

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE JEFFREY LEE, presiding

|                                         |   |            |
|-----------------------------------------|---|------------|
| Clinton Wills d/b/a Clint's Pumping     | ) | PREHEARING |
| Service (CPS); Drilling Exploration &   | ) | CONFERENCE |
| Operating Company, Inc. (DE&O); and The | ) |            |
| Termo Company,                          | ) |            |
|                                         | ) |            |
| Complainants,                           | ) |            |
|                                         | ) |            |
| Vs.                                     | ) | Case       |
|                                         | ) | 26-04-014  |
| Pacific Gas and Electric Company        | ) |            |
| (U39E),                                 | ) |            |
|                                         | ) |            |
| Defendant.                              | ) |            |



**FILED**

08/06/26

03:16 PM

C2604014

REPORTERS' TRANSCRIPT  
Telephonic Proceeding  
August 4, 2026  
Pages 1 - 45  
Volume 1

Reported by: Rebekah DeRosa, CSR No. 8708  
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TELEPHONIC PROCEEDING

AUGUST 4, 2026 - 1:36 P.M.

\* \* \* \* \*

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE LEE: We are now on the record. The Commission will come to order.

It is now 1:36 p.m. Pacific time on Tuesday, August 4th, 2026. This is a telephonic prehearing conference for complaint proceeding C.26-04-014, Clinton Wills, doing business as Clint's Pumping Service, or CPS; Drilling Exploration & Operating Company, Incorporated, known as DE&O, and The Termo Company, three complainants, versus Pacific Gas and Electric Company, the defendant. The charging allegation is violation of California Public Utilities Code Sections 451 and 453.

I'm Administrative Law Judge Jeffrey Lee, and the ALJ assigned to this proceeding. Commissioner Matthew Baker is the assigned commissioner. He is not in attendance today; however, the commissioner's advisor, Ashlyn Kong -- I'll spell that. A-s-h-l-y-n, last name's Kong, K-o-n-g -- she is in attendance today.

This proceeding is being transcribed by a court reporter, so let me reiterate the ground rules for today's prehearing conference that we previewed before we went on the record.

1 Oh, let me go back. Let me see if --

2 Ms. Kong, do you have anything that you want to state on  
3 the record on behalf of the commissioner?

4 MS. KONG: Hi. This is Ashlyn Kong.

5 No, nothing -- nothing further for me. Thanks.

6 ALJ LEE: Okay. Very well. And thank you for  
7 your attendance today.

8 All right. So as -- mentioning again that we  
9 mentioned some ground rules before we went on the  
10 record. I'm going to reiterate those here. Now, these  
11 rules exist to help ensure a successful telephonic  
12 hearing.

13 First, please do not speak unless I call on you  
14 to speak; second, speak slowly and clearly for the  
15 benefit of the court reporters and for a clear  
16 transcript; three, please do not speak over one another;  
17 four, please remember to mute your phones and refrain  
18 from side conversations; and five, please state your  
19 name prior to speaking so that the court reporters know  
20 who is addressing the record.

21 Now, if anyone would like the transcript of  
22 today's prehearing conference, please send an email to  
23 the following: [reporting@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:reporting@cpuc.ca.gov). I'll spell that.  
24 It's r-e-p-o-r-t-i-n-g-a-t-c-p-u-c-dot-c-a-dot-g-o-v.

25 Now, the purpose of today's continued -- sorry.

1 The purpose of today's prehearing conference is to  
2 discuss the scope, schedule, need for hearings, and the  
3 category of this proceeding. We have the parties' joint  
4 prehearing conference statement identified positions on  
5 those issues, and I want to thank the parties for  
6 providing such thorough and detailed prehearing  
7 conference statements. I do have some questions about  
8 that, but they were very, very helpful in identifying  
9 all the issues and giving me a deep sense of what the  
10 parties' positions on each statement is in -- in -- in  
11 relevant detail.

12 Now, we will not make any determinations today  
13 regarding the issues. Commissioner Baker and I will  
14 consult after today's hearing, and he will make those  
15 determinations in a scoping memo which will issue  
16 following the prehearing conference.

17 Okay. I would like to move to the parties and  
18 appearances. All right. So I'll move on to the  
19 appearances for complainant, defendant, and other  
20 participants that may be on the phone today. Now,  
21 because this is a telephonic prehearing conference, I  
22 please ask that only one person speak on behalf of each  
23 party present; and again, before speaking on the record  
24 today, please state your full name, spell your last  
25 name, and identify the full name of the party or parties

1       that you represent.

2               Okay. First, I'll take the appearance --  
3       appearances of the complainants. So let's begin with  
4       two parties, Clinton Wills, dba Clint's Pumping Service,  
5       which I'll refer to as CPS, and the Drilling  
6       Exploration & Operating Company, Incorporated, which  
7       I'll refer to DE&O. Okay. And I believe that the same  
8       representative is here on behalf of both parties.

9               Mr. Wills?

10              MR. WILLS: Yes, your Honor.

11              ALJ LEE: All right. So, Mr. Wills, I'll go  
12       through this again.

13              Please state your full name for the record.

14              MR. WILLS: My name is Clinton Wills, and I  
15       represent CPS and DE&O.

16              ALJ LEE: And would you please spell your last  
17       name for the court reporters?

18              MR. WILLS: W-i-l-l-s.

19              ALJ LEE: Okay. All right. So very well.  
20       Welcome, Mr. Wills.

21              And my understanding is that you were the owner  
22       of the -- the two companies that you are speaking on  
23       behalf of today. Is that correct?

24              MR. WILLS: Yes.

25              ALJ LEE: All right. Very well. Well, thank

1     you, Mr. Wills.

2             Let me move on to another complainant in this  
3     matter, The Termo Company, and I believe we have it as  
4     Mr. Ralph Combs.

5             Mr. Combs, are you present?

6             MR. COMBS: Yes, your Honor.

7             ALJ LEE: All right.

8             MR. COMBS: Ralph --

9             ALJ LEE: Would you please state your --

10            MR. COMBS: -- Combs.

11            ALJ LEE: Oh, yeah. Yeah. Sorry. Yeah.

12            So could you please state your full name, and  
13     then spell your last name?

14            MR. COMBS: Sure. Ralph Combs, C-o-m, as in  
15     man, B, as in boy, S, with The Termo Company, T-e-r-m-o  
16     Company.

