

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking on
Customer-Generated Renewables
for Priority Communities.

FILED
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
JANUARY 16, 2024
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
RULEMAKING 25-01-005

**ORDER INSTITUTING RULEMAKING ON CUSTOMER-GENERATED
RENEWABLES FOR PRIORITY COMMUNITIES**

Summary

This rulemaking is initiated for four main purposes: 1) to implement Senate Bill 355 (Stats. 2023, Ch. 393) and consider other modifications to the Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing program; 2) to consider modifications to the Disadvantaged Communities Single-Family Affordable Solar Homes program; 3) to consider modifications to and establish programmatic procedural oversight of Renewable Energy Self-Generation Bill Credit Transfer tariffs; and 4) to consider modifications to and establish programmatic procedural oversight of several small multi-jurisdictional utility solar programs and tariffs. We intend to coordinate this rulemaking closely with other related proceedings, including Rulemaking (R.) 20-05-012 on the Self-Generation Incentive Program, R.17-07-007 on Electric Rule 21 and the interconnection of distributed generation resources, and R.22-11-013 on Distributed Energy Resources customer programs. Parties may file comments on the preliminary scope and schedule established in this rulemaking according to the schedule set forth in Section 5, below.

1. Background

In 2007, the Commission launched the California Solar Initiative as part of a statewide campaign to install 3,000 megawatts (MW) of new distributed solar and transform the market for solar energy by reducing the cost of solar generating equipment. Over a 10-year period, the Commission authorized \$2.5 billion of ratepayer funds for payments to incentivize solar system installations, with ten percent dedicated to low-income residential customers and affordable housing projects through two programs: the Single Family Affordable Solar Homes (SASH) program and the Multifamily Affordable Solar Homes (MASH) program. The Commission, in Decision (D.) 07-11-045, established the \$108 million SASH incentive program and provided subsidies to install solar photovoltaic systems on existing owner-occupied low-income households. Less than a year later, the Commission, in D.08-10-036, launched the \$108 million MASH incentive program for qualifying affordable housing developments. In 2013, Assembly Bill (AB) 217 (Stats. 2013, Ch. 609) authorized an additional \$108 million in funding for MASH and SASH, with a set goal of 50 MW of installed capacity across both programs and the extension of the programs through 2021 or the exhaustion of new funding. As of both programs' closure, in 2022, total installed capacity was 66.8 MW under MASH and 31.25 MW under SASH.

AB 693 (Stats. 2015, Ch. 582) adopted a successor to the MASH program focused on deed-restricted affordable housing. The Commission in D.17-12-022 adopted requirements and implementation guidance for the successor program, Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH), which built on the

successes and lessons learned from the MASH program, to incentivize solar photovoltaic systems with a focus on increasing tenant bill savings, workforce development, and advancing projects in disadvantaged communities. In 2018, the Commission, in D.18-06-027, adopted requirements and implementation guidance for the Disadvantaged Communities Single-Family Affordable Homes (DAC-SASH) program, largely modeled after the SASH program, to incentivize solar photovoltaic systems for low-income households in disadvantaged communities.

The Commission has also overseen the large electric investor-owned utilities' (IOU) implementation of Renewable Energy Self-Generation Bill Credit Transfer (RES-BCT) tariffs pursuant to Public Utilities Code (Pub. Util. Code) Section 2830.¹ RES-BCT tariffs enable local government customers (including community colleges and universities) and tribal customers to share generation credits from a system located on one government-owned property with billing accounts at other government-owned properties.

