

Decision **PROPOSED DECISION OF ALJ COOKE** (Mailed 3/23/2006)**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
for Authority to Implement Default CPP Rate  
Options For Large Customers.

Application 05-01-016  
(Filed January 20, 2005)

Application of San Diego Gas & Electric  
Company (U902-E) for Adoption of a 2005  
Default Critical Peak Pricing Structure for  
Commercial and Industrial Customers with Peak  
Demands Exceeding 300 kW.

Application 05-01-017  
(Filed January 20, 2005)

Southern California Edison Company's  
(U338-E) Application for Approval of Rate  
Design Proposals for Large Customers.

Application 05-01-018  
(Filed January 20, 2005)

(See Appendix A for a list of appearances.)

**DECISION ADOPTING DEFAULT CRITICAL PEAK PRICING FOR 2007****1. Summary**

This decision declines to adopt the proposed settlements presented by the parties but instead identifies our preferred approach to critical peak pricing tariffs that allows for implementation of the settlement tariffs as voluntary rates, effective in Summer 2006, with conversion of all eligible customers to the critical peak pricing settlement tariffs, effective January 1, 2007. The preferred approach provides for bill protection for the first 12 months a customer is on the critical peak pricing tariff, at which point the customer can chose to convert to a

standard time of use (TOU) rate. The preferred approach requires the utilities to provide all eligible customers with a bill analysis at the end of the 2006 critical peak period that reflects the customer's actual usage during Summer 2006 under the adopted critical peak pricing rates (as compared to the otherwise applicable TOU rate), and the bill impacts if the customer were to reduce its critical peak period usage by 5, 10, and 20%. The Settling Parties have 20 days from the date of the proposed decision to notify the Commission whether they accept the modified terms. In the event that the Settling Parties do not accept the preferred terms, we will close the applications without adopting critical peak pricing rates, and direct the utilities to incorporate default critical peak pricing tariffs for all eligible customers 200 kilowatts (kW) and above into their next comprehensive rate design proceeding.

## **2. Procedural History**

On April 21, 2005, the Commission issued Decision (D.) 05-04-053. Ordering Paragraph 2 directed the utilities to "file new critical peak pricing proposals including testimony, in these dockets on August 1, 2005, consistent with the principles adopted today." The key ordering paragraphs of that decision are as follows:

3. In its August 1, 2005 filing, each utility shall designate the specific system conditions that will trigger a critical peak pricing event call, consistent with the system conditions used in its rate design and resource adequacy requirements.
4. In each August 1, 2005 filing, the number of events shall be determined based on the forecasts and system conditions used to allocate revenue to the critical peaks.
5. In their August 1, 2005 filing, the utilities shall calculate rates for the non-critical peak hours based on an adopted revenue

requirement for all hours that reflects costs in a year with no critical peak events and separately establish the rate for the critical peak period to reflect the utility's anticipated marginal cost to procure power during critical peak periods.

8. Upon completion of these rate design proceedings for each utility, bundled customers shall be placed on a critical peak pricing tariff as a default, with the ability to convert without cost the standard TOU rates adopted for each utility.

On August 1, 2005, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E), and Southern California Edison Company (SCE) filed new proposals and associated testimony to implement default critical peak pricing tariffs for customers with demand in excess of 200 kW in compliance with D.05-04-053. On August 24, 2005, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) held a prehearing conference. Various supplemental exhibits were served prior to non-utility opening testimony on October 6, 2005. On October 19, 2005, parties served rebuttal testimony.

On September 12, 2005, pursuant to Rule 51.1(b), notice was provided to all parties that an initial settlement conference would take place on September 22, 2005. Follow-up settlement discussions were held amongst most of the active parties in subsequent weeks through a series of conference calls. On October 20, 2005, the parties to the settlement discussions reached agreements in principle on the terms of the settlements. After receiving notice of the agreements, ALJ Cooke suspended the hearings scheduled for the week of October 31, 2005.

On November 14, 2005, a motion to accept the settlement by the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) of California, California Manufacturers and Technology Association (CMTA), City of San Diego, Energy Producers and Users Coalition (EPUC), Indicated Commercial Parties (ICP),

Industrial Environmental Association, J.C. Penney Company, Inc. (Penney), SDG&E, Silicon Valley Leadership Group, and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (Wal-Mart) was filed. On November 14, 2005, a separate motion to accept the settlement by the Agricultural Energy Consumers Association, BOMA of San Francisco and of California, California Farm Bureau Federation, California Large Energy Consumers Association, California League of Food Processors, CMTA, California Retailers Association, EPUC, ICP, Penney, Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, L.P. (Kinder), Lowe's Companies, Inc., PG&E, San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART), SCE, Wal-Mart, and Western Power Trading Forum was filed. Comments on the settlements were filed by The Utility Reform Network (TURN) and PG&E. Replies were filed by SCE, SDG&E, PG&E, and jointly by Penney, Kinder, and Wal-Mart.<sup>1</sup>

PG&E filed a petition to modify Ordering Paragraph 8 of D.05-04-053 on November 14, 2005. SDG&E filed a response on November 30, 2005, and PG&E filed a reply on December 7, 2005.

One day of evidentiary hearings was held on the settlements on November 17, 2005. All exhibits were received into evidence at that time. By stipulation of the parties, late-served exhibits were also received into evidence.

### **3. Outstanding Procedural Matters**

We affirm all rulings made by the ALJ up to this point in the proceeding. To the extent that any motions remain outstanding, all such motions are denied.

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<sup>1</sup> The motion for acceptance of the late filed reply comments by Penney, Kinder and Wal-Mart is granted.

#### **4. Settlement Agreements**

Two settlements were filed, one addressing both PG&E and SCE, the other addressing only SDG&E. Each settlement will be addressed in turn. Many features of the initial proposals are elements of the settlements, so we do not separately describe the initial proposals of the utilities.

##### **4.1. PG&E and SCE**

The proposed settlement would establish a voluntary critical peak pricing tariff structure, rather than a default rate as anticipated in D.05-04-053. Bundled, firm service customers served on interval meters with peak demands equal to or greater than 200 kW would be eligible to select service under the voluntary critical peak pricing rate. Bundled customers who are participating in, or who elect to participate in, certain other demand response programs would not be eligible to enroll on the critical peak pricing rates as long as that participation continues. For PG&E, customers participating in the Demand Bidding Program (E-DBP), the Base Interruptible Program (E-BIP), the Business Energy Coalition program (E-BEC), the Non-Firm Program, and the California Power Authority Demand Reserves Partnership program would not be eligible for the critical peak pricing rates. For SCE, customers participating in Super Off-Peak Rates (SOP), Departing Load, Demand Bidding Program (DBP), Optional Binding Mandatory Curtailment (OBMC), I-6, Base Interruptible Program (BIP), Scheduled Load Reduction Program (SLRP), California Demand Reserves Program, and Real-Time Pricing (RTP) would not be eligible for the critical peak pricing rates. Direct access customers, and customers (such as BART) that receive electric power from third parties, will not be eligible for the critical peak pricing rates. Net metered customers, standby customers, customers on the Agricultural

Internal Combustion Engine Conversion Incentive Rate (Ag-ICE), and customers without communication links are not eligible for the critical peak pricing rates.

