BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (U-39 M) Application for Approval of its 2028-2033 Income-Qualified Programs	Application 26-01-003
And Related Matters.	Application 26-01-005 Application 26-01-010 Application 26-01-011

MOTION FOR PARTY STATUS OF THE CALIFORNIA EMERGING TECHNOLOGY FUND

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THE CALIFORNIA EMERGING TECHNOLOGY FUND

In accordance with Commission Rule 1.4(a)(4), the California Emerging Technology Fund ("CETF"), a non-profit statewide organization, respectfully moves for party status in the above-captioned proceeding involving the application of the four Investor-Owned Utilities (together jointly, the "IOUs") for funding for Program Year 2028-2033 as to its Income-Qualified Programs (IQPs) portfolio. On January 9, 2026, Pacific Gas & Electric Company ("PG&E") and Southern California Edison Company ("SCE") filed their respective applications requesting approval and funding for their Income-Qualified Programs ("IQPs") portfolios for 2028-2033. Southern California Gas Company ("SoCalGas") and San Diego Gas & Electric Company ("SDG&E") filed their respective applications on January 16, 2026. An Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") Ruling on February 10, 2026, consolidated the applications of PG&E, SCE, SoCalGas and SDG&E. In support of its motion, CETF provides the following information:

Background. Formed by the Commission in 2006, CETF is a non-profit statewide organization whose mission is to close the Digital Divide in California. CETF appears regularly before this Commission in corporate restructuring proceedings and policy matters involving broadband infrastructure and broadband adoption which includes advocating for affordable broadband offers for low-income households.

CETF was an intervenor in the California Alternate Rates for Energy ("CARE") and Energy Savings Assistance ("ESA") proceedings for Program Years 2021-2026 in Application No. (A.) 19-11-003 and related matters. After engaging in advocacy to request that IOUs include information to low-income households about affordable broadband offers and LifeLine, CETF entered into a Joint Stipulation with the four IOUs which was approved by the Commission in Decision No. ("D.") 21-06-015[1] (issued June 7, 2021) to allow education and outreach regarding LifeLine and affordable broadband offers on the IOU's websites focused on low income households, in existing CARE, Family Electric Rate Assistance ("FERA"), and ESA direct marketing materials twice yearly, and allowing CETF paid for affordable broadband materials in ESA education kits. From 2021 to 2026, this program was successfully performed at no or very low cost to electric ratepayers, as the costs were primarily borne by CETF.

CETF emphasizes that this outreach was very important during the COVID-19 pandemic when low-income households required a reliable broadband connection for tele-education, telework, telehealth and other important government communications during this widespread health emergency. The need for reliable broadband connections continues after the end of the pandemic, in order to: (a) ensure public safety for low-income household during Public Safety Power Shutoffs and emergency evacuations, such as during wildfires; (b) augment the CARE program for affordability; and (c) participate in today's economy and society. An affordable broadband connection enables members of a low-income household to perform tasks such as applying for a job online, obtaining government benefits, applying for college, and engaging in tele-education and tele-health applications from home.

CETF also participated in the Bridge Funding low income program proceeding for Year 2027. In that proceeding, there was a scoped Issue 3.d. relating to the CETF affordable broadband program, in the Assigned ALJ Ruling of August 14, 2025. CETF was an approved intervenor in A. 25-06-022 which dealt with Bridge Funding for Year 2027. CETF and the IOUs came to an agreement to continue the agreement struck in the prior proceeding with minor changes which included enhanced reporting for transparency. This agreement was filed into the

[1] See D.21-06-015 at Section 10.11.7 (decision discussion directing four IOUs to coordinate cross-promotion of the LifeLine and affordable broadband programs with current ESA/CARE/FERA marketing efforts), Section 4.3.8.2, and Attachment 6 (Joint Stipulation of Southern California Gas Company, San Diego Gas & Electric, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison and California Emerging Technology Fund, dated Nov. 11, 2020).

record in a Joint Stipulation, received comments by parties, and was approved in Decision No. 26-07-007 (issued July 8, 2026), at OP 12.

Interest in the Proceeding. CETF has a direct interest in continuing a similar agreement with the IOUs relating to the existing IQP programs for the 2028 to 2033 program years to distribute short educational messages on electric bills, on IOU websites directed towards low-income consumers, and in education kits, to educate low-income consumers about LifeLine and affordable broadband plans. There is annual reporting that the IOUs and CETF perform to ensure results and promote transparency. There is still a Digital Divide in this State, and CETF's work continues to educate low-income households about affordable broadband plans in their areas.

Factual and Legal Contentions. CETF has developed a very positive working relationship with the IOU program staff to provide educational information to low-income households about affordable broadband offers. CETF first intends to provide data that there is still a Digital Divide in California. Second, CETF will report facts on the results of the program with the IOUs, and how different approaches by the IOUs can increase the impacts for successful outreach. Third, CETF intends to provide information that confirms that this program is very low or no additional cost to the IOUs and it is cost-effective within historical CARE-ESA budgets proposed by IOUs and approved by the Commission, and thus electric ratepayers are not paying more for this common sense effort to bring LifeLine and affordable broadband offer information to low-income consumers.

Finally, CETF will provide information about how this partnership with the four IOUs has benefits to the IOUs themselves. Enabling a low-income household to communicate via electronic means with its energy utility may reduce the IOU's costs of billing by being able to send the energy bill via email instead of hard copies mailed via the US Postal Service. Further, an electronic connection to energy customers may facilitate provision of critical information regarding outages and Public Safety Power Shutoffs[2] in a timely manner. In summary, CETF will provide information showing the public benefits greatly outweigh the minimal costs of this program.

[2] A Public Safety Power Shutoff is a planned, temporary shut off of electricity to a specific set of consumers to avoid wildfires during high fire risk times.

WHEREFORE, CETF respectfully requests that it be granted party status in the above-referenced proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

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(END Attachment A)