Decision 23-11-116 November 30, 2023

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Southern California Edison Company	
(U 338-E) for Approval of its Catalina Repower	Application 21-10-005
Project	(Filed October 15, 2021)

DECISION GRANTING COMPENSATION TO THE UTILITY REFORM NETWORK FOR SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO DECISION 22-11-007

Intervenor: The Utility Reform Network	For contribution to Decision (D.) 22-11-007
Claimed: \$110,335.28	Awarded: \$110,335.28
Assigned Commissioner: Genevieve	Assigned ALJs: Sophia Park
Shiroma	

PART I: PROCEDURAL ISSUES

A. Brief description of Decision:	D.22-11-007	
	This decision approves an all-party settlement agreement	
	regarding Southern California Edison Company's proposed	
	Catalina Repower Project. The settlement agreement	
	establishes a process for Southern California Edison	
	Company to obtain future Commission review and approvals	
	for the project once the South Coast Air Quality	
	Management District completes its rulemaking on air	
	emissions requirements impacting the project and issues the	
	necessary permits to construct for the project.	

B. Intervenor must satisfy intervenor compensation requirements set forth in Pub. Util. Code §§ 1801-1812¹:

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¹ All statutory references are to California Public Utilities Code unless indicated otherwise.

	Intervenor	CPUC Verification	
Timely filing of notice of intent to claim compensation (NOI) (§ 1804(a)			
1. Date of Prehearing Conference:	12/6/2021	Verified	
2. Other specified date for NOI:			
3. Date NOI filed:	12/16/2021	Verified	
4. Was the NOI timely filed?		Yes	
Showing of eligible customer status (§ 1802(b) (§§ 1802(d),		rnment entity status	
5. Based on ALJ ruling issued in proceeding number:	See Comment #1	R.20-08-021	
6. Date of ALJ ruling:	See Comment #1	12/11/2020	
7. Based on another CPUC determination (specify):			
8. Has the Intervenor demonstrated customer status or eligible government entity status?		Yes	
Showing of "significant financial har	rdship" (§1802(h) or §	1803.1(b)):	
9. Based on ALJ ruling issued in proceeding number:	R.20-08-021	Verified	
10. Date of ALJ ruling:	12/11/2020	Verified	
11. Based on another CPUC determination (specify):			
12. Has the Intervenor demonstrated significant fina	ancial hardship?	Yes	
Timely request for compensation (§ 1804(c)):			
13. Identify Final Decision:	D.22-11-007	Verified	
14. Date of issuance of Final Order or Decision:	11/04/2022	Verified	
15. File date of compensation request:	12/21/2022	Verified	
16. Was the request for compensation timely?		Yes	

C. Additional Comments on Part I:

#	Intervenor's Comment(s)	CPUC Discussion
1	TURN did not receive an affirmative ruling on its Notice of Intent in this proceeding. As explained in the Commission's Intervenor Compensation guide, "normally, an	An ALJ ruling in response to TURN's NOI was not necessary for the reasons stated by TURN. TURN, however, does not appear to be quoting from the most recent version of the

ALJ Ruling needs not be issued	Commission's Intervenor Compensation
unless: (a) the NOI has requested a	Program Guide, dated April 2017.
finding of "significant financial	
hardship" under § 1802(g). (b) the	
NOI is deficient; or (c) the ALJ	
desires to provide guidance on	
specific issues of the NOI." (page 1)	2)
Since none of these factors apply to	
the NOI submitted in this proceeding	g,
there was no need for an ALJ ruling	5
in response to TURN's NOI.	

PART II: SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION

A. Did the Intervenor substantially contribute to the final decision (see \S 1802(j), \S 1803(a), 1803.1(a) and D.98-04-059):

Intervenor's Claimed Contribution(s)	Specific References to Intervenor's Claimed Contribution(s)	CPUC Discussion
	l -	Verified
on this evaluation, TURN urged the Commission to require SCE to give preference to third-party generation options to maximize benefits to ratepayers.		Verified

