

Decision 25-12-032 December 18, 2025

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Investigation into
the Creation of a Shared Database or
Statewide Census of Utility Poles and
Conduit in California.

Investigation 17-06-027

And Related Matter.

Rulemaking 17-06-028

ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE

Summary

This decision extends the statutory deadline in this proceeding until June 30, 2026.

1. Background and Justification

Public Utilities Code (Pub. Util. Code) Section 1701.5(a) provides that quasi-legislative cases must be resolved within 18 months of the date the scoping memo is issued unless the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) makes findings as to why that statutory deadline cannot be met and issues an order extending the 18-month deadline. In this proceeding, the statutory deadline is December 31, 2025.

1.1. Background

On June 29, 2017, the Commission issued Investigation (I.) 17-06-027 and Rulemaking (R.) 17-06-028 (Order Instituting Investigation/Order Instituting Rulemaking proceeding) to consider strategies for increased and non-discriminatory access to poles and conduit by competitive communications providers, the impact of such increased access on safety, and how best to ensure the integrity of the affected communications and electric supply infrastructure going forward.

Since its issuance, the Commission has issued several decisions to promote pole safety, service reliability, and access. Most recently, with Decision (D.) 21-10-019, the Commission imposed on the five major pole owners in California (Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, Frontier Communications, and AT&T)¹ the duty to include granular information about each electric attachment and communications attachment to each pole in each major pole owner's database. By requiring the inclusion of standardized attachment data, the Commission took a major step forward in providing clearer insight into each pole's safety, available capacity, and available physical space for access.

The Commission recognized, however, that each pole attacher's duty to provide its granular attachment information to each respective pole owner would not be an easy task. (D.21-10-019 at 115.) To accommodate this potential

¹ AT&T stands for Pacific Bell Telephone Company, d/b/a AT&T California, AT&T Mobility (AT&T Mobility Wireless Operations Holdings, Inc., New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC, and Santa Barbara Cellular Systems, Ltd) and AT&T Corp.

difficulty Ordering Paragraph (OP) 10 of D.21-10-019 included an opportunity for attachers to submit a written request for extension to the Executive Director no later than 30 days before the expiration of their 12-month deadline.

1.2. Justification

Between July 28, 2023, and September 8, 2023, the following pole attachers sought extensions of time to comply with D.21-10-019 OP 8, which required the attachers to provide the information required by Data Points 1-5 and Data Points 18-20 for existing and new pole attachments: Comcast Phone of California, LLC; Consolidated Communications of California Company; ExteNet Systems (California), LLC; ExteNet Telecom Solutions, Inc.; Sonic Telecom, LLC; Spectrum Pacific West, LLC; T-Mobile West LLC dba T-Mobile; Cellco Partnership, on behalf of itself and its facilities-based wireless affiliates (Verizon Wireless); MCImetro Access Transmission Services LLC; and MCI Communications Services LLC. After considering their requests, the Commission's Executive Director granted the requests so that the duty to provide pole attachment data has been extended to February 29, 2024, April 9, 2024, and April 12, 2024. Staff was in the process of monitoring the pole attachers' progress to ensure compliance with the Commission's orders, but that overview was not yet completed. Consequently, on December 4, 2024, D.24-12-014 extended the statutory deadline for this proceeding until December 31, 2025.

The assigned Administrative Law Judge is currently working with the Commission's Communications Division and Telecommunications Division on the final decision to close this proceeding. Therefore, an extension of the statutory deadline until June 30, 2026, is necessary.

2. Waiver of Comment Period

Under Rule 14.6(c)(4) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Commission may waive the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment on a decision that extends the deadline for resolving quasi-legislative proceedings set forth in Pub. Util. Code Section 1701.5. Under the circumstances of this proceeding, it is appropriate to waive the 30-day period for public review and comment.

3. Assignment of Proceeding

President Alice Reynolds is the assigned Commissioner and Robert M. Mason III is the assigned Administrative Law Judge in this proceeding.

Findings of Fact

1. The current statutory deadline for resolving consolidated proceeding I.17-06-027 and R.17-06-028 is December 31, 2025.
2. Consolidated proceeding I.17-06-027 and R.17-06-028 cannot be completed by December 31, 2025.
3. An extension of the statutory deadline to June 30, 2026, is necessary to allow adequate time to complete this proceeding.

Conclusion of Law

Pursuant to the authority granted to the Commission under Pub. Util. Code Section 1701.5(a), the statutory deadline should be extended to June 30, 2026.

IT IS ORDERED that the statutory deadline for completion of this proceeding is extended to June 30, 2026.

This order is effective today.

Dated December 18, 2025, at Sacramento, California.

ALICE REYNOLDS

President

DARCIE L. HOUCK

JOHN REYNOLDS

KAREN DOUGLAS

Commissioners

Commissioner Matthew Baker recused himself from this agenda item and was not part of the quorum in its consideration.