

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA



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ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE STEPHANIE WANG, presiding

Order Instituting Rulemaking to) PREHEARING
Advance Demand Flexibility Through) CONFERENCE
Electric Rates.)
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) Rulemaking
) 22-07-005
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REPORTERS' TRANSCRIPT
Virtual Proceeding
September 16, 2022
Pages 1 - 84
Volume 1

Reported by: Rebekah L. DeRosa, CSR No. 8708
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VIRTUAL PROCEEDING

SEPTEMBER 16, 2022 - 1:42 P.M.

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ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE WANG: Let's go on the record.

Today is September 16th, 2020 (sic). This is the prehearing conference for Rulemaking 22-07-005 to Advance Demand Flexibility through Electric Rates. I am Stephanie Wang, the administrative law judge assigned to this proceeding. President Alice Reynolds is the assigned Commissioner.

The purpose of this prehearing conference is to discuss the issues and scope, schedule, and procedural matters for Phase 1 of this proceeding. These matters will be determined by the assigned Commissioner in an upcoming Phase 1 scoping memo.

Our agenda today is as follows: First, we will discuss the service list and take appearances; second, we will discuss the issues in scope and categorization of the proceeding; third, we will discuss the proceeding schedule and need for hearings.

On to the service list and appearances.

In Commission proceedings, the

1 applicant and those who have filed protests
2 or responses are automatically added to the
3 service list. Those who are not already
4 parties to this proceeding may request party
5 status by making a motion in the proceeding.
6 For those who want to stay informed, but do
7 not intend to file comments, please join the
8 service list on an information-only basis,
9 not as a party.

10 Now we will take appearances for
11 party representatives. I will call on each
12 party representative to state your full name
13 and the organization you represent.

14 I will start with Andrew Cole.

15 MR. COLE: This is Andrew Cole. I am
16 with Leapfrog Power. Thank you.

17 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Ann Trowbridge.

18 MS. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you, your Honor.
19 Ann Trowbridge. I represent the California
20 Clean DG Coalition. I also represent
21 FreeWire Technologies, Inc., in this
22 proceeding.

23 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Bill Weaver.

24 MR. WEAVER: Good afternoon, your
25 Honor. This is Bill Weaver representing the
26 California Independent System Operator.

27 MR. WILLMAN: Pardon me for a second.
28 This is Jacob from IT.

1 Mr. Weaver, if you could just speak
2 closer to your microphone, that would
3 probably -- that would help us out. Thank
4 you.

5 MR. WEAVER: Will do.

6 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Daniel Douglass.
7 Off the record.

8 (Off the record.)

9 ALJ WANG: I'm going to go back on the
10 record now.

11 Daniel Douglass.

12 MR. DOUGLASS: Good afternoon, your
13 Honor. I am Daniel Douglass, counsel for
14 Google Nest.

15 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Darryl Gruen.

16 MR. GRUEN: Good afternoon, your Honor.
17 My name is Darryl Gruen, and I represent
18 Public Advocates Office. Thank you.

19 ALJ WANG: Thank you. David Meyers.

20 MR. MEYERS: Good afternoon, your
21 Honor. I'm David Meyers, the CEO of Polaris
22 Energy Services.

23 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Gale Slocum.

24 MS. SLOCUM: Good afternoon, your
25 Honor. I am Gale Slocum representing Pacific
26 Gas and Electric Company.

27 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Grace Pratt.

28 MS. PRATT: Good afternoon, your Honor.

1 Grace Pratt representing the California
2 Energy Storage Alliance, also known as CESA.
3 Thank you.

4 ALJ WANG: Thank you. James Whooley.

5 MR. WHOOLEY: Good afternoon, your
6 Honor.

7 ALJ WANG: Off the record.

8 (Off the record.)

9 ALJ WANG: Back on the record.

10 MR. WHOOLEY: Apologies, your Honor. I
11 was taking it off mute.

12 James Whooley for Southern
13 California Edison.

14 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Jane Krikorian.

15 MS. KRIKORIAN: Yes, your Honor. This
16 is Jane Krikorian representing Utility
17 Consumers' Action Network, or UCAN.

18 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Jeanne
19 Armstrong.

20 MS. ARMSTRONG: Yes, your Honor. This
21 is Jeanne Armstrong with the Solar Industries
22 Energy Association.

23 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Jedediah Gibson.

24 MR. GIBSON: Good afternoon, your
25 Honor. Jed Gibson on behalf of the
26 California Association of Small and
27 Multi-Jurisdictional Utilities, or CASMU, as
28 we consist of California's three small and

1 multi-jurisdictional electric utilities, Bear
2 Valley Electric Service, Liberty Utilities,
3 and PacifiCorp. Thank you.

4 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Jennifer
5 Weberski.

6 MS. WEBERSKI: Thank you, your Honor.
7 Jennifer Weberski on behalf of Small Business
8 Utility Advocates, or SBUA.

9 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Katherine
10 Ramsey.

11 MS. RAMSEY: Good afternoon, your
12 Honor. My name is Kate -- Katherine Ramsey
13 for Sierra Club. Thank you.

14 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Kevin Johnston.

15 MR. JOHNSTON: Thank you, your Honor.
16 Kevin Johnston on behalf of the California
17 Farm Bureau Federation.

18 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Leanne Bober.

19 MS. BOBER: Good afternoon, your Honor.
20 This is Leanne Bober from the California
21 Community Choice Association, or CalCCA.

22 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Mark Fulmer.

23 MR. FULMER: Good afternoon, your
24 Honor. I am Mark Fulmer representing the
25 Alliance for Retail Energy Markets, or AReM.

26 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Matthew
27 Freedman.

28 MR. FREEDMAN: Good afternoon, your

1 Honor. Matthew Freedman representing The
2 Utility Reform Network.

3 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Melissa Kasnitz.

4 MS. KASNITZ: Thank you, your Honor,
5 Melissa Kasnitz for the Center for Accessible
6 Technology.

7 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Michael Colvin.

8 MR. COLVIN: Good afternoon. This is
9 Michael Colvin appearing on behalf of
10 Environmental Defense Fund, or EDF.

11 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Mohit Chhabra.

12 MR. CHHABRA: Good afternoon, your
13 Honor. This is Mohit Chhabra representing
14 NRDC, the Natural Resources Defense Council.

15 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Nora Sheriff.

16 MS. SHERIFF: Good afternoon, your
17 Honor. This is Nora Sheriff. I represent
18 the California Large Energy Consumers
19 Association, or CLECA, and the Energy
20 Producers and Users Coalition, or EPUC.

21 I also have a prepared statement
22 that I was going to make at the appropriate
23 time that would be on behalf of the joint
24 ratepayers, which consist of CLECA and EPUC,
25 as well as the California Farm Bureau
26 Federation, the California Manufacturers &
27 Technology Association, the Energy Users
28 Forum, and the Federal Executive Agencies.

1 Thank you.

2 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Rachael Koss.

3 MS. KOSS: Good afternoon. Rachael
4 Koss on behalf of the Coalition of California
5 Utility Employees, or CUE. Thank you.

6 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Rebecca Hansson.

7 MS. HANSSON: Good afternoon, your
8 Honor. Rebecca Hansson on behalf of San
9 Diego Gas & Electric Company, or SDG&E.
10 Thank you.

11 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Sara Steck
12 Myers.

13 MS. STECK MYERS: Good afternoon, your
14 Honor. This is Sara Steck Myers. I'm here
15 today on behalf of the Center For Energy
16 Efficiency and Renewable Technologies, or
17 CEERT. Thank you.

18 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Shana Lazerow.

19 MS. LAZEROW: Good afternoon, your
20 Honor. Shana Lazerow on behalf of the
21 California Environmental Justice Alliance, or
22 CEJA.

23 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Tanya Peacock.

24 MS. PEACOCK: Thank you, your Honor.
25 This is Tanya Peacock, and I'm with Bloom
26 Energy.

27 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Zach Woogen.

28 MR. WOOGEN: Good afternoon, your

1 Honor. Zach Woogen representing the
2 Vehicle-Grid Integration Council, also known
3 as VGIC. Thank you.

4 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Clark McIsaac.

5 MR. McISAAC: Thank you, your Honor.
6 This is Clark McIsaac on behalf of the
7 California Efficiency + Demand Management
8 Council.

9 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Now we will move
10 on to issues in scope and categorization.

11 In the Order Instituting Rulemaking,
12 the -- the Commission preliminarily
13 categorized this proceeding as ratesetting,
14 and set a preliminary scope of issues for the
15 proceeding. In a ruling on September 1st, I
16 proposed a list of issues to include in scope
17 of this proceeding after reviewing comments
18 on the Order Instituting Rulemaking.

19 I will now call on party
20 representatives to comment on the proposed
21 issues in scope for Phase 1 of this
22 proceeding, as well as whether the
23 ratesetting categorization is appropriate for
24 Phase 1 of this proceeding. Before you
25 comment, please remember to state your name
26 and the organizations you represent, for the
27 record. Please be concise, and comment for
28 no more than two minutes.

1 I will start with party
2 representative Andrew Cole.

3 MR. COLE: Thank you, your Honor. This
4 is Andrew Cole with Leapfrog Power.

5 At this time, Leap has nothing
6 further to add to our position as described
7 in the opening brief. Thank you for -- I --
8 I yield my time. Thank you.

9 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Ann Trowbridge.

10 MS. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you, your Honor.
11 Ann Trowbridge for FreeWire Technologies.

12 We believe that the proposed scope
13 as set forth in your ruling encompasses the
14 issues that we submitted in our comments on
15 the ruling -- rulemaking, but we reserve the
16 right to submit a post PHC statement with
17 some additional comments, as we are still
18 evaluating the issues. And we agree with the
19 ratesetting categorization.

20 For CCDC or California Clean DG
21 Coalition, we have no comments on either the
22 scope or ratesetting (inaudible) with -- the
23 categorization. Thank you.]

24 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

25 Bill Weaver.

26 MR. WEAVER: Thank you, your Honor.
27 Bill Weaver, Assistant General Counsel at the
28 CAISO.

1 We'd like to thank you and President
2 Reynolds for your work in this proceeding.
3 We're very eager to support the Commission
4 here.

