



Working for California

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE CPUC

August 2022

Produced by the CPUC News & Outreach Office | outreach@cpuc.ca.gov

CPUC Heads to Clovis for Voting Meeting

In ongoing efforts to engage with communities statewide, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), is holding its Sept. 15 Voting Meeting in Clovis, California.

This is your chance to address the CPUC in person if you are in the Clovis area! The Voting Meeting begins with public comment. If you would like to make public comment, please sign-up to speak in-person before 11 a.m. Public comment will also be accepted by phone.

If specialized accommodations are needed to attend, such as language interpreters, please contact the CPUC's Public Advisor's Office at public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov or toll free at 866-849-8390 at least three business days in advance of the Voting Meeting.

More information is available on the CPUC's [website](#). ■

CPUC VOTING MEETING

WHERE:

1033 5th St., Clovis, CA 93612
(the Clovis City Council Chambers building);

also available via webcast at www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc, or toll-free by phone at: 1-800-857-1917, passcode: 9899501#

WHEN:

Thursday, September 15, 2022, 11 a.m.



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CPUC President Reynolds Confirmed by State Senate

We are pleased to announce that on Aug. 17, 2022, the California State Senate confirmed the appointment of [Alice Busching Reynolds](#) to the CPUC. She was [appointed](#) to the CPUC and designated President by Governor Gavin Newsom on November 22, 2021, effective December 31, 2021.

“It is truly an honor to serve on the CPUC, and I am very grateful to the Governor and the Legislature for the opportunity,” said President Reynolds. “There are many transformative issues we address at the CPUC, including combating climate change and closing the digital divide, while always being centered on equity for California’s most impacted communities. These challenges present opportunities and I look

forward to working with the Governor, Legislature, and our sister agencies on the shared goal of safe, clean, reliable, and affordable utility services for all Californians.”

Prior to her appointment, President Reynolds served for three years as Governor Newsom’s Senior Advisor for energy. From 2011 to January 2019, she served in the administration of Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., including as Senior Advisor for Climate, the Environment and Energy and Chief Counsel and Deputy Secretary for Law Enforcement at the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). During her time at CalEPA, she coordinated statewide multi-agency environmental enforcement actions and led the creation of the agency’s Environmental Justice Task Force and Refinery Safety Task Force. President Reynolds began her public service career in 2002, serving approximately 10 years as a Deputy Attorney General in the California Attorney General’s Office, where she litigated cases involving protection of public trust lands, coastal resources and public access, and other environmental issues. President Reynolds holds a bachelor’s degree from Stanford University and a juris doctor degree from Santa Clara University School of Law where she graduated magna cum laude. Prior to entering public service, President Reynolds was a lawyer in private practice in San Francisco.

Commissioners are appointed to the CPUC for six-year terms and require Senate confirmation. ■



CPUC President Alice Busching Reynolds being sworn in by Governor Gavin Newsom on August 17, 2022.

JOIN OUR TEAM

If you are looking for a rewarding career, consider joining our team at the CPUC!

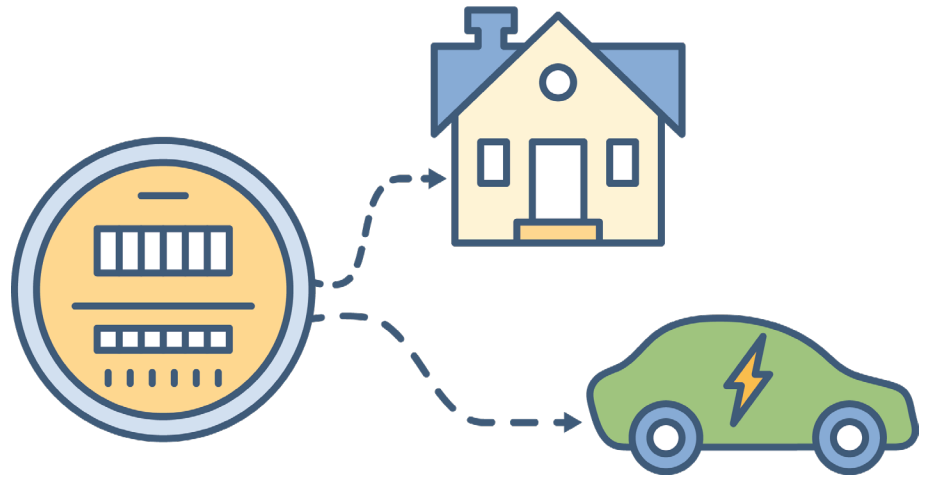
We typically have opportunities at all levels available: leadership, supervisory, engineers, lawyers, Administrative Law Judges, analysts, specialists, administration, and more. You will join a team of individuals tackling issues related to the regulation of essential services in California. For more information on job opportunities and the CPUC’s hiring process, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov/careers or email CPUCRecruiter@cpuc.ca.gov.

