ALJ/SW9/nd3 4/10/2023



FILED

04/10/23

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AM R1807005

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Consider New Approaches to Disconnections and Reconnections to Improve Energy Access and Contain Costs.

Rulemaking 18-07-005

## ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING ON NEXT STEPS FOR THE ARREARAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM

This ruling requests comments on next steps for the Arrearage Management Plan (AMP) program by April 26, 2023 and reply comments by May 4, 2023.

The Commission authorized the AMP program in Decision (D.) 20-06-003 on June 11, 2020. Ordering Paragraph 85 of D.20-06-003 provides that the Commission will open a proceeding three years after the adoption of that decision to reauthorize the arrearage management payment plan. Ordering Paragraph 86 of D.20-06-003 provides that the rules set forth in that decision regarding the AMP program will sunset after four years unless the Commission issues a decision extending, reauthorizing, modifying, or rescinding the AMP.

I am inclined to recommend that the Commission continue to consider AMP program issues in this rulemaking rather than open a new proceeding. Based on party comments in this proceeding, I am also inclined to recommend that the Commission extend the AMP program beyond the four-year deadline and establish an evaluation process for the AMP program.

Parties are encouraged to file comments on the following questions:

- 1. Should the Commission continue to consider AMP program issues in this rulemaking rather than open a new proceeding to consider AMP program issues?
- 2. Should the Commission extend the AMP program beyond June 11, 2024, and if so, for how long? If the Commission approves a Community Based Organization (CBO) pilot program in this proceeding, should the Commission extend the AMP program for a period that relates to the CBO pilot period?
- 3. When should the Commission evaluate the effectiveness of the AMP program?
- 4. How should the Commission evaluate the effectiveness of the AMP program for reducing disconnections and determine whether to modify, extend, or conclude the AMP program? Should the Commission require an independent evaluation of the program, similar to the evaluation provisions we adopted of the Percentage of Income Payment Plan pilot program? What evaluation criteria should the Commission set for the AMP program?

## IT IS SO RULED.

Dated April 10, 2023, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ STEPHANIE WANG

Stephanie Wang Administrative Law Judge