5 As we saw only this month consumers
6 are not only capable but eager to respond to
7 dynamic rate signals to protect the grid
8 mitigating raising costs. However, as we
9 said in our comments, we think better rates
10 will only come from better data. And with
11 that in mind, the CAISO would like to see the
12 scope expressly include a line item early in
13 Phase 1, Track B, to identify the data
14 requirements of this proceeding, how we can
15 measure the underlying drivers, load
16 response, evaluate the effectiveness of the
17 new retail rates. We will only be able to
18 evaluate how and why end-users do not always
19 respond to endemic rates before we can begin
20 to design those rates.

21 Again, thank you. And I look
22 forward to working together.

23 ALJ WANG: Clark McIsaac.

24 MR. McISAAC: Thank you, your Honor.
25 Good afternoon. I'm Clark McIsaac, Director
26 of Policy and Strategy for the California
27 Efficiency and Demand Management Council, or
28 the council, speaking on behalf of the

1 council.

2 As the council stated in its August
3 15th, 2022, joint reply comments alongside
4 CPower and Leapfrog Power on the order
5 instituting rulemaking, or OIR, we are highly
6 concerned about the recommendations made by
7 Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California
8 Edison, and San Diego Gas & Electric in their
9 opening comments that this proceeding be
10 structured so as to address residential rate
11 reform issues first while relegating dynamic
12 rate issues to a later phase that would only
13 be addressed upon the disposition of the
14 residential rate reform issues which we see
15 as issues A, B, D, and E.

16 Using Pacific Gas & Electric's
17 proposed schedule, its sequential approach
18 will likely result in a Commission decision
19 on dynamic rate issues in 2025. The council
20 sees this timeframe as entirely too long to
21 wait given that the state is expecting
22 persistent capacity shortages. The council
23 respectfully urges the Commission to address
24 both sets of issues concurrently or at most
25 slightly staggered.

26 Thank you, your Honor, for the
27 opportunity to speak.

28 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

1 Daniel Douglass.

2 MR. DOUGLASS: Thank you, your Honor.
3 Daniel Douglass with Goggle Nest.

4 Goggle Nest has a strong interest in
5 this proceeding as it is both a Smart-Home
6 technology manufacturer as well as an
7 implementer of programs that allow customers
8 to manage their energy usage. All Goggle
9 Nest thermostats currently on the market
10 allow users to participate in both the load
11 response and load flexibility programs
12 administered by either utilities or
13 third-party aggregators.

14 Your proposed scope identifies two
15 phases with the first focusing on residential
16 fixed charges and principles while the second
17 implementation would commence after the
18 completion of Phase 1 in early 2024. Goggle
19 Nest acknowledges the need for utilities to
20 comply with AB-205 by 2024 and is supportive
21 of the inclusion of residential fixed rate
22 reform in Phase 1. However, as noted in our
23 comment, we urge the Commission to complete
24 Phase 1 and move to Phase 2 expeditiously
25 improving reliability and lowering
26 electricity costs for customers are stated
27 objectives of this rulemaking. And the
28 urgency to address both of these issues has

1 become even more evident in recent weeks.
2 California will need every tool at its
3 disposal to improve their liability, lower
4 costs including dynamic rates.

5 In addition, we are appreciative of
6 the fact that you included the issue of
7 enabling third-party service providers in
8 Phase 1, Track B, Item 3-D. Third-party
9 service providers will be needed for
10 successful implementation. So it's critical
11 to determine these processes in Phase 1. We,
12 therefore, urge the Commission to include
13 third-party service providers in working
14 group two for Track B to insure these
15 processes are developed for smooth and timely
16 implementation.

17 Goggle Nest concurs with the
18 ratesetting categorization. And that
19 concludes my remarks. Thank you.

20 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

21 Darryl Gruen.

22 MR. GRUEN: Thank you, your Honor. My
23 name is Darrel Gruen representing Public
24 Advocates Office or Cal Advocates.

25 Regarding the proposed scope and
26 schedule and specifically Phase 1, Track A,
27 the matter of fixed charges for electric
28 utilities, Public Advocates Office recommends

1 that your Honor allows all parties to serve
2 concurrent opening testimony in May of 2023
3 and concurrent reply testimony in August with
4 an energy division facilitated working group
5 to discuss fixed charge related issues
6 beginning in late October of 2022 and
7 continuing until approximately two months
8 before the due date of concurrent opening
9 testimony.

10 We've coordinated with the
11 independently-owned utilities CLECA and EPUC
12 and TURN about some scheduling matters, and
13 this proposal is consistent with the second
14 scheduling option in an e-mail entitled
15 "Alternative options for schedule" that San
16 Diego Gas & Electric served on the service
17 list earlier this afternoon.

18 For Public Advocates Office's part
19 we've already -- we already have an
20 income-based fixed charge proposal. A
21 working group may give us new ideas, and we
22 may modify our proposal as the proceeding
23 moves forward. If allowed to serve opening
24 testimony with our proposal, it would give
25 the Commission, the administrative law judge,
26 and parties a chance to consider it at the
27 earliest possible time and develop a full
28 record in response.

1 Regarding Phase 1, Track B, or
2 principles, guidance, and systems for large
3 electric utilities, Public Advocates Office
4 also recommends lengthening the schedule
5 there. This would allow the Commission to
6 first consider changes to rate design
7 principles that are necessary to implement
8 income-based fixed charges. It would allow
9 working groups to have more time to wrestle
10 with changes for rate design principles that
11 address the man flexibility. It would allow
12 parties to consider substantive issues
13 related to guidance for the man flexibility
14 proposals and it would allow realtime pricing
15 pilots to gather data that may inform how to
16 design and implement demand flexibility. Cal
17 Advocates also supports the ratesetting
18 categorization for Phase 1 and agrees with
19 scheduling the identified hearings in
20 Phase 1, Track A.

21 That concludes my remarks. Thank
22 you.

23 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

24 David Myers.

25 MR. MEYERS: Thank you. Good
26 afternoon. I'm David Meyers, the CEO of
27 Polaris Energy Services, the leader in
28 agricultural demand response and demand

1 flexibility.

2 Polaris is implementing the
3 Agricultural Demand Flexibility pilot AgFIT
4 with Valley Clean Energy and TeMix following
5 prior CEC supported research on the use of
6 dynamic pricing to achieve irrigation pumping
7 load shift. While we're in the first year of
8 the pilot, AgFIT has already demonstrated
9 that with proper qualification, automation
10 deployment, strong pricing encroaching,
11 agriculture customers will shift significant
12 loads. What remains a work in progress for
13 this sector is calibration of prod signals to
14 achieve the desire targets for behavior
15 changes, cost shifts unrelated to behavior
16 change, and the transition from here time of
17 use to their dynamic prices.

18 The good news is that the subjects
19 requiring extensive infield testing have made
20 the most progress so the open issues are
21 tabletop or spreadsheet work and did not need
22 to be conducted in realtime for agriculture.
23 Other sectors will gain experience in the SCE
24 pilot.

25 Research shows that the system
26 benefits of these approaches accrue in only
27 20 percent of load participates. Therefore,
28 since the mode is working and delivering

1 benefits in one sector Agriculture Now, it
2 can make a significant contribution as it did
3 last week when it was needed most. We
4 suggest that the agricultural demand
5 flexibility model be extended, expanded, and
6 replicated. In additional, CCA and IOU
7 service territories to incrementally larger
8 pilots as this process unfolds and as a full
9 transition plan is developed and to separate
10 in-field versus analytical issues that need
11 to be addressed.

12 Thank you.

13 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

14 Gail Slocum.

15 MS. SLOCUM: Good afternoon, your
16 Honor. Gail Slocum for PG&E.

17 We very much appreciate the
18 complexity of this proceeding and we're
19 pleased to receive your ruling of September 1
20 trying to help focus the discussion. My
21 understanding is that this two-minute period
22 is to discuss scope and categorization. As
23 stated in our opening comments, we do support
24 the ratesetting categorization. And in terms
25 of scope we plan to present some detailed
26 comments in our proposed prehearing comment
27 statement, but I wanted to identify a couple
28 of issues and partly just to thank some of

1 the other parties we were able to talk to in
2 the short time since your ruling was issued
3 to better understand some of their concerns.

4 As an overall, matter we believe
5 that the working group type of process is
6 very important and that efforts to reach
7 consensus and to better understand each
8 other's factual data and constraints is very
9 important to inform a decision moving forward
10 both on a fixed charge and on improvement to
11 the exiting R2P pilot or expansion thereof.

12 We -- on scope we believe that it's
13 important to add an item of listing out the
14 issues that will need deep-dive sessions by
15 the energy division lead working group on
16 fixed charges under your schedule to help
17 support the potential consensus though that
18 can happen among parties as they shape their
19 conceptual proposal.

20 We had a positive experience on this
21 with the residential rate reform OIR and that
22 process took quite a lot of time. And your
23 Honor's schedule with the January 20th filing
24 date doesn't allow enough time for the
25 working group to do those deep-dives and to
26 see if consensus can emerge.

27 I'll address the scheduling issues
28 in the second part, but we definitely want to

1 see the -- we are pleased to see that you
2 added our suggestion about having the pricing
3 platform be part of Phase 1. And our
4 schedule actually tries to manage the fact
5 that some of the same people are involved in
6 all of these issues. So we can't do all of
7 them all at the same time. And so the
8 schedule that was sent out by SDG&E that we
9 worked on for alternative options include a
10 suggested Track 1-C that would begin the --
11 well, would seriously begin the work on
12 putting proposals and really getting down to
13 nitty-gritty on pricing platforms a little
14 bit later. It was left unclear in your
15 filing.

16 The other thing is really
17 identifying -- and here I'm merely agreeing
18 with CAISO identifying what kinds of factual
19 evidence and data is needed to support CPUC
20 findings especially, for example, on what
21 type of information technology structures
22 could be reasonable to authorize. Same thing
23 though for all of the other subject areas.

24 And finally, we believe that it's
25 important for the working groups to -- as
26 they're looking at realtime pricing and
27 looking at the various pilots to consider,
28 the key lessons learned from the seven

1 ongoing R2P pilots and to use rate design
2 best practices of customer surveys and data
3 from actual experiences such was just
4 mentioned about the Valley Clean Energy to
5 inform any additional action on realtime
6 pricing because it remains unclear to what
7 degree each type of customer, each customer
8 class is likely to provide benefit and what
9 kind of structure of improved R2P rate for
10 the future is the most feasible, cost
11 effective --

12 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

13 MS. SLOCUM: Thank you.

14 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

15 Grace Pratt.]

16 MS. PRATT: Thank you, your Honor.
17 Grace Pratt an behalf the California Energy
18 Storage Alliance or CESA.

19 Firstly, CESA agrees with the
20 categorization of this proceeding and
21 particularly Phase 1 ratesetting. In terms
22 of the scope and schedule of Phase 1, CESA
23 largely agrees with the different tracks as
24 laid out, Track A and Track B, and agrees
25 that those tracks should run concurrently or
26 at the same time. However, we would like to
27 see one element that you have included in the
28 scope for Phase 2 -- I believe it's point

1 6 -- how should the potential impacts of
2 demand flexibility rates be incorporated into
3 load forecasting, the determination of
4 resource adequacy obligations and grid
5 planning. We would like to see that moved
6 into Phase 1, Track B.