The PG&E rate would become effective June 1, 2006, if approved before January 31, 2006 and would replace PG&E's existing voluntary critical peak pricing tariff special condition in current schedules. For PG&E, the rates applicable during critical peak pricing events would be based on PG&E's rate proposals for voluntary critical peak pricing presented in its August 1, 2005 testimony in this case (Exhibit 1000), and as revised in Attachment 2 to its October 19, 2005 rebuttal testimony (Exhibit 1004). For PG&E, the critical peak pricing event rate would be a rate rider of 75 cents per kWh for all Light and Power rate schedules and 37.5 cents per kWh for the AG 4 C and F, and AG 5 C and F rate schedules that would be added to the customer's normal TOU rate. The rate rider will be applied to the generation component of participating customer bills. Proposed tariffs are set forth in Exhibit 1019. The critical peak pricing tariff rates applicable during non-critical peak pricing event hours are subject to combined on-peak demand and energy charge reductions stated as a rate rider to the customer's normal TOU rate for the summer period from May 1 to October 31. PG&E will provide bill protection for new customers who select the settlement rate through the conclusion of the first complete summer of participation. The rationale behind bill protection is to allow customers additional exposure to the critical peak pricing tariff without risk, while they learn whether or not the tariff works for their operations.

The SCE rate would become effective the first Sunday in June 2007 and would replace the special condition in SCE's existing schedules TOU-GS-2, TOU-8, TOU-PA, and TOU-PA-5. SCE's existing critical peak pricing rates for large customers would be closed and customers on them would be converted to

the new tariffs. SCE's methodology is generally similar to PG&E's, and the details are found in Exhibit 1005. Implementing tariffs were submitted as Exhibit 1026. SCE does not provide customer bill protection.

Neither utility will provide participation credits to participating customers or reflect hedging premiums for non-participating customers. Both utility rate designs are designed to be revenue neutral by customer class.

The maximum number of critical peak pricing events in the respective summer seasons for each utility is 15. PG&E's summer season runs from May 1 through October 31, while SCE's summer season runs from the first Sunday in June to the first Sunday in October. In their respective summer seasons, PG&E and SCE expect, but are not obligated, to call at least 12 events in a given summer season but they will not call an event on more than three consecutive weekdays within one work week. Critical peak pricing events will last four hours, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

PG&E may call a critical peak pricing event depending on the day-ahead maximum temperature forecast for its service area, high demand, high day-ahead prices, or California Independent System Operator alerts. However, PG&E will retain discretion not to call an event even if one or more of these criteria are met. SCE may call a an event on a day-ahead basis if day-ahead forecast system demand is within 9% of SCE's forecast annual system peak demand, and forecasted generation heat rates indicate that power supplies are limited. PG&E and SCE will attempt to notify all critical peak pricing customers of the event by 3:00 p.m., the day before the event, using two methods: (1) a telephone call, page, fax, or e-mail depending on the choice of the customer; and (2) a dedicated website informational display that will be updated in real time with the critical peak pricing status.

PG&E's cost for its existing program is \$243,000 annually for administrative costs, and \$150,000 annually for measurement costs. These costs include the costs to prepare bill analyses for customers based on their actual usage. To implement the rates set forth in the settlement, PG&E estimates incremental costs at \$1,648,480, \$388,586, and \$370,167 in the first through third years of operation, respectively. If measurement and evaluation is handled on a statewide basis, then the annual cost should be reduced by \$150,000. Thus, the total cost of implementing a critical peak pricing tariff for PG&E, assuming a statewide evaluation, is \$1,991,480, \$631,587, and \$613,167 in years one through three, respectively. SCE's estimates its first year (2007) implementation cost at \$1,816,800, although this estimate was developed for a default rate rather than a voluntary opt-in rate. In Application (A.) 05-06-006 et al., the parties reached a settlement on the proper level of funding for 2006-2008 demand response programs. Table 2 of the settlement exhibit in A.05-06-016 et al. filed on December 2, 2005, identifies the agreed upon funding level for SCE's existing critical peak pricing program at \$53,000 annually.

The settlement proposes that PG&E be authorized to flow the authorized revenue requirement approved for its critical peak pricing program, authorized either in this application or A.05-06-006 et al., through its Utility Generation Balancing Account (UGBA), for recovery from its bundled customers only. To the extent that critical peak pricing participation produces lower total billed revenue than would have been billed under the participants' standard tariffs, any such revenue reductions (together with any fuel and purchased power cost savings that result from reduced usage during critical peak pricing events) would be reflected in PG&E's Energy Resource Recovery Account (ERRA) and UGBA through the normal operations of these accounts.



The settlement recommends that all billing and customer communication system infrastructure modifications, administrative, and customer education expenses for SCE be recorded in SCE's Advanced Metering and Demand Response Memorandum Account (AMDRMA) and then transferred upon approval into SCE's ERRA for recovery as prescribed by D.05-01-056. SCE proposes though that the costs be recovered from bundled customers only. To the extent that critical peak pricing participation produces lower total billed revenue than would have been billed under the participants' standard tariffs, any such revenue reductions (together with any fuel and purchased power cost savings that result from reduced usage during critical peak pricing events) would be reflected in SCE's ERRA through the normal operations of that account.

#### **4.2. SDG&E**

Unlike the SCE/PG&E settlement, the proposed SDG&E settlement contains a default critical peak pricing tariff applicable to all commercial and industrial customers with loads greater than or equal to 200 kW. This eligibility includes about 1,800 meters. As part of the settlement, SDG&E will make good faith efforts to establish two-way, confirmable contact with each eligible customer before enrolling the customer on the default rate. During its customer contact, SDG&E will provide, to the extent possible, bill impact information as well as information on demand response programs for which the customer is eligible. In the event that SDG&E is unable to establish contact with the customer, the settlement provides that SDG&E shall not place that customer on the default critical peak pricing tariff. The burden is on SDG&E to demonstrate that contact occurred in the event of dispute.

Customers enrolled on the critical peak pricing tariff will receive bill protection for the first 12 months of service but are required to remain on the tariff for a full 12 months. Under SDG&E's settlement, customers will also have the option of reserving capacity, and paying a capacity fee; the portion of the customer's demand for which capacity is reserved will not be subject to critical peak pricing tariffs. The maximum number of critical peak pricing events shall not exceed 15, while the minimum number shall not fall below four.

Customers enrolled on SDG&E's existing Schedule EECC-CPP (voluntary critical peak pricing) prior to a Commission decision in this proceeding will remain under that program until their contracts expire. Upon contract expiration, those customers will default to the critical peak pricing tariff or may opt out. After the Commission renders a decision approving the Settlement Agreement, Schedule EECC-CPP will be closed to new customers eligible for the default critical peak pricing tariff, but Schedule EECC-CPP-E will remain available.

SDG&E's cost for its existing critical peak pricing program is \$253,897 for operations and maintenance costs, \$42,422 for capital, and \$82,158 for measurement costs in 2006. (Exhibit 1022.) These costs do not include the costs to prepare bill analyses for customers based on their actual usage. Exhibit 1009 identified that SDG&E expected the cost to implement a default critical peak pricing tariff to be a total of \$1,256,000. The settlement does not address program costs, thus it is unclear whether the total identified in Exhibit 1009 is incremental to the existing program or inclusive of those costs.

For ratemaking purposes, any critical peak pricing revenue over- or under-collections are proposed to flow through the SDG&E ERRRA, administrative costs will be recovered through the AMDRMA, and the resource adequacy

requirements value of the program will be allocated in accord with the final decision regarding resource adequacy in Commission proceeding Rulemaking 04-04-003.

