

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



**FILED**

09/03/25

02:15 PM

A2410006

In the Matter of the Joint Application of Verizon Communications Inc., Frontier Communications Parent, Inc., Frontier California Inc., Citizens Telecommunications Company of California Inc., Frontier Communications of the Southwest Inc., Frontier Communications Online and Long Distance Inc., and Frontier Communications of America, Inc. for Approval of the Transfer of Control of Frontier California Inc. (U 1002 C), Citizens Telecommunications Company of California (U 1024 C), Frontier Communications of the Southwest Inc. (U 1026 C), Frontier Communications Online and Long Distance Inc. (U 7167 C), and Frontier Communications of America, Inc. (U 5429 C), to Verizon Communications Inc. Pursuant to California Public Utilities Code Section 854

A.24-10-006  
(filed October 18, 2024)

**VERIZON'S NOTICE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATION**

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September 3, 2025

Pursuant to Rule 8.4(a) of the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the California Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission” or “CPUC”), Verizon Communications Inc. (“Verizon”) hereby provides this notice of an *ex parte* communication in the above-captioned proceeding, which occurred on August 29, 2025 between representatives of Verizon, and advisors to Commissioner John Reynolds and Commissioner Houck. The meeting focused on Verizon’s testimony regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion (“DEI”) and its compliance with CPUC General Order 156 in response to the national change in federal policy and regulatory landscape on DEI practices and the need to resolve this proceeding by the end of 2025 to ensure the benefits of the proposed transaction are achieved.

The Commission participants included the following: Carolyn Chen and Andrew Klutey, advisors to Commissioner John Reynolds; Caleb Jones, advisor to Commissioner Houck. On behalf of Verizon, the participants were:

- Gregory Romano, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, Verizon;
- Jesús G. Román, Managing Associate General Counsel, Verizon; and
- Kristin Jacobson, DLA Piper, outside counsel for Verizon.

The individuals representing Verizon will be identified collectively herein as “Verizon.”

The communication occurred via video-conference using Webex, starting at or around 2:10 p.m. and lasting until approximately 2:55 p.m. The communication was strictly oral; no written materials were used or distributed.

Verizon emphasized the need for a regulatory decision on the Frontier acquisition in 2025. Verizon explained that clearance from the U.S. Department of Justice expires in February 2026, and refiling creates several risks and delay. Verizon noted that Frontier has financial challenges with over \$11 billion in debt, with no plans for fiber deployment in California in 2026 beyond subsidized grants, explaining that a decision in 2025 would result in Verizon infusing Frontier with stability and funds to continue fiber deployment in California.

Verizon also noted that the Joint Applicants were working to settle with various parties. Verizon explained that they have a fully executed settlement with the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) and were close to finalizing a settlement with Cal Advocates.

Verizon also emphasized that it will comply with California's supplier diversity laws (GO 156) and offered to submit its reports to biennial (every two years) audits. Verizon further

