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R2409012

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking to
Establish Policies, Processes, and
Rules to Ensure Safe and Reliable Gas
Systems in California and Perform
Long-Term Gas System Planning.

Rulemaking 24-09-012

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES' SECOND CORRECTED RULING
SETTING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HEARINGS**

This ruling sets remote Public Participation Hearings (PPHs) for the above-captioned proceeding for August 7, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.¹ The purpose of these PPHs is to consider public comments on the designation of priority neighborhood decarbonization zones, as described in Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code Section 662. The PPHs shall use live streaming and telephonic services. This ruling also directs Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Gas Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, and Southwest Gas Corporation (Gas Corporations) to provide customer notice.

1. Background

On September 10, 2018, Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill (SB) 100, which established a policy for California to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.

¹ On June 12, 2025, we issued a ruling setting the PPHs, and on June 19, 2025, we issued a ruling correcting the PPHs' access information. However, the June 19th ruling contained an incorrect public passcode for those wishing to join by phone. To ensure that the correct information for the PPHs is in the proceeding record, this ruling corrects the passcode and should be considered to replace the June 12th and June 19th rulings.

On September 25, 2024, Governor Gavin Newsom signed SB 1221, which was codified in Public Util. (Pub. Util.) Code Sections 660, *et seq.*

Through SB 1221, the California Legislature recognized that natural gas use in residential buildings contributes to California's greenhouse gas emissions,² and that cost-effective, zero-emission alternatives to pipeline replacement projects can reduce gas system costs.³ As such, SB 1221 authorizes the Commission to approve up to 30 pilot projects that facilitate cost-effective decarbonization in priority neighborhood decarbonization zones (decarbonization zones). The pilot projects would provide state decision makers with a greater understanding of the challenges facing natural gas decommissioning.

Pursuant to this legislative direction and intent, this proceeding's assigned Commissioner Karen Douglas directed the Gas Corporations to submit maps of the gas distribution systems to the Commission by July 1, 2025, as described in Pub. Util. Code Section 661.⁴ These maps are to include foreseeable gas distribution pipeline replacement projects, disadvantaged communities, and tribal boundaries overlaid on a street map. The proceeding's assigned Administrative Law Judges Robyn Purchia and David Van Dyken directed the Gas Corporations to overlay these maps with their recommended decarbonization zones by July 21, 2025, as described in Pub. Util. Code Section 662. The Commission will post links to the utility maps at

² Senate Rules Committee, Senate Floor Analysis of Senate Bill (SB) 1221 (Aug. 31, 2024) at 4, 6, *available at* https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billAnalysisClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB1221#f.

³ Senate Bill 1221, Section 1(a)(6).

⁴ Assigned Commissioner's Ruling (April 18, 2025).

<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/natural-gas/SB-1221-implementation>, a site dedicated to the implementation of SB 1221, by July 2, 2025.

The PPHs are an opportunity for the public to communicate directly with the Commission regarding the Gas Corporations' recommended decarbonization zones. They will be led by the assigned Commissioner and assigned Administrative Law Judges. Other Commissioners, Commissioner office staff, and Administrative Law Judges may also attend or lead. Please note that no decisions will be made or voted on at the PPHs.

The Commission's court reporters will record the statements made during the PPHs and will post the transcript on the Commission's website at the Docket Card for this proceeding.

Details regarding how to participate in the remote PPHs are described below. Written public comments may also be provided at any time during the proceeding using the "Add Public Comment" button on the "Public Comment" table of the Docket Card for R.24-09-012 at <https://apps.cpuc.ca.gov/c/R2409012>.

Public Participation Hearing Details

Date	Time	Webcast and Phone Information
August 7, 2025	2:00 p.m.	Webcast: www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc
	6:00 p.m.	Join by phone: 1-800-857-1917 Public Passcode: 6032788#

2. General Information

Based on the number of speakers wishing to provide comments, the Administrative Law Judges may limit speakers' time so that all speakers have an opportunity to comment and to conduct an efficient, respectful hearing.

The Commission's court reporters will record the statements made during the hearing and post the transcript on the Commission's website at the Docket Card for this proceeding, <https://apps.cpuc.ca.gov/p/R2409012>.