## **5. Evaluation of the Settlement Agreement**

Because the proposed settlement agreement is not an uncontested “all-party” settlement, we evaluate it under the standards set forth in Rule 51.1(e) of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure. Rule 51.1(e) requires that the “settlement is reasonable in light of the whole record, consistent with law, and in the public interest.”

### **5.1. Reasonableness in Light of the Whole Record**

The Settling Parties in both settlements state that the settlements are reasonable in light of the whole of the record. In the PG&E/SCE settlement, the parties state that the outcome is reasonable because it constitutes compromises among the utilities and the various commercial, industrial, and agricultural customers that would be affected by the tariffs. The parties state that “the cost estimates presented for a PG&E opt-out CPP program versus the cost estimates included in the CPP settlement for PG&E’s opt-in CPP [critical peak pricing] program indicate that the latter is significantly more cost effective.” (PG&E/SCE Motion, p. 4.)

In the SDG&E settlement, parties state that because all testimony has been served, parties are well aware of each others positions, and that the settlement is “the best possible implementation of D.05-04-053 in that it addresses the concerns of the customers subject to the Tariff, substantially complies with the directive in D.05-04-053, and maintains the Commission’s

positive momentum in achieving demand response objectives.” (SDG&E Motion, p. 4.)

TURN is the only party to oppose the settlements. TURN argues that it is not reasonable to approve the settlements because it is unlikely that customers who contribute disproportionately to peak demand will remain on the rates proposed in the settlements, the settlement rate designs may increase on-peak use on non-critical peak pricing days, the settlements unfairly shift costs onto bundled customers, and adopting the settlements may not promote installation of energy efficiency and load shifting measures. TURN did not present testimony in this proceeding to provide an analysis of how the settlements result in the outcomes it predicts. TURN does point us to its testimony in A.05-06-006 et al. and its conclusion that, “given the evidence of the relative dearth of participation in voluntary programs, TURN suggests that it would be more cost-effective to institute a default CPP tariff in combination with technical assistance/technical incentive payments to assist customers with achieving demand response, rather than to continue with both voluntary CPP and other voluntary programs.” (TURN Comments, pp. 7-8.) TURN also reminds us of the forecasted load reductions by PG&E in this phase of the proceeding of 21-35 megawatts (MW) under the settlement rates, versus approximately 50 MW under a default rate, and that SCE and SDG&E did not offer projections of load reduction under the settlement rates. TURN discusses how “structural winners,” those customers who received reduced bills without reducing their usage, are the only customers likely to opt-in to a voluntary rate, or stay on a default rate that has no penalty from opting out, and are unlikely to result in much, if any, load reduction. TURN discusses how SDG&E’s rate design results in non-critical

peak pricing day rates that are below SDG&E's marginal cost of energy, which would promote increased usage on those days.

SDG&E responds to TURN's argument by pointing out that because the rates are designed to be revenue neutral by customer class, any slight deviation from the estimated marginal cost of energy is minor (less than 5%) and could be adjusted for in subsequent rate design proceedings. SCE also responds to the argument by TURN that lower rates during non-critical peak pricing periods would result in higher usage. SCE replies that "TURN's arguments regarding load impacts are contradictory. On the one hand, TURN devotes an entire section of its comments to espousing its belief that the proposed CPP rates will not promote significant demand response, despite customers generally facing CPP pricing \$0.50-\$0.75/ [kilowatt-hour] kWh above non-CPP on peak prices. Yet TURN argues in the same section that the corresponding minor offset in all remaining on-peak hour prices could lead to significant increases in on-peak consumption. It is inconsistent for TURN to suggest that no load reduction will result from significantly higher prices, but load increases will occur as a result of relatively minor price decreases." (SCE Reply, p. 4.) PG&E also takes exception to TURN's comments that only structural winners will enroll on the settlement critical peak pricing rates. PG&E refers to Exhibit 1018, "which shows that customers who faced increased total charges on CPP absent CPP usage reductions still signed up for PG&E's current voluntary CPP tariff. Moreover, those customers as well as structural winners for the PG&E CPP tariff, have already succeeded in reducing their electric usage during CPP hours." (PG&E Reply, p. 6.)

## **5.2. Consistent with the Law**

The parties to the PG&E/SCE settlement state that the settlement “is consistent with all applicable statutes and prior Commission decisions. In particular, although D.05-04-053 directed the Utilities to file opt-out critical peak pricing showings, it did not preclude presentation and consideration of other critical peak pricing approaches.” (PG&E/SCE Motion, p. 4.) The parties to the SDG&E settlement identify Ordering Paragraphs 3, 4, 5, and 8 as the key ordering paragraphs from D.05-04-053 and then state how the settlement meets each criteria.

TURN argues that the PG&E/SCE settlement is not consistent with the law and Commission policy because the “voluntary nature” of the settlement’s critical peak pricing rate conflicts with the explicit order of D.05-04-053 to implement default tariffs. TURN acknowledges that SDG&E’s settlement rate is called a default tariff; however, TURN points out that “the terms of the settlement do everything possible to ensure that any customer who may be disadvantaged by the tariff will opt-out with no cost and as little administrative burden as possible.” (TURN Comments, p. 6.)

## **5.3. In the Public Interest**

The parties state that the SDG&E settlement is in the public interest because “it strikes a balance between moving forward with the Commission’s demand response objectives while providing Customers with a gradual introduction to new pricing structures. The Settlement Agreement also provides for SDG&E to educate Customers on all of the demand response programs available, thus furthering the important public interest goal of cultivating demand response programs” and ensuring that no customer unwittingly fails to choose to remain of the default tariff. (SDG&E Motion, p. 6.) The parties state

that the PG&E/SCE settlement “is a reasonable compromise of the respective Settling Parties’ interests and litigation positions” and that the Commission should therefore find the settlement in the public interest.

#### **5.4. Discussion**

For the reasons stated above, the settling parties urged the Commission to expeditiously grant the motions approving the settlements. TURN opposes adopting on the settlements.

Evaluating these settlements is difficult. The Settling Parties in each one represent all the parties who participated actively in the proceeding through preparation of testimony prior to the settlements being filed. The parties have negotiated in good faith to recommend a critical peak pricing structure that they believe complies with the intent of D.05-04-053, but incorporates the realities of large customer capital and investment patterns, and resistance to change.

TURN, the only opponent to the settlements, conducted cross-examination on the settlements, but did not present its own affirmative testimony. Some of the points raised by TURN in its comments on the motions to adopt the settlements relate to its broader concerns and appear to be related to its understanding of the Commission’s policy direction with respect to demand response programs generally, and applicability of critical peak pricing rates for small customers specifically. Neither of those issues are part of this proceeding, which is designed to implement the guidance found in D.05-04-053.

However, we share several of the concerns raised by TURN in its comments about the limited amount of demand response expected from the proposed rates and the relative value of a voluntary or default critical peak pricing tariff. We agree with TURN that a default tariff, coupled with education, technical assistance, and technical incentives, will result in the most demand

response from those large customers whose load profiles cause them to place a disproportionate amount demand on peak, where demand reduction is most valued and needed. The Settling Parties likewise stressed the importance of education and assistance to customers before implementation of a new rate. For these reasons, we decline to adopt the proposed settlements as presented.

