Housing and Community Development, their renter's program, where the customer applies directly to Housing and Community Development or a local public agency.

But this one, the funds are currently available, but there can be issues with this one because renters are not always direct water utility customers. So there's a

1 little bit of a disconnect there, but I do 2. know that the water company members have been 3 educating their customers about this program 4 through bill inserts and social media and 5 advertising, and things like that. So that's the overview of the 6 7 program, and then, you know, the individual 8 companies may have more information on their 9 specific arrearages or programs. 10 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you, Lori 11 Dolqueist. 12 Before we move to the individual 13 companies to talk about their specific 14 arrearages and also specific communication 15 and coordination with each of the agencies 16 you mentioned, I did want to ask you if you 17 have any comments on prioritization. 18 MS. DOLQUEIST: I don't have any 19 comments on that right now. Thank you, your 20 Honor. 21 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Now, let's then turn 2.2. to California Water Service, Greg Milleman, 2.3 please. 2.4 MR. MILLEMAN: Well, Lori pretty much 25 summed it up, what's going on with us. 26 have been planning on getting ready to --27 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Greg Milleman, just a

moment, please. Can you come closer to the

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Vol 3 - August 16, 2021 157 1 And also I'd like specifics about your mic. 2. arrearages, how those relate to what you 3 publicly report in the proceeding, and about 4 your communications with the agencies, 5 please. Oh, okay. Well, in 6 MR. MILLEMAN: 7 regards to our arrearages -- is the volume 8 better? 9 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Yes. 10 MR. MILLEMAN: In regard to arrearages, 11 we report those monthly as part of the 12 proceeding, and so those are on record with 13 the Commission. Our communications with the 14 agency, we have been at State Board speaking 15 with Darrin Polhemus to understand exactly 16 what would be required to complete these 17 surveys that have just come out. 18 We are in the process of gathering 19 the data that will be necessary to fill out 20 these surveys to the State Board. That is 21 the process where we've had the most 2.2 activity. The other, the CSD proceeding, we 2.3 are waiting to see what the rules come out on

And then in regards to the renter's assistance, we are partnering with some organizations in our various service territories or cities in order to get the

that before we apply for those funds.

1 word out to those customers that they can 2. apply for that rental assistance and helping 3 them out with that. 4 That's the report. Is there 5 anything else you'd like to ask? ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: I'd like to ask about 6 7 the data you said you're gathering, that the State Water Resources Control Board is asking 8 9 for, and how it differs from what you 10 currently report monthly in the proceeding. 11 MR. MILLEMAN: I don't have the details 12 on that so I can't give you a specific 13 answer. 14 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Okay. I do have 15 another question about the customer classes 16 for whom the State Water Resources Control 17 Board funding will be available. 18 MR. MILLEMAN: It will be for 19 That's pretty residential and commercial. 20 much what I know on it, but they are going to 21 put out guidelines, and I believe those 2.2. quidelines will direct us on how we need to 2.3 apply that money to our customer accounts. ] 2.4 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: I would like to 25 clarify which customer classes were subject 26 to the statewide water disconnection 27 moratorium in the last 18 months. 28 MR. MILLEMAN: That was clearly

1 residential. I'm hesitating because I know 2. for CalWater we did apply that 3 across-the-board to all our customers, but I'm not sure if the laws actually required us 4 5 to provide that to commercial. We don't have a definition in the 6 7 water industry of small business customers 8 like energies do so that we have basically 9 residential, multifamily, which would also be 10 considered residential, and then commercial, 11 public authority, or industrial. But we 12 applied the moratorium to all customer 13 classifications or the shutoff -- not 14 shutting off any customer classification. 15 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Greg Milleman, what 16 period of time did you not perform any 17 disconnections for nonpayment for commercial 18 customers? 19 MR. MILLEMAN: From March of 2020 20 continuing now. 21 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Okay. And lastly, 2.2. when you communicate with the State Water 2.3 Resources Board, are you coordinating with 2.4 other water utilities and which ones? 25 MR. MILLEMAN: California Water 26 Association, CWA. That is our trade 27 association group. We meet probably twice a 28 month, maybe more, to discuss these matters

1 and coordinate collectively as a group. 2. ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you so much. 3 I'd like the Golden State Water 4 representative, Joe Karp, if you could speak 5 to the same questions, please. 6 MR. KARP: Yes. Thank you, your Honor. 7 I think -- I don't really have much to add to what Mr. Milleman said. We also report our 8 9 arrearage information monthly to the 10 Commission. That's publicly available 11 information. I am aware that we have been 12 encouraging our customers to look into and 13 take advantage of the rental assistance funds 14 made available through the Housing and 15 Community Development agencies, and we have 16 received some funding from one county in that 17 respect already. I don't have anything 18 really more to say than that. 19 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Talk about your level 20 of arrearages and whether you anticipate the 21 funding sources will cover them and by how 2.2. much. 2.3 MR. KARP: Yes. So we have \$15.5 2.4 million of arrearages through July. We 25 currently don't have the data to determine 26 whether the available funds will cover the 27 entire amount. 28 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Is the 15.5 million

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     combined with all customer classes and do you
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     have a residential versus commercial
 3
     breakdown and can you please let us know
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     whether you've disconnected any commercial
     customers during the COVID period.
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                      So the 15.5 million does
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           MR. KARP:
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     cover both residential and commercial and it
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     is from March through now. I believe we have
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     not disconnected any customers during the
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     COVID period. And from the -- of the $15.5
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     million total, 6.5 million is for
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     nonresidential customers. We do distinguish
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     between residential and nonresidential
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     customers.
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           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: I think we'll turn to
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     California American Water Company, Wes Owens,
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     please.
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                       Good morning, your Honor.
           MR. OWENS:
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           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: I can hear you.
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     Thank you.
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           MR. OWENS:
                      Great. Yes, I mean
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     hopefully not to repeat ourselves too much,
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     but I think the Class A companies are a
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     little bit of the same boat. We are
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     reporting on a monthly basis, at least for
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     the past -- I want to say since fall of last
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     year we've been separating by residential,
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     nonresidential, and even residential CAP
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1 customers' arrearages. So that's all been 2. provided on a monthly basis. 3 The programs -- I think especially the program through the Water Resources 4 5 Control Board, the details are being worked out almost as we speak. I know there's a 6 7 workshop I think later this week actually run 8 by the State Water Resources Control Board. 9 I think the other thing I'd point out there, 10 which I'm sure you're aware of, but that 11 program will cover all -- I think there's a 12 customer count cutoff that I'm not aware -- I 13 don't know off the top of my head, but that's 14 going to cover most all water companies 15 across the state, not just 16 Commission-regulated. 17 So I think that's why it's a little 18 difficult for us to tell if the billion 19 dollars set aside in that program will be 20 sufficient to cover what portion of 21 arrearages for all water companies across the 2.2. state. 2.3 Regarding the question of will the 2.4 data we're providing to the CPUC as part of 25 our monthly reporting match what's provided 26 to the State Water Resources Control Board, 27 obviously the source of the data is the same.