17            ALJ LEE: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Combs.

18            And would you please state your -- your title  
19     with The Termo Company?

20            MR. COMBS: Sure. Manager of regulatory,  
21     community, and government affairs.

22            ALJ LEE: Okay. Well, very well. Thank you,  
23     Mr. Combs.

24            Now, I understand you have -- you have filed a  
25     motion for withdrawal, which we'll get to a little bit

1 later on in the -- the proceeding here.

2 MR. COMBS: That's correct, your Honor.

3 ALJ LEE: Okay. All right. So next, I'll take  
4 the appearance of or on behalf of the defendant, Pacific  
5 Gas and Electric Company. All right. Now, I believe we  
6 have with us Mr. Karkazis.

7 Mr. Karkazis, are you present?

8 MR. KARKAZIS: Yes, your Honor. This is Nick  
9 Karkazis for Pacific Gas and Electric Company; last name  
10 is spelled K-a-r-k-a-z-i-s, as in Sam.

11 And then on the phone we also have Lisa-Marie  
12 Clark, who is an attorney on the file.

13 I will be the primary speaker today for PG&E.

14 And then as a client representative on the  
15 phone, we also have Kyle Popp, as well.

16 Lisa-Marie Clark's last name is spelled  
17 C-l-a-r-k, and Mr. Popp's last name is spelled P-o-p-p.

18 ALJ LEE: Okay. Very well. Thank you,  
19 Mr. Karkazis.

20 Welcome, Ms. Clark and Mr. Popp.

21 Now, third, this prehearing conference was  
22 noticed on the Commission's Daily Calendar, so I want to  
23 ask if there's anybody else in attendance except those  
24 on behalf of the parties.

25 Okay. Anybody else that would like to actively

1      participate in this proceeding?

2                    (No response.)

3                    ALJ LEE: Okay. All right. Hearing -- hearing  
4      no other requests for participation, so let us move on  
5      to the next portion of our prehearing conference. I'd  
6      like to address next the -- the scope of issues.

7                    So let's talk about the proposed scope of the  
8      proceeding. Now, I've preliminarily identified certain  
9      issues to be included in the scope of this proceeding,  
10     and the parties filed an -- a joint prehearing  
11     conference statement detailing their positions on the  
12     issues identified. There is a somewhat broad scope  
13     of -- of issues that have been presented by CPS/DE&O,  
14     and putatively, The Termo Company. So I'm going to sort  
15     through all of those; and I do have PG&E's response to  
16     that. I believe I understand the issues and the scope  
17     and the -- the level of detail that the parties are  
18     providing. So I -- I don't have any questions about  
19     that, but I will ask in a few minutes if anybody has  
20     anything to add.

21                   But, I -- but, I wanted to deal with, first,  
22     are the prospect of some motions that have been --  
23     been file -- well, one is filed, and one is -- is  
24     proposed to be filed.

25                   Now, The Termo Company has filed a motion to

1 withdraw, and request a dismissal from this case without  
2 prejudice; and now, that -- that motion has -- has been  
3 filed prior to today's -- today's prehearing conference,  
4 and it is pending. I don't believe the deadline for any  
5 opposition has yet run. But, I do want to ask the  
6 party -- well, both parties if there's any opposition or  
7 objection to Termo's dismissal, at this point. I don't  
8 believe there is, based on my reading of the prehearing  
9 conference statements, but I just wanted to ask the  
10 parties if they intend to file anything that I needed to  
11 review before ruling on the motion to withdraw. So let  
12 me start with fellow -- fellow complainant.

13 Mr. Wills, do you have any -- any opposition or  
14 objection to Termo's dismissal, their motion to  
15 withdraw?

16 MR. WILLS: Yeah. This is Clinton Wills.

17 And, your Honor, that's a no.

18 ALJ LEE: Okay. So no -- no objection. You're  
19 not going to -- and you're not going to file anything  
20 regarding the motion to withdraw by Termo, at this  
21 point, I -- I assume. Is that correct?

22 MR. WILLS: That's correct, your Honor.

23 ALJ LEE: Okay. And let me ask PG&E,  
24 Mr. Karkazis, do you have any objection or opposition to  
25 Termo's motion to withdraw?

1 MR. KARKAZIS: This is Nick Karkazis for PG&E.

2 No, we do not have any objection to the motion.

3 ALJ LEE: All right. Very well. Thank you.

4 And -- and you're not -- you don't intend to file  
5 anything regarding the motion, at this point. Is that  
6 right?

7 MR. KARKAZIS: That's correct, your Honor. We  
8 will not be filing an opposition.

9 ALJ LEE: All right. Very well. Thank you.

10 And before I leave this -- this -- this issue,  
11 let me ask, Mr. Combs, do you have anything that you'd  
12 like to -- like to add regarding the motion to withdraw,  
13 at this point?

14 MR. COMBS: No. I mean I'm -- sure, your  
15 Honor. Ralph Combs, C-o-m-b-s.

16 I believe and I hope that I've captured  
17 everything in the motion and the accompanying  
18 declaration.

19 ALJ LEE: Okay. Very well. And your request  
20 is to -- to be dismissed without prejudice. So -- so  
21 that appears to be that you want to be dismissed at  
22 the -- at the earliest stage that I can get -- get to  
23 issue a determination on the motion, and that dismissal  
24 would be without prejudice subsequent -- contingent  
25 what -- what else happens in the case. You'll maintain

1 the -- the -- the right to -- to -- to refile. Is  
2 that -- is that the gist of what -- what the motion  
3 is -- has presented?

4 MR. COMBS: That is correct, your Honor.

5 ALJ LEE: Okay. All right. All right. Well,  
6 thank you, Mr. Combs. So I'll -- I'll try to address  
7 that in short order.

8 I do realize there is another potential motion  
9 to be filed that may result in a -- a ruling on -- on --  
10 on the motion that is filed by Termo, as well as a  
11 motion to dismiss that PG&E indicated that it intends to  
12 file by August 14th, which is ten days from now. And  
13 PG&E indicates that it believes dismissal may be  
14 warranted on the basis of a lack of standing by CPS and  
15 DE&O. So let me see if -- if the -- first, if that is  
16 correct, and that's -- that's my -- my understanding is  
17 correct.