Instead, we offer our preferred implementation approach which uses 2006 and 2007 as transition years for all three utilities from a voluntary program, to a default critical peak pricing rate. The Settling Parties in each settlement have 20 days from the date of the proposed decision to notify the Commission whether they accept the modified terms described below.<sup>2</sup> In the event that the Settling Parties do not accept the preferred terms, we will close these applications without adopting critical peak pricing rates, and instead direct the utilities to incorporate default critical peak pricing tariffs for large customers into their next comprehensive rate design proceeding.

Our preferred approach is as follows. During 2006, the utilities may, but are not required to, implement the settlement rates and allow customers to voluntarily enroll under the terms and conditions described in the draft tariffs. (Exhibit 1019 for PG&E, Exhibit 1026 for SCE, and attached to the settlement for SDG&E.) For SCE, bill protection should be adopted consistent with the terms and conditions established for PG&E. Because each utility currently offers a voluntary critical peak pricing rate, each utility may modify its existing voluntary rates, terms, and conditions to conform to those in Exhibit 1019 for PG&E, Exhibit 1026 for SCE, and attached to the settlement agreement for

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<sup>2</sup> This notice can occur in comments on the proposed decision.



SDG&E, except as further described herein. Given the timing of this decision and how quickly the summer months are approaching, each utility is granted the flexibility to decide whether to modify its existing program for this summer or not. If a utility decides to offer the settlement rates for Summer 2006, it shall file an Advice Letter to implement those changes, consistent with this decision.

We accept the limitations on customer eligibility set forth in both settlements with two exceptions. To the extent that customers enroll in a utility Demand Bidding Program, they will be returned to the critical peak pricing tariff if they do not submit a bid for more than one summer season. This requirement will limit gaming by customers seeking to remain on a TOU rate. It is also unclear why customers who take service under net metering tariffs should be excluded from eligibility for the critical peak pricing rate. The utilities did not identify particular conflicts between the two rates. In fact, these customers are metered on a time differentiated basis, it appears to make the most sense for customers that have installed onsite generation that produces at peak times to receive a rate that values peak production higher than at all other times. Therefore, net metered customers should also be considered eligible customers.

During 2006, the utilities, consistent with the plans described in A.05-06-006 et al. and as further directed herein, will engage in extensive educational contacts with eligible customers to inform them that effective January 1, 2007, that customer's rate will convert from their standard TOU rate to the default critical peak pricing tariff set forth in the draft tariffs, with the option to switch back to a TOU rate at the end of the 12-month bill protection period if so desired. In addition, no later than the effective date, the utilities must provide a bill analysis to each eligible customer that shows what the customer paid under its other applicable tariff for the relevant period (summer

for PG&E and SCE and year for SDG&E), and what that customer would have paid had it been taking service on the critical peak pricing rates. The bill analysis should also provide information about what the customer's bill would be under the critical peak pricing rate if it reduced its critical peak usage by 5%, 10%, and 20%. The bill analysis should also include information about representative years (i.e., minimum number of calls, average year number of calls, maximum year number of calls, based on forecasts). The utilities should work with the Commission's Energy Division and California Energy Commission (CEC) staff to identify the specific requirements for the bill analysis.

According to the information supplied by SCE and PG&E in Exhibit 1027, their existing annual budgets include sufficient funding to accomplish this education effort, but SDG&E would require a budget augmentation to accomplish this objective.

In a proposed decision issued February 14, 2006, the assigned ALJ proposes to adopt a settlement related to the utility 2006-2008 demand response program plans in A.05-06-006 et al. That decision includes significant budgets for technical assistance and incentives (\$28 million for PG&E, \$20 million for SCE and \$23 million for SDG&E). Based on the record in that proceeding, both SCE and SDG&E included funding for technical assistance and incentives to implement their default critical peak pricing tariff in the settlement. (See generally, A.05-06-006 et al.: RT 66:21-67:26.) According to the record of A.05-06-006 et al., PG&E's budget for critical peak pricing in A.05-01-016 et al., included its required funding for technical assistance and incentives for the default critical peak pricing tariff. (See generally, A.05-06-006 et al.: RT 65:11-27.) Therefore, no incremental funding for technical assistance and incentives should be required. As part of its comments on the proposed decision, each

utility should provide an updated budget estimate for 2006-2008 to implement the terms of this decision.

Because we adopt 12-month bill protection, an affirmative written commitment to the critical peak pricing tariff, like that incorporated into the SDG&E settlement, is not required for any customer prior to the effective date of the conversion to the default rate. During the bill protection period, all eligible customers must remain on the critical peak pricing tariffs, receiving billing information under both the critical peak pricing rates and the TOU rate. By implementing the rate in this manner, we are able to lower costs to implement the critical peak pricing rate because the utilities will not have to process rate changes, either into or out of a critical peak pricing rate, during the 12-month bill protection period.

Under this preferred approach, both 2006 and 2007 will be used to educate customers and allow them to make investments and changes in plant or work processes to allow them to more effectively reduce their demand during critical peak time periods. D.06-03-024 was recently adopted and it authorizes a budget for technical assistance and incentives which will support customer transitions from TOU rates to critical peak pricing rates.

By October 31, 2007, each utility shall present a new bill analysis to the customer that includes the bill comparison between the critical peak pricing rate and the TOU rate, and under the same reduced usage levels described above, that also shows a comparison of the customer's usage during the critical peak events called in the prior year, to the customer's usage during critical peak periods the previous year. At the same time, each eligible customer must be provided with the opportunity to convert to whatever standard TOU rate is in place at the end of the 12-month bill protection period. Without written

confirmation of the customer's desire to convert to a TOU rate, the utility should retain that customer on the critical peak pricing tariff. New customers should be enrolled on the critical peak pricing tariffs, and should be eligible for a 12-month bill protection period before choosing whether to convert to a TOU rate.

On balance, we believe that adopting the settlement rates under the alternative schedule and preferred approach described above satisfies public policy objectives more effectively than do the settlements. Several of the modifications that we make, such as a later effective date and expansion of 12-month billing protection upon conversion to all eligible customers, specifically address the concerns identified by customer participants early in the case about needing lead time to prepare for a change in the tariff. Because of these changes, we can also remove the requirement of written customer authorization to enroll on the critical peak pricing tariff. By educating customers about how their peak electricity consumption impacts their bills more directly, we expect to see increased responsiveness on the part of customers to critical peak calls. Adopting critical peak pricing as the default rate for all eligible customers, after a reasonable transition period, allows us to move towards our goal of improving price responsiveness of all customers.

## **6. Petition to Modify**

On November 14, 2005, PG&E filed a petition to modify D.05-04-053, Ordering Paragraph 8, in the event that the settlement is adopted and PG&E is authorized to implement voluntary critical peak pricing tariffs. Because we retain critical peak pricing as a default tariff, we make no change to D.05-04-053, and deny PG&E's petition as moot.

**7. Comments on Proposed Decision**

The proposed decision of ALJ Michelle Cooke in this matter was mailed to the parties in accordance with Section 311(d) of the Public Utilities Code and Rule 77.1 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. Comments were filed by \_\_\_\_\_. Notification of acceptance of the modified terms can occur in comments on the proposed decision.

**8. Assignment of Proceeding**

Michael R. Peevey is the Assigned Commissioner and Michelle Cooke is the assigned ALJ in these proceedings.