I think that the kind of format of it, I'm

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1 not totally sure at this time. 2. I know that that's also something 3 that's being tested with the Water Resources 4 Control Board and their program, and I think 5 that it might be a good topic for discussion 6 at the Commission's data workshop that I 7 think is scheduled for the 25th that also 8 came out of this proceeding. 9 Were there other questions, your 10 Honor, that you were hoping I could address? 11 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: If you could give us 12 the ballpark number of arrearages at this 13 point for residential and nonresidential. 14 MR. OWENS: Absolutely. So our total 15 arrearages -- so this is as of July of 16 2021 -- total arrearages are 11.6 million, 17 residential is 9 million, and so the 18 nonresidential is 2.6 million. 19 And just to answer maybe your next 20 question, similar to California Water and 21 Golden State, we have maintained the 2.2. disconnection moratorium for all customers, 2.3 including commercial customers, since March 2.4 of 2020. 25 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Can you share with us 26 any more details about your choice to do

that? Was it in formation as an association

with CWA or was that each decision each made

1 independently? 2. MR. OWENS: My recollection, it was 3 each decision was made independently, but I 4 also recall it was, I think, a straightforward decision to make, especially 5 6 at that time when, you know, the pandemic was 7 really first getting going and I think we 8 were all kind of learning on the fly as we 9 went along and it just seemed like the right 10 thing to do. 11 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you. And then 12 you referenced a topic that you thought might 13 be suitable for the data reporting working 14 session being conducted by the Water Division 15 on August 25th and there is an opportunity 16 for interested stakeholders to suggest agenda 17 items topics, so have you made that 18 suggestion formally yet? 19 MR. OWENS: We have not made that 20 suggestion formally, no. 21 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Well, this status 2.2 conference is transcribed, so I suppose --2.3 Would you like -- is this MR. OWENS: 2.4 the -- this is the avenue then. Okay. Yes. 25 Then formally I think it would be good. 26 know that as sister agencies there is a 27 memorandum of understanding between the State 28 Water Resources Control Board and the CPUC,

1 so I'd imagine that we want to have 2. consistent data. And I think that works out 3 as a fantastic avenue to try to achieve that so, yes, I would formally recommend that. 4 5 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you, Wes Owens. 6 MR. OWENS: Thank you. 7 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: All right. I'm going 8 to pause again just in case we have other 9 questions from the dais, but then I will turn 10 next to San Gabriel and then Suburban and 11 finally Great Oaks. 12 MR. REIKER: Good morning, your Honor. 13 I'm Joel Reiker, Vice President Regulatory 14 Affairs for San Gabriel Valley Water Company. 15 Like the other Class A water companies who've 16 spoken to morning, San Gabriel implemented 17 the moratorium on disconnect for nonpayment 18 for all customer classes so that would be 19 residential and commercial. 20 That was effective, March 4, 2020, when the governor issued his executive order 21 2.2 and we continue to keep that moratorium in 2.3 place and will do so in accordance with the 2.4 Commission's direction on that. 25 We are continuing to report our 26 arrearages to the Commission. We currently 27 have approximately 5,000 customers who are

behind on their bills, and the total dollar

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amount of that is approximately \$2 million. We've been attending the workshops that have been held by CSD, HCD and we're going to be attending the workshop that the State Board is putting on later this week for their general program.

Along with that, we do have the survey that we will need to complete in order to be eligible for the State Board's funding. That is currently being worked on. I can tell you right now I have not seen it or looked at any of the questions.

I can also tell you that on the HCD rental relief program, when that first came out in April, we did outreach on that through our website, bill messaging inserts, and social media, and through our customer service commercial offices and we have been in continual contact with HCD regarding that program.

We learned from them that there was quite a bit of interest expressed by our customers, but as Ms. Dolqueist explained, that program is limited to renters — low-income renters, I believe, who actually pay a water bill. And as you can imagine, that significantly reduces the number of customers who would be eligible, customers of

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1 ours, because it's not very common for a 2. renter to receive a water bill directly. But. 3 I can tell you that in our most recent 4 communications with HCD, they did inform us that we're going to be receiving some initial 5 6 funding for some of our customers I believe 7 next week. 8 But, again, as far as whether or not 9 we think that the funding programs that are 10 available will be sufficient to cover our 11 arrearages, we certainly hope so, but I 12 think, as I sit here this morning, it's too 13 early to say and that's primarily because the 14 State Board's program, that's still in 15 development. 16 As you know, the surveys are to be 17 provided by September 10th and then on the 18 CSD program, the live-op program, that 19 program is currently being finalized and 20 we'll know much more about that by the end of 21 September. 2.2. I'm not sure if I addressed all of 2.3 your questions, but I can certainly try if I 24 missed anything.

ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: You provided some detail about the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and that you anticipate some funding. I did want to find out if you have any more

1 specifics about dollar amount or number of 2. customers for whom this funding will apply 3 and if this is strictly based on information directly from the state program or if it's 4 5 based on information from your customers 6 directly. 7 MR. REIKER: Okay. We received -- like 8 I said, we've been in contact with HCD 9 regarding this program and they informed us 10 back -- I believe it was in May -- that we 11 had approximately 25 customers in each 12 We have two divisions, so 50 division. 13 customers had expressed interest at that 14 The total dollar amount that was 15 related to those requests was in excess of 16 \$10,000. 17 But as I explained, the program 18 is -- the eligible customers are limited. So 19 what they informed us -- I believe it was 20 last week -- was that they're going to be 21 issuing their first checks for our customers 2.2. and it's only going to be for two customers 2.3 who have made it through the application 24 process thus far, and the total dollar amount 25 is going to be under \$500 for those two 26 customers. But I do understand that they are 27 continuing to process applications. 28 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Joel Reiker, based on

1 your experience with this program, do you 2. have any lesson learned for moving forward 3 with the other two relief programs or any suggestions that you think you could carry 4 5 forward in interacting with state agencies to secure relief for your customers? 6 MR. REIKER: Well, I think our 7 8 association has been tremendously helpful in 9 not just -- just in general matters, but 10 specifically with the COVID response in 11 coordinating and helping us communicate with 12 state agencies. And just as they've 13 represented us this morning, they do 14 represent us before the various state 15 agencies in certain capacities. 16 And for a company like San Gabriel, 17 we might appear to be a large, Class A 18 company, but we're really -- we're really 19 not. We really do rely on CWA to represent 20 us and help us through a lot of these issues 21 and representing us before state agencies. 2.2. And I think the associations -- I 2.3 can speak for the water industry -- but even 2.4 for the other industries, I imagine the 25 industry associations are tremendously 26 helpful in presenting kind of a united front 27 before the state agencies because what we do

is we meet regularly internally with our

1 association and we coordinate how we're going 2. to present ourselves before the state 3 agencies, and they do an excellent job. 4 I think at the end of the day it results in more efficiency, maybe we have a 5 6 little higher profile than we otherwise would 7 Those are my thoughts on that. Not 8 sure what else. That's pretty much it. 9 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you, Joel 10 Reiker. Yes, it is important to acknowledge 11 you are a Class A water utility and yet 12 there's a diversity of size and geography 13 amongst water utilities and the approach may 14 need to vary for the water industry, so 15 that's all quite relevant here. 16 Now, at the same time, despite the smaller size of some of the Class A water 17 18 utilities and also some of the smaller 19 electric and gas utilities, each experience 20 here is very important because, as we know, 21 interagency coordination is not necessarily 2.2. streamlined without these types of 2.3 conversations. 2.4 So I do want to now turn to -- I 25 said we would hear next from Suburban. 26 Please introduce yourself and describe your 27 arrearage situation.