7 The elements surrounding demand
8 forecast grid planning and unlocking the full
9 system-wide benefits of advanced demand
10 flexibility is a large issue, and it's
11 cross-cutting across all the energy agencies
12 in California especially the CPUC, the CEC
13 and CAISO. And given the amount of time it
14 will take to discuss how to incorporate
15 customer response into demand forecast and
16 planning, we believe that this should be
17 addressed as soon as possible so that the
18 discussion can begin.

19 Thank you, your Honor.

20 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

21 James Whooley.

22 MR. WHOOLEY: Thank you, your Honor.

23 James Whooley on behalf of Southern
24 California Edison.

25 We appreciate the -- the preliminary
26 scoping items that you identified, and we are
27 in agreement, by and large, with what you
28 have identified, and just a couple of quick

1 comments on behalf of Edison. We do believe
2 that the scoping memo should clarify that AB
3 205 only requires the Commission to authorize
4 the fixed charge for default residential
5 rates by July 1st, 2024.

6 As to any other residential rates,
7 AB 205 says the Commission may authorize
8 fixed charges. AB 205 does not require the
9 Commission to establish or order a fixed
10 charge in order to require the IOUs to
11 implement the fixed charge, and we believe
12 the scope of Phase 1-A should be consistent
13 with AB 205 in this regard.

14 We also think that the scoping memo
15 should add the question of what is the
16 utility's appropriate and lawful role as well
17 as their administrative capabilities and
18 limitations with respect to determining and
19 verifying customer income levels as well as
20 enforcing income-based fixed charge
21 determinations.

22 The issue raises significant
23 questions around privacy, utility
24 relationships with customers, enforcement,
25 data management and protection and the
26 administrative challenge of staying current
27 with customer income levels which will always
28 be in flux for some portion of the customer

1 base.

2 On Track B, we believe Track B is
3 very broad, and I would echo the comments of
4 counsel for PG&E that we think it makes sense
5 to break off into separate tracks the issue
6 around the systems and processes for the
7 pricing portal and have essentially Track B
8 address only the rate design principles
9 including updating the overarching principles
10 from D.14-06-029 and then also examining
11 principles and guidance for dynamic pricing
12 in particular and then have a separate track
13 that addresses more of the operational
14 technical issues that arise with respect to
15 developing the pricing portal.

16 We think the pricing portal
17 development should follow the stage during
18 which the guiding principles are defined.
19 And we also agree that the ratesetting
20 categorization is appropriate.

21 Thank you.

22 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

23 Jane Krikorian.

24 MS. KRIKORIAN: Thank you, your Honor.
25 This is Jane Krikorian with UCAN.

26 We agree that ratesetting is an
27 appropriate categorization. Additionally,
28 UCAN supports the statement from CAISO that

1 better rates come from better data, and we
2 will further support their comments regarding
3 expanding the scope to include data issues
4 most likely in Phase 1, Track B. We will do
5 that in our post-prehearing conference
6 statement.

7 Thank you.

8 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

9 Jeanne Armstrong.

10 MS. ARMSTRONG: Yes, your Honor.

11 Jeanne Armstrong for the Solar Energy
12 Industries Association.

13 And I'll start off by saying that we
14 agree with the categorization of ratesetting
15 for this proceeding. With respect to your
16 September 1 proposed scope and schedule, we
17 have two primary concerns. One was one just
18 raised by the gentleman from Southern
19 California Edison regarding what AB 205
20 requires, and that is only that the
21 Commission set an income-based fixed charge
22 for the default residential rate.

23 So therefore, we would like the
24 scope of this proceeding more narrowly
25 defined to address just the fixed charge for
26 the default residential rates, not all the
27 other residential rates offered by the
28 utility.

1 First of all, the Commission isn't
2 required to set a fixed charge for those, and
3 there might be various, you know, policy
4 reasons that fixed charges could vary
5 between, you know, the different rate
6 schedules. We think that would encumber this
7 proceeding more than it needs to be. So
8 therefore, we ask that the scope be narrowed
9 to the residential default rates for the
10 fixed charge.

11 As -- the second matter concerns the
12 demand flexibility rates and the schedule set
13 for that. This is a demand flexibility OIR,
14 yet both your Honor's proposed schedule and
15 the schedules advanced by the IOUs would push
16 that discussion out to 2024 with a Commission
17 decision on anything of substance that would
18 actually provide additional rate options for
19 customers being 2025 or 2026. We recognize
20 that there's some lessons to be learned from
21 the current pilots that are out there, but
22 the Commission was aware of those pilots
23 before it issued the OIR.

24 There are other aspects of demand
25 flexibility rates that the Commission could
26 examine. In the meantime, elements of the
27 Energy Division's CalFUSE proposal, such as
28 bidirectional rates and, you know, realtime

1 capacity rates.

2 And so there's other elements that
3 can be examined even while we wait for the
4 results of the current pilots to come back.
5 So we would ask that that discussion start --
6 a working group be formed and that discussion
7 start in 2023 rather than 2024.

8 Thank you.

9 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

10 Jed Gibson.

11 MR. GIBSON: Thank you, your Honor.

12 Jed Gibson for CASMU.

13 CASMU supports the proposed phase
14 approach for Phase 1. Utilizing phasing
15 will allow the proceeding to address fixed
16 charges used expeditiously --

17 (Reporter clarification.)

18 ALJ WANG: Off the record.

19 (Off the record.)

20 ALJ WANG: Back on the record.

21 MR. GIBSON: Thank you. Jed Gibson for
22 CASMU.

23 CASMU supports the proposed phase
24 approach for Phase 1. Utilizing phasing will
25 allow the proceeding to address fixed charge
26 issues expeditiously to comply with statutory
27 requirement.

28 Additionally, CASMU supports the

1 phase approach which proposes the separately
2 addressed -- the large IOUs and the small and
3 multi-jurisdictional electric utilities as
4 recommended by CASMU in opening comments on
5 the proceeding. CASMU supports this approach
6 given the significant differences between the
7 CASMU members and the large IOUs.

8 As described in CASMU's comments on
9 the OIR, the rates and programs offered by
10 the CASMU members are vastly different than
11 those offered by the large IOUs. Therefore,
12 utilizing different phases will best ensure
13 that utility-specific issues can be addressed
14 when implementing demand flexibility goals
15 and requirements.

16 CASMU has no specific modifications
17 to the proposed Phase 1 scope at this time.
18 And CASMU agrees the OIR should be classified
19 as ratesetting.

20 Thank you.

21 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

22 Jennifer Weberski.

23 MS. WEBERSKI: Thank you, your Honor.

24 Jennifer Weberski on behalf of SBUA.

25 As stated in our comments, we agree
26 with the categorization of the proceeding.
27 We also have no additional comments regarding
28 the phasing. As proposed, we agree with it.

1 And in the interest of time, not to restate
2 our argument, but we also support the
3 concerns that Ms. Armstrong raised regarding
4 pushing the schedule -- portions of the
5 schedule out until 2024. We're concerned
6 that any -- that amount of delay would not be
7 in the interest of the parties, and we would
8 support having the workshop and the
9 proceeding track occur in 2023.

10 Thank you, your Honor.

11 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

12 Katherine Ramsey.

13 MS. RAMSEY: Thank you, your Honor.

14 Katherine Ramsey for Sierra Club.

15 Sierra Club agrees with the
16 ratesetting categorization and offers only
17 two comments on the Track A issue today.
18 First, for Track A, the proposed questions
19 very well cover the details of the fixed
20 charge but no question or subquestion
21 directly addresses what these changes will
22 mean for utilities' volumetric charges. So
23 while we didn't cover this topic in written
24 comments, Sierra Club recommends that it
25 seems appropriate for the Commission to
26 include --

27 (Reporter clarification.)

28 MS. RAMSEY: So noting we didn't cover

1 these topics in written comments, Sierra Club
2 recommends -- and it's appropriate for the
3 Commission to include a subquestion that
4 specifically asks how should volumetric
5 charges change following the implementation
6 of the fixed charge.

7 The second topic I wanted to offer
8 is that Sierra Club recommends that -- we
9 recommended in written comments that the
10 design principles consider how demand
11 flexible pricing might optimize for both
12 emissions and cost. So Track B, Question 2
13 does not include any subquestion that relates
14 to aligning demand with periods of low
15 emissions on the grid. So we suggest adding
16 another subquestion to Track E, Question 2
17 that reads: How should rates be designed to
18 align pricing with periods of low or zero
19 emission from the electric grid.

20 Our remaining written comments only
21 apply to Phase 2. So we'll take those up at
22 a later time. Thank you.

23 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

24 Kevin Johnston.

25 MR. JOHNSTON: Thank you, your Honor.
26 Kevin Johnston for California Farm Bureau
27 Federation.

28 As one of the joint ratepayer

1 parties and in the interest of time, I'll
2 simply defer and echo the upcoming comments
3 of Ms. Sheriff.

4 Thank you.

5 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

6 Leanne Bober.

7 MS. BOBER: Thank you, your Honor.

8 Leanne Bober from the California Community
9 Choice Association or CalCCA.

10 At this time, CalCCA has no comment
11 on either the scope or the categorization of
12 the proceeding.

13 Thank you.

14 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

15 Mark Fulmer.

16 MR. FULMER: Good afternoon. This is
17 Mark Fulmer on behalf of AReM.

18 First, AReM concurs on the
19 categorization of this proceeding. Second,
20 AReM echoes a few of the prior comments
21 concerning data access and the importance of
22 good data being available to all parties that
23 would be participating. In particular, we
24 want to emphasize the importance of the
25 third-party service providers in Phase 2 and
26 making sure that those parties are
27 appropriately represented in any working
28 groups.