**Findings of Fact**

1. Two motions to accept settlements to resolve critical peak pricing rate design issues were filed.
2. TURN opposes both settlements.
3. Increased education, technical assistance, and incentives support the ability of customers to respond to critical peak prices by reducing demand during critical peak periods.
4. A defined period of bill protection supports customer understanding of upcoming rate changes through education on the bill.
5. A two-year transition to default critical peak pricing supports the ability of customers to implement capital improvements and work process changes that enhance their ability to reduce demand during critical peak periods.
6. Implementation costs are reduced by eliminating the ability to convert to TOU rates during the bill protection period.
7. The settlements do not contain bill protection provisions for all utilities.
8. The PG&E/SCE settlement retains TOU rates as the default rates for large customers.

9. The SDG&E settlement requires a labor intensive customer approval process for the customer to remain on the critical peak pricing rate.

10. Because this decision does not adopt the settlements, PG&E's Petition to Modify D.05-04-053 is moot.

### **Conclusions of Law**

1. We should not adopt critical peak pricing tariffs that discourage customers from participating, contain labor intensive customer enrollment requirements, or limit the information provided to customers about their options.

2. We should implement critical peak pricing tariffs in a manner that educates customers about the opportunity to reduce their bills and demand during critical peak periods.

3. PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E should work with the Commission's Energy Division and the CEC staff to identify the specific requirements for an effective bill analysis.

4. The November 14, 2005 Motions to Accept Settlements should be denied.

5. PG&E's Petition to Modify D.05-04-053 should be denied.

**O R D E R**

**IT IS ORDERED** that:

1. The November 14, 2005 Motions to Accept Settlements are denied.
2. Effective January 1, 2007, all eligible customers, new and existing, over 200 kilowatts in size shall be placed on a critical peak pricing tariff as their default rate.
3. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) may, at its option, replace its existing voluntary special condition schedules that implement its critical peak pricing tariff with the rates set forth in Exhibit 1019, effective June 1, 2006, by filing an Advice Letter consistent with this decision.
4. PG&E shall replace its existing voluntary special condition schedules with the rates, terms and conditions as set forth in Exhibit 1019, effective January 1, 2007, by filing an Advice Letter consistent with this decision.
5. Southern California Edison Company (SCE) shall incorporate bill protection as proposed by PG&E, in its critical peak pricing tariff language.
6. SCE may, at its option, replace its existing voluntary special condition schedules that implement its critical peak pricing tariff with the rates set forth in Exhibit 1026, effective June 1, 2006 by filing an Advice Letter consistent with this decision.
7. SCE shall replace its existing voluntary special condition schedules with the rates, terms and conditions as set forth in Exhibit 1026, effective January 1, 2007, by filing an Advice Letter consistent with this decision.
8. San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) shall eliminate the requirement for a written Notice of Transfer from its critical peak pricing tariff language.

9. SDG&E may, at its option, replace its existing voluntary critical peak pricing schedules with the rates set forth in its settlement, effective June 1, 2006 by filing an Advice Letter consistent with this decision.

10. SDG&E shall replace its existing voluntary critical peak pricing schedules with the rates, terms and conditions as set forth in its settlement, effective January 1, 2007 by filing an Advice Letter consistent with this decision.

11. PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E shall engage in extensive educational contacts with eligible customers to support the transition to a critical peak pricing tariff, including the provision of a minimum of two bill analyses as described herein.

12. The utilities shall work with the Commission's Energy Division and the California Energy Commission staff to identify the specific requirements for an effective bill analysis.

13. PG&E's Petition to Modify D. 05-04-053 is denied.

14. Application (A.) 05-01-006, A.05-01-007 and A.05-01-018 are closed.

This order is effective today.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_, at San Francisco, California.



## APPENDIX A

### List of Appearances

\*\*\*\*\* APPEARANCES \*\*\*\*\*

Evelyn Kahl  
Attorney At Law  
ALCANTAR & KAHL, LLP  
120 MONTGOMERY STREET, SUITE 2200  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94104  
(415) 421-4143  
ek@a-klaw.com  
For: Energy Producers and Users Coalition

Edward G. Poole  
Attorney At Law  
ANDERSON & POOLE  
601 CALIFORNIA STREET, SUITE 1300  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94108-2818  
(415) 956-6413  
epoole@adplaw.com  
For: CIPA/COPE

John R. Redding  
ARCTURUS ENERGY CONSULTING  
44810 ROSEWOOD TERRACE  
MENDOCINO CA 95460  
(707) 937-0878  
johnrredding@earthlink.net  
For: Silicon Valley Leadership Group

Lon W. House  
Energy Advisor  
ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES  
4901 FLYING C ROAD  
CAMERON PARK CA 95682-9615  
(530) 676-8956  
lwhouse@innercite.com

Chris King  
C/O Emeter Corp.  
CALIFORNIA CONSUMER EMPOWERMENT ALLIANCE  
ONE TWIN DOLPHIN DRIVE  
REDWOOD CITY CA 94065  
(650) 631-7230  
chris@emeter.com

Karen Norene Mills  
Attorney At Law  
CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION  
2300 RIVER PLAZA DRIVE  
SACRAMENTO CA 95833  
(916) 561-5655  
kmills@cbbf.com

Roger Ritcher  
CALIFORNIA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
1215 K STREET STE 800  
SACRAMENTO CA 95814  
(916) 552-7570  
rrichter@calhealth.org  
For: CALIFORNIA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Rob Neenan  
CALIFORNIA LEAGUE OF FOOD PROCESSORS  
980 NINTH STREET, SUITE 230  
SACRAMENTO CA 95814  
(916) 444-9260  
rob@clfp.com

Anthony Moddesette  
CALIFORNIA SOCIETY FOR HEALTHCARE ENGINE  
4800 2ND AVE, STE 1500  
SACRAMENTO CA 95817  
(916) 734-2472  
anthony.moddesette@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu  
For: CALIFORNIA SOCIETY FOR HEALTHCARE  
ENGINEERING

Edward W. O'Neill, Attorney At Law  
DAVIS WRIGHT TREMAINE LLP  
ONE EMBARCADERO CENTER, SUITE 600  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94111-3834  
(415) 276-6582  
edwardoneill@dwt.com

Robert B. Gex, Attorney At Law,  
DAVIS WRIGHT TREMAINE LLP  
ONE EMBARCADERO CENTER, SUITE 600  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94111-3611  
(415) 276-6500  
robertgex@dwt.com  
For: San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit

Norman J. Furuta, Attorney At Law  
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
2001 JUNIPERO SERRA BLVD., SUITE 600  
DALY CITY CA 94014-3890  
(650) 746-7312  
norman.furuta@navy.mil

Daniel W. Douglass  
Attorney At Law  
DOUGLASS & LIDDELL  
21700 OXNARD STREET, SUITE 1030  
WOODLAND HILLS CA 91367  
(818) 593-3939  
douglass@energyattorney.com  
For: WESTERN POWER TRADING FORUM

Gregory Klatt  
Attorney At Law  
DOUGLASS & LIDDELL  
411 E. HUNTINGTON DR., STE. 107-356  
ARCADIA CA 91007  
(626) 294-9421  
klatt@energyattorney.com  
For: Wal-Mart and JC Penney

Bill F. Roberts  
ECONOMIC SCIENCES CORPORATION  
1516 LEROY AVENUE  
BERKELEY CA 94708  
(510) 841-6869  
bill@econsci.com  
For: BOMA California and BOMA San Francisco

