

Memorandum

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From: **Public Utilities Commission—San Francisco -**

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File No:

Subject: Telecommunications Guiding Principles

Communications Division and Policy and Planning Division Report on Telecommunications Guiding Principles. The Commission's telecommunications policy goals are to promote public safety, consumer protection, universal service, competition, and network reliability. Similar to the Commission's Water Action Plan and Energy Action Plan, this document sets policy direction for the telecommunications industry. This document directs staff to create a comprehensive Action Plan detailing the steps necessary to create a path for achieving our vision and goals based on the guiding principles we have established in this document. This agenda item is before the Commission for discussion and action.



Telecommunications Guiding Principles California Public Utilities Commission

The California Public Utilities Commission is the agency responsible for the regulatory oversight of telecommunications in California. However, the scope of the Commission's jurisdiction is in flux and the industry continues to rapidly evolve. We have established these guiding principles to ensure that the Commission's overall vision can be fulfilled.

The Commission's vision is for all Californians to have access to safe, reliable telecommunications at just and reasonable rates.

Commission Policy Goals

The Commission's telecommunications policy goals are to promote public safety, consumer protection, universal service, competition, and network reliability.

The following five guiding principles provide policy direction for achieving the Commission's policy goals:

- 1. Promote the safety and resiliency of California's telecommunications infrastructure.**
- 2. Connect all Californians using the most advanced telecommunications technologies.**
- 3. Protect consumers from fraud, waste, and abuse as a result of market conditions.**
- 4. Serve as an independent source of data for policy makers at both State and Federal levels.**
- 5. Promote public safety through network reliability and access to emergency services.**

These guiding principles lead us to a technologically neutral regulatory framework defined by simple, universal service goals and consumer protections.

Duties of Commissioners:

- Regulators should set rules that assure universal service; public safety and emergency communications; network reliability and interconnection; and prevent waste fraud and abuse.
- Regulators should approach universal service goals in a manner that ensures all Californians have access to the most advanced telecommunications technologies.





Duties of Staff:

- Within 180 days, staff should submit to the Commission a comprehensive Action Plan detailing the steps necessary to create a path for achieving the vision and goals based on the guiding principles established in this document.
- The Action Plan may consider the realignment of Commission policies, priorities, and staff necessary to continue to meet important policy goals despite a swiftly-changing technological landscape.
- The Action Plan should consider how the Commission may leverage its delegated authority and its relationships with other state, local, and federal agencies in order to continue to promote California's telecommunications policy goals.
- Each item in the Action Plan should effectuate a particular policy goal as contained in California statute.
- Each Commission office shall nominate an individual from the Commission to be part of a team that will establish this Action Plan. The Executive Director in conjunction with the Director of the Communications Division may also designate other staff and the Communications Director will lead this team.

While these guiding principles lay out specific actions, it is a living document. It is a blueprint that is subject to change over time. The CPUC will use it to give their efforts direction, focus, and precision, but some of the specific actions cited will need to be fine-tuned or changed to best meet the overall goals.