1 Thank you.

2 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

3 Matthew Freedman.

4 MR. FREEDMAN: Good afternoon, your
5 Honor. Matt Freedman on behalf of the
6 Utility Reform Network.

7 I'll address categorization and
8 scoping issues in my comments right now.
9 First, we believe that this proceeding should
10 be categorized as ratesetting in order to
11 allow substantive rate design issues to be
12 considered in this docket.

13 With respect to the scope, we have
14 two issues. First, TURN worked very closely
15 with the Natural Resources Defense Council
16 and the Public Advocates Office on the
17 language governing the adoption of
18 income-based fixed charges that was
19 incorporated into Assembly Bill 205. This
20 language provides the opportunity for the
21 Commission to move forward on the development
22 of fixed charges for all residential
23 customers. It barely recovers fixed costs
24 while ensuring that the resultant burden does
25 not fall disproportionately on low-income and
26 working class families.

27 The Commission should authorize
28 income-based fixed charges for all

1 residential rate schedules in Phase 1-A.
2 Contrary to the suggestions of some parties
3 at today's prehearing conference, it would be
4 entirely counter-productive to limit
5 consideration of income-based fixed charges
6 only to default rate schedules. Assembly
7 Bill 205 does not limit the applicability of
8 the income-based fixed charges to default
9 rate schedules. Under the statutory
10 language, any fixed charge for any
11 residential rate schedule must be income
12 graduated.

13 So limiting the scope of Phase 1 to
14 default rates could prevent the Commission
15 from authorizing any fixed charges for other
16 residential rate schedules since all fixed
17 charges, regardless of whether applied to
18 default or optional rates must be income
19 graduated.

20 This outcome, applying fixed
21 charge -- income-based fixed charges only to
22 default rates would result in an
23 incomprehensible and inconsistent set of
24 residential tariffs that would only result in
25 higher income customers switching to
26 alternative schedules, motivate uneconomic
27 bypass and result in higher fixed charges for
28 customers who remain on default rates. For

1 these reasons the Commission must include all
2 rate schedules from the residential class in
3 the determination of appropriate fixed
4 charges.]

5 Second issue is an additional item
6 that needs to be added to the scope. TURN
7 urges the Commission to include the
8 modifications to the calculation of the CARE
9 discount that were included in Assembly Bill
10 205. Specifically, the -- the law now
11 requires that the CARE discount calculation
12 not include any specific discounts or
13 exemptions provided to CARE customers for
14 both fixed charges and other rates. The
15 current CARE discount methodologies used by
16 the utilities do not comply with this revised
17 requirement, and include the value of various
18 discounted rate components in the CARE
19 discount calculation. So this issue goes
20 beyond fixed charges. The Commission needs
21 to prioritize this issue, and direct the
22 utilities to conform their CARE discount
23 calculations to the new statutory
24 requirements. We'll address this concern in
25 our post prehearing conference statement, but
26 we want to recommend that the Commission
27 establish separate briefing or comments
28 within Phase 1, Track A that would lead to a

1 near-term decision clarifying the impact of
2 these provisions, and directing the utilities
3 to conform their rates accordingly. Thank
4 you.

5 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Melissa Kasnitz.

6 MS. KASNITZ: Thank you. Melissa
7 Kasnitz for Center for Accessible Technology.

8 We support the categorization of the
9 proceeding as ratesetting, and while we only
10 received the schedule that was put forward by
11 various parties shortly before this
12 prehearing conference, and I can speak to it
13 more and hopefully get more information at
14 the subsequent portion of this PHC, I want to
15 note that it is unclear to people who aren't
16 familiar with the discussions that led to it
17 how that schedule would take up a number of
18 the Phase 1, Track B issues that were
19 included in the previous ruling. So I hope
20 that the parties who are promoting that
21 schedule can clarify how all of the topics in
22 Phase 1, Track B would be addressed in that
23 proposed schedule at that time.

24 Beyond that, I'd like to note that
25 the proposed scoping memo only includes
26 issues related to the Commission's
27 Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan
28 goals in small roman numeral two of Track B

1 addressing guidance for demand flexibility
2 rate design. CforAT would like to recommend
3 that the Commission include consideration of
4 the Commission's environmental and social
5 justice goals and consideration of
6 environmental and social justice communities
7 in all aspects of the proceeding, including
8 the development of fixed charges and the
9 consideration of the rate design principles,
10 as well as the later portions of the
11 proceeding. Thank you.

12 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Michael Colvin.

13 MR. COLVIN: Yes. Hello. This is
14 Michael Colvin with Environmental Defense
15 Fund, or EDF.

16 We've reviewed the preliminary
17 scope, and we offer two brief observations on
18 the scope, and then one idea on
19 categorization.

20 First, to meet California's
21 decarbonization goals, the state will be
22 electrifying a major new portion of the
23 economy, and that's transportation. From the
24 recently adopted Advanced Clean Cars II rule
25 and the Advanced Clean Trucks rule last year
26 alongside the pending Advanced Clean Fleets
27 rule, we'll see major portions of the
28 transportation sector, from passenger cars to

1 large-stage trucks, join the electric grid.
2 These vehicles will all be new electric load.
3 So therefore, EDF suggests that the scope of
4 this proceeding explicitly differentiate how
5 these rates would be different for new load
6 and new customers versus existing load and
7 existing customers.

8 Second in terms of the scope, EDF
9 further observes that battery electric
10 vehicles are just that; they're large
11 batteries on wheels, and therefore, are able
12 to respond to demand flexibility very
13 differently than other types of electric
14 load. This new load has the potential and
15 has different requirements than existing
16 stationary customers, and so they can be more
17 flexible and more dynamic, and they're going
18 to be responding differently than other
19 things that are out there. And given that
20 this is a new type of stakeholder, EDF
21 suggests adding to the scope explicitly a
22 workshop and a separate sub issue dedicated
23 to how do we have dedicated like demand
24 flexibility for commercial electric vehicles
25 and other vehicle types. When we get to the
26 proposed schedule, we will also propose a
27 workshop on this topic, as well, to help
28 supplement that scope item.

1 Last in terms of the categorization,
2 and given some of the parties' earlier
3 comments on the need -- need to move as
4 quickly as possible, EDF observes that major
5 portions of what has been identified
6 preliminarily as Phase 1 are about guiding
7 principles, and that could be categorized as
8 quasi-legislative, which often moves more
9 faster than a traditional ratesetting
10 proceeding, in that we might be able to split
11 the categorization of this proceeding, and
12 have the design principles and the policy
13 issues be categorized in Phase 1 as
14 quasi-legislative, and then have the
15 implementation details and the actual
16 determination of the rates be done in Phase
17 2, and have that be categorized as
18 ratesetting.

19 And with that, we look forward to
20 having further conversation on these issues,
21 and will be following up in our post
22 prehearing conference statement. Thank you.

23 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Mohit Chhabra.

24 MR. CHHABRA: Good afternoon, your
25 Honor. This is Mohit with NRDC.

26 We agree with the categorization as
27 ratesetting. And there was another question
28 I was supposed to respond to at the onset, or

1 was that it?

2 On scope, to comprehensibly and
3 correctly --

4 (Reporter clarification.)

5 ALJ WANG: Off the record.

6 (Off the record.)

7 ALJ WANG: Back on the record.

8 MR. CHHABRA: Thank you, your Honor.
9 This is Mohit with NRDC.

10 And I agree that the proceeding
11 should be categorized as ratesetting.

12 As far as scope is concerned, we
13 agree with TURN and Sierra Club that to
14 comprehensively implement AB 205 not only do
15 you need to figure out what the fixed charges
16 need to be, but the residual volumetric
17 charges also need to be set appropriately to
18 encourage beneficial electrification and find
19 the right balance between that and
20 conservation.

21 Secondly, we stated in our comments
22 to the OIR the importance of the CARE issue
23 that TURN talked about, and we underscored
24 that in our preliminary statement.

25 And finally, also want to underscore
26 the fact that income-based fixed charges need
27 to just not be limited to default rates. As
28 TURN stated, they will -- that will

1 incentivize perverse behavior. And this is a
2 good opportunity to aggregate rates across
3 the board. And let's see. That was it --
4 that's it. Thank you, your Honor. Yeah.

5 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Nora Sheriff.

6 MS. SHERIFF: Good afternoon, your
7 Honor. Nora Sheriff on behalf of the joint
8 ratepayers, CLECA, EPUC, California Farm
9 Bureau Federation, FEA, CMTA, and EUF.

10 This can be a very impactful
11 proceeding, and we need to proceed carefully
12 in Phase 1, Track B to ensure that the impact
13 ultimately is positive. We need to be clear
14 about the fact that we're looking at the long
15 term with these rate design issues. Many
16 parties have spent the past couple of years
17 litigating realtime pricing rate designs with
18 PG&E and SCE, and many parties are involved
19 in the SDG&E realtime pricing litigation, and
20 the fact that we have these realtime pricing
21 pilots that will generate data on customer
22 responses to realtime pricing is really
23 really good; but at this point, we simply
24 cannot predict how big the incremental
25 response to realtime pricing will be.
26 Specifically, how will the customer response
27 to realtime pricing compare to the customer
28 response to the very recently instituted

1 time-of-use rates? We need to measure the
2 response in the pilot.

3 At the same time, ratepayers are in
4 an affordability crisis, and there's a lot
5 more wildfire costs, grid hardening costs,
6 and transportation electrification cost
7 increases that have already been approved
8 that are not yet in rates. So the
9 affordability crisis will continue to be
10 challenging for a few more years, unless
11 other non-ratepayer sources of funding are
12 found for those costs.

13 But, we do not know the price tag
14 for building the CalFUSE website.
15 Information technology costs are never cheap,
16 nor do we know the costs required to operate
17 it and maintain it. So without knowing
18 either the benefit, which is the incremental
19 customer response, or the cost, we can have
20 no idea about cost-effectiveness. Without a
21 cost-effectiveness evaluation based on the
22 data from the pilot, information regarding
23 the cost, the Commission cannot conclude that
24 this would be a reasonable expenditure of the
25 ratepayers' money. We cannot just assume
26 that it is cost-effective. We need the data
27 to prove it one way or another. And that
28 data and the issues need to be examined and

1 worked through by experts from a cross
2 section of parties with deep technical
3 expertise in working groups, and the working
4 groups must have the time and the space to
5 wrestle with the complex and highly technical
6 issues. The Commission should not get ahead
7 of this pilot. We cannot afford it. We need
8 to do it right from the start. So begin with
9 the rate design principles, and start up the
10 working group to evaluate the thorny
11 technical issues, and make sure that we're
12 appropriately able to use the violet pilot --
13 the vital pilot data.