18 So, Mr. Karkazis, have I gotten that -- that  
19 timing and the -- the motion itself correct?

20 MR. KARKAZIS: Yes, your Honor. I -- I would  
21 add there will be an additional -- some additional scope  
22 to the motion. We won't be filing just against DE&O.  
23 We'll also be filing that complaint -- or sorry, that  
24 motion as to CPS; and it's for lack of standing, but  
25 we'll also have additional grounds, as well. We believe

1     that the contracts that are being put at issue in this  
2     case con- -- are -- are clear, and contain clear  
3     provisions about what is to happen with -- with the gas  
4     producers when they elect not to install certain  
5     equipment. Now, these -- these parties --  
6     these complainants that are here today are not parties  
7     to those contracts, but we believe that those contracts  
8     with the proper parties are clear that -- that PG&E has  
9     the authority to -- to terminate those delivery points.

10           And then the third ground will be that PG&E's  
11     conduct is consistent with its tariffs, and we believe  
12     that -- that your Honor and -- and the Commission can  
13     decide that on the -- on the pleadings.

14           And then there's a potential that we  
15     identify -- we're -- we're looking into a couple of  
16     additional issues, but we're not confident that we're  
17     going to bring those at this time.

18           ALJ LEE: Okay. So, Mr. Karkazis, I  
19     understand. So the standing issue you're -- you're  
20     attacking the basis for the complaint, basically the --  
21     whether the Commission has jurisdiction over the parties  
22     that exist. Now, I under -- I understand that much.

23           The contract issues that you mentioned, the  
24     second ground, and the third ground, whether PG&E has  
25     complied with the relevant tariffs, seem to be both

1 potential issues on the merits as well as attacking the  
2 sufficiency of the complaint itself.

3 On -- on the second ground, on the -- if -- if  
4 you're attacking the sufficiency of the complaint  
5 itself -- that is, what is said in the complaint -- are  
6 you anticipating providing time for an amendment of the  
7 complaint?

8 MR. KARKAZIS: Your Honor, we think that based  
9 on what's included in the complaint and based on what we  
10 will be arguing that there won't be a need for an  
11 amendment; but certainly, if your Honor found that an  
12 amendment might cure it, of -- of course, we would be  
13 open to that. I don't know how that would impact the  
14 schedule, and I think it -- that that kind of brings up  
15 another issue, which is PG&E is amenable and agreeable  
16 to the schedule that's proposed in the joint prehearing  
17 conference statement, but if there is a motion to  
18 dismiss the complaint, and if elements of that motion  
19 are successful, and -- and -- and potentially maybe  
20 there is also an amended complaint, I can see how that  
21 could impact the schedule that we've proposed therein,  
22 as well as the Commission's desire to issue a scoping  
23 ruling at this time.

24 So I don't -- I -- I want -- that's one of the  
25 issues I wanted to raise with your Honor, is if it made

1 sense to provide your Honor with time to rule on that  
2 motion before issuing a scoping ruling, or if it would  
3 be more prudent to -- to follow a schedule similar to  
4 what your Honor had proposed and what the -- the parties  
5 had proposed in the prehearing conference statement.

6 ALJ LEE: Yeah. So let me -- let me say two  
7 things.

8 The first is if your -- if your motion is  
9 attacking the themes, I want the -- I want -- I want the  
10 complainant to be able to deal with that, and one of the  
11 issues, if you do so, I ask is whether amendment is  
12 warranted or whether it is futile, and so that is -- is  
13 fully briefed, so that we can -- we can determine that,  
14 and to take the next step, which I believe you are --  
15 you're -- you're raising with us, is whether there's  
16 additional time that needs to be built into the schedule  
17 for an amended complaint, which -- which may have a  
18 different scope than if we -- than if we issue a -- a  
19 scope of issues based on the current complaint.

20 Is that -- is that the gist of what you're  
21 telling us?

22 MR. KARKAZIS: Correct, your Honor. And we'll  
23 be happy to address in our motion whether amendment  
24 would be futile or whether it can be -- it can be cured,  
25 and our position -- our position will be that it cannot

1 be cured.

2 ALJ LEE: Okay. All right. Well, very well.  
3 Yeah. I'd like to see the -- the -- the briefing on  
4 that, you know, if -- if -- if that -- if that next step  
5 is an analysis that needs to be -- be -- be made. All  
6 right?

7 So I under -- I understand that your view is  
8 that the briefing and the decision period for the motion  
9 to dismiss that you will be filing by four -- August  
10 14th may require an extension of some of the deadlines  
11 that are currently proposed.

12 MR. KARKAZIS: Yes, your Honor. ]

13 ALJ LEE: All right. So in other words, you  
14 have to build in a little bit because of the -- the  
15 motion that's -- that's to come. All right.

16 Mr. Karkazis, have you discussed a briefing  
17 schedule on this motion with Mr. -- Mr. Wills and -- and  
18 Mr. Combs?

19 MR. KARKAZIS: So we have not discussed the  
20 briefing schedule. I think our -- our understanding was  
21 that it would likely proceed via the Rules of Practice  
22 and Procedure; and I don't want to misspeak, but I  
23 believe -- I believe the response timeline is -- is 15  
24 days.

25 I'm -- I'm -- I'm sure I can get checked on

1       that, and I'll be happy to check here as well.

2               ALJ LEE: Right. I -- yeah, I -- I -- my  
3       recollection is 15 calendar days, so -- so I -- what --  
4       what I would like to do here is make sure that I'm not  
5       prejudicing any -- any parties. I want to give Mr. --  
6       Mr. Wills and Mr. Combs a full opportunity to review and  
7       submit a -- a full and careful analysis in their  
8       response, assuming there's a response to -- to -- to  
9       come.

10              So let me -- if -- Mr. Karkazis, do you have  
11       anything further before I turn to Mr. Wills and  
12       Mr. Combs?

13              MR. KARKAZIS: No, your Honor.

14              But to your last point, if the complainants  
15       needed additional time to respond, we would certainly be  
16       okay with that.

17              ALJ LEE: Okay. Well, let's -- let's have that  
18       brief discussion here. You know, we're in the midst  
19       of -- of the summer season, people are -- necessary  
20       people that -- you know, are -- are sometimes away and  
21       sometimes some indulgence in schedule is needed, so let  
22       me just make sure that everybody has a full and fair  
23       opportunity to -- to address the issues that are being  
24       raised here. Okay? All right.

25              So, Mr. Wills, Mr. Combs, anything that -- each

1 in turn. You heard that PG&E intends to file a motion  
2 to dismiss. One deals with they -- one issue they've --  
3 they've suggested will be included is the -- DE&O and  
4 CPS's standing; that is, your ability to -- to bring  
5 this case in court.

