



# Working for California

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE CPUC

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Produced by the CPUC's News & Outreach Office | [outreach@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:outreach@cpuc.ca.gov)

## CPUC Talks Disaster Reliability with Telecom Providers

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) President Marybel Batjer twice in November — once in a letter and again at a pre-hearing conference in San Francisco — made it clear to the state's leading telecommunications providers that they needed to do a much better job keeping their systems functioning before, during, and after wildfires and other emergencies.

Other CPUC Commissioners expressed similar comments at the Nov. 20 pre-hearing conference, which was part of Phase 2 of the CPUC's earlier rulemaking regarding an emergency disaster relief program to support California residents.

In that rulemaking, the CPUC approved an emergency disaster relief program to ensure that landline and wireless customers who experience a housing or financial crisis due to a disaster keep vital telecommunications services without being penalized and receive other support.

Communications service providers are now required to implement those disaster relief protections for customers in areas where a State of Emergency is called by the Governor or President. This means that in future disasters, consumers will automatically be protected against being charged various fees associated with terminated and restored service



Commissioners addressed landline and wireless telecommunications reliability during a Nov. 20 conference concentrated on disaster relief.

and will receive other help until the emergency is concluded.

Phase 2 of the proceeding is focused on making sure the state's communications grid is resilient, something it has not been during big, fast-moving wildfires and Public Safety Power Shut-offs. As Batjer noted in her [Nov. 13 letter](#), telecommunications providers have

argued against mandatory requirements being imposed by the CPUC.

"Some of you have objected to the adoption of additional rules for various reasons," Batjer said in her letter sent a week before the pre-hearing conference to top executives at AT&T, Comcast, Cox Communications, Frontier Communications, Sprint, T-Mobile USA, Time Warner, and Verizon Wireless.

"However," her letter continued,

"it has become apparent that your independent efforts over the past

two years have been insufficient to meet the public safety expectations of customers and information demands of state and local emergency managers

during critical power outages and emergencies. This isn't just a matter of inconvenience, it's an unacceptable and avoidable matter of life or death for many who need your services at the most critical times. We no longer have the luxury of time

***"This isn't just a matter of inconvenience, it's an unacceptable and avoidable matter of life and death for many who need your services..."***

***— CPUC President Marybel Batjer to telecommunications providers***

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and cannot wait any longer to address these problems.”

Batjer called on the companies to “join with the CPUC and step up to address these issues before we experience another devastating wildfire or the unfortunate need for widespread Public Safety Power Shut-offs in California.”

Her comments were largely echoed by Mike Wilson, Assistant Chief of CAL FIRE, during his appearance at the pre-hearing conference.

“It is vital that we as a state ensure our communications networks continue to operate during a disaster and that our families, neighbors, and communities have a reliable way to contact and be contacted by public safety officials,” Wilson said. “To this end, our partners in the communications industry must

be prepared to maintain service before, during and after an emergency. This is particularly important for communities that may have only one means of communication such as VoIP.”

Resilience of the state’s highly competitive telecommunications network has become a growing concern in recent years as wildfires and more frequent use of pre-emptive power shut-offs in risky weather have been accompanied by widespread communications failures.

“Eighty percent of 911 calls are made over wireless networks,” Commissioner Clifford Rechtschaffen said at the start of the pre-hearing conference.

“Efforts to activate emergency text alerts or evacuation notices are dependent on communications functioning,” Rechtschaffen con-

tinued.” We heard from city managers and emergency personnel how much they rely on cell coverage to evacuate residents. And of course, customers face a double if not triple whammy when their power goes off. They lose telephone service. They lose TV or radio service and so forth.”

During the power shut-offs in October, for instance, 57 percent of Marin County’s 280 cellular towers were out of service. At one point on Oct. 28, in San Mateo and Contra Costa Counties in the San Francisco Bay Area, 11 percent of their cell towers failed.

During the pre-hearing conference, President Batjer posed the challenge to telecommunications executives this way: “The thought is coming to my mind of what kind of requirement do we need to make

on this very, very important service that you all provide to the people of California? And, how do we make sure as a regulatory body, as well as officials of the state of California, that information is coming to us in a timely, appropriate manner that can indeed be acted upon by the people who most need it . . . our first responders and our emergency managers? And indeed, your customers will have to know where the danger is and how to get out of that danger and how to report medically-difficult situations that they or their family members are in.”

