

Decision \_\_\_\_\_

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Establish Policies, Processes, and Rules to Ensure Safe and Reliable Gas Systems in California and Perform Long-Term Gas System Planning.

Rulemaking 24-09-012

**ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE**

**Summary**

This decision extends the statutory deadline of this proceeding to August 31, 2027.

**1. Background**

Public Utilities Code (Pub. Util. Code) Section 1701.5(a) provides that the Commission shall resolve the issues raised in the scoping memo of a quasi-legislative proceeding within 18 months of the date the proceeding is initiated, unless the Commission makes a written determination that the deadline cannot be met and issues an order extending that deadline. The current statutory deadline for completion of this proceeding is March 26, 2026.

On September 26, 2024, the Commission opened this Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR) to advance long-term gas transition planning work and act on opportunities to advance decarbonization and mitigate risks in the near term.

On November 12, 2024, the assigned Commissioner issued an Assigned Commissioner Ruling seeking comments concerning incorporation of the statutory mandates in the new Senate Bill (SB) 1221 into the scope of this proceeding and categorization of the proceeding as quasi-legislative.

On November 13, 2024, the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) sought comments on interim actions.

On November 14, 2024, the Commission hosted a gas transition scenario planning workshop with the California Energy Commission and California Air Resources Board.

The assigned ALJ held a prehearing conference on January 9, 2025, to address the issues of law and fact, determine the need for hearings, set the schedule for resolving the matter, and address other matters as necessary.

On January 31, 2025, the assigned Commissioner issued a Scoping Memo and Ruling (Scoping Memo) that set forth the issues, need for hearing, schedule, category, and other matters necessary to scope the proceeding.

On April 21, 2025, the assigned Commissioner issued an amendment to the Scoping Memo.

On October 16, 2025, the assigned Commissioner issued a Second Amended Assigned Commissioner's Scoping Memo (Second Amended Scoping Memo). The Second Amended Scoping Memo made the following modifications to the schedule and scope of the proceeding:

- Modified Phase 3 schedule and scope to incorporate SB 1221 (Min, Chapter 602, Statutes of 2024) activities for the establishment of a program to facilitate the cost-effective decarbonization of priority decarbonization zones through pilot projects.
- Suspended Phases 1 and 2 of the proceeding until Q3 2026, to allow for implementation of SB 1221.

An extension to August 31, 2027, is necessary to allow sufficient time to address issues scoped for Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the proceeding.

## **2. Waiver of Comment Period**

Under Rule 14.6(c)(4) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Commission may reduce or waive the period for public review and comment of proposed decisions extending the deadline for resolving a proceeding. Accordingly, the otherwise applicable period for public review and comment on an extension order issued pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 1701.5(a) is being waived.

## **3. Assignment of Proceeding**

Karen Douglas is the assigned Commissioner and Paula Gruendling is the assigned Administrative Law Judge in this proceeding.

### **Findings of Fact**

1. On September 26, 2024, the Commission opened this OIR.
2. The current statutory deadline for resolving this OIR is March 26, 2026.
3. This OIR cannot be completed by March 26, 2026.
4. An extension of the statutory deadline until August 31, 2027, is necessary to provide sufficient time for the Commission to adequately address the complex issues presented in this matter prior to issuing a proposed decision.

**Conclusion of Law**

1. Pursuant to the Commission's authority under Pub. Util. Code § 1701.5(a) the statutory deadline should be extended until August 31, 2027.

**O R D E R**

**IT IS ORDERED** that the statutory deadline in this proceeding is extended until August 31, 2027.

This order is effective today.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_, 2026, Santa Maria, California.