MS. BORDELON: Good morning. My name

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1
     is Carmelitha Bordelon with Suburban Water
     Systems. I'm the Director of Regulatory. My
 2.
 3
     colleagues here have summed it up quite
 4
     nicely so I won't repeat everything they've
     said, but of course we've been reporting our
 5
     arrearages monthly like the other utilities.
 6
 7
               Currently we have right at
     1.62 million in arrearages. Of that, about
 8
     1.4 is residential. At this point we don't
 9
     know how much of that balance would be
10
11
     covered by the funds that are available.
                                                We
12
     won't know until we know how much will be
13
     allocated to Suburban.
14
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Can you let us
15
     know about the different customer classes, if
16
     they've all had their disconnections --
17
               (Crosstalk.)
18
           MS. BORDELON: Since the beginning
19
     of -- like the other water utilities, we've
20
     suspended disconnections for all customer
21
     classes. Both residential and business
2.2.
     customers have not been disconnected since
2.3
     March of 2020, and we're still not doing
2.4
     disconnections at this point.
25
               I'm sorry, you're on mute at the
26
     moment.
27
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA:
                              Thank you.
28
               I don't have any other questions and
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1
     if we could hear from Tim Guster with Great
 2.
     Oaks, please.
 3
                        Good morning, your Honor.
           MR. GUSTER:
 4
     Great Oaks Water Company has been reporting
 5
     monthly as required in this particular
 6
     rulemaking proceeding. In fact, we started
 7
     voluntarily reporting past due bills to the
     Water Division prior to the required
 8
 9
     reporting.
10
               Our reports are broken down into
11
     zero to 30, 30 to 60, 60 to 90, 90 to 120,
12
     and over 120 days past due. At this present
13
     time, and based upon the State Water Board
14
     survey question, which related to water
15
     service provided during the March 4, 2020, to
16
     June 15, 2021, period, total arrearages are
17
     $616,952.06. Of that, 505,228.50 are
18
     residential, both single family and
19
     multifamily, and 111,723.56 are
20
     nonresidential or commercial.
21
               That's up through last Friday.
2.2.
     terms of disconnections when the pandemic
2.3
     began, we had no customers who had been
24
     disconnected actually since the end of 2019,
25
     and that remains the case today, consistent
26
     with what all of the other Class A utilities
27
     have been reporting here today.
28
               I believe that through the
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1 California Water Association, the Public 2. Utilities Commission was advised that the 3 water utilities would be applying the disconnection moratorium across-the-board. In terms of communications on the various 5 6 arrearage relief programs, obviously through 7 CWA and its executive director, Jennifer 8 Capitolo, we've been very active. 9 incredibly effective in what she's doing. 10 I have also been involved in all of 11 the webinars and various communications 12 programs for these arrearage relief programs 13 to stay up to date as possible. Do you have 14 any questions? 15 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you. That was 16 comprehensive. 17 MR. GUSTER: Thank you. 18 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: I'm going to mention 19 to the water utilities and stakeholders in 20 the water proceeding that Water Division does 21 prefer to receive agenda items for the data 2.2. reporting working session directly as 2.3 directed in the e-mail to the service list. 2.4 So please do forward those items directly to 25 Water Division. 26 Now let me go through our remaining 27 I would like you to comment on 28 interagency coordination based on what you've

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1
     heard from the energy and water utilities'
 2.
     experience at this point. After that, we
 3
     will take a 10-minute break, and then we will
     go through the party list one more time with
 4
 5
     regards to concerns about scope of the next
     phases, schedule, and housekeeping items.
 6
               So with that, I will start again
 7
 8
     with our nonutility parties.
 9
               National Consumer Law Center, if you
10
     have any comments on coordination with regard
11
     to arrearage relief based on what you've
12
     heard. Charlie Harak.
13
           MR. HARAK: No comments at this time.
14
     Thank you, your Honor.
15
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Paul Goodman with
16
     Center For Accessible Technology.
17
           MR. GOODMAN: Thank you, your Honor.
18
     Very briefly, I think the question of whether
19
     the funds available will cover arrearages
20
     depends partially on how much the IOUs
21
     include shareholder contributions. Other
2.2.
     than that, C4AT has no comments.
2.3
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: All right. Public
2.4
     Advocates Office.
25
           MS. MERZA: Your Honor, we didn't have
26
     any comments on interagency coordination.
27
     Thank you.
28
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you. I'd
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1 actually like to ask the remaining parties on 2. this call if you could type into the chat if 3 you do have a comment on interagency coordination moving forward and that way I 4 don't have to call everybody on the list and 5 6 I can just call those parties who wish to 7 address this issue. 8 So we'll just pause for a moment and 9 I'll see if I see any names into the chat box 10 right now from our parties. And at this 11 time, while people are writing in, I do want 12 to compliment everyone on how efficiently 13 you're using our remote Webex forum with the 14 sound and the video. I think it's going 15 very, very well. I appreciate everyone's 16 attention to it. 17 I have no other parties who wish to 18 address the issue of interagency 19 coordination, but luckily Jed Gibson, 20 representing the small electric utilities, 21 can provide updates about their arrearages. 2.2. I'd like to turn to him now. 2.3 Yes. Thank you, your MR. GIBSON: 24 Honor. You had a follow-up question 25 regarding arrearage reporting done by the 26 small electric utilities. They do provide 27 responses to an ongoing monthly data request 28 to the PUC that provides arrearage

1 information by customer type, as well as by length of arrearage. Again, that's provided 2. 3 on a monthly basis. 4 If you're interested, I have some updated -- well, some fairly recent numbers 5 6 for PacifiCorp and Bear Valley if that is 7 something you'd be interested in at this 8 time. 9 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: I'm interested 10 because these numbers don't get reported 11 publicly, so please do share that 12 information. 13 MR. GIBSON: Certainly. So for 14 PacifiCorp through June of 2021, they have 15 total arrearages of about \$10.5 million. Of 16 that, about \$5.5 million is residential, and 17 about 2.5 million is commercial. 18 For Bear Valley, they had arrearages 19 of around a little over \$750,000, the bulk of 20 that is residential. Nearly a little under 21 650,000 of that is residential, and 2.2. commercial is around 40,000. 2.3 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you. We are at 24 10:32 now. I'd like to take a 10-minute 25 break until 10 -- let's take a 13-minute 26 break until 10:45. You can just shut off 27 your screens and your sound and we'll leave

this conference room and we're going to go

1 off the record. 2. (Off the record.) ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: We'll be back on the 3 4 record. I would like to review the scope of 5 Stage III in the Water Rulemaking and scope 6 of Stage II in the Energy Rulemaking, as well 7 as the schedule, and then I will go through 8 the party list and see if there's concerns 9 with the scope or comments on the schedule. 10 Let's turn first to the scope of the 11 energy proceeding. Commissioner Guzman 12 Aceves issued a ruling on July 29th, and in 13 it the scope of the second phase of 14 R.21-02-014 includes how best to leverage the 15 available relief funding; whether 16 supplemental relief for small business 17 customers in particular is necessary; and if 18 so, through which type of relief mechanism; 19 making a permanent determination of the 20 allocations of partial payments on 21 COVID-19-related arrearages; implementation 2.2 issues, if any, relating to the new 2.3 legislation affecting COVID-19 arrearage 24 relief; including, but not limited to the 25 Budget Act, the Trailer Bill, and AB 832 26 enacted since the Decision 21-06-036 was 27 issued in June; and, fifth, if any, what outstanding barriers, gaps, improvements in 28

1 documentation, and partnerships remain with 2. Community-Based Organizations in order to 3 make sure that the hardest-to-reach customers 4 navigate important relief programs. 5 Now, turning to the Water Rulemaking, and you'll notice several of 6 7 scoped issues are similar, which is why we 8 decided to coordinate these proceedings. 9 First, how best to leverage 10 available relief funding; whether 11 supplemental relief funding is necessary; 12 what, if any, further improvements to water 13 affordability are needed; and, finally, 14 implementation issues, if any, relating to 15 the new legislation affecting water 16 affordability, including, but not limited to 17 Senate Bill 998, AB 401, and Senate Bill 139 18 enacted since this rulemaking was initiated 19 in 2017. 20 Both rulings contain the scope and 21 schedules for these two proceedings, 2.2. contained schedules, and there was a 2.3 correction made to the energy proceeding 2.4 schedule that was issued via e-mail ruling on 25 August 3rd. And so I will start with that 26 schedule, and we're just going to talk about 27 the dates set for August and September 28 because beyond that, we didn't have specific

1 dates because we'll be waiting for comments 2. on these scoped issues as well as questions 3 issued in a ruling also issued July 29th, and the comments to those questions and those 4 5 issues are due on September 13th. schedule will be made after those comments 6 7 come in. 8 But for August and September, after 9 today, in the Energy Rulemaking on August 10 27th, we have briefs due on scoped Issue 7. 11 I'm going to pause briefly because I 12 heard from David Cheng with TURN that you 13 cannot see my video any longer, and I'll just 14 ask if IT could let me know if you can see my 15 video. 16 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: You're 17 visible now. 18 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you. 19 All right. Going through the 20 schedule again, after August 27th in Energy, 21 we had the utilities' joint advice letter 2.2. filing documenting or at least showing a 2.3 template of how they will document their 24 networks and relationships with 25 Community-Based Organizations. That will be 26 filed on August 30th, and should also be 27 served on parties to the Energy Rulemaking as 28 well, so others can see that filing.