Additionally, several of California's small multijurisdictional utilities (SMJU), namely Liberty Utilities (CalPeco Electric) LLC (Liberty Utilities), PacifiCorp, and Bear Valley Electric Service (BVES), offer tariffs and programs for customers seeking to interconnect renewable energy generation facilities and receive compensation for exported energy. The Commission has overseen the

¹ The large electric utilities include Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, and Southern California Edison Company. California Public Utilities Code Section 2830 establishes the Local Government Renewable Energy Self-Generation Program and specifies the requirements for the large IOUs' RES-BCT tariffs. All further references to Code are to the California Public Utilities Code unless otherwise specified.

implementation of these customer generation tariffs and programs in a diffuse manner; we aim in this proceeding to apply a more concentrated review of these tariffs and programs. Because some of these tariffs have been implemented via individual proceedings, they are often not afforded the same comprehensive review as their large electric IOU counterparts. For example, in D.20-01-008 and D.20-01-007, the Commission approved BVES' proposed Distributed Generation Service program and PacifiCorp's Net Billing Proposal in separate proceedings with separate record development and deliberation. Further, while the Commission has recently implemented a reform of the large electric IOUs' net energy metering (NEM) tariffs to incentivize the installation of solar plus storage systems to better meet California's grid and environmental needs, the same changes have not been implemented for the SMJUs. Further, some SMJU programs have been proposed and approved via general rate case (GRC) proceedings, such as Liberty Utilities' Solar Incentive Program, which may have limited program review and feedback given the few participating stakeholders, broad scope and greater import of revenue requirements, revenue allocation and rate design in most GRC proceedings.²

The Commission intends to consider modifications to SOMAH, DAC-SASH, and RES-BCT tariffs, and to review the SMJUs' customer generation tariffs

² Application (A.) 21-05-017 *Application of Liberty Utilities (CalPeco Electric) LLC (U933E) for Authority to Among Other Things, Increase its Authorized Revenues for Electric Service, Update its Energy Cost Adjustment Clause Billing Factors, Establish Marginal Costs, Allocate Revenues, and Design Rates, as of January 1, 2022*; filed May 28, 2021. No intervenor opposed the application's proposed annual budget of \$420,000 for the Solar Incentive Program, and D.23-04-043 adopted the all-party settlement, which included approval of the Solar Incentive Program.

and solar incentive programs to more effectively achieve each program's goals. Further, on October 30, 2024, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-5-24 on energy affordability that among other goals, seeks to identify "efficient and effective opportunities to meet energy demand with clean energy resources." In response, the Commission aims to review these programs and tariffs with an eye towards opportunities to improve administrative efficiency and program effectiveness.

1.1. Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing

AB 693 (Stats. 2015, Ch. 582) established an incentive program to encourage solar energy systems to serve multifamily affordable housing with up to \$100,000,000 annually (from 2016 to June 2026) in funding from Pacific Gas and Electric Company's, San Diego Gas & Electric Company's, Southern California Edison Company's, Liberty Utilities', and PacifiCorp's (collectively the IOUs') share of greenhouse gas (GHG) allowance auction proceeds.³ Among other things, SOMAH is required to reach a target of installing a combined generating capacity of at least 300 megawatts (MW) on qualified properties by 2032; and the Commission is directed to triennially evaluate program expenditures and performance metrics and to make any adjustments necessary to ensure progress toward program goals.⁴

³ Pursuant to Pub. Util. Code section 748.5(c), the Commission may allocate up to 15 percent of GHG allowance auction proceeds to clean energy and energy efficiency projects; notwithstanding this provision, these proceeds would be allocated to the California Climate Credit.

⁴ Senate Bill 355 (Stats. 2023, ch. 393) extended the SOMAH program through 2032.

To implement AB 693, the Commission, in D.17-12-022, established the SOMAH program and provided a framework for program implementation, including program goals, eligibility requirements, program administration, program funding, program evaluation, virtual NEM tariffs, and guidance for selection of a statewide program administrator.

The Commission's staff selected a statewide SOMAH Program Administrator (PA) via a competitive bidding process in March 2018, and the program began accepting applications on July 1, 2019. In D.20-04-012, pursuant to Pub. Util. Code Section 2870(c), the Commission ruled that there was adequate interest in the program and revenue available to continue funding through June 2026. A series of Commission decisions made modifications to the SOMAH program, most significantly to increase incentive levels and to eliminate the annual step-down in incentives that D.17-12-022 established.⁵ In D.23-11-068, the Commission adopted modifications to the SOMAH virtual NEM tariff to facilitate installation of integrated battery storage for resiliency and to permit participation in demand response and emergency reliability programs.⁶ The Commission also considered program modifications informed by the SOMAH Phase 2 Evaluation report completed in October 2021; those modifications were adopted in the decision closing R.14-07-002.