California First State in Nation to Allow Submetering of Electric Vehicles

The CPUC has made California the first state in the nation to allow electric vehicle (EV) owners to measure an EV's energy use independently from the owner's main utility meter through a technology known as submetering. This groundbreaking Decision will accelerate the growth of EVs by allowing EV drivers, owners of fleets of electric buses and trucks, and other customers to avoid installing an expensive additional meter for measuring the electricity used by charging their EVs.

Separately metering EV charging independently from a customer's main utility meter is crucial because special rate structures apply to EVs that allow customers to buy less costly power during off-peak times. Those rate structures are often inappropriate for the entire home or commercial facility where the EVs are located. The inability to submeter has been a major barrier to the expansion of EVs because taking advantage of EV-specific rates significantly lowers the total cost of ownership of an EV but few customers are willing to invest in a separate utility-grade meter. Submetering will also allow EV charging to participate in demand response programs by decreasing the EV charging load or even feeding power back into the grid when it is needed most.

The CPUC's [Decision](#) also adopts communication protocols for EV chargers, which are often called EV Service Equipment (EVSE). The communication protocols are consistent with recent CPUC-approved utility EV programs, as well as with the California Energy Commission's (CEC) recommendations for EVSE. The CEC has deemed these standards as vitally important to ensure



Submetering will allow EV charging to participate in demand response programs by decreasing the EV charging load or even feeding power back into the grid when it is needed most.

interoperability with publicly funded EV charging infrastructure and to ensure the state achieves convenient, grid integrated charging.

Both aspects of the CPUC's Decision are crucial to enable widespread Vehicle-Grid Integration (VGI) and to garner the resulting grid benefits. VGI refers to a suite of actions that shape vehicle charging behavior—such as changing the time or level of charging, or how power is sent back to the electric grid from vehicles—in ways that maximize both consumer and grid benefits. As the number of EVs in the state grows rapidly to meet our state's climate goals, VGI will ensure that the electric grid is not stressed by the new load and will also allow customers to buy electricity at the cheapest times.

California is the leader in electric cars with more than 1 million EVs sold in the state, comprising nearly half of na-

tionwide EV sales. More than 16 percent of passenger cars now being sold in California are electric. Governor Gavin Newsom has advanced a historic \$10 billion zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) package to accelerate this transition and make ZEVs more affordable and convenient for all Californians.

To support the rapidly growing number of EVs, the CPUC has authorized utilities to spend more than \$1.5 billion on EV charging. These funds are primarily dedicated to the EVSE, the supporting electrical equipment such as distribution lines, and the costs of installation. The CPUC has also directed utilities to create a menu of special rates for EV charging, making fueling EVs significantly cheaper than using gasoline or diesel. ■

CPUC Continues Efforts to Address Affordability of Utility Rates

The CPUC recently addressed the costs of utility services in California by formalizing methods to consider the affordability of utility services in future CPUC proceedings, including ordering utilities to provide tools for consumers to examine the overall affordability of proposed rate increases across industries and proceedings.

In an Aug. 4, 2022 [Decision](#), the CPUC established when and how a previously-[adopted](#) affordability framework will be applied in CPUC proceedings, and further developed the tools and methodologies used to calculate the three affordability metrics: Affordability Ra-

tio, Hours-at-Minimum-Wage, and a holistic measure of a community's vulnerability. Specifically, the Decision:

- Directs the inclusion of the affordability framework in each energy and water proceeding when the proposed revenue increase exceeds one percent of current revenues, and in the next-to-be-filed investor-owned utility General Rate Cases.
- Provides the option of including implementation of the affordability framework in the [Broadband Infrastructure Deployment](#) and the [California Advanced Services Fund](#) proceedings.

- Requires quarterly submission to CPUC industry Divisions and the Public Advocates Office of water, electric, and gas Cost and Rate Trackers, and quarterly filings by electric, gas, and Class A water utilities of itemized lists of recently approved and pending revenue requests, including a cumulative total. Utilities will make either the Trackers or itemized list available to the public each quarter.
- Adopts the most recent version of California Communities Environmental Health Screening (CalEnviroScreen) as the third affordability metric, replacing the previously adopted SocioEconomic Vulnerability Index.
- Aligns the affordability metrics with the most recent version of the California Environmental Protection Agency's designation of disadvantaged communities.
- Adopts an additional definition of vulnerable community: Area of Affordability Concern, which captures communities with grave affordability concerns in California.
- Establishes a two-year evaluation period of implementation of the affordability framework to incorporate comments on the use and interpretation of the metrics in individual proceedings and in the annual Affordability Reports.

