



FILED

06/03/26

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

R2504010

Order Instituting Rulemaking for Oversight of Energy Efficiency Portfolios, Policies, Programs, and Evaluation.

Rulemaking 25-04-010
(Filed April 26, 2025)¹

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES’ RULING GRANTING CENTER FOR ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGY’S NOTICE OF INTENT TO CLAIM INTERVENOR COMPENSATION

This ruling grants the Center for Accessible Technology’s (CforAT) Notice of Intent to Claim Intervenor Compensation (NOI) in this proceeding.

1. Procedural Background

On July 17, 2025, CforAT filed a NOI in this proceeding (Attachment 1). On March 12, 2026, CforAT was directed to provide supplemental information to support its NOI. On April 7, 2026, CforAT filed a response to the ruling.

2. Eligibility for Intervenor Compensation

Public Utilities Code Sections 1801-1812 govern the Commission’s intervenor compensation program. To qualify for compensation, CforAT must satisfy three specific requirements: a) file a timely NOI, b) demonstrate customer status, and c) demonstrate significant financial hardship.

Upon review of CforAT’s NOI and the supplemental information provided, this ruling finds that CforAT filed a timely NOI, has demonstrated customer status pursuant to Section 1802(b)(1)(C) as an “organization authorized pursuant to its articles of incorporation or bylaws to represent the interests of

¹ Filed April 24, 2025, not April 26, 2025.

residential customers,” and has demonstrated significant financial hardship, pursuant to Section 1802(h) by showing that the economic interest of its constituents is small in comparison to the reasonable costs of participation before the Commission. This finding creates a rebuttable presumption of eligibility for compensation in other proceedings commencing within one year of the date of this ruling, pursuant to Section 1804(b)(1).

IT IS RULED that:

1. Center for Accessible Technology has satisfied the eligibility requirements of Public Utilities Code §1804(a).
2. Center for Accessible Technology has demonstrated customer status pursuant to Public Utilities Code §1802(b).
3. Center for Accessible Technology has demonstrated significant financial hardship pursuant to Public Utilities Code §1802(h).
4. Center for Accessible Technology is preliminarily determined to be eligible for intervenor compensation in this proceeding. However, a finding of eligibility does not guarantee an award. By statute, compensation is only awarded after the Commission determines that the intervenor has made a substantial contribution to the proceeding.

Dated June 3, 2026, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ Julie A. Fitch

Julie A. Fitch
Administrative Law Judge

/s/ Valerie Kao

Valerie Kao
Administrative Law Judge

ATTACHMENT 1
CENTER FOR ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGY'S NOTICE OF INTENT TO
CLAIM INTERVENOR COMPENSATION
(Filed July 17, 2025)

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking for Oversight of Energy Efficiency Portfolios, Policies, Programs, and Evaluation.

Rulemaking 25-04-010
(Filed April 26, 2025)²

CENTER FOR ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGY’S NOTICE OF INTENT TO CLAIM INTERVENOR COMPENSATION

Customer or Eligible Local Government Entity (party intending to claim intervenor compensation): Center for Accessible Technology (CforAT)	
Assigned Commissioner: Karen Douglas	Administrative Law Judges: Julie A. Fitch and Valerie Kao

PART I: PROCEDURAL ISSUES

A. Status as “customer” (see Pub. Util. Code § 1802(b))³ The party claims “customer” status because the party is (check one):	Applies (check)
1. A Category 1 customer is an actual customer whose self-interest in the proceeding arises primarily from his/her role as a customer of the utility and, at the same time, the customer must represent the broader interests of at least some other customers. See, for example, D.08-07-019 at 5-10).	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. A Category 2 customer is a representative who has been authorized by actual customers to represent them. Category 2 involves a more formal arrangement where a customer or a group of customers selects a more skilled person to represent the customer’s views in a proceeding. A customer or group of customers may also form or authorize a group to represent them, and the group, in turn, may authorize a representative such as an attorney to represent the group.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. A Category 3 customer is a formally organized group authorized, by its articles of incorporation or bylaws to represent the interests of residential customers or small commercial customers receiving bundled electric service from an electrical corporation (§1802(b)(1)(C)). Certain environmental groups that	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

² Filed April 24, 2025, not April 26, 2025.

³ All “§” and “Section” references are to California Public Utilities Code unless indicated otherwise.

