



**FILED**

09/27/23

03:52 PM

R2302016

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

Order Instituting Rulemaking Proceeding to Consider Rules to Implement the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program.

Rulemaking 23-02-016

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE’S RULING SETTING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HEARINGS**

This ruling schedules two remote/virtual public participation hearings (PPHs) on November 8, 2023. The PPHs are an opportunity for the public to communicate directly with the Commission regarding the issues raised in this proceeding, including their lack of access to internet service that meets their needs.

**1. Public Participation Hearings**

The schedule for the PPHs is as follows:

DATE	START TIME
November 8, 2023	2:00 p.m
November 8, 2023	6:00 p.m.

The following is the information to access the PPHs:

Telephone number to comment publicly and/or listen during the PPHs: 1-800-857-1917	Website to view the PPHs and to access the video recording after the PPHs. 2pm session: <a href="https://adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/hearing/20231108">https://adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/hearing/20231108</a>
English Passcode: 1767567#	6pm session: <a href="https://adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/hearing/202311082">https://adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/hearing/202311082</a>
Spanish Passcode: 3799627#	
Press *1 to inform the operator that you want to comment	

Public officials wishing to speak at the PPHs should provide the telephone operator with their name, title, and governmental entity. Consistent with the PPHs' purpose of hearing from members of the public, representatives of parties already involved in this proceeding are not expected to comment at the PPH. Based on the number of participants waiting to comment, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) may limit an individual's comment time.

Updates and further information regarding the PPHs are available at [cpuc.ca.gov/pph](http://cpuc.ca.gov/pph). Documents filed in this proceeding are available and the court reporters' transcripts of statements made during the PPHs will be made available through the Docket Card on the Commission's website at [apps.cpuc.ca.gov/p/R2302016](http://apps.cpuc.ca.gov/p/R2302016). Written public comments may be provided at any time during this proceeding through the Add Public Comment tab on the Commission's website at [apps.cpuc.ca.gov/c/R2302016](http://apps.cpuc.ca.gov/c/R2302016).

## 2. Instructions of Certain Providers

This ruling directs the following companies to assist in the outreach and promotion of these PPHs:

- Astound
- AT&T (all AT&T companies that offer voice and internet service in California)
- Calaveras
- Cal-Ore
- Cebridge Telecom (Suddenlink)
- Charter
- Comcast
- Cox
- Ducor
- Foresthill
- Frontier
- Happy Valley
- Hornitos
- MCI Communications (Verizon)
- Mediacom Communications
- Pinnacles
- Ponderosa
- Race Telecommunications
- Sierra Telephone Co.
- Siskiyou Telephone Co.
- Sonic
- Sprint Communications
- T-Mobile
- Verizon
- Volcano

The companies listed above are directed to:

- Send an e-mail message to all customers that elect to receive their bills via e-mail. The subject line of the e-

mail must clearly notify the recipient that the PPHs will be held in this proceeding and include other information contained in Attachment A. The companies listed above shall provide a draft notice to the Public Advisor's Office within 10 days of the issuance of this ruling, and the Public Advisor's Office may modify the draft notice;

- Send a text message to all customers that elect to receive their bills via text. The text message must include the information in Attachment B. The companies listed above shall provide a draft notice to the Public Advisor's Office within 10 days of the issuance of this ruling, and the Public Advisor's Office may modify the draft notice;
- Publicize the PPHs on all social media platforms used by the companies listed above;
- Publicize the notice of the PPHs with one or more local newspapers of general circulation in their service areas for seven consecutive days prior to and including the date of the PPH. The companies listed above shall provide a draft notice to the Public Advisor's Office within 10 days of the issuance of this ruling, and the Public Advisor's Office may modify the draft notice; and
- Post notice of the PPHs on the companies' website in a prominent location so that customers can easily access the notice.

Each form of notice described above shall state that the PPHs are remote and are not in-person or in a physical location. Given the time needed to provide written notice via postage service mail to customers that these companies communicate with using postage service mail, this ruling does not require written notice to these customers.

