



FILED

07/24/26

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

25-10022

Registration of Easton Telecom Services, L.L.C. for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide non-facilities based Digital Voice Fixed Interconnected VoIP services pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 1013.

Application 25-10-022

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 under 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 (Rule(s)).

Easton Telecom Services, L.L.C. (Easton) is also directed to provide the additional information listed in Section 5 within 10 days of the issuance of this ruling.

1. Procedural Background

On October 22, 2025, Easton filed Application (A.) 25-10-022 for registration as a non-facilities based Digital Voice Fixed Interconnected Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service provider (Application) under Pub. Util. Code Section 1013 employing a simplified registration process administered by the Commission's Communications Division.

On February 11, 2026, the Commission's Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division (CPED) filed a protest alleging Easton violated Rule 1.1. Accordingly, on March 11, 2026, the Application was removed from the simplified registration process and converted to an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) under Pub. Util. Code Section 1001.

On June 23, 2026, the parties filed a Joint Prehearing Conference (PHC) statement in which the parties stated that they had reached agreement on the basic terms of a proposed settlement agreement to resolve the Rule 1.1 concerns presented in CPED's protest. After CPED's protest is resolved, Easton intends to make a motion to withdraw its application without prejudice.

The assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) held a PHC on June 30, 2026, to address the issues of law and fact, determine the need for a hearing, set the schedule for resolving the matter, and address other matters as necessary. On July 21, 2026, parties filed a Joint Motion for Approval of a Settlement Agreement, which purports to resolve all Rule 1.1 issues. I have determined the issues and initial schedule of the proceeding as 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

The issues to be determined or otherwise considered are:

1. Does Easton meet all of the Commission's requirements, including, but not limited to, financial and technical, requirements for a CPCN?
2. Did Easton violate Rule 1.1. of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure; and if so, what penalties should be assessed?

3. Need for Evidentiary Hearing

Parties filed a Joint Motion for Approval of the Settlement Agreement on July 21, 2026, which purports to resolve all issues raised by CPED in its protest. Accordingly, no evidentiary hearing is needed, at this time.

4. Schedule

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

Event	Date
Applicant Provides Additional Information	Within 10 days of issuance of the ruling
Proposed decision	<i>[no later than 90 days after submission]</i>
Commission decision	<i>[no sooner than 30 days after PD]</i>

This matter will be submitted upon review of the additional information Easton is directed to provide in Section 5 of this Scoping Memo, 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 under Pub. Util. Code Section 311(d). The assigned ALJ or the assigned 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. Direction to File Additional Information

Easton has expressed its intention to withdraw its application and pursue authority through the Tier 1 advice letter process authorized by Decision (D.) 26-

06-009.¹ However, the Tier 1 advice letter process authorized by D.26-06-009 provides a streamlined process for existing wireline service providers that *already offer* fixed interconnected VoIP services.² Because it is unclear whether Easton was offering fixed interconnected VoIP services at the time D.26-06-009 became effective and because Easton's motion to withdraw has not yet been filed and served, this proceeding will continue to develop the record necessary to resolve the application.

Accordingly, Easton is directed to provide the following information within 10 days of the issuance of the ruling.

1. Is Easton providing Fixed Interconnected VoIP services in California?
2. If Easton is currently providing Fixed Interconnected VoIP services in California, when did it begin providing that service?
3. Clarify the current positions held by Heidi Mocas and Robert Mocas within Easton.
4. Provide a copy of Easton's financial instrument that satisfies the financial requirements to obtain an operating authority pursuant to D.26-06-009 Appendix A (note that surety bond is not one of the financial instruments).

¹ Real Transcript at 8:4-10.

² D.26-06-009 at 13 ("This decision requires existing wireline service providers without the DVF utility designation and offering fixed interconnected VoIP services to obtain the DVF utility type or, in the case of providers with general operating authority, to report they are offering DVF utility type services. To facilitate these requirements, we establish a streamlined administrative process....").

**6. Category of Proceeding and
Ex Parte Restrictions**

This ruling confirms the Commission's preliminary determination that this is a ratesetting proceeding.³ Accordingly, *ex parte* communications are restricted and must be reported under Article 8 of the Rules.

7. Public Outreach

Under 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.

8. 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.

9. 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://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.

³ Resolution ALJ 176-3578 at 1.

10. 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 1.4.⁴

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 must 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. 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 only 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

⁴ The form to request additions and changes to the Service list may be found at <https://www.cpsc.ca.gov/-/media/cpsc-website/divisions/administrative-law-judge-division/documents/additiontoservicelisttranscriptordercompliant.pdf>.

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.

11. 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.

12. Assignment of the Proceeding

Matthew Baker is the assigned Commissioner and Leah Goldberg 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. Easton shall provide the additional information listed in Section 5 by within 10 days of the issuance of the ruling.
5. The category of the proceeding is ratesetting.

This order is effective today.

Dated July 24, 2026, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ MATTHEW BAKER

Matthew Baker
Assigned Commissioner