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R2508005

Order Instituting Rulemaking
Regarding Revisions to the California
Teleconnect Fund Program.

Rulemaking 25-08-005

ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S SCOPING MEMO AND RULING

This scoping memo and ruling sets forth the issues, need for hearing, schedule, category, and other matters necessary to scope this proceeding pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 1701.1 and Article 7 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules).

1. Procedural Background

On August 14, 2025, the Commission opened this Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR) to consider revisions to the California Teleconnect Fund program (Program or CTF program). The CTF program offers discounted rates of 50% on recurring monthly charges for broadband services to qualifying entities. The OIR provided a proceeding schedule with a staff proposal for additional information and analysis regarding proposed revisions to the CTF program.

By September 22, 2025, opening comments on the OIR were filed by the California Broadband & Video Association (CalBroadband), California Department of Education (CDE), California Association of Nonprofits (CalNonprofits), Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC), Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), Pacific Bell Telephone Company D/B/A AT&T California (U 1001 C) and AT&T Enterprises, LLC (U 5002 C) (AT&T), Public Advocates Office at the California

Public Utilities Commission (Cal Advocates), and jointly The Utility Reform Network (TURN) and Center For Accessible Technology (CforAT) (TURN/CforAT).

On October 7, 2025, reply comments on the OIR were filed by AT&T, CalBroadband, CENIC, LACOE, and TURN/CforAT

On November 19, 2025, an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Ruling set a prehearing conference (PHC).

The PHC was held on December 11, 2025 to address the issues of law and fact, determine the need for hearing, set the schedule for resolving the matter, and address other matters as necessary.

After considering the comments and reply comments to the OIR and discussion at the PHC, I have determined the issues and schedule of the proceeding to be set forth in this scoping memo. I have also determined that no environmental and social justice issues have been raised at this time.

2. Issues

In the OIR, the Commission established the preliminary scope of the rulemaking to include updates to the CTF program, and consideration of state and federal policies that impact the CTF program participants.

The issues to be determined and otherwise considered are:

1. Should the Commission modify the CTF program regarding community-based organizations (CBOs), school districts and county education offices, healthcare community-based organizations (HCBOs), government hospitals and healthcare districts, tribes, school annexes, library annexes, consortia, program stakeholders, and backbone services? If so, how?
2. Should the Commission allow consortia or other third-party representatives to participate administratively in the

CTF program, by submitting applications on behalf of entities? If so, how should the process work?

3. Should the Commission update the Program's audit and record retention policy? If so, how?
4. Should the Commission update the Program's reimbursement claims process? If so, how?
5. Should the Commission update the CTF Administrative Committee Charter? If so, how?
6. Should the CTF discount percentage be increased to support CTF eligible services that were recently removed from either the E-Rate program or Rural Health Care Program?

3. Need for Evidentiary Hearing

In the OIR, we made the preliminary determination that no hearings would be needed. No party recommended evidentiary hearings. Accordingly, no evidentiary hearing is needed in this proceeding.

4. Schedule

The following schedule is adopted here and may be modified by the ALJ as required to promote the efficient and fair resolution of the rulemaking:

Event	Date
Information gathering	Q1-Q2 2026
Workshop, held	Q2 2026
Staff Proposal, issued	Q3 2026
Opening comments on staff proposal, filed and served	45 days after the staff proposal
Reply comments on staff proposal, filed and served	20 days after opening comments
Proposed decision, issued	No later than 90 days after submission

Commission decision, issued	No sooner than 30 days after PD
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Information gathering may include data requests, community meetings, and workshops to be determined as needed.

5. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program and Settlements

The Commission's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) program offers mediation, early neutral evaluation, and facilitation services, and uses ALJs who have been trained as neutrals. At the parties' request, the assigned ALJ can refer this proceeding to the Commission's ADR Coordinator. Additional ADR information is available on the Commission's website.¹

Any settlement between parties, whether regarding all or some of the issues, shall comply with Article 12 of the Rules and shall be served in writing. Such settlements shall include a complete explanation of the settlement and a complete explanation of why it is reasonable in light of the whole record, consistent with the law and in the public interest. The proposing parties bear the burden of proof as to whether the settlement should be adopted by the Commission.

