



## **Commissioner Statement**

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### **Commissioner Grueneich Comments on Electronic Usage Data**

Commissioner Dian M. Grueneich of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) issued the following statement in response to Rep. Edward J. Markey's (D-Mass.) introduction of a bill on March 17, 2010, called "e-KNOW" that will give consumers access to data about their electricity prices and usage patterns so they can be better informed about the effect their energy use behavior has on their monthly utility bills:

"The ability for price awareness to impact consumer behavior is well known. We see this in the way commuters will drive across town to save a few pennies per gallon. Sometimes this action saves them hardly even 50 cents. Motivating a consumer is the large sign advertising price per gallon. Not so effective is the single monthly tally of electricity consumption consumers receive from their utility. But now there is something that promises to help dramatically. I am very pleased to see this important piece of the Smart Grid proposed at the national level. Data access is the key to maximizing the effectiveness of smart grid technology. It's always welcome for the federal government to model legislation after California's own efforts."

In 2009, the CPUC set a goal for the state's three largest power companies (Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison, and San Diego Gas and Electric Company) to make electricity usage data available to customers and authorized third parties by the end of 2010. This is in conjunction with the installation of Smart Meters for all customers that will enable usage and price data availability on a near-real-time basis.

For more information on Commissioner Grueneich, who has been a tireless advocate for making energy efficiency a cornerstone of state energy policy, please visit

[www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/aboutus/Commissioners/03Grueneich/](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/aboutus/Commissioners/03Grueneich/).