14 We agree with the ratesetting
15 categorization. We recommend one working
16 group for Track 1-B. Hearings may be
17 necessary. It's difficult at this point to
18 say definitively one way or another. But, I
19 will say, if you allow the technical working
20 group enough time to wrestle with the issues,
21 you will certainly narrow, if not eliminate,
22 issues for hearing. Thank you, your Honor.

23 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Rachael Koss.

24 MS. KOSS: Good afternoon. This is
25 Rachael Koss for CUE.

26 First, CUE agrees with the
27 ratesetting categorization.

28 With respect to scope, CUE agrees

1 with TURN and NRDC that income-based fixed
2 charge should be established for all
3 residential customers. Limiting the scope to
4 default rates is inconsistent with AB 205,
5 and would not achieve the desired goals that
6 were set through AB 205. Implementing an
7 income-based fixed charge for all residential
8 customers is an essential part of updating
9 electric rate design to better align
10 California's energy policies and goals. If
11 it is structured properly, an income-based
12 fixed charge will reduce volumetric rates,
13 incentivize electrification, make electricity
14 more affordable for low-income customers, and
15 ensure that recovery of cost of service is
16 more equitable.

17 And then my last point is that CUE
18 agrees with TURN and NRDC that Phase 1 should
19 include correcting aspects of the CARE
20 discount, as mandated by AB 205, in the first
21 phase of this proceeding. Thank you.

22 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Rebecca Hansson.

23 MS. HANSSON: Good afternoon, your
24 Honor. Rebecca Hansson on behalf of SDG&E.

25 THE WITNESS: Pardon. Pardon. This is
26 Jacob from IT.

27 ALJ WANG: Off the record.

28 (Off the record.)

1 ALJ WANG: On the record.

2 MS. HANSSON: Thank you, your Honor.
3 Rebecca Hansson on behalf of SDG&E. Thank
4 you for hearing comments today.

5 As an initial matter, SDG&E agrees
6 with the categorization as ratesetting.

7 SDG&E has a few comments on the
8 scope; however, I think most of our comments
9 are best conveyed in writing, so we're
10 providing most in our post hearing statement.
11 However, I do want to spend some time
12 responding to the comments that were made
13 here today.

14 For one, SDG&E does support
15 including of a new scoping issue in Phase 1,
16 Track A to determine which issues need a deep
17 dive. As we'll discuss later, we're
18 suggesting more time in the schedule for
19 workshops, and we believe identifying --

20 (Reporter clarification.)

21 MS. HANSSON: As an initial matter,
22 SDG&E agrees with the categorization as
23 ratesetting.

24 SDG&E has a few comments on the
25 scope; however, I think most of our comments
26 are best conveyed in writing with respect to
27 the scope, so we'll be providing most of
28 those comments in our post hearing statement.

1 However, I do want to respond to some of the
2 comments that were made here.

3 For one, SDG&E supports inclusion of
4 a new scoping issue in Phase 1, Track A, to
5 determine which issues need a deep dive. As
6 we'll discuss later, we're suggesting more
7 time in the schedule for workshops, and we
8 believe identifying specific issues for those
9 workshops would be productive.

10 SDG&E further supports creating a
11 Track 1-C for the pricing platform, and that
12 this track should follow Track 1-B. We
13 expect that this issue will be relatively
14 complicated and extensive, so it would really
15 benefit from having its own track.

16 Finally, SDG&E wants to echo some of
17 TURN's comments regarding any potential
18 limitation of Track 1-A to default
19 residential rates only. Pursuant to AB 205,
20 SDG&E believes it is entitled to propose
21 fixed charges for all of its residential
22 rates, and would object to any limitation to
23 default rates only, largely due to the rate
24 arbitrage issue identified by TURN.

25 SDG&E is looking forward to making
26 important comments on the schedule at the
27 appropriate time. Thank you, your Honor.

28 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Sara Myers.

1 MS. STECK MYERS: Thank you, your
2 Honor. Good afternoon. This is Sara Myers
3 for the Center For Energy Efficiency and
4 Renewable Technologies, or CEERT. CEERT
5 filed both opening and reply comments on the
6 OIR.

7 With respect to the proposed scope
8 of Phase 1, CEERT's comments today start from
9 the perspective that the OIR's planned
10 consideration of issues requires many years
11 for the implementation of demand flexibility
12 rates, which for CEERT raises the question of
13 whether that scope and schedule will provide
14 any timely meaningful relief to the electric
15 grid challenges currently faced by this
16 state, and as evidenced by the last several
17 weeks. For those reasons, CEERT agrees with
18 other parties' concerns regarding lengthy
19 timing for this proceeding, and more
20 specifically, does not believe that the Phase
21 1, Track B issue of scope properly or fairly
22 accounts for efficiency as it can be achieved
23 and duplications that can be avoided in
24 addressing these issues by, among other
25 things, incorporating, reflecting, and
26 relying on the current and ongoing work that
27 is being undertaken by PG&E, SDG&E and
28 stakeholders on dynamic realtime pricing

1 rates. Track B makes no mention of these
2 activities, which includes studies and pilot
3 tests, nor are they embodied in any way in
4 the questions posed. Yet, it is these
5 real-world experiences that can best inform
6 guidance systems and processes that are
7 needed to achieve the one central outcome
8 that a dynamic rate must be designed to
9 achieve; that is, customer acceptance, and
10 most importantly, customer participation,
11 especially in new tariff designs and
12 approaches, that, in turn, requires
13 third-party service providers, devices, and
14 distribution energy resources to facilitate.
15 CEERT has long emphasized the need for,
16 quote, learnings, end quote, that inform CPUC
17 decisions, and that is particularly needed
18 here. As CEERT stated in its reply comments,
19 these current and ongoing dynamic rate pilot
20 and study efforts provide the building blocks
21 and foundation for timely achieving this
22 OIR's goal, and certainly should not be
23 ignored in Phase 1. It is also the
24 opportunity to ensure the effective use of
25 CPUC, utility, and stakeholder resources in
26 this process.

27 CEERT has -- agrees with the
28 categorization as ratesetting. Thank you,

1 your Honor.

2 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Shana Lazerow.

3 MS. LAZEROW: Good afternoon.

4 Shana Lazerow on behalf of the California
5 Environmental Justice Alliance, or CEJA.

6 CEJA intends to submit most of what
7 we have to say in the post hearing comments;
8 appreciate the opportunity for that.

9 But, I did want to just, as an
10 initial task, cite our agreement with the
11 categorization as ratesetting, and that CEJA
12 agrees with TURN and NRDC on the importance
13 of accurate and equitable implementation of
14 AB 205, and setting the fixed charges
15 mandates from AB 205 in this proceeding.

16 We also agree with CforAT that the
17 ESJ Action Plan needs to be considered
18 throughout this proceeding.

19 In addition, it -- we need to make
20 sure to prioritize low-income and
21 disadvantaged community households with a
22 specific focus that I'm not seeing in this
23 plan and schedule yet. The Commission has
24 done that in some of its other proceedings,
25 and we are going to propose a -- a process to
26 really highlight those -- those households'
27 needs in this proceeding. Thank you.

28 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Tanya Peacock.

1 MS. PEACOCK: Thank you, your Honor.
2 This is Tanya Peacock, senior director of
3 Bloom Energy.

4 Bloom does not have any objection to
5 any of the objectives in this rulemaking, and
6 fully supports enabling widespread demand
7 flexibility for electric rates. We concur
8 that the rate -- with the ratesetting
9 category -- categorization -- categorization.

10 Bloom Energy applauds the Energy
11 Division's forward-thinking and deep analysis
12 which this proceeding is based on. We
13 believe this proceeding has the potential to
14 create a strong foundation for leveraging
15 customer investment and involvement for
16 better, cleaner, more reliable and equitable
17 energy systems that the rest of the world
18 will want to emulate.

19 Bloom provides distributed energy
20 solutions that will likely be impacted by
21 this proceeding. We urge the Commission to
22 consider adopting interim steps to better
23 leverage customer capital investment in
24 distributed energy resources, while making
25 progress towards more advanced complex
26 markets. This can be seen as a proof of
27 concept, or even appetizer, if you will, that
28 shows what customers can do that starts to

1 move our energy system in the right
2 direction, and it gets customers used to the
3 idea of having the kind of relationship with
4 the energy system that the more complex
5 reforms envisioned will require.

6 On the procedural -- procedural
7 issues in Phase 1, Track A, while our systems
8 are not generally affected by residential
9 rates, we join with others that fixed rates
10 should be designed to encourage and
11 incentivize rather than deter customer
12 investment that lower -- lower overall energy
13 costs.

14 Regarding Phase 1, Track B, Bloom
15 requests clarification on the questions
16 posed. Are they intended to be applicable
17 solely to residential customers or to
18 commercial and industrial customers, as well?
19 For instance, Question 2-A mentions
20 non-residential fixed costs, but Question 2-B
21 refers to customers. It is not clear which
22 customer groups are being considered.

23 Bloom's next recommendation is to
24 maintain a technology-neutral approach
25 throughout Track B in which all plain
26 technologies can be considered. The majority
27 of Bloom's customers in California with
28 nameplate capacities ranging from 100

1 kilowatts to 400 megawatts use Bloom fuel
2 cells as their primary power source. Bloom's
3 distributed energy resources are a form of
4 demand flexibility that are reliably reducing
5 almost 300 megawatts from California's grid
6 every single day, and help prevent strain on
7 the grid during extreme events. Reforms to
8 fixed charges and flexible charges must
9 consider the contributions of these DERs.

10 In addition to what Bloom has
11 installed, to date, in California, there are
12 many other DER technologies and thousands of
13 potential megawatts that could be leveraged,
14 if the Commission unlocks the full potential
15 of DERs and demand flexibility in this
16 proceeding. In doing so, Bloom agrees with
17 the California Clean Distributed Generation
18 Coalition that rates in any pilot programs be
19 technology-neutral to accommodate the wide
20 range of DERs available to help meet the
21 OIR's objective. That concludes my remarks.
22 Thank you.

23 ALJ WANG: Thank you. Zach Woogen.

24 MR. WOOGEN: Thank you, your Honor.

25 Regarding the proposed
26 categorization, VGIC supports Environmental
27 Defense Fund's proposal to consider splitting
28 categorization between quasi-legislative and

1 ratesetting for Phase 1 issues, which are
2 policy-oriented, and Phase 2 issues, which
3 relate to implementation and rollout.