6 Then there's some contract issues, as well as  
7 whether PG&E complied with the tariff. So there's --  
8 there's several issues, and potentially more, according  
9 to Mr. Karkazis.

10 And what I want to do is currently, once that  
11 gets filed -- PG&E is suggesting on or by August 14th,  
12 that their motion to dismiss will be filed -- there will  
13 be 15 -- you'll have 15 calendar days for you, as the  
14 complainants, to file the response to it.

15 But as I said, we're in the midst of the summer  
16 season, people are taking vacations, you know, kids are  
17 coming out of school and then going back to school, and  
18 things are rather hectic. I want to make sure that --  
19 that -- that both of you, as complainants, have a full  
20 opportunity to see, review, and then, you know,  
21 either -- either internally or if you need to go to  
22 other -- other people to help present a written response  
23 and file it with the Commission.

24 So 15 days is -- is a typical period of time  
25 after a motion gets -- a motion to dismiss gets filed;

1 but if you need additional time to do and submit a  
2 response, I want to offer a brief extension if -- if you  
3 need it.

4 So let me ask Mr. Wills first. So let's --  
5 let's work off of the August 14th, 2026 date. 15 days  
6 would be August 29th.

7 Is that a sufficient amount of time, 15 days,  
8 for you to review and -- and file the response to a  
9 motion that -- that PG&E may be filing?

10 MR. WILLS: This is Clinton Wills on behalf of  
11 DE&O and CPS.

12 We're fine with the dates of the motion.

13 ALJ LEE: I'm assuming -- I'm assuming you're  
14 going to want to file an opposition to it; but I -- if  
15 you don't want to, let me know that too, because I'm  
16 assuming we want to build in -- build a --

17 MR. WILLS: We do want to file an opposition,  
18 and --

19 ALJ LEE: Correct.

20 MR. WILLS: I want to file an opposition, a  
21 chance to do that; and if I could get another -- I don't  
22 know. Another week?

23 ALJ LEE: Another five days?

24 Okay. So 20 -- 20 -- well, I'll make it 21  
25 days. That way it will fall on a weekday. So I'll give

1     you the round three weeks. So -- so August 14th -- let  
2     me look at the calendar here.

3             That would be -- 21 days from August 14th would  
4     be September 4th. I don't think that's falling on a  
5     holiday.

6             Does that -- that seem to be sufficient time  
7     for you, Mr. -- Mr. Wills?

8             MR. WILLS: Yes. Yes, your Honor.

9             ALJ LEE: Okay. So I -- I will issue -- issue  
10    an order indicating that you have until September 4th,  
11    and that you can file after -- after 15 days is -- is  
12    still on time as long as it's on or by September 4th.

13            And let me ask Mr. -- Mr. Combs, you've heard  
14    the discussion I just had with Mr. Wills, and I'm  
15    inclined to -- to add time until September 4th to -- to  
16    respond to the motion that's -- the motions to dismiss  
17    that PG&E is indicating it will file.

18            Do you need any additional time beyond  
19    September 4th, Mr. Combs, or is that -- that's  
20    sufficient to you?

21            MR. COMBS: Your Honor, thank you. This is  
22    Ralph Combs for Termo. I -- my wife is expecting on  
23    August 22nd, and I will be taking parental leave,  
24    although I do intend to be available and working, so I  
25    can only imagine as to the quality of the response; but,

1     you know, you've been generous with the three weeks  
2     there.

3             An additional week might be really beneficial;  
4     but at the same time, if you felt it warranted,  
5     otherwise, I can make three weeks work.

6             ALJ LEE:   Okay.   So you're -- you're -- you're  
7     proposing September 11th?

8             And by the way, congratulations.   I hope things  
9     go well --

10            MR. COMBS:   Thank you, your Honor.

11            ALJ LEE:   -- with the birth of your -- your  
12     child.

13            So you're proposing September 11th.   That would  
14     be okay with my schedule.   I think we can work with that  
15     in the proceeding schedule, but I do want to make sure  
16     Mr. Karkazis is okay with that and doesn't feel there's  
17     a prejudice.

18            So let's see.   Mr. Karkazis, September 11th  
19     is -- is what's being proposed.

20            What are your thoughts on that date as a  
21     response date?

22            MR. KARKAZIS:   No objection from PG&E.   We're  
23     fine with that date, your Honor.

24            ALJ LEE:   All right.   And, Mr. Wills,  
25     September 11th seems to be an agreed date.   It gives you

1 a little bit more time.

2 Is there any -- any issue with you on  
3 September 11th? You can respond early; but, you know,  
4 you'll have until September 11th.

5 MR. WILLS: No objection, your Honor.

6 ALJ LEE: Okay. All right. And I do encourage  
7 complainants, Mr. Wills, Mr. Combs, to -- to combine and  
8 do a joint -- joint opposition where possible. So if  
9 you -- you put it together, file -- file one document  
10 with -- with all of your arguments, that would be very  
11 helpful to me.

12 You can file separately if -- if -- if that  
13 makes more sense for you; but, you know, I -- I always  
14 prefer seeing one piece of paper as opposed to two if I  
15 can -- if I can -- can do that. So that is my -- my  
16 request, but not a requirement for you. All right? But  
17 I will issue an order indicating a briefing schedule  
18 September 11th.

19 Mr. Karkazis, shall we talk about a reply? Do  
20 you intend to file a reply after you see the response?

21 MR. KARKAZIS: Your Honor, if I may, I -- I  
22 would prefer to defer that decision until after we see  
23 the opposition. Our -- in doing that, we -- we'd want  
24 to make sure that any reply, we'd be responding  
25 judicially and not taking more of the Commission's

1 resources than necessary; so would it be okay if I  
2 requested 24 hours to -- to respond and request a reply  
3 after -- I guess that might fall -- that falls on a  
4 Friday.

5 Perhaps the -- can I request until the 14th to  
6 notify your Honor as to whether PG&E intends to file a  
7 reply or not?

8 ALJ LEE: Yes, that'd be fine. Please --  
9 please do so. And -- yeah, you can -- you can do so  
10 through the -- I think the email -- email system will be  
11 fine as long as it's served on everybody that you're --  
12 you're making a -- a request for a -- a leave to file  
13 the reply and -- and proposing a deadline, and  
14 everybody -- everybody will see, you know, if -- if it  
15 goes beyond the -- the default period that -- that the  
16 rules provide.

