

Decision 26-02-018 February 5, 2026

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Consider Regulating Telecommunications Services Used by Incarcerated People.

Rulemaking 20-10-002

ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE

Summary

This decision extends the statutory deadline for this proceeding until July 2, 2026.

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 the deadline. The statutory deadline for resolving this proceeding is February 9, 2026.

On May 20, 2022, the assigned Commissioner issued an Assigned Commissioner’s Ruling Amending Phase II Scope and Schedule and Directing Testimony (Ruling Amending Phase II). The Ruling Amending Phase II posed two additional issues for parties to address and requested briefs on these issues following a fact-gathering period. On September 29, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 1008 (2022), which provides functional voice communications services free of charge to the incarcerated in a state prison, or a state, county, or city

youth residential placement or detention center. The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation will cover the cost and have discretion on needs of each facility.

On October 24, 2022, The Utility Reform Network requested an extension of time to submit its reply brief. Subsequently, the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) issued a ruling adjusting the procedural schedule to provide the additional time requested. Parties served testimony and reply testimony as directed. Parties met to confer and draft a statement of stipulated facts and disputed facts on January 18, 2023, but were unable to agree on any stipulated or disputed facts, with some parties identified as not providing any statements.

Commission staff have been reviewing the data submitted related to the cost of providing IPCS services and related ancillary services. The next procedural steps are the issuance of a staff report addressing permanent intrastate calling rates caps for IPCS services, as well as rate caps for ancillary fees and charges. A proposed decision will be issued after consideration of comments and reply comments on the staff report.

Decision (D.) 24-07-026 extended the statutory deadline for this proceeding until October 17, 2024. D.24-09-043 again extended the statutory deadline for this proceeding until June 8, 2025. D.25-05-014 extended the statutory deadline for this proceeding until February 9, 2026.

An extension to July 2, 2026 will allow sufficient time for the Commission to close 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 ratesetting proceedings. Accordingly, the otherwise applicable period for public review and comment is being waived.

3. Assignment of Proceeding

Darcie L. Houck is the assigned Commissioner and Robert Haga is the assigned ALJ in these proceedings.

Findings of Fact

1. On January 12, 2021, the scoping memo for this proceeding was issued.
2. On November 29, 2021, the Assigned Commissioner's Phase II Scoping Memo and Ruling was issued.
3. D.24-07-026 extended the statutory deadline for this proceeding until October 17, 2024.
4. D.24-09-043 extended the statutory deadline for this proceeding until June 8, 2025.
5. D.25-05-014 extended the statutory deadline for this proceeding until February 9, 2026.
6. An extension of the statutory deadline to July 2, 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 § 1701.5(a), the statutory deadline should be extended until July 2, 2026.

IT IS ORDERED that the statutory deadline in these proceedings is extended until July 2, 2026.

This order is effective today.

Dated February 5, 2026, 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.