3. Instructions to Participate

Participants may observe the PPHs via the webcast information provided above. To provide public comment, participants should use the toll-free telephone number and participant code noted above. When it is time for public comment, the Administrative Law Judge will make an announcement through the telephone line for those who wish to speak. Participants who wish to speak must then press * then 1 to alert the operator, who will put the speakers into a queue, and who will then announce each speaker's name one at a time when the speaker's turn comes up.

Public officials wishing to speak should provide their name, title, and governmental entity prior to speaking.

Representatives of parties already involved in this proceeding, absent compelling reasons otherwise, will not be given the opportunity to comment at the PPHs because the purpose of the PPHs is to hear from members for the public who do not have an opportunity to be heard through the formal hearing process.

For a language interpreter, please contact the Commission's Public Advisor's Office (PAO) at least five-days before the PPHs using one of the following methods:

- Phone: 1-866-849-8390 (toll-free) or 1-415-703-2074
- E-mail: Public.Advisor@cpuc.ca.gov

Updates and further information regarding the PPHs will be available at www.cpus.ca.gov/pph.

4. Customer Notifications

This ruling does not direct the Gas Corporation to prepare a bill insert. Instead, the Gas Corporations shall give electronic notice to customers who are billed electronically. Where customer e-mail addresses are available, the Gas Corporations shall provide the notice through direct e-mail communication. The subject line of the e-mail notices shall clearly notify the recipient that PPHs will be held in this proceeding.

The Gas Corporations shall prepare the notice in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Tagalog informing their customers of these PPHs and providing a draft of the notice to the PAO. The notice shall inform the Gas Corporations' customers about the upcoming remote PPHs, including the purpose of the PPHs, a summary of the background, and the date, time, and how to participate in the streaming and telephonic services for the remote PPHs. The PAO may alter or require changes to the notice. After the PAO approves the language for the notice, the Gas Corporations shall notify customers electronically. The electronic notice shall be sent no more than 30 days or less than 15 days prior to the PPHs.

5. Newspaper Notifications

The Gas Corporations shall also cause the approved notice to be published in one or more newspapers of general circulation in their general service areas not less than five-days before the PPHs. Prior to the publishing, the Gas Corporations shall provide to the PAO a list of the locations where the approved notice will be circulated.

6. Social Media, Website, and In-Office Notifications

The Gas Corporations shall cause the approved notice to be published as follows:

1. On all social media platforms used by the Gas Corporations;
2. On the Gas Corporations' websites in a prominent location; and
3. In all offices located in California where customers come into contact with a company customer service representative.

7. Compliance

The Gas Corporations shall provide the PAO with a letter verifying that they have complied with the customer notice requirement no later than five-days prior to the first PPH. The compliance letter shall state the dates notices were sent to customers, the method used, and the approximate number of customers notified. One copy of the actual notice shall be attached.

The compliance letter shall also provide the dates and locations of publication and posting in newspapers, on social media platforms, on the Gas Corporations' websites, and in offices where customers come into contact with a company customer service representative.

IT IS RULED that:

1. PPHs are scheduled for August 7, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. in this proceeding.
2. Gas Corporations shall provide electronic customer notice of the PPHs. Where customer e-mail addresses are available, the Gas Corporations shall also provide the notice through direct e-mail communication.
3. Gas Corporations shall cause notice of the PPHs approved by the PAO to be published in one or more newspapers of general circulation in its general

service area at least five days prior to the first PPH. Prior to publishing, the Gas Corporations shall provide to the PAO a list of the locations where the approved notice will be circulated.

4. Gas Corporations shall cause notice of the PPHs approved by the PAO to be published on all social media platforms used by the Gas Corporations; on the Gas Corporations' websites; and in all offices located in California where customers come into contact with a company service representative.

5. Gas Corporations shall provide the PAO a letter verifying that it has complied with the customer notification requirements described in this ruling, no later than five-days prior to the first PPH.

Dated July 8, 2025, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ DAVID VAN DYKEN

David Van Dyken
Administrative Law Judge

/s/ ROBYN PURCHIA

Robyn Purchia
Administrative Law Judge