17 MR. KARKAZIS: Understood, your Honor. Thank  
18 you.

19 ALJ LEE: Okay. All right. Very well. All  
20 right. So with -- with the September 11th deadline and  
21 a potential reply in -- in place, then I'll have -- have  
22 to read everything and -- and issue a decision, so that  
23 will affect how I propose to the commissioner how our  
24 proceeding schedule is going to -- going to go through.

25 Also, this will be the -- the motion to dismiss

1 looks like it's going to be -- and the motion to  
2 withdraw will be the primary issues for the scope of the  
3 proceeding, with other issues flowing from -- from that.

4 So with that, let me move on to the next set of  
5 issues, unless anybody has anything more to -- to  
6 address about the two pending motions, the motion by  
7 Termo and the motion to dismiss by PG&E.

8 Let me ask Mr. Wills, do you have anything  
9 further on the two motions?

10 MR. WILLS: This is Clinton with DE&O.

11 No objections, your Honor.

12 ALJ LEE: Okay. Mr. Combs, do you have  
13 anything further you want to mention about the two  
14 motions that we've been discussing?

15 MR. COMBS: Not at this time, your Honor.

16 Ralph Combs.

17 ALJ LEE: Okay. Thank you.

18 And, Mr. Karkazis, do you have any additional  
19 that you want to -- wanted to raise regarding the motion  
20 to withdraw or the motion to dismiss?

21 MR. KARKAZIS: Nothing further, your Honor.

22 Thank you.

23 ALJ LEE: Okay. Very well. Thank you. All  
24 right.

25 Now, as I mentioned, I -- I do have the -- the

1 list of the scope of issues. There is some -- it looks  
2 like some general disagreement on the detail that should  
3 go into the scope of those issues for this proceeding;  
4 and, also, there is the issue of the motion to dismiss  
5 which may modify the -- the pleading as well as the  
6 scope in some circumstances.

7 So with that in -- in mind, let me ask whether  
8 Complainant CPS/DE&O, Mr. Wills, do you have any  
9 additional thoughts regarding the issues that should be  
10 included in the scope of this proceeding that is beyond  
11 what you've already put into the joint statement that  
12 was submitted to me?

13 (No response.)

14 ALJ LEE: Mr. Wills, in other words, is there  
15 anything else you want to add to what you've already  
16 told us in the joint statement?

17 (No response.)

18 ALJ LEE: Mr. Wills, are you there? You might  
19 be on mute.

20 MR. WILLS: Oh, sorry, your Honor.

21 No, I don't have --

22 ALJ LEE: We hear you now.

23 MR. WILLS: Sorry. This is Clinton Wills.

24 ALJ LEE: You're fine now. Yeah, you're fine.

25 Let me state the question again.

1           So is there anything you wanted to add to what  
2           you already put in the joint statement regarding the  
3           scope of the proceeding?

4           MR. WILLS: No. No, your Honor.

5           ALJ LEE: Okay. All right.

6           And let me ask Mr. -- Mr. Combs, is there  
7           anything that you want to add to the joint statement  
8           regarding the scope of the proceeding?

9           MR. COMBS: Not at this time, your Honor.  
10          Thank you.

11          ALJ LEE: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Combs. All  
12          right.

13          And, Mr. Karkazis, on behalf of PG&E, do you  
14          have any additional thoughts regarding the issues that  
15          should be included in the scope of the proceeding beyond  
16          what's been noted in the joint statement?

17          MR. KARKAZIS: Your Honor, just, I guess, one  
18          additional comment would be we think that using the --  
19          the three proposed issues by your Honor is -- is -- is  
20          more efficient. If we were to expand the list to  
21          include additional issues, in my experience, that has a  
22          tendency to lengthen the briefing.

23          It also would require more use of Commission  
24          resources and drafting more findings of fact and more  
25          conclusions of law. In our view, it would be more

1 efficient for the parties and for the Commission to  
2 simply use the umbrella issues that have already been  
3 proposed.

4 ALJ LEE: Okay. All right. Very well. I  
5 did -- I did understand that from -- from the -- the  
6 joint statement that was submitted, so thank you for  
7 your -- for your -- your comments in that regard. All  
8 right.

9 MR. KARKAZIS: Your Honor, may I ask --

10 ALJ LEE: Yeah. Yeah. Mr. Karkazis, is that  
11 you?

12 MR. KARKAZIS: Sorry. I didn't mean to  
13 interrupt.

14 ALJ LEE: Go ahead.

15 MR. KARKAZIS: A few issues. We -- we did  
16 propose an additional issue under Issue 3, which we can  
17 also simply address under the umbrella of -- of Issue 3,  
18 but I did want to note that for your Honor.

19 And then another issue that we may want to  
20 address is whether DE&O is a forfeited company or not.  
21 It's our view under the law that DE&O should not be  
22 taking any formal act such as filing a complaint or --  
23 or maintaining an action under California law, based on  
24 its forfeiture status; and I just don't want to lose  
25 track of that issue as this proceeding goes on, your

1 Honor.

2 And that will be one of the items that PG&E  
3 files its motion on, but I -- I wanted to also raise  
4 that.

5 ALJ LEE: All right. So that's -- that's --  
6 that's what I wanted to confirm. That will be an issue  
7 that you will -- you will already be briefing and  
8 presenting -- right? -- as -- as far as the motion to  
9 dismiss?

10 MR. KARKAZIS: Correct, your Honor.

11 ALJ LEE: Okay. All right. So very well. I  
12 mean, if it's -- if it's an issue that you want to  
13 address, please put it in the motion. That sounds like  
14 it would be something that would -- you know, would be  
15 along the line of a potential dismissal argument.

16 MR. KARKAZIS: Understood, your Honor. Thank  
17 you.

18 ALJ LEE: So let me ask Mr. Wills, Mr. Combs,  
19 do you have anything that you want to say in response to  
20 Mr. Karkazis's comments?

21 Mr. Wills, do you have anything to add?

22 MR. WILLS: This is Clinton Wills representing  
23 DE&O and CPS. Yes.

24 Your Honor, DE&O is actively working to cure  
25 this corporate status issue. DE&O was dormant after

1 August 2022. Tim -- Tim Balsam was terminated, the  
2 original, kind of -- the CEO in sales.

3 We had no activity in the years '23 and '24.  
4 The -- the operations in April of '25 through the State  
5 ran for about five months, and still needs time, you'll  
6 find.