1 And then, finally, on September 2. 13th -- and this is a due date for parties to 3 both proceedings -- comments on the rulings 4 setting the joint status conference and 5 ordering comments, and that will be the basis for moving forward after that. 6 7 Turning to the schedule in the water 8 proceeding, there are a few informal dates 9 that I'll include here that were mentioned 10 earlier this morning. First is the August 11 19th webinar, about the survey being 12 conducted by the State Water Resources 13 Control Board. Then we also have the data 14 reporting working session on August 25th at 15 9:00 a.m. in the morning conducted by the 16 Water Division about data reporting work 17 issues, and that will be the first of at 18 least four working sessions. 19 And, finally, again, the September 20 13th due date for comments on the scope and 21 on the questions issued in the ruling on July 2.2. 29th. 2.3 All right. I am going to go down 24 the list of parties, and I will start with 25 the utilities again, and then turn to other 26 parties in this proceeding. 27 And so let's, again, start with 28 Southern California Edison, please.

1 MR. GOMEZ: Thank you, your Honor. 2. We do not have any comments on the 3 scope or schedule at this time and appreciate 4 the opportunity to come here today and speak 5 with you all. That's helpful. 6 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: 7 I'm going to add one more question. 8 Specific to the reason for holding this joint 9 status conference, do you see any area with 10 regard to inter-industry coordination either 11 with securing arrearage relief for the water 12 and energy customers or with regard to the 13 low-income programs and streamlining those 14 programs? 15 If you don't mind, I'll let you come 16 back to this question, Southern California 17 Edison, and we'll turn back to San Diego Gas 18 & Electric, Laura Fulton. 19 Thank you, your Honor. MS. FULTON: 20 San Diego Gas & Electric has no 21 comments on the scope of the proceeding or 2.2 proposed schedule. Again, we welcome the 2.3 discussion. 24 Could you clarify the questions that 25 you just asked Mr. Gomez? 26 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Yes, thank you. 27 We are holding this status 28 conference today with water companies and

1 interested stakeholders to the Water 2. Rulemaking as well as the Energy Rulemaking with the idea if there were any areas for 3 inter-industry coordination in securing 5 relief for supporting and bolstering low-income programs that areas for that 6 7 coordination could be mentioned here. 8 And so I'm just giving parties an 9 opportunity to mention it if they would like 10 to. Of course, it's something that can be 11 addressed in the September 13th comments as 12 well. 13 MS. FULTON: And San Diego Gas & 14 Electric will provide more detail on this 15 issue in the September 13th comments, but 16 from the feedback we received from 17 stakeholders here today, it does sound like 18 there are two distinct programs working in 19 many ways for the utility versus the water 20 organization. 21 And while, you know, we, obviously, 2.2. welcome the opportunity to coordinate where 2.3 necessary, I think the focus of the CAP 2.4 program is to expedite relief to our 25 customers and get relief in a way that 26 reaches them as quickly as possible so they 27 no longer have the shadow of these arrears

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hanging over them.

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So the hope -- I believe the intent of the CAP program is to be as efficient a process as can be. So, hopefully, you know, while we welcome any discussions that the Commission deems necessarily, the hope is not to also overburden it in many ways, perhaps, with too much coordination in an effort to gain ground.

I do think that where we may see a

I do think that where we may see a lot of benefit between the large electric utilities, and it sounds like we may be able to achieve a lot of coordination with the smaller and multi-jurisdictional utilities, who sound like they've had some separate conversations with CSD, and on that front, may help us all in that respect as well, but, obviously, we'll get into a little bit more detail on that in our September 13th comments.

And I did want to add one relevant theme I do think that informs us is for the CAP funding, the utilities are expected to have received as a deadline for that is January 31st, 2022, and then there is a 60-day window during which the utilities will distribute that to customers.

So I think that informs, again, how the legislature has expressed an intention to

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1 have a very quick process, you know, that 2. fixes, perhaps, some of the issues that we 3 may have seen in the emergency rental assistance program, which has taken a little 4 5 bit longer to reach customers as has been reported in the papers and in other areas. 6 7 So I think by making sure that we 8 get relief into customers' hands as quickly 9 as possible remains San Diego Gas & 10 Electric's focus to help people recover from 11 this time and move forward, hopefully, as 12 cases begin to drop again in the fall, 13 fingers crossed. 14 Laurie Fulton, thank ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: 15 you for flagging especially the opportunity, 16 perhaps, for a little bit more coordination 17 between the energy large Investor-Owned 18 Utilities and the smaller Investor-Owned 19 Utilities since that did come out in the 20 first round of comments. So I do hope that 21 all of the energy utilities can take note of 2.2 that area for coordination.

And, secondly, on your point about the 60th day following the distribution of relief from the CAP program, I do want to clarify that that is 60 days after the date relief is distributed and not after January 31st; is that correct?

1 You know, I am not MS. FULTON: 2. entirely certain. I think that the relief --3 the statute sets forth the deadline as -- but I do think the utilities have 60 days to distribute it after receiving it from CSD, 5 and to apply it to the customer's account. 6 7 I would have to double-check the 8 actual statutory language, but it's my 9 understanding that I think it's from receipt 10 of the fund. I don't think there is a second 11 deadline, which I guess would be March 31st, 12 probably, that all funds have to be 13 distributed by March 31st. I think it is the 14 case, but that's subject to confirmation, a 15 second read. 16 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: (Muted.) 17 MS. FULTON: You're on mute, your 18 Honor. I'm sorry. 19 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you. And let's 20 turn to Southern California Gas, please. 21 MS. LEE: Thank you, your Honor. 2.2. SoCalGas agrees with the topics 2.3 scoped into the proceeding and the 2.4 Commission's schedule. We thank the 25 Commission for its efforts to identify ways 26 to leverage federal and state funding and to 27 strengthen inter-industry coordination to 28 support bill relief, and we look forward to

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1 participating in this stage of the 2. proceeding. 3 I'll also note that SoCalGas and 4 SDG&E are both parties to the water proceeding, and we agree with the scoped 5 6 topics and the schedule. 7 With respect to your question about 8 scheduling inter-industry coordination to 9 support utility bill relief, we know that 10 SoCalGas currently works with the water 11 agencies by conducting data sharing to help 12 enroll water and energy customers who are 13 income qualified into programs. 14 We currently share information with 15 the water utilities twice a year and we are 16 in the process of increasing the frequency to 17 four times a year. We believe the proposed 18 central repository in the water decision can 19 help support utility bill relief, but this 20 doesn't allow for immediate relief, rather 21 this is a longer-term solution. 2.2. SoCalGas believes that one effective 2.3 way to strengthen inter-industry coordination 24 is by cross-promoting programs. We currently 25 cross-promote other programs including 26 LIHEAP, California Lifeline, Affordable