4 Regarding scope, VGIC generally
5 supports the proposed scope, but recommends
6 the interaction between rates and
7 programmatic approaches to unlocking load
8 flexibility be considered in either Phase 1,
9 in Phase 2, Item 6, or in its own scope item.

10 VGIC fully supports the development
11 of optional dynamic rates as a tool to unlock
12 load flexibility, yet we also recognize that
13 flexible electric vehicle charging and
14 discharging is currently being unlocked
15 through programmatic approaches in addition
16 to dynamic rates. For example, electric
17 vehicle drivers that reduce charging load in
18 response to some dynamic rate pilots may not
19 be eligible for dual enrollment in the
20 Emergency Load Reduction Program, which
21 compensates vehicle-to-grid exports from
22 electric school buses and other electric
23 vehicles. Meanwhile, Pacific Gas and
24 Electric's new evPulse program represents an
25 innovative program to support transportation
26 electrification as well as customer
27 resilience during public safety power
28 shutoffs. Additionally, SDG&E and Southern

1 California Edison each have pending
2 (inaudible) pilot proposals before the
3 Commission.

4 With this in mind, VGIC recommends
5 that the interactions between dynamic rates
6 and managed charging or V2G export programs
7 be considered, and specifically the issue of
8 dual participation be considered to fully
9 unlock electric vehicles as a grid resource.
10 This concludes VGIC's comment. Thank you,
11 your Honor.]

12 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

13 Now we move on to schedule and need
14 for evidentiary hearings, but first --
15 actually, I'll note that the ratesetting
16 categorization would trigger ex parte rules
17 described in the Commission's Rules of
18 Practice and Procedure.

19 In addition, regardless of
20 categorization of this proceeding, parties
21 should follow these directions for
22 communicating with me. Parties with
23 procedural directions may send an e-mail to
24 me. Parties should not communicate with me
25 about non-procedural issues outside of a
26 public forum that has been noticed to the
27 service list of this proceeding.

28 Regarding the schedule and need for

1 evidentiary hearing, in a ruling on
2 September 1st I proposed the schedule for
3 Phase 1 of this proceeding including
4 evidentiary hearings for one track of
5 Phase 1. In a moment I will call on party
6 representatives to comment on the proposed
7 schedule and the need for hearings for
8 Phase 1 of this proceeding.

9 Off the record.

10 (Off the record.)

11 ALJ WANG: Let's go back on the record.

12 When I call on party representatives
13 to comment, before you comment please state
14 your name and the organizations you represent
15 for the record.

16 Starting with the Andrew Cole.

17 MR. COLE: Thank you, your Honor. This
18 is Andrew Cole with Leapfrog Power.

19 Leap has no comment on the schedule
20 or need for evidentiary hearings at this
21 point but reserves the right to comment
22 through filing post-prehearing comments -- or
23 post-prehearing conference statements.

24 Thank you.

25 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

26 Ann Trowbridge.

27 MS. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you, your Honor.
28 Ann Trowbridge for FreeWire Technologies and

1 California Clean DG Coalition.

2 We have no comment on the schedule
3 that was proposed in your September 1st
4 ruling. We have not had a chance to review
5 the detailed schedule that was proposed
6 earlier this afternoon. So we look forward
7 to hearing more about that in a moment and
8 provide additional comments and oppose PHC
9 statements, if necessary.

10 Both FreeWire and CCDGC are
11 preliminarily focused on Track B of Phase 1.
12 It would be hopeful that the working group
13 process would avoid the need for hearings,
14 but we think it's probably too soon to
15 conclude finally that hearings would not be
16 necessary for that track.

17 Thank you, your Honor.

18 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

19 Bill Weaver.

20 MR. WEAVER: Bill Weaver, California
21 CAISO.

22 No further comments at this time.
23 Thank you.

24 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

25 Clark McIsaac.

26 MR. McISAAC: Thank you, your Honor.

27 This is Clark McIsaac on behalf of the
28 California Efficiency and Demand Management

1 Council.

2 At this moment we have no further
3 comments beyond what we have already provided
4 today and what we have submitted in writing
5 previously but reserve the right to comment
6 further if appropriate.

7 Thank you.

8 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

9 Daniel Douglass.

10 MR. DOUGLASS: Thank you, your Honor.

11 Daniel Douglass from Goggle Nest.

12 As mentioned in my earlier comments,
13 Google Nest would like to see us move
14 expeditiously to Phase 2. So our hope would
15 be that if possible we could avoid hearings.

16 We also received the various
17 scheduling options that were proposed by the
18 IOUs and various other parties in an e-mail
19 this afternoon -- or this morning shortly
20 before this prehearing conference, and I've
21 not yet had a chance to confer with my client
22 to get a sense of their thoughts with regard
23 to that. So I look forward to hearing
24 more from the utilities about their
25 alternative schedule.

26 Thank you.

27 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

28 Darryl Gruen.

1 MR. GRUEN: Thank you, your Honor.

2 The Public Advocates' Office has no
3 further comments at this time. We reserve
4 the right to add comments in the
5 post-prehearing conference statement.

6 Thank you.

7 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

8 David Myers.

9 MR. MEYERS: No additional comments.
10 Thank you.

11 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

12 Gail Slocum.

13 MS. SLOCUM: Yes, your Honor. Thank
14 you. Gail Slocum for PG&E.

15 Given that a number of parties have
16 not used their two minutes and given that we
17 were heavily involved in the development with
18 other -- certain other parties of the
19 schedule, I'm hoping that perhaps there could
20 be a little bit of leeway here.

21 We -- first, I'd like to address a
22 couple of points that came up after I spoke
23 in the first section. PG&E agrees that you
24 should not limit just to default res rate the
25 exploration of how to do fixed charges.
26 PG&E's default res rate is E-TOU-C, and it
27 only has about 30 percent of all of our
28 residential customers on it. Another

1 25 percent or so are other TOU rates which
2 leaves about 45 percent of our customers that
3 are not even on TOU. There are perhaps some
4 things that we could do as a group to look at
5 helping these customers walk before thinking
6 about even getting them to run. In other
7 words, it doesn't seem likely that a customer
8 that is not on TOU is going to take the risk
9 of R2P if they weren't willing to do just
10 TOU.

11 So there may be some low hanging
12 fruit for us to consider in terms -- in the
13 near term that could help increase demand
14 response which we strongly support.

15 Definitely as to the parties that
16 were concerned about the scheduling that was
17 developed as a -- sort of a conceptual item,
18 PG&E is okay with either option one or two.
19 We -- in many ways we prefer the idea of the
20 IOUs filing first because we are the ones
21 that are called for to actually implement and
22 it has to be feasible and cost effective.

23 So option one is preferable that
24 way, but we noticed that there was perhaps an
25 oversight in your Honor's original ruling
26 schedule because it didn't include an
27 opportunity for rebuttal, which we believe
28 for option one is very important for due

1 process to make sure that the Commission has
2 all the factual information before it to form
3 a proper basis for a decision as important as
4 the fixed-charge decision.

5 However, we do also support option
6 two which would allow more time for the
7 working group even than option one. And it
8 changes to having everybody file at the same
9 time with the hope that perhaps many of the
10 issues can achieve some degree of consensus
11 during the working group process and to
12 inform the parties' proposal so that it's
13 less likely that there may be
14 misunderstandings about feasibility and cost
15 effectiveness concerns that are currently not
16 on the table.

17 The issue of income-graduated rates
18 is a completely new issue. And there's a lot
19 of thorny factual matters about verification
20 and about data collection that are totally
21 new for the Commission and for the IOUs to
22 take on. So we definitely want to take the
23 time to make sure that there's deep dives in
24 those working groups.

25 For the parties that were concerned
26 about starting the Phase 2 where it's
27 proposed in this conceptual schedule, one
28 possibility to consider would be whether some

1 of the workshop effort could be started right
2 after the briefs are done on the fixed
3 charge. However, we cannot in good faith try
4 to tackle all the issues of R2P because it's
5 the same people that are going to be involved
6 in the fixed charge. And there's just a
7 limit to how much we can do. But also more
8 importantly we feel strongly and we agree
9 with the other parties who have noted that
10 data is important. And I do not believe that
11 pilot data will be available for most of the
12 pilots until approximately early 2024 and
13 through 2025. So maybe start workshops in
14 January of 2024 and have some overlap but
15 please do consider the burden and the cost
16 that is imposing on all parties to try to
17 cover major -- two major proceedings at the
18 same time.

19 We do want -- we do see going back
20 to option two. Option two has everybody
21 filing at the same time and it also has
22 everybody responding at the same time. And
23 while that isn't technically rebuttal because
24 parties could raise new things in their
25 response, we -- we are willing to go along
26 with that with the understanding that there
27 may be some factual issues that witnesses
28 need to address during hearings that could be

1 raised in response that we wouldn't have had
2 an opportunity as the applicant to address.
3 In other words, many times people will put
4 together various different proposals as a
5 possible compromise. And we welcome that.
6 However, we also need to evaluate it for
7 feasibility.

8 So those are the main -- those are
9 the main issues on schedule. And we
10 definitely think hearings are likely to be
11 needed although we are hoping they can be
12 limited because of the thorny nature of a lot
13 of factual issues on the fixed charge.

14 And finally, on the rate design
15 principle I would note for the record that
16 PG&E in opening comments did not provide
17 substantive input. And to have the
18 Commission staff issue a proposal without
19 hearing from all the parties what they would
20 like to have considered through, say, a
21 working group meeting, the conceptual
22 schedule at least has some working group
23 effort before the staff issues a proposal.

24 Thank you, your Honor, and thanks
25 for your forbearance with my two minutes
26 exceeded.

27 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

28 Grace Pratt.

1 MS. PRATT: Thank you, your Honor.
2 Grace Pratt on behalf of CESA.

3 CESA has no further comments on the
4 schedule or need for evidentiary hearings at
5 this time, but we may comment on the IOUs
6 proposed alternatives in the post-hearing
7 conference statement.

8 Thank you.

9 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

10 James Whooley.

11 MR. WHOOLEY: Thank you, your Honor.

12 As far as the schedule from SCE's
13 perspective, this process will lead to
14 significant changes intended to drive the
15 decarbonization and customer affordability
16 across California, but it's important that we
17 get this right and we do not want to lose out
18 on the quality of the end result by
19 shortcutting the process.