7 So the timing is good, and I expect we'll be  
8 complete and good with our corporate status.

9 ALJ LEE: Okay. So that's -- that's -- that's  
10 something that I think -- that -- that you -- you can  
11 identify in the response to a motion to dismiss, if that  
12 issue is raised there, so please -- please put a -- a --  
13 a tag or a pin in that issue, and when the times comes,  
14 you can explain it to more fully.

15 But it's -- it's good you tell me now as a -- a  
16 kind of foreshadowing, a preview of what issues I may  
17 be -- may be confronted with soon.

18 All right. Anything further, Mr. Wills?

19 MR. WILLS: No, your Honor.

20 ALJ LEE: Okay. Thank you.

21 Mr. Combs, do you have anything to add or in  
22 response to what Mr. Karkazis mentioned a moment ago?

23 MR. COMBS: Ralph Combs, Termo.

24 No, I do not.

25 ALJ LEE: Okay. Thank you. All right.

1           So let me -- let me move on, then, having dealt  
2     with the issues that are in the scope and pending --  
3     pending motions and to-be filed motions -- so I thank --  
4     thank you for your view so far on the proceeding scope.

5           Let's move on to the next issue, which is the  
6     categorization and the need for hearings here.  
7     Understanding this is a very preliminary stage of  
8     this -- of this proceeding, let's -- let's try to -- try  
9     to address as much as we can.

10           Now, the Commission has preliminarily  
11     determined that this is an adjudicatory proceeding; and  
12     let me ask whether CPS/DE&O have any objection to that  
13     determination by the Commission.

14           MR. WILLS: Yes, this is Clinton Wills.

15           Yes, I believe that there should be a hearing,  
16     your Honor.

17           ALJ LEE: Okay. Let's get to -- we'll -- I'll  
18     get to that question next. So I think right now I --  
19     I -- I just wanted to know whether there's -- you object  
20     to this categorization by the Commission of this being  
21     an adjudicatory proceeding.

22           That is, it's not a -- not a ratesetting  
23     proceeding, not a -- another type of proceeding, a  
24     rulemaking proceeding, for example, but an adjudicatory  
25     proceeding. ]

1 MR. WILLS: No, then, your Honor, I don't have  
2 a -- an objection.

3 ALJ LEE: Okay. All right. Mr. Combs, do you  
4 have any objection to this being categorized as an  
5 adjudicatory proceeding?

6 MR. COMBS: No, your Honor, I do not.

7 ALJ LEE: Okay. Thank you.

8 Mr. Karkazis, do you have a objection to the  
9 preliminary determination of this being a -- an  
10 adjudicatory proceeding?

11 MR. KARKAZIS: No objection, your Honor.

12 ALJ LEE: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Karkazis.

13 All right. So no -- no parties have an  
14 objection to the categorization as adjudicatory  
15 proceeding here. Let's move on to the need for  
16 discovery and an evidentiary hearing.

17 Okay. Now, in the joint statement, again, PG&E  
18 intends to file, by August 14th, a motion to dismiss.  
19 We've already discussed the -- a period for briefing and  
20 potential reply for that, and it'll be consideration  
21 going on.

22 Now, the part -- while -- while that -- while  
23 that process is playing out, the parties have also  
24 indicated in the joint statement that there may be --  
25 there may be a need for discovery and an evidentiary

1 hearing, and I have those -- I have the parties'  
2 positions on that, and they're very clear. So I -- I  
3 thank -- I thank all of you for presenting your  
4 positions, you know, quite -- in quite clear detail  
5 regarding the need for discovery and an evidentiary  
6 hearing. I will note that discovery can proceed on --  
7 on the basis of the agreement of the parties, and in --  
8 in -- in my -- my practice, I tend not to put a hard  
9 deadline to the close of discovery, unless the parties  
10 are requesting such a thing. But, I will let the  
11 parties make their own agreements and exchange --  
12 exchange documents and information to get their own --  
13 own -- own level of cooperation, you know, as -- as  
14 needed, throughout the proceeding, with the hope that  
15 there will be a full and fair exchange of -- of all  
16 evidence that is needed by each party. And if there any  
17 disputes in that, please let me know if somebody feels  
18 like they're not getting -- getting something they are  
19 entitled to. However, I tend not to put a hard fast  
20 deadline without -- without a request for such a  
21 deadline, okay, regarding discovery.

22 Now, as far as the evidentiary hearing, that's  
23 going to be a function of what -- what -- what the  
24 schedule of the case and some of the different stages  
25 that we are -- or we've been discussing may -- may

1 warrant and play out; but, I do want to look through the  
2 parties' proposed scheduling again, and may modify each  
3 of those proposals, based on the early stages of this  
4 case and the time needed for deciding certain motions  
5 that -- that appear to be pending in this case. Okay?

6 So let me ask if -- regarding the joint  
7 statement, on the issue of whether there may be a need  
8 for discovery and an -- an evidentiary hearing, whether  
9 complainants have any additional thoughts regarding  
10 that -- that is, discovery and evidentiary hearing  
11 only -- and beyond what was noted in the joint  
12 statement.

13 So, Mr. Wills, CPS and DEO -- DE&O, do you have  
14 any additional comments beyond what was put in the joint  
15 statement regarding the need for discovery and an  
16 evidentiary hearing?

17 MR. WILLIS: This is Clinton Wills, DE&O.

18 No, your Honor, we have nothing to add.

19 ALJ LEE: Okay. Very good. Yeah. I think you  
20 were very -- you're very thorough. So again, thank  
21 you for -- thank you for your thoroughness in the  
22 statement.

23 Let me ask Mr. Combs on behalf of Termo  
24 Company, does The Termo Company have anything additional  
25 to add regarding discovery and an evidentiary hearing

1       beyond what was noted in the joint statement?

2               MR. COMBS: No, your Honor, we do not.

3               ALJ LEE: Okay. All right. Thank you,  
4       Mr. Combs.

5               All right. And Mr. Karkazis, same question for  
6       PG&E: Does PG&E have any additional thoughts regarding  
7       the need for discovery and an evidentiary hearing beyond  
8       what was noted in the joint statement?