<p>represent residential customers with concerns for the environment may also qualify as Category 3 customers, even if the above requirement is not specifically met in the articles or bylaws. <i>See</i> D.98-04-059, footnote at 30.</p>	
<p>4. The party’s detailed explanation of the selected customer category.</p> <p><u>The party’s explanation of its status as a Category 1 customer.</u> A party seeking status as a Category 1 customer must describe the party’s own interest in the proceeding and show how the customer’s participation goes beyond just his/her own self-interest and will benefit other customers. Supporting documents must include a copy of the utility’s bill.</p> <p><u>The party’s explanation of its status as a Category 2 customer.</u> A party seeking status as a Category 2 customer must identify the residential customer(s) being represented and provide authorization from at least one customer.</p> <p><u>The party’s explanation of its status as a Category 3 customer.</u> If the party represents residential and small commercial customers receiving bundled electric service from an electrical corporation, it must include in the Notice of Intent either the percentage of group members that are residential ratepayers or the percentage of the members who are receiving bundled electric service from an electrical corporation. Supporting documentation for this customer category must include current copies of the articles of incorporation or bylaws. If current copies of the articles and bylaws have already been filed with the Commission, only a specific reference (the proceeding’s docket number and the date of filing) to such filings needs to be made.</p> <p>The Center for Accessible Technology (CforAT) is an organization that is authorized by its bylaws to represent the interests of residential customers with disabilities before the Commission; specifically, our bylaws state at Article 2.1(d) that CforAT is “involved in advocacy initiatives to enhance the lives of the disability community, including ways to improve access to technology and increase the ability of people with disabilities to live independently. In particular, CforAT is authorized and urged to actively participate and intervene before government entities, including but not limited to the California Public Utilities Commission, on all matters that it deems appropriate that will affect directly or indirectly the interests of residential customers with disabilities, ratepayers with disabilities, small businesses owned by people with disabilities, including customers who receive bundled electric service from an electrical corporation.” CforAT is not a membership organization.</p> <p>A copy of CforAT’s bylaws were submitted with our NOI in A.10-03-014, which was filed on August 29, 2011. No relevant changes have been made since that time. An additional copy can be provided upon request.</p>	

<p>Do you have any direct economic interest in outcomes of the proceeding?⁴</p> <p>If “Yes”, explain:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>B. Conflict of Interest (§ 1802.3)</p>	
<p>1. Is the customer a representative of a group representing the interests of small commercial customers who receive bundled electric service from an electrical corporation?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>2. If the answer to the above question is “Yes”, does the customer have a conflict arising from prior representation before the Commission?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>C. Status as an Eligible Local Government Entity (§§1802(d), 1802.4, 1803.1)</p>	
<p>The party claims “eligible local government entity” status because the party is a city, county, or city and county that is not a publicly owned public utility that intervenes or participates in a Commission proceeding for the purpose of protecting the health and safety of the residents within the entity’s jurisdiction following a catastrophic material loss suffered by its residents either in significant damage to infrastructure or loss of life and property, or both, as a direct result of public utility infrastructure.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>The party’s explanation of its status as an eligible local government entity must include a description of</p> <p>(1) The relevant triggering catastrophic event;</p> <p>(2) The impacts of the triggering catastrophic event on the residents within the entity’s jurisdiction as a result of public utility infrastructure; and</p> <p>(3) The entity’s reason(s) to participate in this proceeding.</p>	
<p>D. Timely Filing of Notice of Intent to Claim Intervenor Compensation (NOI) (§ 1804(a)(1)):</p>	
<p>1. Is the party’s NOI filed within 30 days after a Prehearing Conference? Date of Prehearing Conference: June 17, 2025</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>2. Is the party’s NOI filed at another time (for example, because no Prehearing Conference was held, the proceeding will take less than 30 days, the schedule did not reasonably allow parties to identify issues within the timeframe normally permitted, or new issues have emerged)?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>2a. The party’s description of the reasons for filing its NOI at this other time:</p>	
<p>2b. The party’s information on the proceeding number, date, and decision number for any Commission decision, Commissioner ruling, Administrative Law Judge’s ruling, or other document authorizing the filing of NOI at that other time:</p>	

⁴ See Rule 17.1(f).

PART II: SCOPE OF ANTICIPATED PARTICIPATION

A. Planned Participation (§ 1804(a)(2)(A)):

The party's statement of the issues on which it plans to participate:

No Scoping Memo has yet been issued in this proceeding, so this statement of the issues on which CforAT plans to participate is necessarily subject to change. The preliminary scoping memo included as part of the OIR in this proceeding identifies policy issues and implementation issues. CforAT anticipates that we will participate in each of these areas as identified in the OIR, with a focus on the issues of greatest impact on our constituency of utility customers with disabilities and medical needs. CforAT specifically anticipates that we will focus on efforts to include medical baseline customers and other customers with medical needs as identified "hard-to-reach" customers and on addressing how to best consider non-energy benefits such as customer health, safety and comfort improvements when evaluating cost effectiveness.

In addition to these identified concerns, CforAT will participate on other issues relevant to our constituency as they develop with the issuance of a Scoping Memo and other activity in this docket.

The party's explanation of how it plans to avoid duplication of effort with other parties:

CforAT regularly coordinates with other advocates who share common concerns and will continue to do so in this proceeding. For example, CforAT has already initiated conversation with representatives of the RENs to work together to add our constituency as an identified "hard-to-reach" group of customers. CforAT also routinely works cooperatively with other consumer advocates.

CforAT also will also avoid expending resources in areas where other active parties have greater expertise and focus our participation on areas where we bring a unique perspective based on the needs of our constituency.

The party's description of the nature and extent of the party's planned participation in this proceeding (to the extent that it is possible to describe on the date this NOI is filed).