TURN objected to SCE's original proposal to procure and install 13.4 MW of new diesel generation at the Pebbly Beach Generating Station. TURN noted that the modeling supporting SCE's application fails to assess the combined impacts of 13.4 MW of new diesel plus some amount of renewable/zero carbon resources, making it impossible to assess whether the addition of the full amount of new diesel would effectively frustrate the cost-effectiveness of new clean generation. TURN opposed Commission authorization for 13.4 MW of new diesel.	TURN protest, pages 1-3	Verified
The Decision adopts the all-party Settlement which requires SCE to amend its original proposal from six new diesel generation units to phased approach with an initial implementation of no more than three diesel units combined with an all source RFO to evaluate and procure other clean and renewable generation that would reduce the need for additional diesel units. The Settlement further requires any SCE proposal for additional diesel (beyond the first three units) to occur as a separate application and include a demonstration "why and how non-zero-carbon alternatives are able to satisfy the criteria of reliability, feasibility, cost, emissions compliance and compliance with other applicable state or	D.22-11-007, Ordering Paragraph 1 (adopting Settlement) Settlement, Section 2 (Proceeding Details, page A-4), Section 6 (Phase 1, pages A-7 through A-8), Section 6.3.4 (Balance of Generation Beyond the Potential Three Diesel Units, page A-11).	Verified

federal requirements." (Section 6.3.4)		
3. ALTERNATIVES / GOVERNMENT INCENTIVES		
TURN noted the existence of direct financial support for new clean energy projects from recently enacted federal legislation that could reduce the cost of new Catalina generation for SCE ratepayers. TURN recommended that SCE be required to take advantage of new government support for any eligible clean energy project that could be deployed at Catalina.	TURN protest, pages 3-4	Verified
The Decision adopts the all- party Settlement which requires SCE to "explore and pursue state and federal funding sources to support the development of clean generation (including hydrogen)" and requires that such funds "be used to offset electric ratepayer costs."	D.22-11-007, Ordering Paragraph 1 (adopting Settlement) Settlement, Section 6.3.3 (Federal and State Funding, page A-11)	Verified
4. REQUEST FOR OFFERS / LAND AVAILABILITY		
TURN expressed concern over the ability of third-party developers to identify suitable generation sites on Catalina island due to the high concentration of land ownership in a few entities and significant restrictions on development. TURN urged SCE to identify optimal sites that minimize interconnection and grid upgrade costs, and to proactively secure the rights to	TURN direct testimony, page 11 TURN opening brief, pages 7-8 TURN reply brief, pages 3-4	Verified

available to developers bidding into the RFO process. The Decision adopts the allparty settlement which directs SCE to "engage relevant landowners on Catalina" to identify land that is suitable for new clean generation projects and "allow third-party developers to submit bids that would propose to use any sites identified as potentially available as a result of SCE's efforts to engage with the primary landowners." (Section 6.3.2)	D.22-11-007, Ordering Paragraph 1 (adopting Settlement) Settlement, Section 6.3.2 (Land Availability for Solar Development, pages A-10 and A-11)	Verified
5. REQUEST FOR OFFERS / ADVANCE REVIEW TURN noted concerns about SCE's proposed Request for Offers (RFO) that could jeopardize its effectiveness and highlighted the importance of enhanced review of the process. Specifically, TURN noted the poor results from SCE's prior Request for Information (RFI) and explained the importance of requiring SCE to address hurdles to participation and to "make effective attempts to induce a robust response from third parties offering viable projects at highly competitive prices." TURN argued that the Commission should apply greater oversight to the RFO process.	TURN direct testimony, page 11 TURN opening brief, pages 7-8 TURN reply brief, pages 3-4	Verified
The Decision adopts the all- party Settlement which outlines a process for SCE to share RFO documentation with	D.22-11-007, page 9, Ordering Paragraph 1 (adopting Settlement)	Verified