Broadband, ERAP, among others; however, there

are impediments with the energy utilities

1 cross-promoting other programs. 2. First, we're not permitted to use 3 funds that have been approved through other 4 budgets, including the low-income budget to 5 promote additional programs such as utility bill relief. 6 7 Next, while SoCalGas welcomes 8 cross-promoting utility relief programs with 9 other entities such as the water utilities, 10 we have limited real estate on our existing 11 materials, including bill inserts, website, 12 and e-mail. 13 We should continue to build upon our 14 current efforts, including the Arrearage 15 Management Program, COVID-19 Relief Payment 16 Plans, and partnering with other agencies and 17 organizations. 18 SoCalGas is always looking for help 19 where we can within the regulatory construct 20 of our respective programs. We welcome the 21 water utilities' input on how they believe we 2.2. can additionally support utility bill relief. 2.3 Thank you. 24 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you for 25 highlighting those areas. 26 And Pacific Gas & Electric. MR. HUERTA: Yes, Jerry Huerta with 27

PG&E. With respect to the process, the

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1 procedural schedule of the process, we have 2. no comment. And we are appreciative of this 3 proceeding to move forward so that we can 4 work towards getting needed relief to 5 customers. 6 We're in agreement as well with 7 respect to coordination as suggested by Ms. Fulton. We believe that it should be 8 efficient coordination so that we can move 9 10 expeditiously, particularly with respect to the CAP relief provided by the legislature 11 12 and work towards getting the needed relief to 13 those customers. Beyond that, I have no 14 further comments at this time. 15 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you. 16 We'll turn to California Community 17 Choice Association, Evelyn Kahl. 18 I guess I have one question MS. KAHL: 19 with respect to process and no comments with 20 respect to the interactions of the industry 21 programs. When I look at the schedule, it 2.2. shows a Commission Decision issued June 24, 2.3 2021, and I don't see any other decisions, 2.4 interim decisions, on the list; is that 25 correct? 26 I guess, my question goes to, with

respect to all of those things we're trying

to sort through for CSD disbursements, which

1	have to happen by the end of January.
2	Are you anticipating a decision or
3	ruling or how will the Commission's input to
4	that process and any cleanup be handed?
5	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: I may have misheard
6	you, but did you say something about June
7	2021 or are you talking about
8	MS. KAHL: So when do you anticipate
9	the decision on the issues, like on Issue 7?
10	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Right now that's on
11	schedule for October 2021. So do you have a
12	further question about that?
13	MS. KAHL: No, I don't, your Honor.
14	Thank you.
15	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you.
16	And, yes. Southwest Gas, Catherine
17	Mazzeo, please.
18	MS. MAZZEO: Thank you, your Honor.
19	Southwest Gas has no comments on the
20	scope or the schedule. I do agree with
21	Ms. Fulton that it looks like there may be
22	some opportunity for the IOUs and the small
23	multi-jurisdictional utilities to coordinate
24	and share information, and we do that
25	successfully in other arenas, so I don't
26	think that should be a problem.
27	
_ ′	We don't have anything specific to

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     coordination with the water utilities, but
 2.
     certainly willing to explore those
 3
     opportunities and look forward to talking
     with those stakeholders as well on how we
 4
 5
     might be able to collaborate.
               That's all from Southwest Gas's
 6
 7
     perspective. I do appreciate everyone's time
 8
     this morning, and the information that was
     provided on this call as well.
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10
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA:
                              Thank you.
11
               We have Jed Gibson representing the
12
     small electric utilities.
13
           MR. GIBSON:
                        Thank you, your Honor.
14
               We have no comments regarding the
15
     scope or the schedule. We would just echo
16
     that we think it could be helpful for
17
     additional coordination amongst the energy
18
     utilities, plus the large and the small
19
     multi-jurisdictional, particularly to the
20
     extent there is meetings or discussions with
21
     CSD regarding how the arrearages should be
2.2.
     addressed and relief provided; otherwise, no
2.3
     additional comments.
2.4
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA:
                              (Muted.)
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           MR. GIBSON: I believe you're on mute,
26
     your Honor.
27
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA:
                             Thank you.
28
               Let's turn to California Water
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1 Association. 2. Thank you, your Honor. MS. DOLQUEIST: This Lori Dolqueist for California Water 3 4 Association. On the first issue of coordination, we certainly support the 5 6 earlier discussion that it's probably worth 7 exploring the opportunities for 8 cross-promotion, what opportunities exist, 9 and also what road blocks may prevent that 10 because we do think that would be very 11 helpful to be able to cross-promote programs 12 that benefit both water and energy customers. 13 Another issue I'd like to tee up is 14 this one that we'll be bringing up in more 15 detail in our comments on September 13th is 16 that it may be time to explore data sharing 17 with the smaller water companies. 18 Currently the data sharing is with 19 the Class A water utilities, and it is 20 incredibly helpful. It has helped provide 21 for an extension of the low-income programs 2.2. for water utilities. It's been a great 2.3 resource in helping water utilities identify 2.4 eligible customers, and it may be time to 25 explore whether this data sharing is possible 26 or could be helpful to some of the 27 smaller-sized water utilities. 28 There could be, you know, issues

1 regarding capacity, technological issues, 2. logistical issues, but that would help these 3 small companies that don't currently have low-income programs to get that information 4 5 from the energy companies, and it may help them, you know, target informational 6 7 materials or others for some of the, you 8 know, relief programs that may be targeted 9 specifically to low-income customers. So I 10 just wanted to raise that issue, and, again, 11 we'll provide more detail on that in our 12 September comments. 13 So the other thing I wanted to bring 14 up was on the procedural schedule issues on 15 the scoping memo, and we don't have any 16 issues related to the scope or the schedule, 17 but we do have a concern regarding the 18 categorization of the proceeding. 19 CWA did timely file this in the 20 water proceeding. We'd note that currently 21 the water proceeding is categorized as 2.2 quasi-legislative, and the energy proceeding 2.3 is currently categorized as ratesetting, 24 despite the fact that when you read over the 25 issues just now, and also as you noted in 26 your July 29th ruling that there's 27 significant overlap in the proceedings, and 28 we would note that both the proceedings,

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     based on the scoped issues, are probably
 2.
     equally likely to raise ratesetting issues,
 3
     which investigate rates specific for
 4
     utilities or ratesetting mechanisms for
 5
     utilities.
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               So we would recommend that they have
 7
     the same categorization because they are
 8
     dealing with the same types of issues and we
 9
     anticipate the same types of actions, and we
10
     would also note that since you have us filing
11
     comments in both proceedings, you know,
12
     dealing with the same issues, there are
13
     concerns about inconsistent ex parte rules,
14
     and that different ex parte rules apply to
15
     ratesetting proceedings and quasi-legislative
16
     proceedings.
17
               And, again, we brought that up in
18
     our filing last Monday.
                              I have no further
19
     comments, your Honor.
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           COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: May I ask
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     a follow-up question to that?
2.2.
               Lori, you mentioned consistency
2.3
     where they can both become ratesetting.
                                               Is
24
     there a policy reason in your preferring
25
     ratesetting?
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                           Under the Commission's
           MS. DOLOUEIST:
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     rules, you know, the ratesetting proceedings
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     are defined in a particular way and they
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1 investigate rates for utilities or deal with 2. ratesetting mechanisms that will affect 3 utility rates, and based upon the issues both 4 raised in the July 29th ruling, some of the questions asked, and also the questions -- or 5 I guess the issues raised by the scope, it's 6 our belief that they're -- you could have 7 8 ratesetting actions apply, certainly, from 9 the water proceeding, and I would imagine 10 similar to the energy proceeding. 11 So our preference is ratesetting 12 because we do believe it will instigate 13 ratesetting issues and result in ratesetting 14 actions the way they are currently scoped. 15 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: Maybe I'll 16 ask it this way: What is the additional 17 protections that you believe you're gaining 18 from this becoming a ratesetting proceeding? 19 MS. DOLQUEIST: So a ratesetting 20 proceeding, as you know, ex parte reporting 21 applies to ratesetting proceedings to provide 2.2. more information to the parties. There are 2.3 also additional issues related to potential, 2.4 if necessary, for evidentiary hearings, and 25 other procedural protections that are 26 available between the two types of 27 proceedings.

