

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HEARING
FOR VOLCANO TELEPHONE COMPANY
(Application A.15-12-002)**

On December 1, 2015, Volcano Telephone Company (Volcano) filed an application with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) requesting a review of its intrastate revenue requirement and rate design. This application initiated a proceeding to evaluate and approve increases to Volcano's basic single-line residential rate and basic single-line business rate. A portion of the increase to the basic residential rate would be offset by the elimination of the Access Recovery Charge (ARC). Volcano also proposed to eliminate the Extended Area Service (EAS) charge for residential and business customers in the West Point Exchange. In the application, Volcano also requested a review of the high cost fund support amounts which the company receives.

Further information may be obtained by contacting Volcano's business office at (209) 296-7502 or toll free at 1 (888) 8VOLCANO. A copy of Volcano's application and its related exhibits may be examined at the office of the CPUC at 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California, 94102, or at Volcano's business office located at 20000 Hwy 88, Pine Grove, CA 95665.

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) wants to hear from you! A Public Participation Hearing (PPH) has been scheduled to receive your comments about Volcano's request to change its rate structure. The hearing location, date and time are as follows:

Where: **Jackson Rancheria Casino Resort
Ballroom B
12222 New York Ranch Road
Jackson, CA 95642**

When: **April 11, 2016**

Time: **5:00 PM**

The hearing's location is wheelchair accessible. If you need a language or Sign Interpreter, or would like to request assisted listening devices, please contact the CPUC's Public Advisor's Office (PAO) at least five business days prior to the hearing. If you are unable to attend the hearing, you may submit written comments directly to the PAO at the address noted at the bottom of this notice.

A CPUC Administrative Law Judge (Judge) will be presiding at this PPH to listen to concerns, comments, and opinions on the application. One or more Commissioners may attend, but no decisions will be reached at this hearing. All public comments from this PPH will be included in the formal record of this proceeding and become public record.

CPUC PROCESS

The Office of Ratepayer Advocates (ORA), the independent consumer advocate within the CPUC with a legislative mandate to represent utility customers, has reviewed Volcano's request and it will be submitting a response to Volcano's proposal. ORA has a multi-disciplinary staff with expertise in economics, finance, accounting and engineering. For more information about ORA, please call 1 (415) 703-1584, e-mail ora@cpuc.ca.gov or visit ORA's website at <http://ora.ca.gov/default.aspx>.

The assigned Judge will determine how to receive evidence and other related documents, necessary for the CPUC to establish a record upon which to base its decision. Evidentiary Hearings (EHs) may be held where utilities, consumer advocacy groups, and other entities which have been given official status as “parties”, will present their testimony and may be subject to cross-examination by other parties. These EHs are open to the public, but only those who are parties may participate. The hearings and documents submitted in the proceeding, become part of the formal record that the Judge relies upon when writing a proposed decision to present to the Commissioners for their consideration.

After considering all proposals and all evidence presented during the formal hearing process, the assigned Judge will issue a proposed decision, determining whether to adopt Volcano's request, modify it, or deny it. Any CPUC Commissioner may sponsor an alternate decision. The proposed decision, and any alternate decisions, will be discussed and voted upon at a Commission Voting Meeting.

STAY INFORMED

If you would like to follow this proceeding, or any other issue before the CPUC, you may use the CPUC's free subscription service. Sign up at <http://subscribecpuc.cpuc.ca.gov/>. The proceeding number is A.15-12-002.

If you would like to learn how you can participate in the proceeding, or if you have informal comments or questions about the CPUC processes, you may access the CPUC's Public Advisor's Office (PAO) webpage at www.cpuc.ca.gov/pao. You may also contact the PAO as follows:

Write: CPUC Public Advisor's Office
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Email: public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov

Phone: 1 (866) 849-8390 (toll free) or 1 (415) 703-2074
1 (866) 836-7825 (toll free) or TTY 1 (415) 703-5282

Please reference "Volcano Telephone Company, Application No. 15-12-002" in any communications you have with the Commission regarding this matter. All public comments will become part of the public correspondence file for this proceeding and made available for review for the assigned Judge, the Commissioners, and appropriate CPUC staff.