



**California Public Utilities Commission**  
**505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Contact: Terrie Prosper, 415.703.1366, [news@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:news@cpuc.ca.gov)

**PRESS RELEASE**

Docket #: R.15-03-010

## **CPUC APPROVES PILOT PROJECTS TO IMPROVE AFFORDABLE ACCESS TO ENERGY IN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY**

SAN FRANCISCO, December 13, 2018 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today approved a \$56 million investment for pilot projects in 11 San Joaquin Valley communities that lack natural gas in an effort to increase access to clean affordable energy in disadvantaged communities and reduce the use of propane and wood burning.

“I am proud of the CPUC’s decision to approve 11 pilot projects bringing cleaner, affordable energy to communities in California who have been long unserved and overlooked,” said Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves. “I am even prouder of these communities themselves, and of their tenacity and commitment. It has been a long road, and these pilots are just another step, but they will provide energy efficiency upgrades, solar benefits, job training and more – while reducing energy costs and pollution.”

The pilot projects provide an opportunity to eligible San Joaquin Valley households who choose to participate with no-cost replacement of their propane and wood burning appliances with energy efficient appliance upgrades including limited upgrades to the home in some cases. Communities will be piloting different strategies in order to inform how to address this issue more broadly in the region, which will be the scope of Phase III of this proceeding. All pilot communities will benefit from a comprehensive education and outreach effort called the Community Energy Navigator intended to assist community residents in understanding their energy options and assure community participation and engagement in these pilot projects.

Approved Pilot Details:



- More than 900 homes in **Alpaugh, Fairmead, Lanare, La Vina, Le Grand** will be eligible for an electrification project with community solar discount components by a to-be-selected third party project administrator with a \$25,754,613 investment.
- More than 300 homes in **Allensworth, Cantua Creek, and Seville** will be eligible for an electrification project with community solar discount components to be administered by Pacific Gas and Electric Company with a \$9,655,835 investment.
- Nearly 450 homes in **California City, Ducor, and West Goshen** will be eligible for an electrification project with community solar discount components to be administered by Southern California Edison with a \$15,411,008 investment.
- An additional 224 homes in **California City** will be eligible for a natural gas project, including gas line extensions and appliance replacements, to be administered by Southern California Gas Company with a \$5,591,100 investment.
- A twelfth pilot program was assessed for the community of **Monterey Park Tract** but was deferred for further consideration. This community will benefit from assistance from the Community Energy Navigator and will be invited to enroll in existing programs as eligible, with specific focus on solar thermal technologies.

The projects propose cleaner, more affordable energy options to the pilot communities and will gather data needed to assess the economic feasibility of extending affordable clean energy options to all San Joaquin Valley disadvantaged communities identified in Phase III of the CPUC's proceeding.

In May and June 2018, the CPUC held Community Energy Option Assessment Workshops in each of the identified proposed host pilot communities on affordable energy options and pilot project concepts, including extending natural gas pipelines, increasing electric subsidies, and other potentially cost-effective and innovative clean energy options for disadvantaged communities in the San Joaquin Valley.

The proceeding was developed in response to Assembly Bill 2672, which called for increasing affordable access to energy for disadvantaged communities in the San Joaquin Valley. The use of natural gas or electricity can decrease utility costs, increase overall financial health, and provide a safer means of heating and cooling space and water for low income households as compared to wood burning and propane use. Currently, the CPUC administers energy assistance programs such as the



Energy Savings Assistance Program and the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) Program to help keep energy utility rates affordable for low income California households.

An overview of this proceeding is available at: [www.cpuc.ca.gov/SanJoaquin](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/SanJoaquin).

The proposal voted on is available at:

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M250/K023/250023516.PDF>.

Documents related to this proceeding are at:

[https://apps.cpuc.ca.gov/apex/f?p=401:56:0::NO:RP,57,RIR:P5\\_PROCEEDING\\_SELECT:R1503010](https://apps.cpuc.ca.gov/apex/f?p=401:56:0::NO:RP,57,RIR:P5_PROCEEDING_SELECT:R1503010).

The CPUC regulates services and utilities, safeguards the environment, and assures Californians' access to safe and reliable utility infrastructure and services. For more information on the CPUC, please visit [www.cpuc.ca.gov](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov).

###

