

## OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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Order Instituting Rulemaking to Consider Distributed Energy Resource Program Cost-Effectiveness Issues, Data Access and Use, and Equipment Performance Standards.

Dated: May 12, 2025

Rulemaking 22-11-013

### MOTION FOR PARTY STATUS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RURAL REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK (NREN)

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# BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Consider Distributed Energy Resource Program Cost-Effectiveness Issues, Data Access and Use, and Equipment Performance Standards.

**Rulemaking 22-11-013** 

### MOTION FOR PARTY STATUS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RURAL REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK (NREN)

Pursuant to Rules 11.1 and 1.4(a)(4) of the California Public Utilities Commission's ("Commission") Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Redwood Coast Energy Authority ("RCEA") on behalf of the Northern California Rural Regional Energy Network ("NREN") respectfully moves for party status in the above-captioned consolidated Application proceeding.

### I. DESCRIPTION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RURAL REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK (NREN)

The Redwood Coast Energy Authority is the lead administrator of the Northern California Rural Regional Energy Network ("NREN"), which the commission authorized in D.24-09-031<sup>1</sup>. The NREN region includes 17 counties across the North Coast (Humboldt and Mendocino), Lake County, and Sierra (Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Lassen, Mariposa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, Sutter, Tuolumne, Yuba). NREN Programs offer outreach, education, and financial incentives for decarbonization strategies for rural communities.<sup>2</sup>

#### II. STATEMENT OF INTEREST IN THE PROCEEDING

The current scope of this rulemaking includes the continual regular updates to the Avoided Cost Calculator ("ACC"). As part of the Biennial Update Process, the California Public Utilities

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Generally Decision ("D.") 24-09-031 Decision Modifying Rural Regional Energy Network (Oct. 2, 2024).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> RuralREN North Advice Letter #003-E/003-G, Attachment A, Updated Business Plan (Dec. 23, 2024).

Commission ("CPUC") hosted a public workshop on Avoided Cost Calculator Guiding Principles,

Equity, and Changes to the Biennial Update Process on Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the

workshop was to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to present their recommendations on

guiding principles to be considered for the Avoided Cost Calculator, whether and how equity should

be considered in Distributed Energy Resource ("DER") cost-effectiveness, and for Energy Division

to present a proposal to modify the biennial update process and receive stakeholder feedback.

NREN presented at the workshop and has demonstrated their interest in the rulemaking.

Therefore, NREN seeks to become a party to this proceeding both to participate in discussions and to

provide valuable insight from its experience as the lead administrator of programs representing rural

communities in northern California. As a party to this proceeding, NREN will be able to engage

more closely in discussions surrounding the inclusion of equity factors in the ACC. These goals

implicate a clear and direct interest for NREN to participate more directly in this proceeding.

III. **COMMUNICATIONS** 

All correspondence and communication should be directed to the following representatives:

**Party Representative:** 

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#### IV. **CONCLUSION**

NREN's participation in this proceeding will not prejudice any party and will not delay the schedule or broaden the scope of the issues in the proceeding. For the reasons stated above NREN respectfully requests that the Commission grant its motion for party status in this proceeding.

Dated: March 12, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

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