⁵ D.23-03-007 *Decision Modifying Incentives and Eliminating Incentive Step-Down Methodology for the Solar on Multifamily Affordable Solar Housing Program*, issued March 23, 2023. D.20-04-012 continued authorization of allocation of funds to the SOMAH program through June 30, 2026. D.22-09-009 simplified the process for forecasting and setting aside funding, reducing volatility in annual California Climate Credit amounts for residential and small business customers.

⁶ D.23-11-068 *Decision Addressing Remaining Proceeding Issues*, issued November 22, 2023 at 55-56 and Ordering Paragraph 8.

SOMAH participants have positively impacted their low-income tenants, with an average of 86 percent of solar capacity being dedicated to tenants and nearly a third of projects located in disadvantaged communities.⁷ This high level of dedicated solar capacity reduces the average customer's total bill by as much as 61 percent, providing significant bill savings for low-income tenants.⁸ The July 2024 SOMAH Semi-Annual Progress report showed statewide applications for 79.86 MW of solar with an incentive budget of \$169.6 million.⁹

Senate Bill (SB) 355 (Stats. 2023, Ch. 393) extended the SOMAH program through December 31, 2032, and enacted several program modifications that require Commission deliberation to implement and remain outstanding at the close of R.14-07-002:

- Expands eligibility to new construction, but prohibits the use of program funds to meet applicable Title 24 energy code requirements.
- Amends Pub. Util. Code Section 2870(g) to suggest expanded eligibility for properties that are not separately metered.¹⁰

⁷ SOMAH Evaluation Second Triennial Report (2023, Verdant) CALMAC ID CPU0360.01 at 39. For purposes of the SOMAH program, Public Utilities Code section 2870(a)(3)(A) specifies a disadvantaged community "as identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code."

⁸ *Id* at 99. Average tenant bill reduction for projects in PG&E service territory: 39.3 percent; SCE: 47.5 percent; SDG&E: 61.3 percent.

⁹ SOMAH Semi-Annual Progress Report (July 2024) at Figure 3. Retrieved from: https://energy-solution.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/SOMAH-Semiannual-Progress-Report_July-2024.pdf.

¹⁰ SB 355 also amended the income eligibility pathway to require that at least 66 percent of the property's residents have incomes at or below 80 percent of the area median income, as defined

Footnote continued on next page.

The Commission intends in this rulemaking to continue implementation of SOMAH pursuant to Pub. Util. Code Section 2870. Immediately, we will consider needed or reasonable program modifications to fully implement SB 355; later, we will consider program modifications in response to triennial program evaluations to ensure progress toward program goals pursuant to Pub. Util. Code Section 2870(k)(1).¹¹ This rulemaking may also consider changes to the SOMAH virtual NEM tariff to align with SB 355 program modifications or other program modifications. In the future, it may support the program's winddown preceding its procedural and statutory sunset.

Funding for SOMAH comes from the IOUs' GHG allowance auction proceeds, which are largely overseen by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). SOMAH is one of the programs to which the Commission allocates funding through its authority under Pub. Util. Code Section 748.5. This rulemaking may also consider any necessary or reasonable modifications to SOMAH funding or program rules to align with CARB rulemakings.

in Health and Safety Code Section 50052.5(f); and added two new eligibility pathways for properties owned by tribes and for rental housing properties owned by a public housing authority created pursuant to the Housing Authorities Law [Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 34200) of Part 2 of Division 24 of the Health and Safety Code] or a public housing agency, as defined in Section 1437a of Title 42 of the United States Code. These changes have been implemented in the SOMAH Handbook Eighth Edition, effective February 4, 2024.

¹¹ Public Utilities Code section 2870(k)(1) directs the Commission to evaluate the SOMAH program every three years.