As noted above, no Scoping Memo has yet been issued in this proceeding, so it is difficult to identify the specific extent of CforAT's anticipated participation. Generally, CforAT expects that we will actively participate in all aspects of the rulemaking, addressing those selected issues that we have identified as relevant to our constituency. For these issues, CforAT intends to submit written comments, proposals and/or briefs as authorized, as well as to conduct discovery and research, present expert testimony, participate at any scheduled workshops or hearings, and prepare any other filings or appearances necessary to advocate for the interests of our constituency.

B. The party's itemized estimate of the compensation that the party expects to request, based on the anticipated duration of the proceeding (§ 1804(a)(2)(A)):				
Item	Hours	Rate \$	Total \$	#
ATTORNEY, EXPERT, AND ADVOCATE FEES				
Melissa W. Kasnitz	100	\$760	\$76,000	1
Kate Woodford	50	\$290	14,500	2
[Expert 1]				
[Expert 2]				
[Advocate 1]				
[Advocate 2]				
Subtotal: \$90,500.00				
TOTAL ESTIMATE: \$90,500				

Estimated Budget by Issues:

It is difficult for CforAT to make estimates on a budget by issue prior to the issuance of a Scoping Memo. In addition, CforAT notes that the predecessor to this proceeding was open for more than 10 years and ended up addressing an extremely broad range of issues. For this reason, both out overall budget and the estimated allocation by issue is necessarily preliminary. To the extent we can provide estimates at this time, we expect to allocate our time generally as follows:

Policy Issues: 70% (as subdivided below)

- Inclusion of disability as a hard-to reach group: 20%
- Cost Effectiveness (including NEB considerations): 20%
- Other policy issues, including gas measures/viable electric alternatives; multifamily issues and portfolio guidance, as well as other issues that may develop: 30%

Implementation Issues: 20%

Procedural Issues: 10%

PART III: SHOWING OF SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

A. The party claims that participation or intervention in this proceeding without an award of fees or costs imposes a significant financial hardship, on the following basis:	Applies (check)
1. The customer cannot afford, without undue hardship, to pay the costs of effective participation, including advocate's fees, expert witness fees, and other reasonable costs of participation. (§ 1802(h))	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<p>2. In the case of a group or organization, the economic interest of the Individual members of the group or organization is small in comparison to the costs of effective participation in the proceeding. (§ 1802(h))</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>3. The eligible local government entities’ participation or intervention without an award of fees or costs imposes a significant financial hardship. (§ 1803.1(b).)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>4. A § 1802(h) or § 1803.1(b) finding of significant financial hardship in another proceeding, made within one year prior to the commencement of this proceeding, created a rebuttable presumption in this proceeding (§ 1804(b)(1)).</p> <p>Commission’s finding of significant financial hardship made in proceeding number:</p> <p>Date of Administrative Law Judge’s Ruling (or CPUC Decision) in which the finding of significant financial hardship was made⁵:</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>B. The party’s explanation of the factual basis for its claim of “significant financial hardship” (§ 1802(h) or § 1803.1(b)) (necessary documentation, if warranted, is attached to the NOI:</p>	
<p>CforAT has repeatedly been found by the Commission to be eligible for compensation based on findings of significant financial hardship regarding our efforts to represent the interests of utility customers with disabilities and/or medical needs. CforAT has no source of funding other than the intervenor compensation program to support its advocacy at the Commission, and the individual members of the population that we represent, while benefiting from our advocacy at the Commission, cannot afford to pay for representation. Moreover, the individual benefit for each customer within our constituency is small in comparison with the costs of effective participation.</p> <p>The Commission’s most recent finding of significant financial hardship in another proceeding was made more than one year prior to the commencement of this proceeding; this most recent determination was issued R.22-11-013 on March 15, 2024 following submission of supplemental information about CforAT’s budget and resources.</p> <p>At all times in our work before the Commission, CforAT represents our constituency of utility customers with disabilities (including many low-income customers) for no charge to the community. Our constituency is highly dependent on reliable and affordable access to utility services in order to support their ability to live independently in the community. CforAT relies on the intervenor compensation program to sustain our ability to represent this unique constituency before the Commission.</p> <p>CforAT has no other source of support for the work we do to represent these vulnerable consumers before the Commission, and few people with disabilities have the resources or awareness of utility issues to consider representation through private counsel. While CforAT’s</p>	

⁵ A finding of significant financial hardship was made in D.24-10-028 on October 17, 2024 (§ 1804(b)(1)).

work provides value to our constituency, the value for each individual customer is small compared to the cost of representation; often this value comes in the form of improved accessibility of utility services and communications (and thus improved customer understanding of programs and services available) or improved reliability of service rather than in the form of monetary benefit. This interest cannot easily be expressed as an economic interest, but it remains crucial to a vulnerable customer group.

If the intervenor compensation program were not available, CforAT would be unable to continue this work.

**PART IV: ATTACHMENTS DOCUMENTING SPECIFIC
ASSERTIONS MADE IN THIS NOTICE⁶**

Attachment No.	Description
1	Certificate of Service

⁶ Documents are not attached to final ALJ ruling.