Coincidentally, at the time of the pre-hearing conference, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) was notifying customers in parts of its Northern California service area of an impending power shut-off.

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# CPUC Continues Existing ‘Return on Equity’ for Investor-Owned Utilities

During its final Voting Meeting of 2019, the CPUC unanimously approved continuing existing rates of shareholder returns on investment for four investor-owned utilities.

The decision was part of the CPUC’s annual “Cost of Capital” proceeding that examines utilities’ weighted average cost of debt, preferred equity, and common stock that a utility has issued to finance its investments.

As part of that proceeding, the CPUC attempts to set the authorized Return on Equity (ROE) at a level that is adequate to enable the utility to attract investors to finance the replacement and expansion of its facilities so it can fulfill its public utility service obligation.

Among other considerations, the ROE is determined by estimating market returns on investments for other companies with similar levels of risk known.

One issue of contention in the proceeding was which other companies, or proxies, the utilities proposed using as points of comparison for a fair ROE. Intervenors in the proceeding, such as The Utility Reform Network (TURN) and the Environmental Defense Fund each found fault with proxies included in the applications of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), for instance, that the in-



*The CPUC determined in December that investor-owned utilities should be allowed no more “return on equity” than allowed in the past two years.*

tervenors said undermined the utilities’ financial modeling.

In their 2020 applications, PG&E, Southern California Edison, SDG&E, and Southern California Gas Company had all filed applications with the CPUC to increase their return on equity, or shareholder profits.

The electric companies had maintained that the higher returns were needed to keep attracting sufficient capital from investors, given the growing threat California has been facing from catastrophic wildfires.

Originally, before Governor Gavin Newsom’s signed last leg-

islative session’s main wildfire-related bill, Assembly Bill 1054, the electric utilities had sought returns on equity of 16 percent for PG&E, 16.6 percent for SCE, and 14.3 percent for SDG&E based on “wildfire adders” each utility added to their base return on equity request resulting from their financial modeling.

After the law was enacted, the electric utilities reduced those return on equity requests to 12 percent for PG&E, 11.45 percent for SCE, and 12.8 percent for SDG&E, reflecting the passage of AB 1054. But the utilities continued to seek an increase to their returns due to wildfire risks, which the CPUC re-

jected. SoCalGas had requested a 10.7 percent return on equity both before and after the legislation was passed.

Calling the approved decision “a fair and just outcome,” Commission President Marybel Batjer explained the significance of the issue before the CPUC.

“Capital is a critical part of operating a utility and providing safe and reliable service to ratepayers,” she said. “As we seek to harden and modernize the grid, financial stability is vital to these efforts. The CPUC staff and Administrative

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# Get to Know Us: Meet CPUC Attorney Jack Mulligan

“Everything is important to someone” is a motto that CPUC Legal Counsel Jack Mulligan lives by. He credits his grandmother Jean Runyon, a Sacramento icon and pioneer into the once exclusively man’s world of public relations, with setting a high bar for relationships and how to treat people.

That background informs Jack’s goal of resolving problems and not just repeatedly treating symptoms, which comes in handy in Mulligan’s current job — providing counsel to CPUC staff, administrative law judges and commissioner offices about constraints on the Commission’s decision-making in legal and regulatory frameworks.

He acknowledges that many issues can take decades to settle, often due to complicated relationships as much as complex technical issues.

While Jack once aspired to be a writer, his office is mostly decorated by photographs of athletes and original landscape paintings, many highlighting the beauty of the Sacramento Delta where he grew up waterskiing and enjoying the outdoors.

Nonetheless, the eye is drawn to one letter on his wall. The letter was written by President Harry Truman to Jack’s maternal great-grandfather, Brutus Hamilton — an Olympic athlete, Cal coach, National Track and Field Hall of Famer, writer, poet, angler, and Second World War U.S. Army Air Corps intelligence officer who grew up on the farm next to Truman in Peculiar, Missouri. The neatly framed letter provides yet another insight into Jack’s family legacy of well-rounded achievement and service.