6. Category of Proceeding and Ex Parte Restrictions

This ruling confirms the Commission's preliminary determination² that this is a quasi-legislative proceeding. Accordingly, ex parte communications are permitted without restriction or reporting requirement pursuant to Article 8 of the Commission's Rules.

¹ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/adr/>

² OIR at 22.

7. Public Outreach

Pursuant to Public Utilities Code (Pub. Util. Code) Section 1711(a), where feasible and appropriate, before determining the scope of the proceeding, the Commission sought the participation of those likely to be affected, including those likely to derive benefit from, and those potentially subject to, a decision in this proceeding. This matter was noticed on the Commission's daily calendar. Where feasible and appropriate, this matter was incorporated into engagements conducted by the Commission's External Affairs Division with local governments and other interested parties.

In addition, the Commission served the Order Instituting Rulemaking on R.13-01-010, R.22-02-002, and the Communication Division CTF Distribution List.

8. Intervenor Compensation

Pursuant to Pub. Util. Code 1804(a)(1), a customer who intends to seek an award of compensation must file and serve a notice of intent to claim compensation within 30 days of this scoping memo.

9. Response to Public Comments

Parties may, but are not required to, respond to written comments received from the public. Parties may do so by posting such response using the "Add Public Comment" button on the "Public Comment" tab of the online docket card for the proceeding.

10. Public Advisor

Any person interested in participating in this proceeding who is unfamiliar with the Commission's procedures or has questions about the electronic filing procedures is encouraged to obtain more information at <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/about-cpuc/divisions/news-and-public-information-office/public-advisors-office> or contact the Commission's Public Advisor at 866-849-8390 or 866-836-7825 (TTY), or send an e-mail to public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov.

11. Filing, Service, and Service List

The official service list has been created and is on the Commission's website. Parties should confirm that their information on the service list is correct and serve notice of any errors on the Commission's Process office, the service list, and the ALJ. Persons may become a party pursuant to Rule 1.4.³ Respondents listed in the OIR are parties to the proceeding (*see* Rule 1.4(d)) and are on the official service list.

When serving any document, each party must ensure that it is using the current official service list on the Commission's website.

This proceeding will follow the electronic service protocol set forth in Rule 1.10. All parties to this proceeding shall serve documents and pleadings using electronic mail, whenever possible, transmitted no later than 5:00 p.m., on the date scheduled for service to occur.

When serving documents on Commissioners or their personal advisors, whether or not they are on the official service list, parties must only provide electronic service. Parties must not send hard copies of documents to Commissioners, their personal advisors, or the ALJ unless specifically instructed to do so.

Persons who are not parties but wish to receive electronic service of documents filed in the proceeding may contact the Process Office at process_office@cpuc.ca.gov to request addition to the "Information Only" category of the official service list pursuant to Rule 1.9(f).

³ The form to request additions and changes to the Service list may be found at <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/administrative-law-judge-division/documents/additiontoservicelisttranscriptordercompliant.pdf>

The Commission encourages those who seek information-only status on the service list to consider the Commission's subscription service as an alternative. The subscription service sends individual notifications to each subscriber of formal e-filings tendered and accepted by the Commission. Notices sent through subscription service are less likely to be flagged by spam or other filters. Notifications can be for a specific proceeding, a range of documents and daily or weekly digests.

12. Receiving Electronic Service from the Commission

Parties and other persons on the service list are advised that it is the responsibility of each person or entity on the service list for Commission proceedings to ensure their ability to receive emails from the Commission. Please add "@cpuc.ca.gov" to your email safe sender list and update your email screening practices, settings and filters to ensure receipt of emails from the Commission.

13. Assignment of Proceeding

Commissioner John Reynolds is the assigned commissioner and Joanna Perez-Green is the assigned administrative law judge for the proceeding.

IT IS RULED that:

1. The scope of this proceeding is described above and is adopted.
2. The schedule of this proceeding is set forth above and is adopted.
3. Evidentiary hearing is not needed.
4. The category of the proceeding is quasi-legislative.

Dated February 2, 2026, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ JOHN REYNOLDS

John Reynolds
Assigned Commissioner