9               MR. KARKAZIS: No, your Honor. Thank you.

10              ALJ LEE: All right. Thank you. And, you  
11      know, it is possible that as -- as the -- as the events  
12      unfold in the early stages of the proceeding, I may  
13      issue what -- what are -- are ALJ information request --  
14      not information requests, but an ALJ ruling requesting  
15      information or updated status -- you know, status  
16      reports that will provide, you know, further information  
17      to help fashion -- fashion the -- the schedule and  
18      refine the schedule and, you know, as time -- in time  
19      and scope of -- of issues, things like that. So I keep  
20      that as an option for all of you, but I don't see that  
21      there's going to be a -- a deviation, at this point, or  
22      a need for information, at this point, beyond what was  
23      in the joint statement.

24              All right. So let's move forward, then, to  
25      the -- to the proceeding schedule again.

1           Now, complainants propose a proceeding schedule  
2     through the December 18th, 2026 in-person evidentiary  
3     hearing. In the joint statement, PG&E proposed  
4     proceeding schedule through January 2027 for an  
5     in-person evidentiary hearing, if necessary.

6           Now, understanding that -- that you've  
7     submitted a joint schedule -- or the -- or the joint  
8     statements with those dates for the evidentiary hearing  
9     prior to our discussion today, I will, you know, of  
10    course, make allowances and -- and modify those -- those  
11    dates based on the discussions that we're having and the  
12    briefing schedule that we -- we worked out earlier on  
13    the motion to dismiss, and it may push -- push some of  
14    those -- push the dates back. I'm not quite sure yet.  
15    I'll have to take a closer look, and see how it affects  
16    other -- other milestone dates that we want to put into  
17    the schedule.

18           But, let me also ask whether the parties have  
19    come to any decision on the value of alternative dispute  
20    resolution, or -- or ADR. That is the Commission's  
21    program to mediate disputes that come before it. And I  
22    believe I have had some -- some general statements about  
23    the ADR issues, but let me ask, in particular, from all  
24    parties whether they want to expand on -- on their --  
25    their thoughts on -- on the ADR process and the value to

1     this particular case.

2             All right. So let me ask again, beginning with  
3     the complainants, CPS/DE&O, Mr. Wills, do you have any  
4     additional thoughts regarding ADR -- that is, the  
5     mediation program here at this Commission -- anything  
6     beyond what was noted in the joint statement?

7             MR. WILLS: Your Honor, this is Clinton Wills  
8     representing DE&O, and we don't have anything at this  
9     time to add, no.

10            ALJ LEE: All right. All right. And let me  
11     move to Termo Company.

12            Mr. Combs, do you have anything that you want  
13     to add to the thoughts regarding ADR beyond what was  
14     noted in the joint statement?

15            MR. COMBS: I do not, your Honor.

16            ALJ LEE: Okay. All right. All right. And  
17     then Mr. Karkazis for PG&E, do you have any additional  
18     thoughts regarding ADR beyond what was already noted in  
19     the joint statement?

20            MR. KARKAZIS: No, your Honor, nothing further.  
21     Thank you.

22            ALJ LEE: All right. Very well. Okay. Well,  
23     thank you for -- for your confirmation regarding the ADR  
24     program, and, you know, understanding that -- that  
25     will -- there will be some -- some consideration into

1 the fashioning the -- the proceeding schedule in light  
2 of the -- the pending motions on the front.

3 And let me ask if there are any additional  
4 thoughts that any of the parties have regarding the --  
5 the proceeding schedule that they've laid out in the  
6 joint statement or whether you want to -- you want to  
7 just stay with what you've already stated.

8 So first, we'll go with CPS/DE&O. Mr. Wills,  
9 do you have any additional thoughts regarding the  
10 proceeding schedule beyond what was noted in the joint  
11 statement?

12 MR. WILLS: Your Honor, this is Clinton Wills  
13 with DE&O.

14 No.

15 ALJ LEE: Okay. All right. Thank you,  
16 Mr. Wills.

17 And Ms. -- Mr. -- Mr. Combs on behalf of The  
18 Termo Company, do you have any additional thoughts  
19 regarding the proceeding schedule beyond what was noted  
20 in the -- the joint statement already?

21 MR. COMBS: I do not, your Honor.

22 ALJ LEE: Thank you. All right. Thank you,  
23 Mr. Combs.

24 And for PG&E, Mr. Karkazis, do you have  
25 anything additional that you want to -- that you want to

1 bring up regarding the proceeding schedule beyond what  
2 was noted in the joint statement?

3 MR. KARKAZIS: No, your Honor, nothing further.  
4 Thank you.

5 ALJ LEE: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Karkazis.

6 All right. So, as I -- I believe I mentioned  
7 earlier -- so I will discuss the proposed schedule with  
8 the commissioner. But, please note that adjudication  
9 proceedings at the Commission must be completed in  
10 12 months' time; so again, just -- just remind you, we  
11 may need to set a schedule and modify as we move forward  
12 on each stage of the proceeding, and, you know, we'll --  
13 we'll -- we'll stay on top of that, and I -- I will  
14 likely ask for status reports along the way to help in  
15 that process to make sure that we have a -- a -- a -- a  
16 fair and efficient schedule for -- for all -- all  
17 the parties. All right. So I want to thank you. I'm  
18 going to take all the information regarding schedule  
19 under submission.

20 And let me ask if there are any other issues  
21 that any of the parties want to bring to the  
22 Commission's attention that we haven't touched upon.  
23 This is -- this -- this is the conclusion of our  
24 prehearing conference. So let me give the parties an  
25 opportunity again to bring to the Commission's attention

1 anything that you want to raise before we go off the  
2 record.

3 All right. So let me start again with  
4 CPS/DE&O. Mr. Wills, do you have anything that you want  
5 to bring to the Commission's attention that -- that  
6 hasn't been presented already?

7 MR. WILLS: This is Clinton Wills, DE&O.

8 And I can't think of anything right now, your  
9 Honor.

10 ALJ LEE: Okay. All right. Well, that -- so  
11 that's -- I think that that's -- that's because you  
12 filed a very thorough -- very thorough statement to us.  
13 So you should -- we'll stand pat. So listen to what  
14 other parties may raise, and -- and I'll give you a  
15 chance to -- to address that, if anything more comes up.

16 All right. So -- and for Mr. Combs for the --  
17 for The Termo Company, is there anything else, other  
18 issues, for example, that you want to bring to the  
19 Commission's attention that -- that wasn't already  
20 raised in the -- the joint statement or -- or previously  
21 in this prehearing conference?