20 As a general matter, SCE believes
21 the schedule is too compressed. Issues that
22 go well beyond the issue of dynamic pricing
23 are included in this proceeding particularly
24 the issue of income graduated fixed charges
25 and the issue of updating overarching rate
26 principles each of which could easily be the
27 subject of a stand-alone proceeding. Each of
28 these issues should be addressed on a

1 timeframe that allows for a (inaudible)
2 process so that the end results are
3 well-founded, feasible, and beneficial to all
4 ratepayers.

5 As noted, affordability is a key
6 concern as is the equitability of the fixed
7 charge, the cost-effectiveness of realtime
8 pricing, and the need to support the
9 carbonization goals.

10 On the issue of realtime pricing in
11 particular, we agree that there should be
12 time to allow for lessons learned from
13 ongoing pilots. And we want those pilots to
14 inform the decision making in this process.
15 As has been noted some pilots are still early
16 in their process. For example, SCE's dynamic
17 pilot won't have a final evaluation done
18 until March of 2025. The schedule should be
19 modified to reflect making the pricing portal
20 issue a separate track as I discussed in my
21 comments with respect to scoping.

22 SCE will provide specific
23 suggestions on schedule modifications in its
24 post-conference submission on September 27th.
25 As a general matter, we would suggest as to
26 Track 1-A on fixed charges that the proposed
27 schedule issued by the Commission is too
28 compressed with testimony in January and

1 February of 2023. We believe more time is
2 needed for workshops and party discussions.
3 And we think the opening testimony deadline
4 should be extended to May or early June with
5 subsequent dates extended accordingly.

6 On 1-B for principles we generally
7 agree with the proposed dates there although
8 we'll offer proposed modifications in our
9 post-conference statement. And we thought
10 what was supposed to be 1-C on the pricing
11 portal, we did believe a separate track
12 should be established and we believe this
13 separate track would have some new components
14 which we can more specifically address in our
15 post-conference statement.

16 As to the evidentiary hearings, at
17 this point we believe hearings likely would
18 be needed for initial fixed charges. At this
19 time we are not certain whether hearings on
20 1-B rate design and realtime pricing design
21 and what we propose to be 1-C on the pricing
22 portal will be necessary. And we believe
23 separate working groups would be appropriate
24 for each of the tracks thus the fixed
25 charges, principles and guidance, and the
26 pricing portal.

27 Thank you.

28 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

1 Jane Krikorian.

2 MS. KRIKORIAN: Thank you, your Honor.
3 Jane Krikorian for UCAN.

4 UCAN supports hearings for the
5 ratesetting portion of this proceeding and
6 has no comment on the schedule at this time.

7 Thank you.

8 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

9 Jean Armstrong.

10 MS. ARMSTRONG: Yes, your Honor. Jean
11 Armstrong for the Solar Energy Industries
12 Association.

13 With respect to schedule for
14 Track 1-A, the fixed charge, we do agree with
15 the utilities that it was -- your proposal
16 was somewhat condensed and might not allow
17 sufficient time for parties to formulate the
18 proposals and get them scheduled -- I mean,
19 get them submitted. We also noted that the
20 proposed decision on the rate design
21 principle from Track 1-B was slated to come
22 out subsequent to when you had proposed that
23 the IOUs file their fixed charge proposals.
24 We believe it's necessary for those rate
25 design principles to be established before
26 the fixed charge proposals are submitted.

27 With respect to the proposals, I'll
28 just say one thing about default residential

1 versus all residential. We recognize what
2 Ms. Slocum said about most of PG&E's
3 residential customers are not on the default
4 rate. I think our concern was not on, you
5 know, the default rate and the tier rate that
6 residential customers also are on is the
7 specialized residential rates, like the
8 expectation rates and things of those nature.
9 We do not believe that this proceeding was
10 the time to alter the fixed charges that were
11 already in place to those rates or impose
12 additional fixed charges for the rates if
13 they don't have them. So that was our
14 concern, not, you know, your basic rates that
15 most residential customers are on.

16 The only additional point I'll make
17 is with respect to Phase 2. I know that
18 (inaudible) was supposed to address it. But
19 as I said before, we really would like to
20 move up at least some of the discussion and
21 the working group for Phase 2 and the design
22 of demand flexibility rates into 2023. At
23 least get the working group up and running
24 and talking about it so they can, you know,
25 maybe put a proposal in at the end of 2023.

26 Thank you.

27 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

28 Jed Gibson.

1 MR. GIBSON: Thank you, your Honor.
2 Jed Gibson for CASMU.

3 CASMU does not have any recommended
4 modifications to the proposed schedule for
5 Phase 1 at this time. We did want to express
6 the port for the proposed phasing of the
7 schedule which will allow the proceeding to
8 efficiently and expeditiously address
9 utility-specific issues while adhering the
10 statutory timeline. As we would refer to
11 avoid evidentiary hearings, we believe that
12 hearings may be necessary as we anticipate
13 there will be material contested facts in
14 both tracks of Phase 1.

15 Thank you.

16 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

17 Jennifer Weberski.

18 MS. WEBERSKI: Thank you, your Honor.
19 Jennifer Weberski on behalf of SBUA.

20 We don't have any additional
21 comments regarding the schedule at this time.

22 Thank you, your Honor.

23 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

24 Katherine Ramsey.

25 MS. RAMSEY: Thank you, your Honor.
26 Katherine Ramsey on behalf of Sierra Club.

27 Sierra Club supports the proposed
28 schedule particularly the sequencing of

1 pursuing the end conveyed fixed charges in
2 parallel with the (inaudible) while also
3 moving into Phase 2.

4 Thank you.

5 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

6 Kevin Johnston.

7 MR. JOHNSTON: Thank you, your Honor.

8 Kevin Johnston for California Farm Bureau
9 Federation.

10 Again, as well as a joint ratepayer
11 party in the interest of time I'll simply
12 defer and echo the comments of Ms. Sheriff.

13 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

14 Leanne Bober.

15 MS. BOBER: Thank you, your Honor. At
16 this time --

17 I apologize. This is Leanne Bober
18 from the California Community Choice
19 Association or CalCCA.

20 At this time CalCCA has no comment
21 on this schedule. Thank you.

22 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

23 Mark Fulmer.

24 MR. FULMER: Good afternoon. This is
25 Mark Fulmer for AReM.

26 AReM has no comments at this time.
27 Thank you.

28 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

1 Matthew Freedman.

2 MR. FREEDMAN: Thank you, your Honor.
3 Matt Freedman on behalf of TURN.

4 We generally support the draft
5 schedule and phasing outlined in the
6 alternative options that were served earlier
7 today by San Diego Gas & Electric and have
8 been the product of conversations between a
9 number of parties. And we'll provide
10 additional thoughts on that draft schedule in
11 our post-prehearing conference statement.
12 For Phase 1-A in particular we would urge the
13 Commission to prioritize the opportunity for
14 upfront participation in working groups
15 followed by testimony or comments and then
16 settlement talks prior to any evidentiary
17 hearings. It's our hope that this approach
18 would limit the scope of any factual disputes
19 that must be explored in hearings if those
20 hearings are needed and it would allow
21 parties to align on a discrete set of options
22 for consideration by the Commission.

23 With respect to Phase 1-B --
24 Phase 1, Track B and the revised rate design
25 principles, we similarly support a process
26 that allows working groups to convene before
27 staff recommendations are circulated for
28 comment. We're concerned that some of the

1 principles under consideration may focus the
2 Commission on late design approaches that are
3 extremely complex, create a false sense of
4 precision with respect to cost causation,
5 could be overly confusing to the customers
6 and may not be implementable in the
7 foreseeable future.

8 So we're going to note on any of
9 these concerns in future comments, but we
10 want to make sure we highlight upfront our
11 commitment to rate reforms that balance
12 accuracy with the need for implementable
13 rates that are comprehensible for average
14 residential customers. And we think that
15 establishing more informal working groups and
16 processes around this are more likely to lead
17 to a fair outcome on this issue.

18 And for Phase 2 issues, we agree
19 that they should only be addressed after the
20 Phase 1 issues are involved. First, the
21 Commission has to determine the revised
22 structure of residential income-based fixed
23 charges, then the Commission has to have
24 adopted rate design principles that are
25 finalized before any advance rate designs can
26 be considered.

27 In addition, data -- pricing data
28 access and the establishment of any portals

1 and data frameworks need to be addressed
2 before rate design is considered. The
3 Commission must establish what kind of
4 consumer data access is realistic and the
5 timeframe for making it available. Once
6 clear expectations have been established and
7 a timeline for deployment has been adopted,
8 the Commission can then consider significant
9 rate reform concepts in a manner consistent
10 with both the adoptive principles and the
11 data access framework. We'll provide more
12 comments on this in our post-prehearing
13 conference statement.

14 Thank you.

15 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

16 Melissa Kasnitz.

17 MS. KASNITZ: Thank you, your Honor.
18 Melissa Kasnitz for Center for Accessible
19 Technology.

20 In my prior comments I noted some
21 confusion about the new proposed schedule
22 that was circulated earlier today. And I
23 should clarify that some of that confusion
24 is, in fact, simply replicated from the
25 initial schedule put forward with the added
26 note that the schedule circulated today
27 labeled track Phase 1-B simply is updated
28 R2Ps which, of course, is simply one element

1 of that phase.

2 What I'd like to flag and request
3 assistance on is the guidance for how parties
4 will be addressing Phase 1, Track B, Roman
5 Numerals II and III, which is much less
6 detailed in both proposals in front of
7 parties than the details for the portion of
8 Track B that addresses the R2Ps. Presumably
9 the ruling that is identified in both the
10 initial proposals, hence the revised
11 proposal, is where that would be developed,
12 but I'll just put forward at this time that
13 the level of detail on how parties would
14 provide input and how the Commission would
15 take up that input for the subsequent point
16 after the rate design and principles have a
17 lot less clarity.

18 So I would appreciate -- and I hope
19 others would appreciate as well some further
20 guidance on what is being considered there.

21 Beyond that, CforAT has no further
22 comments on a schedule. We believe hearings
23 are likely to be necessary but support
24 efforts among the parties can narrow the
25 scope of issues for hearing as much as
26 possible.

27 Thank you.

28 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

1 Michael Colvin.

2 MR. COLVIN: Yes. This is Michael
3 Colvin with Environmental Defense fund.

4 I have two observations. With
5 respect to the sixth charge discussion in
6 Track 1-A, I would encourage the Commission
7 to have a little bit more time for parties to
8 informally converse and maybe even do some --
9 a second workshop before we move into the
10 need for evidentiary hearings itself. And
11 that might be helpful before or after the
12 staff proposal itself is issued.