Affordability Ratio (AR)

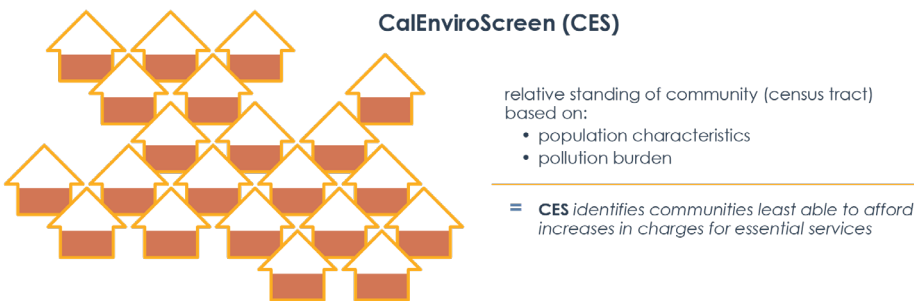


where utility services are least affordable for households at a particular point of the income distribution (e.g., AR₂₀ is households at the lowest 20th percentile of income)

Hours at Minimum Wage (HM)



CalEnviroScreen (CES)



The CPUC's Decision comes from the CPUC's Affordability Proceeding ([R.18-07-006](#)), which was opened in 2018 to develop common understandings, methods, and processes for assessing the affordability impacts of individual CPUC proceedings and utility rate requests. Phase 1 of the pro-

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THE DOCKET:

Proceedings Filed at the CPUC July 2022

PROCEEDING NUMBER | FILED DATE | FILER

A1805007 | 7-JUL-22 | ALJ/JUNGREIS/CPUC

Proposed Decision denying compensation to Wild Tree Foundation for contribution to Decision 20-08-032.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=490740428>

R2002008 | 7-JUL-22 | CMMR/SHIROMA/CPUC

Proposed Decision addressing additional federal support for California Lifeline Service Plans.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=490740427>

A2207001 | 1-JUL-22 | CALIFORNIA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY

Application of California-American Water Company (U210W) for Authorization to Increase its Revenues for Water Service by \$55,771,300 or 18.71% in the year 2024, by \$19,565,300 or 5.50% in the year 2025, and by \$19,892,400 or 5.30% in the year 2026.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=490476743>

A2106025 | 15-JUL-22 | ALJ/RAMBO/CPUC

Proposed Decision dismissing Application for failure to prosecute.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=494296294>

1909016 | 15-JUL-22 | ALJ/STEVENS/CPUC

Proposed Decision granting the relief requested in Pacific Gas & Electric Company's December 15, 2021 Petition for Modification.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=493515553>

A2206018 | 14-JUN-22 | ARBEIT SOFTWARE LLC

Application of Arbeit Software LLC for Registration as an Interexchange Carrier Telephone Corporation pursuant to the Provisions of Public Utilities Code Section 1013.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=493464748>

A2207001 | 1-JUL-22 | CALIFORNIA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY

Application of California-American Water Company (U210W) for Authorization to Increase its Revenues for Water Service by \$55,771,300 or 18.71% in the year 2024, by \$19,565,300 or 5.50% in the year 2025, and by \$19,892,400 or 5.30% in the year 2026.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=490476743>

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AFFORDABILITY OF UTILITY RATES continued from page 4

ceeding ([Decision 20-07-032](#)) defined affordability and essential service and identified metrics and data sources for measuring affordability. Phase 2, launched in June 2020, examined issues such as how to implement affordability metrics and methodologies adopted by the CPUC, how to forecast variables used to calculate affordability metrics, how to standardize the calculation of the metrics, and how to set proxy values for unavailable data on the cost of essential utility service. Phase 3, launched in February 2022, includes a Ruling to solicit energy affordability recommendations from parties, a workshop to discuss solicited proposals, and a staff

proposal on recommended strategies to mitigate energy rate increases.

The CPUC's action follows many the CPUC has taken toward increased [affordability](#), including initiating a proceeding focused on the San Joaquin Valley to establish a methodology for identifying disadvantaged communities in the region. The proceeding approved \$56 million in funding for 11 pilots that seek to reduce energy costs for households in these communities by way of appliance retrofit pilots, expanded outreach and enrollment in existing demand-side management programs, and new bill protection measures. In ad-

dition, the CPUC has taken numerous measures to help protect consumers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These include temporarily halting disconnections for failure to pay utility bills, expanding access to bill subsidy programs, requiring utilities to offer payment plans for customer debt, and authorizing utilities to implement [Percentage of Income Payment Plan \(PIPP\) pilot programs](#). These allow a participant to pay a predetermined affordable percentage of their monthly income toward their electricity or natural gas bill. Participants will receive a monthly bill cap set at four percent of their household's monthly income. ■

A2207002 | 1-JUL-22 | NEXT LEVEL INTERNET, INC.