1.2. Disadvantaged Communities Single-Family Solar Homes

AB 327 (Stats. 2013, Ch. 611) directed the Commission to develop specific alternatives designed to increase adoption of renewable generation in disadvantaged communities. Pursuant to statute, the Commission, in D.18-06-027, established the DAC-SASH program, modeled after the SASH program, along with the Disadvantaged Communities – Green Tariff (DAC-GT) and Community Solar Green Tariff (CSGT) programs.¹²

The DAC-SASH program enables income-qualified homeowners in disadvantaged communities to receive rooftop solar installations with incentives and strong customer protections; currently the DAC-SASH PA ensures participating homeowners can install solar at no cost. The DAC-SASH program has an annual budget of \$10 million from 2019 through 2030, funded by the electric IOUs' GHG allowance auction proceeds and, if GHG allowance auction proceeds are insufficient, through public purpose program charges. In accordance with D.18-06-027, the Commission's staff selected a statewide DAC-SASH PA via a competitive bidding process, and the program launched in September 2019.

D.20-12-003 modified DAC-SASH program eligibility to include California Indian Country, provided directions to the DAC-SASH PA and large IOUs to

¹² As the Commission most recently considered DAC-GT and CSGT modifications as part of A.22-05-022 et al., and because those programs are geared towards customers who are or may be unable to install onsite solar, this rulemaking will not address the DAC-GT and CSGT programs.

enhance consumer outreach and education about the program, and allowed the large IOUs to be reimbursed for program administration costs.

As of June 2024, over 2,750 solar photovoltaic systems had been installed and interconnected across the three large IOUs' territories for low-income customers in disadvantaged communities. These DAC-SASH projects received a total of approximately \$32.6 million in incentives and represent 10.87 MW of solar capacity. The program had also referred 3,770 low-income households to the utilities' Energy Savings Assistance (ESA) program, which offers income-qualified homeowners and renters energy-saving home improvements such as heat pump water heater replacement and energy efficient appliances. A quarter of these households have enrolled in the program.¹³

As with the SOMAH program, the Commission's staff manage a competitive bidding process to triennially evaluate the DAC-SASH program. The final report of the first triennial evaluation was published in April 2023. In addition, recent external developments may affect the DAC-SASH program, for example, the implementation of the net billing tariff pursuant to D.22-12-056, changes to the Self-Generation Incentive Program Residential Solar and Storage Equity budget and offerings pursuant to D.24-03-071, and provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. The Commission intends in this rulemaking to consider program goals and modifications in response to triennial program evaluations and other recent developments to ensure program goals are being met.

¹³ Disadvantaged Communities – Single-Family Solar Homes (DAC-SASH) Program Semi-Annual Progress Report - July 2024

1.3. Renewable Energy Self-Generation Bill Credit Transfer (RES-BCT)

AB 2466 (Stats. 2008, Ch. 540), codified in Pub. Util. Code Section 2830, established the Local Government Renewable Energy Self-Generation Program, by which eligible local governments, community colleges, and universities are able to share generation credits from a system located on one government-owned property with billing accounts at other government-owned properties. To implement Pub. Util. Code Section 2830, each of the large IOUs is required to make a RES-BCT tariff available to eligible customers. In 2010, the Commission, in Resolution E-4283, approved (with conditions and modifications) the large IOUs' proposed RES-BCT tariffs.

In 2021, SB 479 (Stats. 2021, Ch. 141) expanded RES-BCT eligibility to California Native American tribal governments.

The program has a statewide cap (allocated among the large IOUs based on each IOU's share of total statewide peak demand) of 250 MW. As of July 31, 2024, approximately 170 MW have been installed or otherwise allocated to the program, with approximately 80 MW remaining.

Commission oversight of the Local Government Renewable Energy Self-Generation Program has thus far been limited to informal review and consideration of the large IOUs' RES-BCT tariffs. The Environmental and Social Justice (ESJ) Action Plan (2.0) Goal 2, to increase investment in clean energy resources to benefit ESJ Communities, does not specify RES-BCT in its tentative

workplan to ensure equitable incentives for net energy metering.¹⁴ However, we now identify that this tariff is relevant to achieving that goal due to eligibility expansion to tribal governments.