While Jack jokingly refers to his path to the CPUC as a “long trajectory of missteps and misadventures,” it also reflects his own exploration for varied experiences and balance.

At 17, Jack backpacked for a few months from Amsterdam to Athens before heading to St. Mary’s College for his degree from the Integral Program (Classics). From there he moved into a Christian Brothers’ monastery in New York, serving as a member of LaSallian Volunteers/Americorps where he managed a mentoring program and worked with wards of the court as a wilderness guide, ropes course facilitator, and intramural coordinator.



*Jack Mulligan’s legal work for the CPUC covers multiple specialties.*

His next adventure was Boalt Hall at UC Berkeley where he earned his law degree. After a couple years working on land use issues with a Sacramento law firm, Jack travelled through Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam before moving to San Francisco to follow his future wife.

That move was rewarded with another position as a land use attorney and living in the Mission District with his soon-to-be spouse. However, he too quickly found himself caught in the recession’s layoffs.

Taking a step back to recalibrate, he followed the path of many CPUC employees and applied to be an intern in a CPUC Commissioner’s office, in his case, the office of then-Commissioner Rachele Chong. There, he launched a career that has provided variety, challenge, and work-life balance.

Jack especially enjoys his role on the eight-person advisory group in the CPUC’s Legal Division, working with teams on issues such as the California Advanced Services Fund, which funds broadband services for underserved communities; Energy Procurement; Aliso Canyon Natural Gas Storage Facility; Mobile-home park conversions; Advice Letters; CPUC reform; and other duties.

“My areas of expertise include issues related to environmental, administrative and energy law, and

legislation,” he said.

While his day starts predictably with walking his children to school, he rarely knows what might come next. He checks emails before leaving the house for any urgent issues and then heads into the office to work on myriad projects.

After 12 years at the CPUC, Jack is most proud of the work-life balance he has crafted.

“Being involved and present in my children’s life is a priority,” he said. He also enjoys watching Sacramento “grow up,” being part of the community, staying in touch with friends, and finding non-work adventures as well.

“The craziest thing I have ever done – that I can talk about,” he said with a laugh, “is coaching kindergartners in basketball. You quickly realize that winning has nothing to do with the games. It’s surviving practice.”

He acknowledged that his work provided some of the skills that got him through that experience and that his personal life insights have contributed to his work. He credits his family legacy of solid core values, commitment to service, dealing with adversity head-on, and continued growth as a guide for whatever adventures his life may bring.

“Every day,” he said, “is a rededication.”

## ***Energy Programs Expand Before Wildfire Season***

As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen community wildfire resiliency throughout the state the California Public Utilities Commission has established new budgets and modified incentives of more than \$1 billion to fund the Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) for the next critical fire season and subsequent years.

A [January 2020 decision](#) approves an SGIP annual budget of \$166 million for 2020-2024, for a total of \$830 million in new funding. Added to existing unspent funds from prior years, the decision allocates a total of \$1.2 billion in incentives and prioritizes funding of projects for communities most impacted by Public Safety Power Shut-off (PSPS) events.

The decision focuses the program on energy storage projects that serve customers with medical needs and impacted communities during PSPS events. The program targets Tier 2 and Tier 3 high fire threat districts, where there is “extreme” and “elevated” risk of fire, as well as medically vulnerable, disadvantaged and low income customers.

# The Docket: Proceedings Filed at the CPUC Nov. & Dec. 2019

## PROCEEDING NUMBER • FILED DATE • FILER

A1911001 • 01-Nov.-2019 • Polytech Enterprises, LLC  
Application of Polytech Enterprises, a Limited Liability Corporation, doing business as Shuttle 2000 (PSG0013879) to Expand its Service Territory to include Schedule Service Route 3 to transport Passengers to and from Los Angeles International Airport, near Rose Bowl Stadium area Pasadena, Hotels Downtown Los Angeles area, California State Polytechnic University Pomona, Ontario Airport area and to establish a Zone of Rate Freedom (ZORF) in Service Route 3; and to Revise the Zone of Rate Freedom  
<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=319117125>

A1404013 A1406012 • 4-Nov.-19 • ALJ/Bemesderfer/CPUC  
Decision on Intervenor Compensation claim of The Greenlining Institute.  
<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=319117131>