Okav.

I'd

COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES:

1 be interested if now or later any other 2. parties have a perspective on that. 3 Thank you. 4 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you both. Lori Dolqueist, we'll make note of 5 6 all those scope issues, plus the motion, 7 which we also have received and are 8 considering. 9 And parties who are going to speak 10 next, please note that as Commissioner asked, 11 you can add this to items you're going to 12 speak to. 13 So I think we have California Water 14 Service next, please. 15 MR. MILLEMAN: Hello. For Cal Water, I 16 would just echo what Lori said in regards to 17 her comments. Other than that, we have no 18 comments on the scope or schedule other than 19 what we'll put in our September 13th written 20 comments. 21 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you. 2.2. Golden State Water. 2.3 Thank you. This is Joe MR. KARP: 24 Karp. We have nothing further to add to what 25 Ms. Dolqueist said. We do support CWA's 26 motion to re-categorize the water proceeding 27 as a ratesetting proceeding. 28 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: All right.

1	California American Water, Mr. Owen.
2	MR. OWEN: Hello, your Honor.
3	Yes. No further comments on the
4	scope and we support the CWA motion as well.
5	Thank you for the time today.
6	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: San Gabriel Water
7	Company, Joel Reiker.
8	MR. REIKER: Thank you, your Honor.
9	Joel Reiker, San Gabriel.
10	We have no comments on the scope or
11	schedule, and we have no comments in addition
12	to what Ms. Dolqueist said. Thank you.
13	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you, your
14	Honor. We have no further comments at this
15	time. ]
16	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Great Oaks, Tim
17	Guster.
18	MR. GUSTER: Thank you, your Honor. We
19	have no additional comments and Great Oaks
20	supports the CWA motion regarding
21	categorization. Thank you.
22	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: All right. We're
23	going to go to parties other than the
24	utilities. We'll go back to National
25	Consumer Law Center.
26	
	MR. HARAK: Thank you, your Honor.
27	MR. HARAK: Thank you, your Honor.  Charles Harak for NCLC. We have a couple of

1 scope I'm referring to the July 29th 2. Commissioner's and ALJ's ruling and ending 3 scope. 4 On page 3 where it lists some of the 5 programs, we think it would be helpful to 6 specifically name the Low Income Home Energy 7 Assistance Program and the new Low Income 8 Household Water Assistance Program since 9 those are pretty large programs and relevant 10 to helping people pay their bills. They 11 weren't really excluded, but I think it would 12 help if we would all focus on those. 13 On the schedule again, referring to 14 the same order of the schedule, it appears in 15 that third amended scope, there's a 16 possibility of workshops in September or 17 since now, as it would probably be useful to 18 have workshops and it may be useful to allow 19 some kind of comment after the workshops, I 20 will say as a nonutility party, we tend to 21 learn a tremendous amount through this kind 2.2. of forum, as well as workshops, and that 2.3 might create an opportunity for comments that 24 would be useful for all parties and the 25 Commission as well. So those are our two 26 suggestions on scope and schedule. 27 And last, the question you raised 28 about industry coordination, I'll just amend

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1 that a bit and just observe that at the 2. National Consumer Law Center we have noticed 3 across the country that with the proliferation of programs in California -- of 4 5 course I did add some state programs onto the many federal programs that are available --6 7 it has been hard for consumers in a COVID 8 environment to apply. 9 Sometimes it's hard to get documents 10 or information, and so I'd just say we find 11 this kind of discussion that's happening 12 today incredibly helpful and that we would 13 welcome having workshops and further 14 discussion. 15 I would suggest it's not only useful 16 for nonutility parties, but certainly some 17 utilities find out some way to do certain key 18 tasks better, and then they share that 19 information about how to have the right 20 discussion with the state agency, how to get 21 the word out to the community, how to make it 2.2. easier for people to get that assistance.

So I guess I'm really saying we fully support the discussion we're having today, we fully appreciate it, and would welcome other opportunities to have similar discussions.

ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Charlie Harak, thank

1 you for saying that. 2. But on that note, we did have 3 tentatively, if necessary, a workshop 4 scheduled for September 2021. We can take 5 back what we've heard today, but the topic for that would have been expediting relief. 6 7 I also will note Laura Fulton's comments 8 about, you know, expediting relief may be the 9 types of nonworkshop communications that 10 different utilities have reported so far. 11 So if there was to be a different 12 workshop topic, I do hope that in your 13 September 13 comments you can suggest it, not 14 necessarily for September, or you can address 15 whether a workshop is most expeditious for 16 our number one priority, which is the 17 arrearage relief. 18 MR. HARAK: We'll think about that and 19 make appropriate comments. Thank you very 20 much. 21 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: We have next Paul 2.2. Goodman with Center For Accessible 2.3 Technology. 24 MR. GOODMAN: Thank you, your Honor. 25 C4AT shares NCLC's position and I have 26 nothing further to add. 27 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Public Advocates 28 Office?

1 MS. SHEK: Thank you, your Honor. 2. don't have any comments regarding the scope 3 or the schedule. Regarding the current categorization, Cal Advocates continues to 4 5 see this as a water proceeding that is developing policies as we learn more about 6 7 state and federal funding programs, and this 8 we continue to support as a quasi-legislative 9 proceeding. Thank you. 10 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you for 11 addressing that topic as well. 12 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: Judge 13 Watts-Zagha, just as a follow-up, if there 14 could be a little more explanation of the 15 value of protection that is seen by retaining 16 it as a quasi-legislative proceeding. Thank 17 you. 18 MS. SHEK: Thank you, Commissioner. 19 In a quasi-legislative 20 categorization, it really allows the various 21 parties to share information freely and 2.2. without the need to follow up with 2.3 back-and-forth reporting as unnecessary when 2.4 information is shared freely amongst all 25 parties. 26 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Actually I'd like to 27 ask Selina Shek if there's any concern from

the Public Advocates Office about different

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1
     categorizations for these two related
 2.
     rulemakings.
           MS. SHEK: I'm not aware of a problem
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 4
     or a conflict we have with having these
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     separate categorizations.
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           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Let's turn to --
 7
     (muted.)
           MS. MERZA: Your Honor? This is Ritta
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 9
     Merza. I just wanted to note that I'm
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     representing Cal Advocates on the energy
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     proceeding. And with respect to that, with
12
     respect to the energy proceeding, Cal
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     Advocates has no additional comments.
                                            Thank
14
     you.
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           COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES:
                                        Judge
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     Watts-Zagha it's very hard to hear you.
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: I hope this is
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18
     better. Okay. Let's turn now to the
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     Greenlining Institute, Mad Stano for any
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     comments.
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           MR. CHENG: Oh, sorry, your Honor.
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2.2.
     think you called on me earlier.
2.3
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: I cannot tell who was
24
     speaking.
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           MR. CHENG: Oh, this is TURN.
                                          Did
26
     you -- I think you called on TURN previously,
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     but we went back. Did you want us to go now?
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           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: (Muted.)
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1 I think you're on mute. MR. CHENG: 2. THE REPORTER: Excuse me. This is the 3 court reporter. I can't hear you, Judge. 4 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: TURN, please go 5 ahead. 6 MR. CHENG: Thank you, your Honor. 7 We do have comments on the scope of 8 So as you heard from the energy 9 utilities, there's not enough funding in the 10 CAP to cover residential arrearage. So while 11 TURN supports the prioritization of those 12 funds for low-income customers, there's 13 currently no quarantee that the legislature 14 or CSD may approve that prioritization for 15 low-income customers. So we believe that the 16 Commission should not foreclose the potential 17 need for additional relief for residential 18 customers. 19 Currently the scoping memo does not 20 cover that issue. It doesn't address whether 21 it's supplemental relief or residential 2.2 customers may be necessary, so we request 2.3 that the issue of whether additional relief 24 for residential customers may be necessary to 25 be added to the scope. 26 My second comment is with regards to 27 the second issue that's in the scoping memo, 28