TURN and Cal Advocates no later than 60 days prior to the launch of the solicitation. This documentation must include draft instructions to bidders and updates on SCE's efforts to obtain land rights for sites that could be used by developers bidding into the RFO. The Settlement permits TURN and Cal Advocates to seek advance Commission direction relating to the RFO if these parties are not satisfied with SCE's proposed resolution of any identified concerns prior to the launch of the solicitation. As noted in the Decision, "the agreed upon process allows for TURN and Cal Advocates to provide input regarding the RFO and challenge the results of and SCE's conduct with respect to the RFO." (page 9)	Settlement, Section 6.3.1 (All-Source Request for Offers, pages A-9 and A-10)	
6. DIESEL / UNIT 15 NONCOMPLIANCE TURN expressed concerns about SCE's commitment to a clean energy future at Catalina, noting SCE's ongoing references to the goal of replacement of all six existing diesel units at the Pebbly Beach Generating Station with six new diesel generation units. TURN indicated a preference for retaining the existing Unit 15 subject to any retrofitting needed to meet emissions requirements rather than replacing it with a new unit.	TURN protest, page 1 TURN opening brief, pages 1, 4 TURN reply brief, pages 1-2, 5-6	Verified
The Decision adopts the all- party Settlement which	D.22-11-007, pages 6, 8, 19, Ordering Paragraph 1 (adopting Settlement)	

outlines specific options for SCE to address air quality noncompliance relating to the operation of Unit 15. The Settlement allows SCE to install a diesel particulate filter or catalyst blocks without any need to submit an advice letter. If replacement of the unit is necessary, SCE is directed to file a Tier 2 Advice Letter seeking approval. The Decision notes that TURN or Cal Advocates may protest that Advice Letter if either party believes that "SCE has not adequately demonstrated" that	Settlement, Section 6.2 (Phase 1B, page A-8)	
adequately demonstrated" that its proposed solution "is cost-		
effective, necessary to achieve		
emissions requirements and required for reliability." (page		
19)		

B. Duplication of Effort (\S 1801.3(f) and \S 1802.5):

	Intervenor's Assertion	CPUC Discussion
a. Was the Public Advocate's Office of the Public Utilities Commission (Cal Advocates) a party to the proceeding?	Yes	Verified
b. Were there other parties to the proceeding with positions similar to yours?	No	Verified
c. If so, provide name of other parties:		
d. Intervenor's claim of non-duplication:	Verified	
The only two active parties in this proceeding (apart from the TURN and Cal Advocates. TURN uniquely represented the ir residential customer class. TURN worked closely with Cal Adcoordinate on discovery and settlement issues. This coordinat successful all-party settlement addressing core contested issue the amount of time devoted to the proceeding by all parties.		

With respect to the issues not resolved by the Settlement, TURN deferred to Cal Advocates to address most issues in opening briefs. TURN provided modest support for some of these recommendations in reply briefs.

To the extent that duplication occurred, it was unavoidable given the need to participate on key issues of interest to TURN and its members. TURN worked diligently to ensure that its involvement efficiently influenced the outcome of the Settlement and the final Decision.

C. Additional Comments on Part II:

#	Intervenor's Comment	CPUC Discussion
1	TURN's protest was drafted prior to reviewing discovery responses and without the benefit of an extensive review of the application. The active parties in this case negotiated a settlement agreement after the filing of protests but prior to the submission of direct testimony. Since the Settlement was negotiated prior to the preparation of intervenor testimony, TURN was not able to identify all its concerns and recommendations in either a pleading or testimony submitted prior to the conclusion of Settlement negotiations. Some Settlement provisions address concerns that TURN first identified during the course of negotiations and were included in the agreement at TURN's urging. The Commission should recognize that an intervenor may make a substation contribution to a Settlement without having previously identified an issue in testimony or another filed pleading, especially in a case where the settlement process precedes the submission of	Noted