A1712004 • 4-Nov.-19 • ALJ/HAGA/CPUC  
Decision Approving Intrastate Rates and Charges; Establishing New Intrastate Revenue Requirement and Rate Design; and Modifying Selected Rates for the Pinnacles Telephone Company for Test Year 2019.  
<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=319128701>

A1911002 • 04-Nov.-2019 • Pacific Gas and Electric Company • Multiple Types • Ratesetting • • Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company for authorization to enter into interest rate hedges in connection with its financing to exit Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code and related requests. (U39M).  
<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=319288176>

A1911003 • 04-Nov.-2019 • Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company for Approval of Energy Savings Assistance and California Alternate Rates for Energy Programs and Budgets for 2021-2026 Program Years. (U39M).  
<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=319128729>

A1911004 • 04-Nov.-2019 • Southern California Edison Company  
Application of Southern California Edison Company (U338E) for Approval of its Energy Savings Assistance and California Alternate Rates for Energy Programs and Budgets for Program Years 2021-2026.  
<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=319128730>

A1911005 • 04-Nov.-2019 • San Diego Gas & Electric Company  
Application of San Diego Gas & Electric Company (U902M) for Approval of Low-Income Assistance Programs and Budgets for Program years 2021-2026.  
<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=319128731>

A1911006 • 04-Nov.-2019 • Southern California Gas Company  
Application of Southern California Gas Company (U904G) for

## PROCEEDING NUMBER • FILED DATE • FILER

Approval of its Energy Savings Assistance and California Alternate Rates for Energy Programs and Budgets for Program Years 2021-2026.  
<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=319061078>

A1911007 • 04-Nov.-2019 • Marin Clean Energy  
Application of Marin Clean Energy for Approval of its Multifamily Whole Building Program under the Energy Savings Assistance Program 2021-2026.  
<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=319117168>

I1911010 • 07-Nov.-2019 • CPUC  
Order Instituting Investigation into Southern California Gas Company's Risk Assessment and Mitigation Phase November 2019 Submission.  
<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?docformat=ALL&docid=317350749>

I1911011 • 07-Nov.-2019 • CPUC • Gas • Ratesetting • • Order Instituting Investigation into San Diego Gas & Electric Company's Risk Assessment and Mitigation Phase November 2019 Submission.  
<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?docformat=ALL&docid=317343609>

R1911009 • 07-Nov.-2019 • CPUC  
Order Instituting Rulemaking to Oversee the Resource Adequacy Program, Consider Program Refinements, and Establish Forward Resource Adequacy Procurement Obligations.  
<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?docformat=ALL&docid=318560221>

I1911013 • 13-Nov.-2019 • CPUC  
Order Instituting Investigation on the Commission's Own Motion on the Late 2019 Public Safety Power Shutoff Events.  
<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?docformat=ALL&docid=319527577>

A1812019 • 15-Nov.-19 • ALJ/Bemesderfer/CPUC  
Proposed Decision granting Application of Golden State Water Company for authority to transfer its electric service division to a newly formed sister corporation, Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc.  
<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=319760337>

A1904016 • 15-Nov.-19 • ALJ/Kline/CPUC  
Proposed Decision regarding Southern California Edison Company 2018 Local Capacity Requirements Request for Proposals for Moorpark sub-area pursuant to Decision 13-02-015.  
<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=319752925>

A1701012, A1701018, A1701019 • 15-Nov.-19 • ALJ/Hymes/CPUC  
Proposed Decision refining the Demand Response Auction

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## Docket: November/December Filings, *continued from page 5*

### **PROCEEDING NUMBER • FILED DATE • FILER**

Mechanism.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=319819010>

A1911016 • 15-Nov.-2019 • Trans Bay Cable LLC

Application of Trans Bay Cable LLC (U934E) for Limited Exemptions from Affiliate Transaction Rules.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=319971036>

A1911017 • 18-Nov.-2019 • Pacific Gas and Electric Company Expedited Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (U39E) Pursuant to the Commission's Approved Energy Resource Recovery Account (ERRA) Trigger Mechanism.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=319898343>

R1807003 • 19-Nov.-19 • ALJ/Thomas/CPUC

Proposed Decision on 2019 Renewables Portfolio Standard Procurement Plans.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=319752935>