Lynn Haug  
ELLISON, SCHNEIDER & HARRIS, LLP  
2015 H STREET  
SACRAMENTO CA 95814  
(916) 447-2166  
lmh@eslawfirm.com  
For: East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD); CA Dept.  
General Services (DGS)

Renee H. Guild  
Ceo  
GLOBAL ENERGY MARKETS  
2481 PORTERFIELD COURT  
MOUNTAIN VIEW CA 94040  
(650) 279-7692  
renee@gem-corp.com

Brian T. Cragg  
Attorney At Law  
GOODIN MACBRIDE SQUERI RITCHIE & DAY LLP  
505 SANSOME STREET, SUITE 900  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94111  
(415) 392-7900  
bcragg@gmssr.com  
For: INDEPENDENT ENERGY PRODUCERS

James D. Squeri  
Attorney At Law  
GOODIN MACBRIDE SQUERI RITCHIE & DAY LLP  
505 SANSOME STREET, SUITE 900  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94111  
(415) 392-7900  
jsqueri@gmssr.com  
For: California Retailers Association

Daniel L. Rial  
KINDER MORGAN ENERGY PARTNERS  
ONE ALLEN CENTER  
500 DALLAS STREET, SUITE 1110  
HOUSTON TX 77002  
(714) 560-6597  
RialD@kindermorgan.com

William H. Booth  
Attorney At Law  
LAW OFFICES OF WILLIAM H. BOOTH  
1500 NEWELL AVENUE, 5TH FLOOR  
WALNUT CREEK CA 94556  
(925) 296-2460  
wbooth@booth-law.com  
For: CLECA

Randall W. Keen  
Attorney At Law  
MANATT PHELPS & PHILLIPS, LLP  
11355 WEST OLYMPIC BLVD.  
LOS ANGELES CA 90064  
(310) 312-4361  
pucservice@manatt.com  
For: Lowe's Companies, Inc./County of Los Angeles

David L. Huard  
Attorney At Law  
MANATT, PHELPS & PHILLIPS, LLP  
11355 WEST OLYMPIC BOULEVARD  
LOS ANGELES CA 90064  
(310) 312-4247  
dhuard@manatt.com  
For: City of Chula Vista/Catholic Healthcare West

Peter W. Hanschen  
MORRISON & FOERSTER, LLP  
101 YGNACIO VALLEY ROAD, SUITE 450  
WALNUT CREEK CA 94596-8130  
(925) 295-3450  
phanschen@mofo.com  
For: Agricultural Energy Consumers Association

Shirley Woo  
ANDREW L. NIVEN, PETER OUBORG  
Attorney At Law  
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY  
PO BOX 7442  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94120  
(415) 973-2248  
saw0@pge.com

Michael S. Hindus  
Attorney At Law  
PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP  
50 FREMONT STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94105  
(415) 993-1000  
mhindus@pillsburywinthrop.com  
For: LAUSD

Karen P. Paull  
Legal Division  
RM. 4300  
505 VAN NESS AVE  
San Francisco CA 94102  
(415) 703-2630  
kpp@cpuc.ca.gov  
For: ORA

James Ross  
RCS, INC.  
500 CHESTERFIELD CENTER, SUITE 320  
CHESTERFIELD MO 63017  
(636) 530-9544  
jimross@r-c-s-inc.com  
For: Energy Producers and Users Coaliton

Kelly M. Morton  
Attorney At Law  
SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC  
101 ASH STREET  
SAN DIEGO CA 92123  
(619) 699-1500  
kmorton@sempra.com  
For: San Diego Gas & Electric

Lisa Browy  
SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY  
8330 CENTURY PARK COURT, CP32D  
SAN DIEGO CA 92101  
(858) 654-1566  
lbrowy@semprautilities.com

Bruce A. Reed  
Attorney At Law  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY  
2244 WALNUT GROVE AVENUE  
ROSEMEAD CA 91770  
(626) 302-4183  
bruce.reed@sce.com

Kris G. Vyas  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY  
2244 WALNUT GROVE AVENUE  
ROSEMEAD CA 91770  
(626) 302-6613  
vyaskg@sce.com  
For: Southern California Edison Company (Replacing Bruce  
Reed who should be Information Only)

Keith Mccrea  
Attorney At Law  
SUTHERLAND, ASBILL & BRENNAN  
1275 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW  
WASHINGTON DC 20004-2415  
(202) 383-0705  
keith.mccrea@sablaw.com  
For: California Manufacturers & Technology Association

Marcel Hawiger  
Attorney At Law  
THE UTILITY REFORM NETWORK  
711 VAN NESS AVENUE, SUITE 350  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94102  
(415) 929-8876  
marcel@turn.org

\*\*\*\*\* STATE EMPLOYEE \*\*\*\*\*

Christopher J. Blunt  
Division of Ratepayer Advocates  
RM. 4209  
505 VAN NESS AVE  
San Francisco CA 94102  
(415) 703-1779  
cjb@cpuc.ca.gov

David Hungerford  
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION  
1516 NINTH STREET, MS-22  
SACRAMENTO CA 95814  
(916) 654-4906  
dhungerf@energy.state.ca.us

John Sugar  
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION  
ENERGY EFFICIENCY & DEMAND ANAL DIVISIO  
1516 9TH STREET, MS 42  
SACRAMENTO CA 95814  
(916) 654-4563  
jsugar@energy.state.ca.us

Mike Jaske  
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION  
1516 NINTH STREET, MS-22  
SACRAMENTO CA 95814  
(916) 654-4777  
mjaske@energy.state.ca.us

Mike Messenger  
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION  
1516 9TH STREET, MS-28  
SACRAMENTO CA 95814  
(916) 654-4774  
mmesseng@energy.state.ca.us

Los Angeles Docket Office  
CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
320 W. 4TH STREET, SUITE 500  
LOS ANGELES CA 90013  
LAdocket@cpuc.ca.gov

Michelle Cooke  
Administrative Law Judge Division  
RM. 5108  
505 VAN NESS AVE  
San Francisco CA 94102  
(415) 703-2637  
mlc@cpuc.ca.gov

Mike Langley  
Energy Services Program  
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES  
1102 Q STREET, STE 5100  
SACRAMENTO CA 95814  
mike.langley@dgs.ca.gov  
For: DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

Karen A. Degannes  
Energy Division  
AREA 4-A  
505 VAN NESS AVE  
San Francisco CA 94102  
(415) 703-2575  
kdg@cpuc.ca.gov

Julie A. Fitch  
Executive Division  
RM. 5203  
505 VAN NESS AVE  
San Francisco CA 94102  
(415) 355-5552  
jf2@cpuc.ca.gov

Bruce Kaneshiro  
Energy Division  
AREA 4-A  
505 VAN NESS AVE  
San Francisco CA 94102  
(415) 703-1187  
bsk@cpuc.ca.gov

Dorris Lam  
Energy Division  
AREA 4-A  
505 VAN NESS AVE  
San Francisco CA 94102  
(415) 703-5284  
dnl@cpuc.ca.gov

Scarlett Liang-Uejio  
Division of Ratepayer Advocates  
RM. 4209  
505 VAN NESS AVE  
San Francisco CA 94102  
(415) 703-2043  
scl@cpuc.ca.gov

