



**FILED**

12/01/22

12:47 PM

R2106017

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

Order Instituting Rulemaking to  
Modernize the Electric Grid for a High  
Distributed Energy Resources Future.

Rulemaking 21-06-017

**JOINT ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S  
AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES' RULING  
NOTICING DECEMBER 13, 2022 WORKSHOP**

This Ruling provides notice of a workshop on December 13, 2022, to present the draft Scope of Work (SOW) for the Track 1 Distribution Planning Community Engagement Needs Assessment study and discuss the Track 1 and Track 2 community outreach efforts carried out by California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) staff from September 2022 through November 2022.

**1. Background**

The November 15, 2021, *Assigned Commissioner's Scoping Memo and Ruling* (Scoping Memo) established the scope of issues and schedule for this proceeding. The Scoping Memo anticipated a workshop conducted by Energy Division staff on the scope and funding of a potential community engagement needs assessment.<sup>1</sup> The potential community engagement needs assessment will address two issues identified in the Scoping Memo. First, in Track 1, Phase 1, Issue 5 asks what initial analysis is needed for the Commission to determine in Track 1, Phase 2, of this proceeding how best to improve local engagement in utility distribution planning. Second, in Track 1, Phase 2, Issue 3 asks whether, in

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<sup>1</sup> Scoping Memo at 13.

leveraging the analysis identified in Track 1, Phase 1, there are ways in which utility distribution planning representatives could better engage with local and tribal governments, Environmental and Social Justice communities, and local developers to ensure new planned loads and developments are factored into utility distribution planning processes and local concerns regarding distribution planning are adequately addressed.

On May 3, 2022, Energy Division hosted a Track 2 workshop (May Workshop) to discuss Distribution System Operator (DSO) alternatives and the Future Grid Study. During the May Workshop, in addition to presentations on DSO models, several stakeholders gave presentations on the importance of community engagement and how to improve local engagement in utility distribution planning, including how to better inform the Future Grid Study.

On August 12, 2022, the Administrative Law Judges issued a Ruling noticing an August 23, 2022 workshop on Electric Grid Education and Outreach (August Workshop). The August 12, 2022 Ruling explained that the purpose of the August Workshop was to provide a foundation to parties and other interested community groups and members of the public to better understand distribution planning and the roles and responsibilities of the DSO. In response to the May Workshop feedback, the ruling announced continuation of the discussion for the Track 1 and Track 2 outreach, with a draft outreach plan and questions to consider in preparation for the August Workshop discussion. Parties were instructed to file comments responding to the questions contained in the August 12, 2022 Ruling and commenting on the draft plan for the Track 1 and Track 2 outreach.

The following parties filed opening comments on August 31, 2022: Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E); Southern California Edison Company; San Diego Gas &

Electric (SDG&E); Center for Biological Diversity; GRID Alternatives, The Climate Center, 350 Bay Area, Vote Solar, Sierra Club, and Clean Coalition (collectively, Joint Parties); the Public Advocates Office of the California Public Utilities Commission (Cal Advocates); and Green Power Institute. The following parties filed reply comments on September 9, 2022: PG&E, SDG&E, Joint Parties, Cal Advocates, Green Power Institute, and Utility Consumers' Action Network.

## **2. Informal Outreach Meetings**

Following review of the August Workshop comments, Commission staff with the support of its consultant held a series of informal outreach meetings with tribal governments, local governments, and community-based organizations. These meetings combined with the party comments have provided valuable input informing the next steps in the development of a consultant SOW for a Distribution Planning Community Engagement Needs Assessment study. The information from the September through November meetings will be presented at the workshop on December 13, 2022.

Prior to the workshop, the Commission will provide a copy of the draft SOW for the Distribution Planning Community Engagement Needs Assessment study to the service list for this proceeding and the participants from the informal outreach meetings. A summary of the informal outreach sessions will be appended to the draft SOW.

Following the workshop, a future ruling will solicit comments on the draft SOW and, as appropriate, presentations made at the workshop.

## **3. December 13, 2023 Workshop Details**

The Commission will hold a remote workshop as described above to address community engagement for this proceeding, as follows:

**WHAT:** Distribution Planning Community Engagement  
Needs Assessment Scope of Work  
**WHEN:** December 13, 2022  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Remote access via webcast or phone, as follows:

**Microsoft Teams Meeting Information**

Join on your computer, mobile app, or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 248 079 783 744

Passcode: QXWSDg

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

**Call In Info** (audio only)

[+1 323-484-2116,,764966138#](#)

United States, Los Angeles

Phone Conference ID: 764 966 138#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

**Contact Information for Workshop**

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**IT IS RULED** that a workshop will be held on December 13, 2022, to:

- (1) present information received through a series of informal outreach meetings;
- (2) discuss a draft Scope of Work for a Distribution Planning Community Engagement Needs Assessment study to inform Track 1 of the proceeding with additional scope to support Track 2 outreach; and (3) provide context about existing utility distribution planning processes and community outreach

Dated December 1, 2022, at Sacramento, California.

/s/ DARCIE L. HOUCK

Darcie L. Houck  
Assigned Commissioner

Dated December 1, 2022, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ KELLY A. HYMES

Kelly A. Hymes  
Administrative Law Judge

/s/ MANISHA LAKHANPAL

Manisha Lakhanpal  
Administrative Law Judge