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A2603025

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Gateway Cities Council
Of Governments for a Certificate of
Public Convenience and Necessity to
Provide Facilities-Based and Resold
Local Exchanges Services.

Application 26-03-025

ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S SCOPING MEMO AND RULING

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

1. Procedural Background

On March 20, 2026, Gateway Cities Council of Governments (Gateway Cities) filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to provide: (i) full facilities-based and resold competitive local exchange carrier service and full facilities-based fixed Voice over Internet Protocol throughout the service territories of Pacific Bell Telephone Company dba AT&T California, Frontier California, Inc., Citizens Telecommunications Company of California, Inc. d/b/a Frontier Communications of California, Frontier Communications of the Southwest, Inc., and Consolidated Communications of California Company, LLC; and (ii) interexchange carrier service throughout the

state of California.¹

A prehearing conference (PHC) was held on April 24, 2026, 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. As part of the PHC, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) issued several rulings seeking clarification of certain aspects of the application and ordered the parties to respond by close of business May 18, 2026.

On May 6, 2026, the ALJ issued a ruling to request additional information also due on May 18, 2026.

I have determined the issues and initial schedule of the proceeding to be set forth in this scoping memo.

2. Issues

The issues to be determined or otherwise considered are:

1. Whether Gateway Cities meets all of the Commission requirements, including but not limited to financial, technical, and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for a CPCN.
2. Whether Gateway Cities should be authorized to use the Commission Energy Division's 21-day expedited environmental review process for its full facilities-based construction activities under statutory or categorical exemptions to CEQA.
3. Impacts on environmental and social justice communities, including the extent to which Gateway Cities' operation as a telephone corporation in California impacts achievement of any of the nine goals of the Commission's Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan.

¹ Services will initially be offered to residents of Southeast Los Angeles County.

3. Need for Evidentiary Hearing

There are no issues of material disputed fact. Accordingly, no evidentiary hearing is needed.

4. Schedule

This matter will be submitted upon review of Gateway Cities' responses to rulings requesting additional information and a determination that no further information or evidence is needed to evaluate the issues in this proceeding.

The proposed decision is expected to be filed no later than 90 days from the date the proceeding is submitted, for public review and comment pursuant to Pub. Util. Code Section 311(d) except that, if it grants the uncontested requested relief, public review and comment shall be waived pursuant to Rule 14.6(c)(2). The assigned ALJ or Commissioner may revise the schedule as needed. Based on this schedule, the proceeding will be resolved within 18 months as required by Pub. Util. Code Section 1701.5.

5. Category of Proceeding and Ex Parte Restrictions

This ruling confirms the Commission's preliminary determination that this is a ratesetting proceeding.² Accordingly, *ex parte* communications are restricted and must be reported pursuant to Article 8 of the Rules.

6. Public Outreach

Pursuant to 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

² Resolution ALJ-3579 at 4.

feasible and appropriate, this matter was incorporated into engagements conducted by the Commission's External Affairs Division with local governments and other interested parties.

7. 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 a response using the "Add Public Comment" button on the "Public Comment" tab of the online docket card for the proceeding.

8. 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 <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/pao> or contact the Commission's Public Advisor at 1-866-849-8390 or send an e-mail to public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov.

9. 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

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

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>

using electronic mail, whenever possible, transmitted no later than 5:00 p.m., on the date scheduled for service to occur. Rule 1.10 requires service on the ALJ of both an electronic and a paper copy of filed or served documents.

When serving documents on Commissioners or their personal advisors, whether or not they are on the official service list, parties must provide electronic service. Parties must not send hard copies of documents to Commissioners or their personal advisors 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). 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.

10. 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 e-mails from the Commission. Please add "@cpuc.ca.gov" to your e-mail safe sender list and update your e-mail screening practices, settings, and filters to ensure receipt of e-mails from the Commission.

11. Assignment of the Proceeding

Matthew Baker is the assigned Commissioner and Patricia Miles is the assigned ALJ 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 ratesetting.

This order is effective today.

Dated May 14, 2026, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ MATTHEW BAKER

Matthew Baker
Assigned Commissioner