PART III: REASONABLENESS OF REQUESTED COMPENSATION

A. General Claim of Reasonableness (§ 1801 and § 1806):

	CPUC Discussion
a. Intervenor's claim of cost reasonableness:	
As demonstrated in the substantial contribution section, TURN's participation had a significant impact on the outcome of the core issues resolved in this proceeding. TURN's contributions include:	
• Requirements that SCE prioritize contracting with cheaper third-party owned clean generation projects that can support reliability and displace fossil generation on Catalina.	Noted
• Limiting the replacement of diesel generation to two (or three) new units rather than the six units originally proposed in SCE's application with any additional proposed fossil generation required to be considered in a separate application subject to a high reasonableness threshold.	Noted
• Prioritizing the use of federal and state incentives that are available to support clean generation and microgrids.	Noted
• Greater advance oversight of the Catalina Request for Offers, an emphasis on the proactive identification of suitable sites to be secured by SCE on behalf of bidders, and comprehensive review of solicitation protocols to maximize participation and produce best value projects for ratepayers.	Noted
Given the very specific and substantial rate-related benefits achieved for customers of SCE, the benefits associated with TURN's participation far exceed the cost of TURN's participation in this proceeding. TURN's claim should be found to be reasonable.	Noted
b. Reasonableness of hours claimed:	
Given TURN's showings on the issues where it made contributions, the amount of time devoted by its staff is fully reasonable. TURN devoted the minimum number of hours to reviewing rulings, drafting pleadings, performing discovery, drafting testimony, participating in settlement negotiations and drafting post-hearing briefs.	Noted
The number of hours devoted to the wide range of issues and process in this case demonstrates the efficiency of TURN's staff. Moreover, the time devoted to each task was reasonable in light of the complexity of the issues presented. The amount of time should be found to be fully reasonable.	Noted

Reasonableness of Staffing	
Matthew Freedman TURN's lead attorney for this proceeding was Matthew Freedman. Mr. Freedman reviewed/edited/drafted all pleadings, analyzed proposals by other parties, assisted TURN's expert with discovery and the development of testimony, served as TURN's lead participant in Settlement negotiations, and was the primary liaison coordinating with Cal Advocates.	Noted
Jennifer Dowdell Ms. Dowdell was TURN's primary expert witness focusing on RFO design and alternative resource issues. Ms. Dowdell reviewed the application, analyzed SCE's model used to evaluate the costs of alternative resource options, drafted discovery, provided advice and input in Settlement negotiations, drafted prepared testimony and assisted with TURN's briefs.	Noted
Compensation Request TURN's request also includes hours devoted to the preparation of compensation-related filings. The time devoted to this compensation request is appropriate and should be found to be reasonable.	Noted
Travel costs	
TURN's request includes the costs of travel to Catalina island for a site visit to the Pebbly Beach Generating Station and an alternative site identified by SCE (pursuant to the Settlement) for the potential placement of a third-party owned solar and storage project. The site visit was organized by SCE for all case participants and included representatives from the CPUC's Energy Division and Cal Advocates. TURN Staff Attorney Matthew Freedman participated in the site visit. The costs claimed in this request are limited to airfare from Oakland to Los Angeles, ground transportation to/from the Long Beach pier, and the costs of the ferry to/from Catalina island. TURN is not seeking compensation for the overnight accommodations used by its staff in Los Angeles or transport to/from Oakland airport.	Noted
The Commission should find that TURN's participation in the site visit was an essential element of participation in this proceeding. Had TURN not joined the site visit, TURN would have been the only active party in the case to have declined. Given the ongoing processes relating to the RFO and future advice letter filings, the site visit was an important opportunity to evaluate challenges at the Pebbly Beach Generating Station and options for moving Catalina to a cleaner energy future. c. Allocation of hours by issue:	Noted
TURN has allocated all attorney and consultant time by issue area or	
activity, as evident on our attached timesheets. The following codes relate	

to specific substantive issue and activity areas addressed by TURN. TURN also provides an approximate breakdown of the number of hours spent on each task and the percentage of total hours devoted to each category.	
General Participation (GP) – 37.5 hours – 19.69% of total	
General Participation work essential to participation that typically spans multiple issues and/or would not vary with the number of issues that TURN addresses. This includes reviewing Commission rulings and Proposed Decisions, initial reviews of party pleadings and testimony submitted by other parties, drafting the protest, attendance at status and prehearing conferences, along with case strategy and schedule discussions.	Noted
Alternatives (ALT) – 55.05 hours – 28.9% of total	Noted
Work relating to alternatives to diesel generation at both the Pebbly Beach Generating Station and other suitable locations on Catalina island. Includes work on the cost competitiveness of third-party vs. utility-owned projects, the availability of federal and state incentives, and review of SCE's original alternatives feasibility study.	Noted
Diesel generation (DIESEL) – 17.15 hours – 9% of total	
Work relating to the need to replace existing diesel units at the Pebbly Beach Generating station with new diesel generation. Includes review of SCAQMD requirements and other constraints governing new/existing diesel utilization (such as Unit 15).	Noted
Request for Offers (RFO) – 25.05 hours – 13.15% of total	N 1
Work relating to SCE's proposed Catalina Request for Offers. Includes review of RFO process, development of options for advanced review of protocols and bidder documents by TURN and CalPA, and options for SCE to secure land that can be used by third-party RFO bidders.	Noted Noted
Settlement (SETTLE) – 47 hours – 24.67% of total	Noted
Work devoted to negotiating, drafting and defending the all-party settlement agreement proposed by SCE/TURN/CalPA that was adopted in D.22-11-007.	
Coordination (COORD) – 8.75 hours – 4.59% of total	Noted
Work devoted to coordinating with Cal Advocates in order to reduce duplication and develop joint strategies for achieving best outcomes for ratepayers.	
Compensation – 11 hours	Noted
Time spent on the notice of intent to claim compensation and the preparation of this compensation request.	
Travel – 5 hours	Noted
Time spent traveling for the site visit at Catalina Island organized by SCE for Cal Advocates, CPUC staff and TURN.	