which states whether supplemental relief for

1 small business customers is needed and, if 2. so, through which type of relief mechanism. 3 TURN would just ask that the 4 Commission clarify that the ratemaking 5 treatment associated with such relief would 6 also be addressed in this proceeding, for 7 example, such as whether it would be 8 appropriate for residential customers to pay 9 for a portion of that relief for business 10 customers. We believe that that should be 11 addressed in this proceeding as well. 12 So those are my two comments for the We have no further comments for the 13 14 schedule or the other issues. Thank you. 15 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: David Cheng, did you 16 just refer to different customer classes with 17 regard to ratemaking and funding of relief? 18 Could you just expand on that. 19 Sure. MR. CHENG: So the second scope 20 item specifically talks about additional 21 relief for small business customers. And so, 2.2 you know, whether or not the Commission 2.3 decides whether additional relief for small 2.4 business customers would be granted, our 25 concern would be whether -- in terms of the 26 cost allocation for such relief with, for 27 example, whether residential customers would

end up paying a portion for the relief for

1 small business customers. 2. And so we just want to ask the Commission to clarify that the ratemaking 3 4 treatment would also be included in the 5 Thank you. scope. 6 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you. 7 Now Greenlining, Mad Stano. 8 MX. STANO: Thank you, your Honor. 9 have no comments on the schedule and a couple 10 additional issues to raise for consideration 11 for the scope, please. So we support TURN's 12 recent addition of the question of 13 supplemental -- the need for supplemental 14 relief. 15 But in addition to that, we support, 16 based on our conversations with CSD and our 17 advocacy through the state budget process and 18 the conversation here today, the need for 19 discussing additional emergency disconnection 20 protection while the CAP funds are -- and 21 program are being designed and disbursed, we 2.2. believe that there's a gap that requires 2.3 emergency action from the Commission and 2.4 would like to discuss that in the proceeding. 25 And then additionally related to 26 that, based on our conversations with CSD, we 27 think that the CAP program could benefit from

supplemental reporting requirements from the

1 Commission that go beyond the statutory 2. requirements of AB 135 and would like to 3 discuss that in the proceeding. Thank you. 4 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you. I'm going to ask, while we're 5 6 hearing from other speakers, if Energy 7 Division could just provide me an update on 8 what type of arrearage reporting will begin 9 in the next month or two with regard to 10 arrearages. And perhaps we can share that 11 before we concluded today just so we're all 12 on the same page. 13 The next party that I will call on 14 is, I believe, a late addition to this 15 conference, the Leadership Counsel for 16 Justice and Accountability. If you can 17 introduce yourself. I'm going to pause for a 18 moment and make sure that I did receive the 19 proper message from this party. All right. 20 I've got a message from Michael Claiborne 21 with the Leadership Counsel for Justice and 2.2 Accountability that they're not able to 2.3 I will just flag that for our IT unmute. 2.4 staff and we will move on to another party. 25 MR. CLAIBORNE: Sorry, your Honor. Ιt 26 looks like the stated problem was fixed. So 27 I only had a quick just process question, 28 just wanted to clarify for comments on the

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     scoping memo, Phase 3 in the water
 2.
     proceeding. Those should be jointly filed
 3
     with the comments on the ruling setting this
     joint status conference. That's my
 4
 5
     understanding. I just wanted to make sure
 6
     that was accurate.
                         Thank you.
 7
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you for that
 8
     question.
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               So parties should file and serve
10
     their responses to the September 13th -- to
11
     the July 29th ruling in both proceedings, and
12
     those comments may also address scoped issues
13
     in either proceeding, which wasn't explicit,
14
    but we are sharing this information with you
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     today.
16
               Does that answer your question?
17
           MR. CLAIBORNE:
                           It does.
                                      Thank you so
18
     much, your Honor.
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           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you. I'm going
20
     to look at the speaker list now again.
21
     and Small Business Utility Advocates, Ariel
2.2.
     Strauss, are you still with us?
2.3
               (No response.)
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           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: It doesn't sound like
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     they are with us, so we shall ask -- I have
26
     heard from the California --
27
           MR. STRAUSS: Can you hear me?
28
           ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: -- Water Association
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1 that they are not planning to address 2. anything orally and have just been listening 3 in, so if that has changed, please let me 4 know. Finally, I know that Evelyn Kahl 5 6 with California Community Choice Association 7 did ask to speak once more. 8 MS. KAHL: Thank you, your Honor. 9 wanted to go back to the question of final 10 decision. The reason I asked the question is 11 that CSD indicated that it would be accepting 12 applications from the IOUs on a rolling 13 basis, so at the time at least we spoke, they 14 anticipated that their disbursements might be 15 made before the end of January on a rolling 16 basis, depending on when the utilities get 17 their applications in. 18 The schedule currently contemplates 19 an Issue 7 decision in October. It doesn't 20 indicate whether it's early, mid, or late 21 October. And then following the decision, 2.2. presumably the utilities would need to have 2.3 time to work out mechanics. 24 So I guess the question is does your 25 schedule back us into the latest date 26 possible for the application submission and, 27 therefore, does it preclude any earlier

submission by the utilities of an

1 application? 2. I guess along with that question, I 3 just wanted to make certain that the 4 Commission is aware that the questions in 7 5 were answered by Assembly Bill 135, and 6 that's specifically Section 16429.5(f)(4) and 7 16429.5(g), and that goes directly to both 8 questions as to what portion should go to 9 CCAs and how payments for past due --10 past-due payments should be allocated between 11 the IOU and CCA. 12 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Evelyn Kahl, is there 13 no end date in the legislation that you 14 referred to? 15 MS. KAHL: Yes. It's the end of 16 January. 17 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: I'm sorry. Okay. 18 think you're asking -- I'm going to ask for 19 you to ask your question again about the 20 intersection of the proposed decision and 21 then the distribution of relief funds so I 2.2. understand what you're trying to get at. 2.3 Your schedule appears to me MS. KAHL: 24 to put us close to the last date for the 25 utilities' filing the applications -- I 26 believe it's December 6th -- because of the 27 need to issue a decision and then for the 28 utilities to do their mechanics, whatever

1 that involves, and then actually to get their 2. applications in. 3 I guess we were in hope that some of 4 this might be done earlier than that. We had 5 hopes because the utilities are hard at work 6 today on mechanics that we wouldn't have to 7 wait that long, that we wouldn't have to wait 8 until December to submit the applications. 9 But I quess I fear the decision date on 10 Issue 7 puts us in that box. 11 So I guess another question, was the 12 schedule set with an understanding that there 13 might be rolling applications? 14 I will say that the ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: 15 schedule in the scoping memo on July 29th was 16 not set with regard to specifics from the CAP 17 program and those dates that we've talked 18 about today. Well, the intention was to 19 attempt to resolve the CCA issue 20 expeditiously. You know, as we've all said, 21 this is an evolving process and a lot of 2.2. adaptation is occurring. So I mean we can 2.3 note your concern about resolving this, but 24 at this point I don't really think there's 25 much more I can say about that. 26 MS. KAHL: All right. Thank you, your 27 Honor. 28 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: Judge

1 Watts-Zagha, just for clarification, because 2. I'm not understanding the concern, and I 3 certainly would want to reiterate that the 4 utilities should be putting forth applications as soon as possible, I would 5 like to understand where the -- what the 6 concern is that the schedule is somehow 7 presuming a late application. 8 9 MS. KAHL: Yes. Commissioner, you have 10 in the schedule that was issued on August 3rd 11 a proposed decision on scoped Issue 7, which 12 is the CCA allocation, which is critical to 13 any allocation and disbursement for October. 14 There's no specific date for the proposed 15 decision, but let's assume a final date is 16 sometime in November. 17 In order for the utilities to get to 18 the December 6th date, they're going to 19 basically just put it in at the end of the 20 December 6th date because there's no -- if 21 they have to know the answer to Issue 7 2.2. before they do their calculations, they can't 2.3 do anything until we get that answer. 24 I guess I'd ask the utilities to 25 chime in. Do you think there's a possibility 26 that this could all happen earlier than December 6th in terms of submission of the 27 28 applications?