With less than one-third of available capacity remaining and in light of eligibility expansion to tribal governments, the Commission intends in this rulemaking to align RES-BCT implementation with the ESJ Action Plan. The Commission will consider goals and metrics (to measure progress towards adopted goals), potential tariff modifications, and establishment of basic and prudent programmatic elements to make the RES-BCT tariff more accessible and useful for customers in accordance with Pub. Util. Code Section 2830.

1.4. Small Multi-Jurisdictional Utilities' (SMJU) Solar Tariffs and Programs

Pub. Util. Code Section 2827 required BVES, Liberty Utilities and PacifiCorp (collectively the SMJUs) to offer NEM tariffs, which provided retail credit export compensation for customer-generated electricity and were available to new customers until the combined total rated generating capacity exceeded a cap of five percent of each electric utility's "aggregate customer peak demand."¹⁵ The SMJUs were permitted to propose new tariffs and programs as part of their general rate case proceedings or through individual applications.

BVES reached its cap and closed its NEM program to new customers in 2018. In 2020, the Commission, in D.20-01-008, approved BVES' Distributed

¹⁴ Environmental & Social Justice Action Plan Version 2.0, approved April 7, 2022, available at <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/news-and-outreach/documents/news-office/key-issues/esj/esj-action-plan-v2jw.pdf>. See Task 2.4.4.

¹⁵ Public Utilities Code Section 2827(c)(1)

Generation Service (DGS) Program for customer-generators with projects under 1 MW in capacity for up to 20 years. The DGS Program compensates customer-generators on an hourly basis, and its export value includes 1) avoided energy costs, 2) a renewable attribute adder (when qualified), 3) avoided transmission access charges, and 4) avoided line losses.¹⁶

Liberty Utilities' NEM program is still open to new customers with systems 1 MW or less in capacity.¹⁷ Liberty Utilities has funding for a Solar Incentive Program with an authorized budget of \$0.42 million per year.¹⁸

PacifiCorp's NEM program is no longer open to new customers. PacifiCorp now offers a net billing program, approved in D.20-01-007, in place of the previous NEM tariff.

The SMJU customer generation programs and tariffs are different from each other and from the net billing tariffs that the Commission recently adopted for the large IOUs in D.22-12-056 and D.23-11-068.

Due to their piecemeal and siloed proposals and implementation, these customer generation efforts have not been afforded the same comprehensive review as their large electric IOU counterparts. There is no current proceeding where these programs and tariffs have been considered jointly or provided focus by parties representing renewable energy, consumer protection, and ESJ interests. Input from consumer protection and ESJ stakeholders is especially

¹⁶ D.20-01-008 at 10-14.

¹⁷ Liberty Utilities Advice Letter 81-E.

¹⁸ D.20-08-030 at 2.

warranted considering that the SMJUs serve a disproportionate number of ESJ communities, and communities with multiple characteristics making them priorities for the Commission under its ESJ Action Plan. The SMJUs serve primarily areas with geographic barriers and Tribal lands, as well as low-income and a number of disadvantaged communities (all as referenced or defined in the ESJ Action Plan).

Finally, while both Liberty Utilities and PacifiCorp offer the SOMAH program and tariff in their respective territories, no SMJU participates in the DAC-SASH program or offers a tariff comparable to the large IOUs' RES-BCT tariffs.

The Commission intends in this proceeding to review the customer-generator tariffs and programs offered by the SMJUs. The Commission will consider adjustments to increase cost-effectiveness and participant benefits, as well as create alignment with statewide policies adopted for the large IOUs. In addition, the Commission intends to consider whether to develop a new tariff for Liberty Utilities and whether to extend DAC-SASH and RES-BCT program responsibilities to the SMJUs.

2. Preliminary Scoping Memo

The preliminary scope of issues in this Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR) is set forth below, in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules), Rule 7.1(d).