TURN used one multi-issue code to describe some time devoted to a mix of issues. The following code was used to allocate hours as follows:

= 45% ALT, 10% DIESEL, 45% RFO

TURN has allocated the hours coded with this multi-issue code to each of the identified issue/task areas and incorporated these hours into the totals listed above.

TURN submits that under the circumstances this information should suffice to address the allocation requirement under the Commission's rules. Should the Commission wish to see additional or different information on this point, TURN requests that the Commission so inform TURN and provide a reasonable opportunity for TURN to supplement this showing accordingly.

B. Specific Claim:*

		C	CLAIMED				CPUC	AWARD
ATTORNEY, EXPERT, AND ADVOCATE FEES								
Item	Year	Hours	Rate \$	Basis for Rate*	Total \$	Hours	Rate \$	Total \$
Jennifer Dowdell, TURN Energy Analyst	2021	14.00	\$400.00	D.22-06- 018	5,600.00	14.0	\$400	\$5,600.00
Jennifer Dowdell, TURN Energy Analyst	2022	62.75	\$415.00	Res. ALJ- 393, 2021 Rate plus 3.3% COLA	26,041.25	62.75	\$415 [1]	\$26,041.25
Matthew Freedman, TURN Staff Attorney	2021	16.50	\$625.00	D.22-03- 028	10,312.50	16.5	\$625	\$10,312.50
Matthew Freedman, TURN Staff Attorney	2022	97.25	\$645.00	Res. ALJ- 393 - 2021 Rate plus 3.3% COLA	62,726.25	97.25	\$645 [2]	\$62,726.25

					Subtotal: \$	104,680.00		Subtot	al: \$104,680.00
	OTHER FEES Describe here what OTHER HOURLY FEES you are Claiming (paralegal, travel **, etc.):								
	Item	Year	Hours	Rate \$	Basis for Rate*	Total \$	Hours	Rate	Total \$
Fr	fatthew reedman RAVEL	2022	5.00	\$322.50	50% of 2022 rate (2021 rate + Res. ALJ-393)	1,612.50	5.0	\$322.50	\$1,612.50
	Subtotal: \$1,612.50 Subtotal: \$1,612					otal: \$1,612.50			
		IN	TERVEN	OR COM	PENSATION	CLAIM PRI	EPARA	ΓΙΟΝ **	
	Item	Year	Hours	Rate \$	Basis for Rate*	Total \$	Hours	Rate	Total \$
	thew edman	2020	1.00	\$312.50	50% of 2021 rate	\$312.50	1.0	\$312.50	\$312.50
	thew edman	2022	10	\$322.50	50% of 2022 rate	\$3,325.00	10.0	\$322.50	\$3,225.00
					Subtotal	: \$3,537.50		Sub	total: \$3,537.50
					COSTS	S			
#	Item	l	Detail			Amount	Amount		
1	Trave	-1	visit to Ca	ber/Ferry c atalina islar CPUC staff	d including	505.28	\$505.2		\$505.28
					Subtot	al: \$505.28		Su	abtotal: \$505.28
				TOTAL	REQUEST:	\$110,335.28	TOT	TAL AWAI	RD: \$110,335.28

^{*}We remind all intervenors that Commission staff may audit the records and books of the intervenors to the extent necessary to verify the basis for the award (§1804(d)). Intervenors must make and retain adequate accounting and other documentation to support all claims for intervenor compensation. Intervenor's records should identify specific issues for which it seeks compensation, the actual time spent by each employee or consultant, the applicable hourly rates, fees paid to consultants and any other costs for which compensation was claimed. The records pertaining to an award of compensation shall be retained for at least three years from the date of the final decision making the award.