By no later than November 2, 2023 each company listed above shall file a letter with the Public Advisor's Office verifying that it has complied with all

directives set forth above and attaching a copy of the notice for each communication method. For each communication method described above, the letter shall state the dates the company sent the notice to customers, the approximate number of customers notified, and the geographic location covered.

**IT IS SO RULED**

Dated September 27, 2023, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ THOMAS J. GLEGOLA

Thomas J. Glegola  
Administrative Law Judge

**Attachment A**  
**Notification requirements for websites, webportals, emails and online bills**

**Notice of public hearings in Rulemaking 23-02-016 regarding the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program.**

**Dates:**

**Public participation hearing, November 8, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.**

<https://adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/hearing/20231108>

Toll-free phone number: 1-800-857-1917; code: 1767567#

Spanish language toll-free phone number: 1-800-857-1917; code: 3799627#

**Public participation hearing, November 8, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.**

<https://adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/hearing/202311082>

Toll-free phone number: 1-800-857-1917; code: 1767567#

Spanish language toll-free phone number: 1-800-857-1917; code: 3799627#

**Why am I receiving this notice?**

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) wants to hear from you. Virtual public hearings have been scheduled to hear your comments, concerns and opinions regarding the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, a new broadband grant program funded with federal money and administered by the CPUC. Your participation by providing comments can help inform the new rules.

You can watch a livestream of the hearings or participate via telephone. You can also submit comments by mail or post them on the CPUC's public comment portal.

**How does this process work?**

This rulemaking is considering rules for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, a new broadband grant program funded with federal money and administered by the CPUC. The rulemaking is assigned to a CPUC Administrative Law Judge and a Commissioner, who will consider proposals and evidence presented during formal processes, and then issue a proposed decision. Any CPUC Commissioner may sponsor an alternate decision with a different outcome. The proposed decision, and any alternate decisions, will be discussed and voted upon by the CPUC Commissioners at a public CPUC Voting Meeting.

Parties involved in the rulemaking include the Public Advocates Office. The Public Advocates Office is an independent consumer advocate within the CPUC that represents customers to help them obtain the lowest possible rates consistent with reliable and safe service levels. Find out more here: **1-415-703-1584**, email [PublicAdvocatesOffice@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:PublicAdvocatesOffice@cpuc.ca.gov) or visit [PublicAdvocates.cpuc.ca.gov](http://PublicAdvocates.cpuc.ca.gov).

**Contact the CPUC:**

Please visit [apps.cpuc.ca.gov/p/R2302016](https://apps.cpuc.ca.gov/p/R2302016) to submit a public comment about this rulemaking to the CPUC. You may also mail written comments to the CPUC's Public Advisor's address below. For more information on participating in the public hearing, submitting comments, to request special assistance, or to request a non-English or Spanish language interpreter, please contact the CPUC's Public Advisor's Office at least five days prior to the hearings.

**CPUC Public Advisor's Office**

505 Van Ness Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94102

Phone: **1-866-849-8390** (toll-free) or **1-415-703-2074**

Email: [Public.Advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Public.Advisor@cpuc.ca.gov)

Please reference **Rulemaking 23-02-016** in any communications you have with the CPUC regarding this matter.

**(END OF ATTACHMENT A)**

**Attachment B**  
**Notification requirements for texts and voice recordings:**

**Texts:**

California CPUC will hold hearings on November 8 regarding new rules for a federal broadband grant program. Visit [cpuc.ca.gov/pph](http://cpuc.ca.gov/pph) for more information.

**Voice recording:**

California CPUC is holding public hearings on rules for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, a new broadband grant program funded with federal money and administered by the CPUC. Share your thoughts by phone on \_\_\_ or send your comments by mail. Visit [cpuc.ca.gov/pph](http://cpuc.ca.gov/pph) for more information. To repeat this message [prompt].

**(END OF ATTACHMENT B)**