In the Matter of the Application of Next Level Internet, Inc. for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service as a reseller on a statewide basis.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=492143114>

A2207003 | 11-JUL-22 | RINGALFA, INC.

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

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=492368656>

A2207004 | 8-JUL-22 | LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (LACMTA)

Application of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) for the East San Fernando Valley (ESFV) Light Rail Transit Project for an order authorizing construction of two light rail tracks at 10 highway-rail crossings as follows: at (1) North Parthenia Street, (2) Woodman Avenue, (3) Woodman Station South Pedestrian (4) Beachy Avenue, (5) Arleta Avenue, (6) Bartee Avenue, (7) Laurel Canyon Boulevard (8) Laurel Canyon Station South Pedestrian (9) Laurel Canyon Station North Pedestrian, and (10) Kewen Avenue in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=494034672>

R2207005 | 14-JUL-22 | CPUC

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Advance Demand Flexibility Through Electric Rates.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=496285639>

A2006013 | 19-JUL-22 | ALJ/KAO/CPUC

Proposed Decision regarding proposed sale by Pacific Gas and Electric Company of certain surplus real properties.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=493762620>

A210300922 | JUL-22 | ALJ/WILSON/CPUC

Proposed Decision granting Starlink Services, LLC a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessary to provide full facilities-based and resold competitive local exchange services and full facilities-based and resold interexchange services, and designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=496284435>

R1807005 | 18-JUL-22 | ALJ/WANG/CPUC

Proposed Phase 1-A Decision establishing residential disconnection protection for small and multi-jurisdictional utilities.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=493760803>

R2007013 | 18-JUL-22 | CMMR/RECHTSCHAFFEN/CPUC

Proposed Decision addressing Phase I Tracks 3 and 4 issues.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=494608119>

R2110002 | 20-JUL-22 | ALJ/CHIV/O'ROURKE/CPUC

Proposed Decision addressing regional wind effective load carrying capability values and demand response qualifying capacity methodology.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=495381045>

A2207006 | 15-JUL-22 | PHLP

Application of Pierce Hardy Limited Partnership for a Public Road Crossing at the Shaw Road and Mile Post No.3.2 of the Stockton Terminal and Eastern Railroad, County of San Joaquin, State of California.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=494574592>

C2207007 | 14-JUL-22 | JEFFREY FISCHER

(ECP) Jeffrey A. Fischer, Complainant vs. Southern California Edison Company (U338E), Defendant. [Charging allegation is billing error.]

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=494296324>

C2207008 | 18-JUL-22 | PETERS DESIGN BUILD INC.

Peters Design Build Inc., Complainant vs. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (U39E), Defendant. [Charging allegations is for failure to provide safe gas service and billing error.]

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=494296327>

H2207009 | 15-JUL-22 | SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

In the matter of: Southern California Edison Company's Execution of 2020 Public Safety Power Shutoff Events.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=496284761>

H2207010 | 15-JUL-22 | PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

In the matter of: Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Execution of 2020 Public Safety Power Shutoff Events.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=493762610>

R2005012 | 18-JUL-22 | SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

Order Instituting Rulemaking Regarding Policies, Procedures and Rules for the Self-Generation Incentive Program and Related Issues.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=494574605>

A2207011 | 25-JUL-22 | SIGNALWIRE, INC

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

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=496284251>

A2207013 | 25-JUL-22 | RELAXSAN, LLC

Application of RELAXSAN, LLC for authority to operate as a scheduled passenger stage corporation between points in San Diego, CA and Los Angeles, CA.; and to establish a Zone of Rate Freedom.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=496341596>

C2207012 | 28-JUL-22 | SONIC TELECOM, LLC

Sonic Telecom, LLC. (U7002C), Complainant vs. Prometheus Property Group; D. Rush Blakely, III; Pacific Bell d/b/a AT&T California (U1001C); Comcast Phone of California, LLC d/b/a Comcast Digital Phone (U5698C), Defendants. [Charging allegation is unlawful exclusive arrangements for telecommunications service.]

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=496342029>

H2207009 | 15-JUL-22 | SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

In the matter of: Southern California Edison Company's Execution of 2020 Public Safety Power Shutoff Events.

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=496284761>



California Public Utilities Commission

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 or call (855) 421-0400. You can find information about events we are having at www.cpuc.ca.gov/Events.

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