

Decision _____

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company for (1) Administration of Stress Test Methodology Developed Pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 451.2(b) and (2) Determination That \$7.5 Billion of 2017 Catastrophic Wildfire Costs and Expenses Are Stress Test Costs That May Be Financed Through Issuance of Recovery Bonds Pursuant to Section 451.2(c) and Section 850 et seq.

Application 20-04-023
(Not Consolidated)

In the Matter of the Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company for Authority to Issue Recovery Bonds for Stress Test Costs Pursuant to Article 5.8 of the California Public Utilities Code.

Application 21-01-004
(Not Consolidated)

**DECISION GRANTING INTERVENOR COMPENSATION
TO WILD TREE FOUNDATION**

Summary

This decision modifies the intervenor compensation award granted to Wild Tree Foundation (Wild Tree) in Decision (D.) 22-11-036. While D.22-11-036 awarded Wild Tree intervenor compensation for its contributions to D.21-04-030 and D.21-05-015 the 2020 and 2021 hourly rates for Wild Tree's representative Aaron Rothschild were calculated incorrectly. Accordingly, this decision adjusts those hourly rates and awards Wild Tree an additional \$31,745. This total reflects an additional \$27,062.50 for its contribution to D.21-04-030, and \$4,682.50 for its contribution to D.21-05-015.

Application 20-04-023 remains closed. Application 21-01-004 is closed.

1. Background

On November 18, 2022, the Commission issued Decision (D.) 22-11-036, awarding intervenor compensation to Wild Tree Foundation (Wild Tree) for its substantial contribution to D.21-04-030¹ and D.21-05-015² in Applications (A.) 20-04-023 and A.21-01-004.

D.22-11-036 awarded Wild Tree \$198,952.40 in intervenor compensation (\$168,367.50 for D.21-04-030 and \$30,584.90 for D.21-05-015), and adopted a 2020

¹ D.21-04-030 approved, with modifications, Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) proposal to finance \$7.5 billion of catastrophic wildfire costs through bonds securitized by fixed recovery charges on customer bills and to offset those charges by amounts paid out of a Customer Credit Trust.

² D.21-05-015 approved, with modifications, PG&E's proposed financing order to allow the issuance of bonds to finance \$7.5 billion of catastrophic wildfire costs securitized by fixed recovery charges on customer bills.

hourly rate of \$340 and a 2021 hourly rate of \$380 for representative Aaron Rothschild (Rothschild).

On December 14, 2022, Wild Tree filed an application for rehearing of D.22-11-036, stating legal error in establishing Rothschild's 2020 and 2021 rates, and requested a recalculation of the rates commensurate with the expert's demonstrated experience.

On April 27, 2023, the Commission issued D.23-04-060, granting limited rehearing of D.22-11-036, and agreed that Rothschild's 2020 and 2021 hourly rates should be recalculated.³

2. Rothschild's New 2020 and 2021 Hourly Rates

In D.22-11-036, the 2020 and 2021 hourly rates for Rothschild were established using the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in Resolution ALJ-387, and the market rate study in Resolution ALJ-393, respectively. However, these calculations were based on an incorrect experience level of 13 years instead of 19 years.⁴

Accordingly, this decision awards Rothschild a 2020 hourly rate of \$465 as authorized in D.23-04-060 and per Resolution ALJ-387 based on his correct experience level, as opposed to the \$340 rate previously determined in D.22-11-036, for work performed in these proceedings. Based on the 154 hours awarded for Rothschild's 2020 work, Wild Tree should receive an additional \$19,250 in intervenor compensation.

³ D.23-04-060 Ordering Paragraph 1 and 2.

⁴ D.23-04-060 at 2.

Additionally, this decision awards Rothschild a 2021 hourly rate of \$630 as authorized in D.23-04-060 and subsequently adopted in D.24-03-062 based on his correct experience level, as opposed to the \$380 rate previously determined in D.22-11-036, for work performed in these proceedings. Based on the 49.98 hours awarded for Rothschild's 2021 work, Wild Tree should receive an additional \$12,495 in intervenor compensation.

For the reasons stated above, this decision awards Wild Tree an additional \$31,745 in intervenor compensation for its substantial contribution to D.21-04-030 and D.21-05-015. This total reflects an additional \$27,062.50 for its contribution to D.21-04-030, and \$4,682.50 for its contribution to D.21-05-015.

3. Comments on Proposed Decision

Per Rule 14.6(c)(6) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Commission may reduce or waive the period for public review and comment for a decision on a request for compensation pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 1801 et seq. Because this is a decision on a request for compensation, we waive the comment period.

4. Assignment of Proceeding

John Reynolds is the assigned Commissioner and Robert Haga is the assigned Administrative Law Judge in these proceedings.

Findings of Fact

1. In D.22-11-036, the 2020 and 2021 hourly rates for Wild Tree's representative Aaron Rothschild were calculated incorrectly, as they were based on an incorrect experience level of 13 years instead of 19 years.

2. Aaron Rothschild's 2020 hourly rate for work performed in these proceedings should be \$465 as opposed to \$340, as previously authorized in D.22-11-036.

3. Aaron Rothschild's 2021 hourly rate for work performed in these proceedings should be \$630 as opposed to \$380, as previously authorized in D.22-11-036.

4. Based on the hours awarded in D.22-11-036 for work performed by Aaron Rothschild in 2020 and 2021, Wild Tree is owed an additional \$31,745 in intervenor compensation for its contribution to D.21-04-030 and D.21-05-015. This total reflects an additional \$27,062.50 for its contribution to D.21-04-030, and \$4,682.50 for its contribution to D.21-05-015.

Conclusions of Law

1. Wild Tree should be awarded an additional \$31,745 in intervenor compensation for its contribution to D.21-04-030 and D.21-05-015.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Wild Tree Foundation is awarded an additional \$27,062.50 for its contribution to Decision 21-04-030.

2. Within 30 days of the effective date of this decision, Pacific Gas and Electric Company shall pay Wild Tree Foundation the additional 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 November 10, 2021, the 75th day after

the filing of Wild Tree Foundation's request, and continuing until full payment is made.

3. Wild Tree Foundation is awarded an additional \$4,682.50 for its contribution to Decision 21-05-015.

4. Within 30 days of the effective date of this decision, Pacific Gas and Electric Company shall pay Wild Tree Foundation the additional 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 September 21, 2021, the 75th day after the filing of Wild Tree Foundation's request, and continuing until full payment is made.

5. Application 21-01-004 is closed.

This order is effective today.

Dated June __, 2026, at Sacramento, California.