1. How the Commission should modify SOMAH program rules to implement SB 355;

2. Whether and how the Commission should modify SOMAH program rules in light of SOMAH program evaluations or similar reports;
3. Whether and how the Commission should modify the DAC-SASH program in light of DAC-SASH evaluations;
4. Whether and how to address any funding impact due to changes in GHG allowance auction proceeds and/or changes in rules, offerings, and/or services of SOMAH and/or DAC-SASH;
5. Whether and how to establish basic programmatic elements for the large IOUs' RES-BCT tariffs, including program goals and metrics, development of a statewide or IOU-specific reservation system, and/or evaluation and administrative funding;
6. Whether and how the Commission should modify the SMJUs' current customer generation tariffs, and develop a new tariff for use when Liberty Utilities reaches its NEM cap, to create alignment between the SMJU and large IOU customer-generation tariffs;
7. Whether the Commission should direct the SMJUs to participate in the DAC-SASH and RES-BCT programs; and
8. Whether modifications to SOMAH, DAC-SASH, and RES-BCT tariffs impact the achievement of any of the nine goals of the Commission's ESJ Action Plan.

3. Opportunity for Comments

The Commission invites party comment on the Preliminary Scoping Memo and issues identified in this document. Party comments may address:

- Whether there are additional issues that should be included in the scope of this proceeding;
- The appropriate prioritization or sequencing of topics and activities that should be handled in this proceeding leading to Commission decision(s); and

- Any specific issues previously addressed or already underway in other Commission proceedings that require coordination with this rulemaking.

Parties should focus their comments on the issues set forth in the preliminary scoping memo, the preliminary schedule, and any objections to the preliminary determinations. Commenting parties shall limit comments to 20 pages and file comments within 30 days after the issuance date of this OIR. Reply comments are limited to 15 pages per party and shall be filed within 15 days after the final date to file comments. The Commission will use parties' comments to identify areas that need clarification and may consider the addition of specific issues or questions related to the items described in Section 2 on the scope of this proceeding.

4. Categorization and Need for Hearing

Rule 7.1(d) requires that an OIR preliminarily determine the category of the proceeding and the need for a hearing. We preliminarily determine that this proceeding is ratesetting as defined in Rule 1.3(g). This determination is not appealable, but shall be confirmed or changed via ruling by the assigned Commissioner. The assigned Commissioner's determination as to category is subject to appeal pursuant to Rules 7.3 and 7.6.

We anticipate that the issues in this proceeding may be resolved through a combination of filed comments and workshop(s), and that evidentiary hearings will be necessary. Any person who objects to the preliminary hearing determination shall state the objections in their comments on this OIR. The assigned Commissioner will determine the need for hearing in the scoping ruling issued following a prehearing conference.

5. Preliminary Schedule

The preliminary schedule for the OIR is summarized below. The schedule may be revised by the assigned Commissioner or the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) to develop an adequate record, provide due process, and conduct this proceeding in an orderly and efficient manner. Parties may comment on the preliminary schedule, in addition to identifying a need for, and date for, any additional events such as workshops.

Event	Date
Comments on OIR	30 days after OIR issuance
Reply comments on OIR	15 days after comments
Scoping Memo and Ruling	Within 60 days after reply comments filed

The assigned Commissioner or the assigned ALJ may change or modify the schedule to promote efficient and fair administration of this proceeding. Today’s decision sets a due date for comments and reply comments on the OIR. The schedule for the remainder of the proceeding will be adopted in the assigned Commissioner’s Scoping Memo and Ruling.

It is the Commission’s intent to complete this proceeding within 18 months of the date this decision is adopted (Section 1701.5(b)).

If there are any workshops in this proceeding, notice of such workshops will be posted on the Commission’s Daily Calendar to inform the public that a decision-maker or an advisor may be present at those meetings or workshops. Parties shall check the Daily Calendar regularly for such notices.

6. Respondents

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, Liberty Utilities, BVES, and PacifiCorp are named as respondents to this proceeding.

7. Service of OIR

We provide service to the service lists of R.14-07-002, R.20-05-012, R.17-07-007, and R.22-11-013; all community choice aggregators; and to CARB, the California Energy Commission, and the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and the tribal contacts list maintained by the NAHC. Service of the OIR does not confer party status or place any person who has received such service on the official service list for this proceeding. Instructions for obtaining party status or being placed on the official service list are given below.