A1911026 • 20-Nov.-19 • California High-Speed Rail Authority

Application of the California High-Speed Rail Authority for Approval to construct two new grade separated crossings, over the proposed two High Speed Rail Tracks at SR43 2308+62, project station, Jersey Avenue (MP 230.27) and SR43 2599+22, project station, over HSR (MP 235.82) located in the County of Kings.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=320829876>

A1911020 • 21-Nov.-2019 • Ventura County Shuttle, Inc

Application of Ventura County Shuttle, Inc., d/b/a Ventura County Airporter (PSC-6291), for Authority to Increase Base Fares and Continue to Maintain a Zone of Rate Freedom.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=320713356>

A1911018 • 22-Nov.-2019 • Southern California Gas Company Application of Southern California Gas Company (U904G) for adoption of its 2020 Flex Alert Marketing Campaign.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=319837367>

A1911019 • 22-Nov.-2019 • Pacific Gas and Electric Company Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company to Revise its Electric Marginal Costs, Revenue Allocation and Rate Design. (U39M)

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=319971081>

A1904014, A1904015, A1904017, A1904018 • 25-Nov.-19 • ALJ/Stevens/CPUC

Proposed Decision on Test Year 2020 Cost of Capital for the Major Energy Utilities.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=320316873>

### **PROCEEDING NUMBER • FILED DATE • FILER**

A1911024 • 25-Nov.-2019 • Combined Public Communications, LLC

Application of Combined Public Communications, LLC for Registration as an interexchange Carrier Telephone Corporation Pursuant to the Provisions of Public Utilities Code Section 1013.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=320829855>

A1509013 • 26-Nov.-19 • CMMR/Randolph/CPUC

Alternate Proposed Decision of Commissioner Randolph approving limited modifications to Decision 18-06-028.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=320817132>

A1911023 • 26-Nov.-2019 • Golden State Water Company

Application of Golden State Water Company (U133W) for authorization to issue and sell additional debt and equity securities not exceeding the aggregate amount of \$465,000,000 and other related requests.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=320714634>

R1709020 • 26-Nov.-19 • ALJ/Allen/ Chiv/CPUC

Proposed Decision granting the Joint Parties' motion to establish a schedule and process for determining the qualifying capacity value of hybrid resources, with modifications.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=320714614>

A1904010 • 27-Nov.-19 • ALJ/Kelly/CPUC

Proposed Decision adopting San Diego Gas & Electric Company's 2020 Electric Procurement Cost Revenue Requirement Forecast and 2020 Forecast of Greenhouse Gas Related Costs.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=320710794>

A1804025 • 25-April-2018 (reopen request week of Nov. 25) • California-American Water Company

Request for rehearing of Decision 19-11-003. • Application of California-American Water Company (U210W), Hillview Water Company, Inc. (U194W), Roger Forrester, and Jerry L. Moore and Diane F Moore, as trustees of the Jerry Moore and Diane Moore Family Trust, for an Order Authorizing the Sale of all Shares of Hillview Water Company, Inc. to California-American Water Company and Approval of Related Matters.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=320316886>

A1509001 • 2-Dec.-19 • ALJ/Roscow/CPUC

Decision Granting Intervenor Compensation to the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility for Substantial Contribution to Decision 17-05-013.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=320817147>

A1912001 • 05-Dec.-2019 • San Diego Gas & Electric Company Expedited application of San Diego Gas & Electric Company

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## Docket: November/December Filings, *continued from page 6*

### **PROCEEDING NUMBER • FILED DATE • FILER**

(U902E) under the Energy Resource Recovery Account Trigger Mechanism.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=320817227>

A1802011 • 12-Feb-2018 (reopen request week of Dec. 1) • Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority  
Petition for Modification of Decision 19-02-010. • Application of the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority for an order authorizing construction of two light rail tracks and one freight track, for three (3) highway-rail crossings at (1) Wheeler Avenue, (2) A Street and (3) D Street in the City of La Verne in Los Angeles County.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=320710846>

A1912002 • 06-Dec.-2019 • San Jose Water Company  
Application of San Jose Water Company (U168W) for Approval of Cost Recovery for Advanced Metering infrastructure.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=321678470>

A1912007 • 06-Dec.-2019 • EcoVate Inc.