ATTORNEY INFORMATION

^{**}Travel and Reasonable Claim preparation time are typically compensated at ½ of preparer's normal hourly rate

Attorney	Date Admitted to CA BAR ²	Member Number	Actions Affecting Eligibility (Yes/No?) If "Yes", attach explanation
Matthew Freedman	March 2001	214812	No

C. Attachments Documenting Specific Claim and Comments on Part III: (attachments not attached to final Decision)

Attachment or Comment #	Description/Comment
Attachment 1	Certificate of Service
Attachment 2	Daily Time Records for Attorneys and Experts
Attachment 3	Cost/expense details
Attachment 4	Allocation by Issue

D. CPUC Comments, Disallowances, and Adjustments

Item	Reason
[1] Dowdell 2022 Hourly Rate	D.23-04-022 authorized a 2022 rate of \$415 for Dowdell.
[2] Freedman 2022 Hourly Rate	D.23-04-054 authorized a 2022 rate of \$645 for Freedman.

PART IV: OPPOSITIONS AND COMMENTS

Within 30 days after service of this Claim, Commission Staff or any other party may file a response to the Claim (see § 1804(c))

A. Opposition: Did any party oppose the Claim?	No
B. Comment Period: Was the 30-day comment period waived (see Rule 14.6(c)(6))?	Yes

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Utility Reform Network has made a substantial contribution to D.22-11-007.

² This information may be obtained through the State Bar of California's website at http://members.calbar.ca.gov/fal/MemberSearch/QuickSearch.

- 2. The requested hourly rates for The Utility Reform Network's representatives are comparable to market rates paid to experts and advocates having comparable training and experience and offering similar services.
- 3. The claimed costs and expenses, as adjusted herein, are reasonable and commensurate with the work performed.
- 4. The total of reasonable compensation is \$110,335.28.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

1. The Claim, with any adjustment set forth above, satisfies all requirements of Pub. Util. Code §§ 1801-1812.

ORDER

- 1. The Utility Reform Network is awarded \$110,335.28.
- 2. Within 30 days of the effective date of this decision, Southern California Edison Company shall pay The Utility Reform Network total award. Payment of the award shall include compound interest at the rate earned on prime, three-month non-financial commercial paper as reported in Federal Reserve Statistical Release H.15, beginning March 6, 2023, the 75th day after the filing of The Utility Reform Network's request, and continuing until full payment is made.
- 3. The comment period for today's decision is waived.

This decision is effective today.

Dated November 30, 2023, at Sacramento, California.

ALICE REYNOLDS
President
GENEVIEVE SHIROMA
DARCIE L. HOUCK
JOHN REYNOLDS
KAREN DOUGLAS

Commissioner

APPENDIX

Compensation Decision Summary Information

Compensation Decision:	D2311116	Modifies Decision?	No	
Contribution Decision(s):	D2211007			
Proceeding(s):	A2110005			
Author:	ALJ Park			
Payer(s):	Southern California Edison Company			

Intervenor Information

Intervenor	Date Claim	Amount	Amount	Multiplier?	Reason
	Filed	Requested	Awarded	_	Change/Disallowance
The Utility Reform Network	12/21/22	\$110,335.28	\$110,335.28	N/A	N/A

Hourly Fee Information

First Name	Last Name	Attorney, Expert,	Hourly Fee	Year Hourly	Hourly Fee
		or Advocate	Requested	Fee Requested	Adopted
Matthew	Freedman	Attorney	\$625	2021	\$625
Matthew	Freedman	Attorney	\$645	2022	\$645
Jennifer	Dowdell	Expert	\$400	2021	\$400
Jennifer	Dowdell	Expert	\$415	2022	\$415

(END OF APPENDIX)