8. Filing and Service of Comments and Other Documents

Filing and service of comments and other documents in the proceeding are governed by the Commission's Rules. Parties are instructed to only serve documents on the assigned Commissioner, advisors to the assigned Commissioner, and the assigned ALJ by electronic copy and not by paper copy, unless specifically instructed to do otherwise.

9. Addition to Official Service List

Addition to the official service list is governed by Rule 1.9(f).

Upon request, any person will be added to the "Information Only" category of the official service list. Any person intending to make such a request should do so promptly in order to ensure timely electronic service of all

comments and other documents and correspondence in the proceeding. (*See* Rule 1.9(f).) The request must be sent to the Process Office by email (process_office@cpuc.ca.gov) or letter (Process Office, California Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102). Please include the Docket Number of this rulemaking in the request.

Persons who file responsive comments thereby become parties to the proceeding (*see* Rule 1.4(a)(2)) and will be added to the “Parties” category of the official service list upon such filing. In order to assure service of comments and other documents and correspondence in advance of obtaining party status, persons should promptly request addition to the “Information Only” category as described above; they will be removed from that category upon obtaining party status.

10. Subscription Service

Persons may monitor the proceeding by subscribing to receive electronic copies of documents in this proceeding that are published on the Commission’s website. There is no need to be on the official service list in order to use the subscription service. Instructions for enrolling in the subscription service are available on the Commission’s website at <http://subscribecpuc.cpuc.ca.gov/>.

11. Intervenor Compensation

Intervenor compensation is permitted in this proceeding. Pursuant to Section 1804(a)(1), a customer who intends to seek an award of compensation must file and serve a notice of intent to claim compensation within 30 days after the prehearing conference. Parties new to participation in Commission proceedings may contact the Commission’s Public Advisor for further guidance.

12. Public Advisor

Any person or entity interested in participating in this proceeding who is unfamiliar with the Commission's procedures or has questions about the electronic filing procedures is encouraged to obtain more information at <http://consumers.cpuc.ca.gov/pao/> or contact the Commission's Public Advisor at 1-866-849-8390 or 1-866-836-7825 (TTY), or send an email to public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov.

13. Public Outreach

Section 1711(a) states:

"Where feasible and appropriate, except for adjudication cases, before determining the scope of the proceeding, the commission shall seek the participation of those who are likely to be affected, including those who are likely to benefit from, and those who are potentially subject to, a decision in that proceeding. The commission shall demonstrate its efforts to comply with this section in the text of the initial scoping memo of this proceeding."

Public outreach will be described in the scoping memo of the assigned Commissioner.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. This Order Instituting Rulemaking is adopted pursuant to Rule 6.1 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.
2. The preliminary categorization is ratesetting.
3. The preliminary determination is that hearings are needed.
4. The preliminary scope of issues is as stated in Section 2 of this Order Instituting Rulemaking.

5. The preliminary schedule stated in Section 5 of this Order Instituting Rulemaking is adopted.

6. Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, Liberty Utilities (CalPeco Electric) LLC, Bear Valley Electric Service, and PacifiCorp are respondents to this Order Instituting Rulemaking.

7. Any person may file comments responding to this Order Instituting Rulemaking within 30 days of the issuance date of this order. Reply comments shall be filed within 15 days after the final date to file comments.

8. The Executive Director will cause this Order Instituting Rulemaking to be served on all respondents and on the service lists for the following Commission proceedings: Rulemaking (R.) 14-07-002, R.20-05-012, R.17-07-007, and R.22-11-013. In addition, the Executive Director will cause this Order Instituting Rulemaking to be served on all community choice aggregators and the following agencies:

- California Air Resources Board;
- California Energy Commission; and
- California Native American Heritage Commission and the tribal contacts list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission.

9. Any party that expects to claim intervenor compensation for its participation in this rulemaking must file its notice of intent to claim intervenor compensation within 30 days of the prehearing conference.

This order is effective today.

Dated January 16, 2025, at San Francisco, California.

ALICE REYNOLDS
President
DARCIE L. HOUCK
JOHN REYNOLDS
KAREN DOUGLAS
MATTHEW BAKER
Commissioners