Application of EcoVate Inc. for Registration as an Interexchange Carrier Telephone Corporation Pursuant to the Provisions of Public Utilities Code Section 1013.

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A1912003 • 09-Dec.-2019 • California-American Water Company  
Joint Application of California American Water Company (U210W), California Water Service Company (U60W), Golden State Water Company (U133W), Great Oaks Water Company (U162W), Liberty Utilities (Apple Valley Ranchos Water) Corp. (U346W), Liberty Utilities (Park Water) Corp. (U314W), San Gabriel Valley Water Company (U337W), San Jose Water Company (U168W) and Suburban Water Systems (U339W) for Authority to establish the California Consumer Privacy Act Memorandum Account.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=321588220>

I1809003 • 10-Dec.-19 • ALJ/Bemesderfer/CPUC

Presiding Officer's Decision approving a settlement between San Jose Water Company and the Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division of the Commission that resolves all outstanding issues.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=321588217>

R1211005 • 11-Dec.-19 • CMMR/Rechtschaffen/CPUC

Proposed Decision: Self-Generation Incentive Program Revisions pursuant to Senate Bill 700 and other program changes.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=321658813>

A1404013, A1406012 • 12-Dec.-19 • ALJ/Bemesderfer/CPUC  
Decision Granting Compensation to The National Asian American Coalition for Substantial Contribution to Decision 15-07-037.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=321592284>

### **PROCEEDING NUMBER • FILED DATE • FILER**

A1903011 • 12-Dec.-19 • ALJ/Jungreis/CPUC

Proposed Decision approving Bear Valley Electric Service Division's Proposed Tariff to Compensate Eligible Distributed Generation Customers.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=321658602>

A1804002, I1704019 • 13-Dec.-19 • ALJ/Wildgrube/CPUC

Proposed Decision on Test Year 2019 General Rate Case for PacifiCorp.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=321870918>

R1710010 • 13-Dec.-19 • CMMR/Batjer/CPUC

Decision adopting Joint Parties' consensus proposed regulations from workshop report regarding amendments to General Order 95.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=321658628>

A1904013 • 13-Dec.-19 • ALJ/Doherty/CPUC

Decision approving Pacificorp's net billing proposal.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=321870908>

I1906016 • 13-Dec.-19 • ALJ/Poirier/Kenney/CPUC

Presiding Officers' Decision regarding Southern California Gas Company's objection to reimbursing the State of California for investigation-related costs incurred by Commission staff.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=322134199>

A1912008 • 16-Dec.-2019 • Southern California Edison Company

Application of Southern California Edison Company (U 338E) for Approval of its 2019 Rate Design Window Proposals.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=322232147>

R1103013 • 18-Dec.-19 • CMMR/Shiroma/CPUC

Decision Extending Authorization to Replace Federal Support for California-Only Participants.

No link available.

A1912010 • 18-Dec.-2019 • iBasis Retail, Inc.

Joint Application for Approval of the Transfer of Assets including Customer Base, of iBasis Retail, Inc. (U7301C) to Miron Enterprises, LLC (U7359C) Pursuant to Section 854 of the California Public Utilities Code.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=322759823>

R1211005 • 19-Dec.-19 • CMMR/Rechtschaffen/CPUC

Decision Granting Petition for Modification of Decision 11-09-015 and Decision 16-06-055 Concerning Self-Generation Incentive Program Application Requirements.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=322133533>

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A1906002 • 20-Dec.-19 • ALJ/Kline/CPUC

• Decision Adopting Southern California Edison Company's 2020 Electric Procurement Cost Revenue Requirement Forecast and 2020 Forecast of Greenhouse Gas-Related Costs.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=322209217>

Alternate proposed decision from Commissioner Marth Guzman Aceves: <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=322232225>

A1411007, A1411009, A1411010, A1411011 • 18-Nov.-2014 (re-opened week of Dec. 16, 2019) • Southern California Edison Company, et al.