13 For Track 1-B my observation is that
14 the order of operations here is a little out
15 of sync to have a staff proposal be issued
16 and then have the working group be formed.
17 Then perhaps the staff proposal will be
18 better informed by the parties itself and
19 have that working group start as soon as
20 possible and then have a couple preliminary
21 conversations and then informed by that have
22 the staff issue an initial proposal and then
23 move forward from there.]

24 As your Honor notes, we have 20-plus
25 parties in this proceeding, and it would seem
26 to be a shame that staff could issue a
27 proposal without their input at the
28 beginning.

1 Last but not least, as I mentioned
2 in our last round of comments, EDF believes
3 that the nature of vehicles and especially
4 heavy-duty vehicles and charging is going to
5 be very important for respective demand
6 flexibility. So somewhere in the scope, if
7 that is chosen to be put into the scope, then
8 the schedule itself should also allow for a
9 workshop or a dedicated set of comments on
10 that issue. And we think that would be
11 appropriate somewhere in the second half of
12 Track B.

13 With that, we thank you so much, and
14 we'll put in some more specific dates and
15 suggestions into our post-prehearing
16 conference statement.

17 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

18 Mohit Chhabra.

19 MR. CHHABRA: This is Mohit Chhabra
20 from NRDC, the Natural Resources Defense
21 Council.

22 We will provide detailed comments in
23 our statement, and we'll note that the issue
24 of fixed charges is as much an economic issue
25 as it is a policy issue. So that needs to be
26 done in tandem with developing the
27 principles. The principles that -- the fixed
28 charges adopted and the principles, they need

1 to be well-aligned. And it's not clear to us
2 right now that the schedule completely allows
3 for that. The timings will be close. We'll
4 comment on that in our statement.

5 And in addition, as far as testimony
6 is concerned, we want to make sure that the
7 best possible rate design is developed, and
8 for that, our preference is concurrent
9 testimony because otherwise party responses
10 and party testimony gets anchored in the
11 first proposal which -- so our preference is
12 for option two, and we'll explain that and
13 why in our statement. Thank you. And no
14 preference on evidentiary hearings.

15 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

16 Nora Sheriff.

17 MS. SHERIFF: Thank you, your Honor.
18 Nora Sheriff for the Joint Ratepayers.

19 We agree with the concern about the
20 schedule for Track B being compressed. We'll
21 expand on this in our post-prehearing
22 conference statement. We also agree with Mr.
23 Freedman and others that a technical working
24 group definitely needs to be stood up and
25 engaged and that participants which should,
26 again, come from a cross-section of parties
27 should be able to have the time to wrestle
28 with these issues. And that working group

1 process should inform the staff proposal, not
2 the other way around.

3 We definitely need to make sure that
4 the technical working group in Track B has
5 time to wrestle with the issues to inform the
6 staff proposal. And again, we'll expand in
7 the post-hearing conference statement.

8 Thank you.

9 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

10 Rachael Koss.

11 MS. KOSS: Rachael Koss on behalf of
12 CUE.

13 We generally agree with the proposed
14 tracks and phases. We agree that technical
15 working groups are essential. I haven't had
16 a thorough opportunity to review the proposal
17 by the IOUs and some other parties that was
18 circulated earlier. We will do that and
19 comment in our post-prehearing conference
20 statement.

21 Thank you.

22 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

23 Rebecca Hansson.

24 MS. HANSSON: Rebecca Hansson on behalf
25 of SDG&E.

26 With respect to the alternative
27 schedules provided earlier today and served
28 on the parties by SDG&E, we appreciate the

1 parties taking a closer look at our proposed
2 schedule options. So there are two options
3 there. PG&E described them some, but both of
4 those options that I'm discussing are for
5 Phase 1, Track A on the fixed charge. SDG&E
6 is okay with either of those as well, but our
7 strong preference is for Option 2. And
8 that's the option where all parties will be
9 serving concurrent opening testimony in May
10 or June. And specifically, SDG&E is
11 requesting that the parties offer concurrent
12 opening testimony in June -- on June 9th of
13 2023. And that's, again, for the opening
14 testimony on the fixed charge.

15 So SDG&E's reasons for that are that
16 SDG&E has significant resource concerns with
17 the ALJ's current proposed schedule, which
18 has opening testimony on the fixed charge on
19 January 20th, 2023. SDG&E has its GRC
20 Phase 2 which is currently set to be filed
21 December 30th, 2022. It's a significant
22 proceeding. As, you know, the Commission
23 knows significant filing obligations on
24 behalf of SDG&E have to occur. It's also a
25 rate design proceeding. So we will have
26 significant overlap of witnesses in that
27 proceeding and this proceeding. So we are
28 certainly concerned about the resource

1 constraints there.

2 SDG&E also has its ERRA proceeding
3 that wraps up around that time and its annual
4 consolidated filing at that time too at the
5 end of the year. So the expectation to turn
6 around in -- 21 days later file a very
7 important and significant application
8 testimony is a concern. We really do not
9 want to rush our proposal here. Our priority
10 is producing a well-considered and thoughtful
11 proposal, and we think that requires input
12 from our customers. We are currently
13 preparing surveys. We would love to do focus
14 groups. We would need until that June date,
15 if we do launch and do focus groups, to get
16 those prepared schedules and execute it. We
17 would love input from intervenors. A number
18 of parties here have discussed the need for
19 workshops before doing their proposal for --
20 you know, before creating those proposals.
21 We think that's a very good idea. We would
22 love to answer questions. There's a lot of
23 sticky issues on the fixed charge that I
24 think would be best addressed in some
25 informal workshops. We can address some of
26 those issues up front, allow for questions --
27 the other parties to ask questions, address
28 implementation issues we may have. SDG&E

1 believes that will lead to better quality
2 proposals, more thoughtful, well-considered
3 proposals from all the parties if we do have
4 more time up front.

5 Again, your Honor, SDG&E is asking
6 for that June 9th, 2023 date to serve its
7 opening testimony so that we can get all the
8 input from the appropriate people. SDG&E
9 takes no position on the need for evidentiary
10 hearings at this time.

11 Thank you, your Honor.

12 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

13 Sara Myers.

14 MS. MYERS: Good afternoon, again, your
15 Honor. This is Sara Myers for CEERT.

16 We only have a few comments on other
17 parties' statements regarding schedule. As
18 to any discussion that the status of RTP
19 pilots is a reason for delaying addressing
20 issues in this proceeding, that is certainly
21 not CEERT's position, as previously stated.
22 Instead, CEERT believes the Commission,
23 again, must account for the foundational
24 building blocks for dynamic rates that have
25 already been established by the Commission
26 and allow for that information to be part of
27 Phase 1, Track B. Having that work included
28 in the scope and schedule will help more

1 quickly and better facilitate establishing
2 rate designs that are, in fact,
3 comprehensible and acceptable to customers.

4 It's also the case that this
5 proceeding should not serve to delay the
6 resolution of those pilots, but, again,
7 certain building blocks have already been
8 established or are in the works that should
9 not -- should be recognized.

10 Thank you, your Honor.

11 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

12 Shana Lazerow.

13 MS. LAZEROW: Good afternoon. Shana
14 Lazerow on behalf of the California
15 Environmental Justice Alliance.

16 We have no comment on the schedule
17 at this time. Thank you.

18 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

19 Tanya Peacock.

20 MS. PEACOCK: Thank you, your Honor.

21 Tanya Peacock on behalf of Bloom
22 Energy.

23 And we have no additional comment on
24 the schedule at this time. Thank you.

25 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

26 Zach Woogen.

27 MR. WOOGEN: Thank you, your Honor.

28 Zach Woogen on behalf of the Vehicle-Grid

1 Integration Council or VGIC.

2 VGIC has no comment on the proposed
3 schedule and need for evidentiary hearings at
4 this time. Thank you.

5 ALJ WANG: Thank you.

6 In closing, per my ruling September
7 1st, any party may file a post-prehearing
8 conference statement by September 27th if
9 they wish to provide additional comments on
10 procedural matters or respond to other party
11 comments.

12 One last reminder. A customer who
13 intends to seek an award of compensation must
14 file and serve a notice of intent to claim
15 compensation within 30 days after the
16 prehearing conference. Parties new to
17 participating in Commission proceedings may
18 contact the Commission's Public Advisor for
19 details. Thank you for your participation
20 today.

21 We are off the record and adjourned.

22 (Whereupon, at the hour of 3:36
23 p.m., the Commission then adjourned.)

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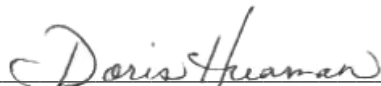
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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDING
I, DORIS HUAMAN, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER
NO. 10538, IN AND FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DO
HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE PAGES OF THIS TRANSCRIPT
PREPARED BY ME COMPRISE A FULL, TRUE, AND CORRECT
TRANSCRIPT OF THE TESTIMONY AND PROCEEDINGS HELD IN
THIS MATTER ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2022.

I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE
EVENTS OF THE MATTER OR THE OUTCOME OF THE PROCEEDING.
EXECUTED THIS SEPTEMBER 20, 2022.



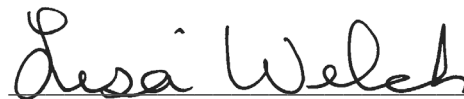
DORIS HUAMAN
CSR NO. 10538

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDING
I, LISA WELCH, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER
NO. 10928, IN AND FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DO
HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE PAGES OF THIS TRANSCRIPT
PREPARED BY ME COMPRISE A FULL, TRUE, AND CORRECT
TRANSCRIPT OF THE TESTIMONY AND PROCEEDINGS HELD IN
THIS MATTER ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2022.

I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE
EVENTS OF THE MATTER OR THE OUTCOME OF THE PROCEEDING.
EXECUTED THIS SEPTEMBER 20, 2022.


LISA WELCH
CSR NO. 10928


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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDING
I, REBEKAH L. DE ROSA, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND
REPORTER NO. 8708, IN AND FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE PAGES OF THIS TRANSCRIPT
PREPARED BY ME COMPRISE A FULL, TRUE, AND CORRECT
TRANSCRIPT OF THE TESTIMONY AND PROCEEDINGS HELD IN
THIS MATTER ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2022.

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

EXECUTED THIS SEPTEMBER 20, 2022.


REBEKAH L. DE ROSA
CSR NO. 8708

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