James Loewen  
Energy Division  
320 WEST 4TH STREET SUITE 500  
Los Angeles CA 90013  
(213) 620-6341  
loe@cpuc.ca.gov

Burton Mattson  
Administrative Law Judge Division  
RM. 5104  
505 VAN NESS AVE  
San Francisco CA 94102  
(415) 703-2504  
bwm@cpuc.ca.gov

Jonathan J. Reiger  
Legal Division  
RM. 5035  
505 VAN NESS AVE  
San Francisco CA 94102  
(415) 355-5596  
jzr@cpuc.ca.gov

\*\*\*\*\* INFORMATION ONLY \*\*\*\*\*

Tanya A. Gulesserian  
ADAMS BROADWELL JOSEPH & GARDOZO  
601 GATEWAY BLVD. STE 1000  
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO CA 94080  
(650) 589-1660  
tgulesserian@adamsbroadwell.com  
For: Coalition of California Utility Employee

Dan Geis  
AGRICULTURAL ENERGY CONSUMERS ASSO.  
925 L STREET, SUITE 800  
SACRAMENTO CA 95814  
(916) 447-6206  
dgeis@dolphingroup.org

Karen Terranova  
ALCANTAR & KAHL, LLP  
120 MONTGOMERY STREET, STE 2200  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94104  
(415) 421-4143  
filings@a-klaw.com

Nora Sheriff  
Attorney At Law  
ALCANTAR & KAHL, LLP  
120 MONTGOMERY STREET, SUITE 2200  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94104  
(415) 421-4143  
nes@a-klaw.com  
For: EPUC

Mark S. Shirilau  
President And Ceo  
ALOHA SYSTEMS, INC.  
14801 COMET STREET  
IRVINE CA 92604-2464  
(949) 851-2221  
marks@alohasys.com  
For: ALOHA SYSTEMS, INC.

John Sterling  
Competitive Analyst  
APS ENERGY SERVICES  
400 E VAN BUREN ST., SUITE 750  
PHOENIX AZ 85004  
(602) 744-5083  
John.sterling@apses.com

Barbara R. Barkovich  
BARKOVICH & YAP, INC.  
44810 ROSEWOOD TERRACE  
MENDOCINO CA 95460  
(707) 937-6203  
brbarkovich@earthlink.net

Reed V. Schmidt  
BARTLE WELLS ASSOCIATES  
1889 ALCATRAZ AVENUE  
BERKELEY CA 94703-2714  
(510) 653-3399 111  
rschmidt@bartlewells.com

Scott Blaising  
Attorney At Law  
BRAUN & BLAISING, P.C.  
915 L STREET, STE. 1420  
SACRAMENTO CA 95814  
(916) 682-9702  
blaising@braunlegal.com

Michael D. Briggs  
Attorney At Law  
PO BOX 1758  
LAJOLLA CA 92038-1758  
(858) 232-8591  
mbriggs@san.rr.com  
For: CompareRates.com, Inc. dba PredictPower

John Robinson  
CALIFORNIA ATTRACTION AND PARKS ASSN.  
1011 10TH STREET, SUITE 150  
SACRAMENTO CA 95814  
(916) 448-4148  
JOHN.ROBINSON@CAPALINK.ORG

CALIFORNIA ENERGY MARKETS  
517-B POTRERO AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94110  
(415) 552-1764  
cem@newsdata.com

Grant A. Rosenblum  
Attorney At Law  
CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR  
151 BLUE RAVINE ROAD  
FOLSOM CA 95630  
(916) 608-7138  
grosenblum@caiso.com

CALIFORNIA ISO  
LEGAL & REGULATORY DEPARTMENT  
151 BLUE RAVINE ROAD  
FOLSOM CA 95630  
e-recipient@caiso.com

Frederick M. Ortlieb  
Office Of City Attorney  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
1200 THIRD AVENUE, 11TH FLOOR  
SAN DIEGO CA 92101  
(619) 236-6318  
fortlieb@sandiego.gov

Thomas Blair  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
9601 RIDGEHAVEN COURT, STE. 120/MS1101B  
SAN DIEGO CA 92123  
(858) 492-6001  
tblair@sandiego.com

Janet Benish  
COSTCO WHOLESALE CORPORATION  
999 LAKE DRIVE  
ISSAQUAH WA 98028  
(425) 313-6328  
jbenish@costco.com

Christopher Hilen  
Attorney At Law  
DAVIS WRIGHT TREMAINE, LLP  
ONE EMBARCADERO CENTER, SUITE 600  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94111  
(415) 276-6500  
chrishilen@dwt.com

Donald C. Liddell P. C.  
DOUGLASS & LIDDELL  
2928 2ND AVENUE  
SAN DIEGO CA 92103  
(619) 993-9096  
liddell@energyattorney.com

David Beyer  
EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT  
375 11TH STREET  
OAKLAND CA 94607  
(510) 287-1144  
dbeyer@ebmud.com

Andy Brown  
ELLISON, SCHNEIDER & HARRIS  
2015 H STREET  
SACRAMENTO CA 95814  
(916) 447-2166  
abb@eslawfirm.com

Carloyn Kehrein  
ENERGY MANAGEMENT SERVICES  
1505 DUNLAP COURT  
DIXON CA 95620-4208  
(707) 678-9506  
cmkehrein@ems-ca.com

Kevin J. Simonsen  
ENERGY MANAGEMENT SERVICES  
646 EAST THIRD AVENUE  
DURANGO CO 81301  
(970) 259-1748  
kjsimonsen@ems-ca.com

Eric Yussman  
Regulatory Analyst  
FELLON-MCCORD & ASSOCIATES  
9960 CORPORATE CAMPUS DRIVE  
LOUISVILLE KY 40223  
(502) 214-6331  
eyussman@knowledgeinenergy.com

Ralph Dennis  
Director, Regulatory Affairs  
FELLON-MCCORD & ASSOCIATES  
9960 CORPORATE CAMPUS DRIVE, SUITE 2000  
LOUISVILLE KY 40223  
(502) 214-6378  
ralph.dennis@constellation.com

Daniel C. Engel  
Senior Consultant  
FREEMAN, SULLIVAN & CO.  
100 SPEAR STREET 17/F  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94105  
(415) 777-0707  
dcengel@fscgroup.com

Clyde S. Murley  
INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT  
600 SAN CARLOS AVENUE  
ALBANY CA 94706  
(510) 528-8953  
clyde.murley@comcast.net  
For: University of CA / California State University /  
Community College League of CA

Steven Kelly  
INDEPENDENT ENERGY PRODUCERS ASSN  
1215 K STREET, SUITE 900  
SACRAMENTO CA 95814  
(916) 448-9499  
steven@iepa.com

Jackson W. Mueller, Jr.  
JACKSON W. MUELLER, JR., LLC  
PO BOX 6009  
IRVINE CA 92616-9009  
(949) 679-2494  
jwmueller@attglobal.net  
For: PW Eagle et al.