Petition for Modification of D.19-06-022 • Application of Southern California Edison Company (U338E) for Approval of its Energy Savings Assistance and California Alternate Rates for Energy Programs and Budgets for Program Years 2015-2017. [CONSOLIDATION ALERT: Per ALJ Colbert's Ruling issued on 1/6/2015, proceedings A.14-11-007, A.14-11-009, A.14-11-010 and A.14-11-011 were consolidated. GML. 1/6/2015]

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=322215868>

A1904026 • 23-Dec.-19 • ALJ/Jungreis/CPUC

Proposed Decision approving Research Administration Plan Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, and San Diego Gas & Electric Company for the Electric Program Investment Charge Program for the Years 2018 through 2020.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=322702777>

A1912011 • 23-Dec.-2019 • Solar Consumer Advisor

Application of Solar Consumer Advisor for Intervenor Compensation for Substantial Contributions to Resolution E-5030.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=322791691>

A1912012 • 26-Dec.-2019 • Lingo Communications, LLC

In the Matter of the Joint Application of Lingo Telecom of the West, LLC (U7118C) and Matrix Telecom, LLC (U5227C), Licensees and Lingo Communications, LLC, transferor and Garrison LM LLC, transferee, for expedited approval to transfer indirect control of Lingo Telecom of the West, LLC and Matrix Telecom, LLC Pursuant to California Public Utilities Code Section 854(a).

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=323767179>

R1206013 • 30-Dec.-19 • ALJ/Doherty-Park/CPUC

Proposed Decision addressing Phase 5 issues. This decision authorizes DDB San Francisco, a division of DDB Worldwide Communications Group, Inc., to continue work on a statewide marketing, education, and outreach program in support of the transition of Pacific Gas and Electric Company and Southern California Edison Company residential customers to default time-of-use rates through 2021. This decision also authorizes an additional ratepayer expenditure of up to approximately \$7.7 million for this continued work and withdraws an OSC filed in this proceeding

## PROCEEDING NUMBER • FILED DATE • FILER

on March 9, 2016.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=322702844>

A1902018 • 31-Dec.-19 • ALJ/Wildgrube/CPUC

Proposed decision approving the settlement agreement between Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E), the Public Advocates Office at the California Public Utilities Commission, and the Joint Community Choice Aggregators to resolve the Application by PG&E for Compliance Review of its entries into its Energy Resource Recovery Account and other activities for the period January 1 through December 31, 2018.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=323227506>

A1204015, A1204016, A1204017, A1204018, • 31-Dec.-19 • ALJ/Stevens/CPUC

Proposed Decision closing proceedings as Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, and Southern California Gas Company filed 2020 cost of capital proceedings and these applications were resolved by Decision 19-12-056.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=322759911>

R1103013 • 31-Dec.-19 • CMMR/Shiroma/CPUC

Proposed Decision authorizing the program fund to replace federal support for wireline participants. This decision authorizes the California Universal Telephone Service Program to replace \$2.00 per month of reduced federal support for wireline participants from December 1, 2019 through November 30, 2020.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=322791852>

A1805014 • 2-Jan-20 • ALJ/Kline/CPUC

Proposed Decision granting motion to withdraw Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company for Approval of its Assembly Bill 32 Greenhouse Gas Financing Costs.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=323764259>

A1907011 • 2-Jan-20 • ALJ/Wang/CPUC

Proposed Decision denying USA Digital Communications, Inc., a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide resold competitive local exchanges service.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=323706855>

A1509001 • 2-Jan-20 • ALJ/Cooke/CPUC

Proposed Decision denying The Utility Reform Network's Petition for Modification of Decision 19-02-019.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=323687930>

R1407002, A1607015 • 2-Jan-20 • CMMR/Guzman Aceves/CPUC

Proposed Decision modifying Decision 18-09-044 and adopting

Continued on page 7



## TELECOM: *continued from page 2*

Weather forecasts changed, however, and the final de-energization involved approximately 49,000 customers, far fewer than had been affected in October.

Paul Troxel of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services said one of the biggest challenges for emergency responders is getting accurate information about telecommunications failures as they occur so it can be shared with local agencies in a timely manner.

"The solution is clear," Troxel said, "The wireline, wireless and VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) providers must be designated with sufficient backup power and reliable and redundant backhaul connectivity so that outages seen during the October 2019 event can be avoided in the future. Until a resilient, reliable communication network is in place, local agencies need to know when communication systems used by those in their community are potentially impacted by a disaster."

