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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Southern California Edison Company (U 338-E) for Thomas Fire and Montecito Debris Flow Recovery Bond Financing Order Pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 850 *et seq.*

Application 25-04-021

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING SETTING
PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

1. Setting of Prehearing Conference

This Ruling sets a prehearing conference (PHC) for May 28, 2025, commencing at 10:15 a.m., via Webex. A separate Webex invitation will be provided.

A PHC is called to (1) determine the parties; (2) accept appearances and establish the permanent service list; (3) determine the positions of the parties; (4) identify issues for inclusion in the scoping memo for this proceeding, (5) discuss the schedule for this proceeding; (6) determine if there are any challenges to either the categorization of this proceeding or whether hearings are needed; and (7) discuss any additional procedural matters relevant to this proceeding.

2. Background

2.1. The Application

On April 30, 2025, Southern California Edison Company (SCE) filed an *Application for Thomas Fire and Montecito Debris Flow Recovery Bond Financing Order Pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 850 et seq. (Application)*. The

requested financing order is for the costs that SCE claims were approved in D.25-01-042 (*Decision Regarding Settlement Agreement [between SCE and Public Advocates Office at the Commission] Authorizing Cost Recovery For 2017 Thomas Fire and 2018 Montecito Debris Flow*) through the issuance of Recovery Bonds. SCE claims that if granted, the proposed transaction will allow SCE to finance, at a lower cost to customers, \$1.629 billion in Wildfire Expense Memorandum Account costs related to the 2017 Thomas Fire and the 2018 Montecito Debris Flow costs, including financing costs. SCE claims that the Commission determined these costs to be just and reasonable and were approved for recovery in D.25-01-042.

Along with the *Application*, SCE filed a *Motion for an Expedited Schedule under Rule 2.9*, which the Chief Administrative Law Judge at the Commission resolved on May 9, 2025, with her *Ruling Granting Motion of Southern California Edison Company to Shorten the Time for Protests and Responses to SCE's Thomas Fire and Montecito Debris Flow Recovery Bond Financing Order (Ruling)*. The *Ruling* ordered that any protests or replies to the *Application* were due by May 15, 2025, and that a PHC would be held the week of May 26, 2025.

2.2. Protests and Responses

On May 15, 2025, both The Utility Reform Network (TURN) and the Public Advocates Office (PAO) filed protests to the *Application*.

3. Meet and Confer for PHC

In preparation for the PHC, SCE, TURN, and PAO (hereinafter referred to collectively as Parties) shall meet and confer either in person, electronically (*e.g.*, mail, Webex, or Zoom), or telephonically to discuss the following subjects:

1. Identification of the specific factual and legal issues that the Commission needs to decide in this case;
2. What material facts are undisputed;

3. The status of settlement discussions, if any;
4. Whether mediation conducted by a neutral Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), other than the assigned ALJ, would be helpful in resolving the disputed issues;
5. Whether any discovery is needed and the anticipated date that discovery will be completed;
6. Whether hearings are needed;
7. If the Parties believe that a hearing is needed, the estimated number of days required, and the number of witnesses that each side plans to present at the hearing; and
8. To the extent any party disagrees with the preliminary schedule established in the Chief Administrative Law Judge's Ruling of May 9, 2025, a proposed schedule for this case, including dates for completing discovery, filing prepared written testimony, and for the hearing.

4. Filing of PHC Statements

The Parties shall file their PHC statements (jointly if they prefer) that address the above subjects with the Commission Docket Office and a copy to me, by no later than May 26, 2025. The Parties may submit their copy to me by e-mail addressed to rim@cpuc.ca.gov; by personal delivery, or by mail.

The Parties are encouraged to file and serve electronically, whenever possible. This proceeding will follow the electronic service protocols adopted by the Commission in Rule 1.10 for all documents, whether formally filed or just served. This rule allows electronic service of documents, in a searchable format, unless the party or state service list member did not provide an e-mail address. If no e-mail address was provided, service should be made by U.S. mail. Concurrent e-mail service to ALL persons on the service list for whom an e-mail address is available, including those listed under "Information Only," is required. Parties are expected to provide paper copies of served documents

upon request. More information regarding electronic filing is available at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/puc/efiling>.

The Parties are responsible for ensuring that the correct information is contained on the service list and notifying the Commission's Process Office and other parties of corrections or ministerial changes. (*See* Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, Rule 1.9(f).)

If the Parties have questions regarding Commission procedures, please contact the Commission's Public Advisor's Office by phone at 1 (866) 849-8390 or (415) 703-2074 or by email at public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov. The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure are also available for review on our website at www.cpuc.ca.gov.

IT IS RULED that:

1. The Commission has set a prehearing conference (PHC) in the above-captioned matter for May 28, 2025, at 10:15 a.m. The PHC will be conducted via Webex. A separate Webex invitation will be provided.

2. The Parties shall file and serve their separate or joint PHC statements/statement, as described above, no later than May 26, 2025. Please also serve the undersigned with the PHC statement/statements by same-day e-mail service at rim@cpuc.ca.gov.

3. To the extent discovery is required, the Parties shall not wait for the PHC to commence it.

Dated May 16, 2025, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ ROBERT M. MASON, III
Robert M. Mason, III
Administrative Law Judge