Jeff Nahigian  
JBS ENERGY, INC.  
311 D STREET  
WEST SACRAMENTO CA 95605  
(916) 372-0534  
jeff@jbsenergy.com

Joel M. Hvidsten  
KINDER MORGAN ENERGY PARTNERS  
1100 TOWN & COUNTY ROAD, SUITE 700  
ORANGE CA 92868  
(714) 560-4904  
hvidstenj@kindermorgan.com

Ellie A. Doyle  
Vice President & General Counsel  
LANDIS+GYR INC.  
2800 DUNCAN ROAD  
LAFAYETTE IN 47904  
(765) 429-1240  
ellie.doyle@us.landisgyr.com

Nicole Hopper  
LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY  
ONE CYCLOTRON RD, MS 90-4000  
BERKELEY CA 94720  
(510) 495-2370  
nchopper@lbl.gov

Karen A. Lindh  
LINDH & ASSOCIATES  
7909 WALERGA ROAD, NO. 112, PMB 119  
ANTELOPE CA 95843  
(916) 729-1562  
karen@klindh.com  
For: CMTA

Andrew S. Cheung  
Assistant General Counsel  
LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
333 S. BEAUDRY AVE., 20TH FLOOR  
LOS ANGELES CA 90017  
(213) 241-7610  
andrew.cheung@lausd.net  
For: Los Angeles Unified School District

John W. Leslie  
Attorney At Law  
LUCE, FORWARD, HAMILTON & SCRIPPS, LLP  
11988 EL CAMINO REAL, SUITE 200  
SAN DIEGO CA 92130  
(858) 720-6352  
jleslie@luce.com  
For: Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps LLP

Richard Mccann  
M. CUBED  
2655 PORTAGE BAY, SUITE 3  
DAVIS CA 95616  
(530) 757-6363  
rmccann@umich.edu

Dale Murdock  
Sr. Vice President - Operations And Tech  
MACH ENERGY  
1801 N. CALIFORNIA BLVD., STE. 103  
WALNUT CREEK CA 94596  
(925) 708-3119  
dmurdock@machenergy.com  
For: MACH ENERGY

Jan Marie Ennenga  
Executive Director  
MANUFACTURES COUNCIL OF THE CENTRAL VALL  
PO BOX 1564  
MODESTO CA 95353  
(209) 523-0886  
jan@mccv.org

David Marcus  
PO BOX 1287  
BERKELEY CA 94701  
(510) 528-0728  
dmarcus2@sbcglobal.net  
For: Coalition of California Utility Employee

Christopher J. Mayer  
MODESTO IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
PO BOX 4060  
MODESTO CA 95352-4060  
(209) 526-7430  
chrism@mid.org

MRW & ASSOCIATES, INC.  
1999 HARRISON STREET, SUITE 1440  
OAKLAND CA 94612  
(510) 834-1999  
mrw@mrwassoc.com

Frank Diaz  
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY  
PO BOX 770000 MAIL CODE B9A  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94177  
(415) 973-1713  
fdd3@pge.com

James Turnure  
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY  
PO BOX 770000, MAIL CODE B9A  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94105-1814  
(415) 973-4948  
jtt8@pge.com

Josephine Wu  
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY  
PO BOX 770000, MAIL CODE B9A  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94177  
(415) 973-3414  
jwwd@pge.com

June Ruckman  
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY  
PO BOX 770000, MAIL CODE B8R  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94177  
(415) 972-5266  
JCR4@pge.com

Karen Moglia  
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY  
77 BEALE STREET, B9A  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94105  
(415) 973-2623  
klm3@pge.com  
For: PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

Law Department File Room  
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY  
PO BOX 7442  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94120-7442  
cpuccases@pge.com

Luke Tougas  
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY  
PO BOX 770000, MC B9A  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94177  
(415) 973-3610  
LATc@pge.com

Michael Campbell  
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY  
PO BOX 770000, MC B9A  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94177  
(415) 973-8343  
MNCe@pge.com

Catherine A. Watkins, Attorney at Law  
PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP  
50 FREMONT STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94105-2228  
(415) 983-1000  
cwatkins@pillsburywinthrop.com  
For: LAUSD

Connie Wolfe  
PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN, LLP  
101 W. BROADWAY, STE. 1800  
SAN DIEGO CA 92101  
(619) 544-3139  
connie.wolfe@pillsburylaw.com

Laura Rooke  
Sr. Project Manager  
PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC  
121 SW SALMON ST.,  
PORTLAND OR 97204  
(503) 464-7017  
laura.rooke@pgn.com  
For: PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC

Christopher Bing  
Regulatory Case Manager  
SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY  
8330 CENTURY PARK COURT  
SAN DIEGO CA 92123  
(858) 654-1717  
cbing@Semprautilities.com

Vicki L. Thompson  
Attorney At Law  
SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY  
101 ASH STREET  
SAN DIEGO CA 92101  
(619) 699-5130  
vthompson@sempra.com

Connee B. Lloyd  
Senior Energy Analyst  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT  
300 LAKESIDE DRIVE, 16/F  
OAKLAND CA 94612  
(510) 464-6186  
clloyd@bart.gov

Connee B. Loyd  
Senior Energy Analyst  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT  
PO BOX 12688 MSQ 3  
OAKLAND CA 94604-2688  
clloyd@bart.gov

Marco Gomez  
Office Of General Counsel  
SAN FRANCISCO BY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DIST  
300 LAKESIDE DRIVE, 23RD FLOOR  
OAKLAND CA 94607  
(510) 464-6058  
mgomez1@bart.gov



Alex Ramos  
Energy Engineer  
SIEMENS BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES, INC.  
25821 INDUSTRIAL BLVD., STE. 300  
HAYWARD CA 94545  
(510) 723-7791  
alex.ramos@siemens.com  
For: SIEMENS BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES INC.

Bruce Foster  
Vice President  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY  
601 VAN NESS AVENUE, STE. 2040  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94102  
(415) 775-1856  
bruce.foster@sce.com

Case Administration  
Law Department  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY  
2244 WALNUT GROVE AVENUE, ROOM 370  
ROSEMEAD CA 91770  
(626) 302-4875  
case.admin@sce.com

Jennifer Hasbrouck  
Attorney At Law  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY  
2244 WALNUT GROVE AVENUE, ROOM 345  
ROSEMEAD CA 91770  
(626) 302-1040  
jennifer.hasbrouck@sce.com

Michael Rochman  
SPURR  
1430 WILLOW PASS ROAD, SUITE 240  
CONCORD CA 94520  
(925) 743-1292  
Service@spurr.org

Patricia Thompson  
SUMMIT BLUE CONSULTING  
1766 LACASSIE AVE. STE 103  
WALNUT CREEK CA 94596  
(925) 935-0270  
pthompson@summitblue.com

Roger Pelote  
THE WILLIAMS COMPANY, INC.  
12736 CALIFA STREET  
VALLEY VILLAGE CA 91607  
(818) 761-5954  
roger.pelote@williams.com

Scott J. Anders  
Research/ Administrative Center  
UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO - LAW  
5998 ALCALA PARK  
SAN DIEGO CA 92110  
(619) 260-4589  
scottanders@sandiego.edu

Charles R. Toca  
Natural Gas Department  
UTILITY SAVINGS & REFUND, LLC  
1100 QUAIL, SUITE 217  
NEWPORT BEACH CA 92660  
(714) 655-7320  
ctoca@utility-savings.com

Angela S. Beehler  
WALT-MART STORES, INC.  
SAM WALTON DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX  
2001 SE 10TH STREET  
BENTONVILLE AR 72716  
(479) 204-0437  
angie.beehler@wal-mart.com

Boyd Wilson  
Senior Energy Consultant  
3821 CROWELL ROAD, 234  
TURLOCK CA 95382  
(209) 669-1328

**(END OF APPENDIX A)**