Information about telecommunications outages now comes in sporadically and inconsistently, he added, in part because some telecommunications providers regard it as confidential and proprietary.

Also, during planned power shut-offs, several telecommunications executives said they are deploying more permanent generators and other backup power sources.

But the executives also said the shut-offs have been particularly challenging because PG&E and other utilities often alter plans without much notice, depending on changing weather forecasts and actual conditions.

Jeff Luong, Vice President of Construction and Operations for AT&T focused on this challenge when he said, "My team deployed 60 generators here in the Bay Area all day yesterday in anticipation of this event occurring. And then the Bay Area wasn't part of the event anymore. And now we have to ship the generator into a different location... It's impossible to react to that type of situation."

But AT&T and other providers were chided because they have resisted mandatory regulations, saying they believed the best results could be achieved through non-mandatory innovation.

"I agree that we need to innovate," Batjer said. "I am deeply concerned that the communications companies have not adequately innovated and created best practices to meet the challenges of today."

Next steps in the process include a Scoping Memo from the Administrative Law Judge overseeing the proceeding and then a published schedule so stakeholders, the public, and other interested parties can participate.

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## RETURN: *continued from page 2*

Law Judge recognized the importance of this proceeding and completed it in a timely manner."

As the decision noted, Assembly Bill 1054, among other provisions, established a new wildfire insurance fund that sought to manage the utilities' financial risk when electric equipment is determined responsible for igniting a wildfire.

"We find that the passage of AB 1054 and other investor supportive policies in California have mitigated wildfire exposure faced by California's utilities," the CPUC's Cost of Capital decision explains. "Accordingly, the Commission will not authorize a specific wildfire risk premium in the adopted return on equity."

The CPUC's vote means profit margins will remain at 10.25 percent for PG&E, 10.3 percent for Southern California Edison, 10.2 percent for SDG&E, and 10.5 percent for SoCalGas.

As the CPUC's decision explained, "AB 1054 was enacted, in part, because the financial effects of catastrophic wildfires had placed the state's electric industry in an 'unprecedented state of instability.' Among other things, in enacting AB 1054 the Legislature found that 'creation of a wildfire insurance fund will reduce the costs to ratepayers in addressing utility-caused catastrophic wildfires' and further that the 'establishment of a wildfire fund supports the credit worthiness of the electrical corporations and provides a mechanism to attract capital for investment in safe, clean, and reliable power for California at a reasonable cost to ratepayers.'"

## Docket: Filings, *continued from page 8*

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additional consumer protection measures for Net Energy Metering customers.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=323689269>

A1906009 • 2-Jan-20 • ALJ/Poirier/CPUC

Proposed Decision approving Southern California Gas Company's shareholder reward for Year 25 (2018-2019) of the Gas Cost Incentive Mechanism.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=323706859>

A1902003 • 3-Jan-20 • ALJ/Zhang/CPUC

Proposed Decision Dismissing Without Prejudice the Application of Silicon Business System for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. Opening Comments are due no later than January 23, 2020. Reply Comments are due 5 days after the last day for filing Opening Comments.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=323708939>

A1710016 • 23-OCT-2017 (reopened week of Dec 30, 2019) • California-American Water Company and Cook Endeavors Application for Rehearing of Decision 19-12-038. • Joint Application of California-American Water Company (U210W) and Cook Endeavors d/b/a Fruitridge Vista Water Company (U136W) for an order authorizing Cook Endeavors to sell and California-American Water Company to purchase the water utility assets of Cook Endeavors.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=323706872>

## About this publication

This monthly newsletter is to keep you informed of proposals by the CPUC's Commissioners and Administrative Law Judges, as well as utility applications, and other issues and work of note. We also include a list summarizing the filings at the CPUC in the previous month.

We want to hear from you! If you have topics you'd like us to cover or if you'd like to make comment on our proceedings or work, please contact us at [outreach@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:outreach@cpuc.ca.gov) or call (855) 421-0400. You can find information about events we are having at [www.cpuc.ca.gov/Events](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Events).

Prior editions of this newsletter are available on the CPUC's website at [www.cpuc.ca.gov/newsletter](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/newsletter).



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