22 MR. COMBS: Your Honor, I do not have any  
23 issues for the Commission.

24 However, I do have a question for your Honor,  
25 which is whether or not you would intend, if -- if this

1 is the appropriate time to ask this, intend to rule on  
2 my withdrawal motion before we continue down with the  
3 proceeding -- continue down the road with the  
4 proceedings, so that I know to be prepared for  
5 additional filings and whatnot.

6 ALJ LEE: Okay. That -- that -- that's a fair  
7 point, Mr. Combs. Thank you for raising that.

8 So your -- your motion on behalf of Termo  
9 Company is to -- to withdraw from the proceeding, and --  
10 and -- and no longer participate in it, and no parties  
11 have objected to it; so I think that's a -- a function  
12 of me reading through your papers, making sure  
13 everything is in order, and issuing a ruling. I'll try  
14 to do that as -- as soon as possible, and that may occur  
15 while the other -- other -- other motion that PG&E's  
16 going to file may be pending. But, I understand that --  
17 that dismissing you sooner would avoid the need for  
18 Termo Company having to -- to file the response to  
19 PG&E's motion.

20 MR. COMBS: That was my thinking, your Honor,  
21 yes.

22 ALJ LEE: Yes. Okay. So I will -- I will try  
23 to do so. Again, this -- this is -- this is our  
24 summer -- summer vacation season.

25 MR. COMBS: Uh-huh.

1 ALJ LEE: So I will --

2 MR. COMBS: Just as you gave me grace, I --

3 I --

4 (Crosstalk.)

5 MR. COMBS: Yes. Yes, your Honor. Sorry.

6 Just as you gave me grace, I can accept that.

7 ALJ LEE: Yeah. So I'll -- I will try to take  
8 a look at it, but I do under -- I do understand the  
9 consequences of delaying a ruling on that, and I'll --  
10 I'll take that into account as I -- as I set the  
11 priorities; in other words, I'll try to get to it as --  
12 as quickly as I can, and hopefully, we'll relieve you of  
13 the need to have to oppose a motion if you're -- you're  
14 simply going to be dismissed.

15 MR. COMBS: I understand. Thank you, your  
16 Honor.

17 ALJ LEE: All right? Okay. All right.

18 And as far as Mr. Karkazis on behalf PG&E, are  
19 there any other issues -- other issues you want to bring  
20 to the Commission's attention?

21 MR. KARKAZIS: No, your Honor. Thank you.

22 ALJ LEE: Okay. Then, let me just -- let me  
23 just go through. So these -- these are the other  
24 issues. Only -- only Mr. Combs has raised one.

25 Let me see if Mr. -- Mr. Wills, do you have

1 anything in response to what we've talked about just a  
2 moment ago, anything that you want to raise?

3 MR. WILLS: This is Clinton Wills.

4 No, your Honor.

5 ALJ LEE: Okay. All right. Mr. Combs,  
6 anything -- anything further for you?

7 MR. COMBS: No, your Honor. Thank you.

8 ALJ LEE: Okay. Mr. Karkazis, anything further  
9 for you in response to anything that we've talked about  
10 here regarding other issues?

11 MR. KARKAZIS: No, your Honor, nothing further.  
12 Thank you.

13 ALJ LEE: All right. All right. Very well.  
14 Well, thank you, all.

15 So what I'm going to do is I will confer with  
16 the commissioner regarding all the issues, including  
17 proposed schedule and considerations set forth in the --  
18 in the joint statement, what -- what was been -- what  
19 has been presented here at the prehearing conference,  
20 any other consider -- any other considerations that --  
21 that -- that -- that the commissioner or I might --  
22 might have regarding the discussions.

23 Scoping memo may be issued by the commissioner  
24 after this prehearing conference; however, I will --  
25 I -- I would -- my preference would be to wait for the

1 motion to dismiss, and see whether the -- the proceeding  
2 is going to go forward, and in what scope and in what --  
3 what form. So that is my -- my -- I -- I can't promise  
4 what the commissioner will want to do, but that is my  
5 preference, at this point. So I will ask the parties to  
6 be very thorough in their -- in the motions and the  
7 response to have a -- a full -- full airing of the  
8 issues that can be ruled on definitively.

9 All right. So at this point, I'm going to  
10 briefly go off the record to double-check on a few  
11 housekeeping issues and confer with our court reporters.  
12 So all parties please -- please stay on.

13 And at this -- at this moment, we are now off  
14 the record.

15 (Off the record.)

16 ALJ LEE: Let's go back on the record.

17 So while we were off the record a moment ago,  
18 the court reporters and I conferred. They do not  
19 require any sort of clarifications for purposes of the  
20 record.

21 So with that, I want to thank everybody for  
22 your participation today, and I want to thank our court  
23 reporters for staying with us and doing a very good job.

24 This telephonic prehearing conference is now  
25 adjourned, and we are now off the record.

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(At the hour of 2:32 p.m., the Commission  
then adjourned.) ]

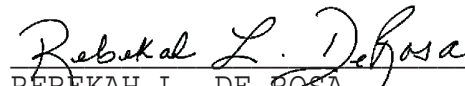
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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDING

I, REBEKAH L. DE ROSA, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND  
REPORTER NO. 8708, IN AND FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,  
DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE PAGES OF THIS TRANSCRIPT  
PREPARED BY ME COMPRISE A FULL, TRUE, AND CORRECT  
TRANSCRIPT OF THE TESTIMONY AND PROCEEDINGS HELD IN  
THIS MATTER ON AUGUST 4, 2026.

I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE  
EVENTS OF THE MATTER OR THE OUTCOME OF THE PROCEEDING.  
EXECUTED THIS AUGUST 06, 2026.

  
REBEKAH L. DE ROSA  
CSR NO. 8708

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDING

I, RHONDA NORBERG, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER  
NO. 9265, IN AND FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DO  
HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE PAGES OF THIS TRANSCRIPT  
PREPARED BY ME COMPRISE A FULL, TRUE, AND CORRECT  
TRANSCRIPT OF THE TESTIMONY AND PROCEEDINGS HELD IN  
THIS MATTER ON AUGUST 4, 2026.

I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE  
EVENTS OF THE MATTER OR THE OUTCOME OF THE PROCEEDING.  
EXECUTED THIS AUGUST 06, 2026.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rhonda Norberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the last letter of the last name.

Rhonda Norberg  
CSR NO. 9265

|                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                  |                                                                               |
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