1 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: You know, I think 2. there's two topics here. One, of course, is 3 what the utilities are going to apply for from the state regarding their CCA customers. 4 Secondly, simply all utilities putting in the 5 6 timing of when they put in their applications 7 and are they intending to wait until the due 8 date or may they be able to supply the 9 requested information to the different state 10 agencies earlier than the due date. 11 And actually, I'm glad, 12 Commissioner, you asked that second question 13 because we didn't get explicit about whether 14 there's any barriers that would prevent the 15 utilities from moving forward with that 16 information. So that's one thing, but I 17 think Evelyn Kahl is actually -- I used one 18 issue that might be a barrier. Is that what 19 you are suggesting here, a barrier for the 20 energy utilities and who have CCA 21 customers --2.2. MS. KAHL: Yes. 2.3 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: -- moving forward? 24 I do appreciate that point, but I'm 25 not sure. Is that clear or should we discuss 26 this more? I'm not inclined to go back to 27 the utilities on this point because I think 28 it's a specific conversation.

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MS. KAHL: Okay. I just wanted you to be aware of both the statute and my concern that this will slow down applications, so thank you very much.

ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: I think we have gone through the list of all parties to these two proceedings now.

Commissioner, did you want to make any concluding remarks?

COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: No, just to thank everyone and to encourage us to obviously work through these things together, including this last item that could easily come forward with any sort of joint proposal in a more timely way. But thank you all very much.

ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Yes, I echo that sentiment about conversations, ongoing conversations, that could help us resolve issues in a timely way and also really highlight many parties who reported having ongoing conversations directly with other agencies and other companies and through their member associations and how helpful that will be to continue those communications with each other so we can resolve the highest priority issue of arrearage relief. Thank you for spending your morning with us.

1 MR. OSANN: Your Honor? Your Honor? 2. ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Who is that? 3 This is Ed Osann with NRDC. MR. OSANN: 4 We're parties to the water proceeding, and I 5 was wondering if I'd have a chance to make a 6 couple comments. 7 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Ed Osann, you may, 8 I didn't call on you because I don't 9 think we received an RSVP. 10 MR. OSANN: Oh, thank you, thank you, 11 your Honor. I just wanted to make a couple 12 brief comments regarding the scope -- Phase 3 13 scope of the water proceeding. With regard 14 to how best to leverage the available 15 funding, the pool of funds being administered 16 by the State Board requires initiative on the 17 part of the utilities, both to respond to the 18 survey and to apply for relief on behalf of 19 their customers. 20 The proceeding, as it is scoped, as 21 I understand it, now pertains to Class A 22 utilities, but the question arises what about 2.3 the Class B, C, and D where the capability to 24 initiate participation in this may be far 25 more limited, and so this might be something 26 that the Water Division could be directed to 27 look at sooner rather than later.

Secondly, with regard to the degree

1 of funding needed and whether any 2. supplemental -- whether this funding would be 3 adequate and any supplemental funding be 4 needed, we would like to see further clarity 5 on whether the arrearages being reported by 6 utilities in the survey response are 7 including late fees and charges. 8 You can imagine that if late fees 9 are tolling through 15 months of the 10 pandemic, that it could be quite 11 consequential in terms of the overall amount 12 of arrearage, even at modest levels. Some of 13 the unregulated utilities have late fees and 14 charges that are actually approaching quite 15 usurious levels, 5 percent or even 10 percent 16 per month, which could lead to quite a 17 distortion if there's going to be an 18 allocation to water suppliers based upon the 19 arrearages that they report. 20 So it would be good to get some 21 clarity on this point. Again, sooner would 2.2 be better than later. Thank you. 2.3 Thank you, Ed Osann. ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: 24 I'm seeing we have a few parties who 25 would also like to make concluding comments. 26 I would like to offer that opportunity to 27 everybody since it looks like we have two or 28 three requests in the chat right now. So

we're going to go through one more time since 1 2. this is a great opportunity with so many 3 parties to these related proceedings here. 4 But Ed Osann, can you just share Have you been with this -- I can't 5 with me. 6 tell who is in the conference. Were you here 7 from the beginning this morning or what time 8 did you join us? 9 MR. OSANN: About quarter after the 10 hour initially, your Honor. 11 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Okay. So you've been 12 here for the majority of the conference? 13 MR. OSANN: Yes. 14 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you for letting 15 me know. 16 So I'll let everybody here know 17 we're going to continue this for a few more 18 minutes. I have just now a request from Cal 19 Advocates and also from CWA to make some 20 final comments. Please, while they're 21 speaking, if anybody else has anything to 22 add, just put yourself into the chat while we 2.3 turn to Cal Advocates. 24 Selina Shek. 25 MS. SHEK: Thank you, your Honor. Just 26 going back to the categorization issue 27 regarding R.17-06-024, our rulemaking in this

water case, the Commission really always has

1 the flexibility to apply ex parte rules on 2. quasi-legislative proceedings when it feels 3 it's needed. That's pursuant to Rule 8.2(d). 4 Again, Cal Advocates has always seen 5 this as a quasi-legislative proceeding 6 because this is not a proceeding that will be 7 setting rates. Instead it will be developing 8 policies regarding arrearages and how to do 9 the proper accounting of those funds. 10 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you. And we 11 have Lori Dolqueist with CWA, and that will 12 be our last speaker. 13 MS. DOLQUEIST: Thank you, your Honor. 14 Back to this issue of 15 categorization, of course the Commission 16 always has the flexibility regarding the 17 application of its ex parte rules, but what 18 we see here is almost identical issues being 19 addressed in both proceedings. 20 As Ms. Shek mentioned, both 21 proceedings are dealing with how to deal with 2.2. available funding, how to account for and 2.3 quantify arrearages, how to address new 24 policies and legislations, and also, I 25 believe, as Mr. Cheng from -- mentioned 26 earlier, some of the ratemaking implications 27 that deal with whether or not supplemental

relief funding is necessary and how that will

1	be funded and how that will apply, how it
2	will affect rates and ratepayers.
3	These issues are the same for both,
4	so there's no reason to have an inconsistent
5	categorization for these two proceedings.
6	Thank you, your Honor.
7	ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: All right. I think
8	we have concluded with comments on the same
9	topic so that was helpful. Thank you again.
10	We will be off the record.
11	(Whereupon, at the hour of 11:45 a.m., this matter having concluded,
12	the Commission then adjourned.)
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1	BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
2	OF THE
3	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
4	
5	
6	CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDING
7	I, ANDREA L. ROSS, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER
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14	EVENTS OF THE MATTER OR THE OUTCOME OF THE PROCEEDING.
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3	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
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