CPUC Acts To Ensure Essential Utility Services for Consumers at Risk of Disconnections

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), in ongoing efforts to identify ways to help consumers keep essential utility services, has ordered investor-owned utilities to implement Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) pilot programs to reduce residential disconnections of electric and natural gas service.

The CPUC ordered Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE), and Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) to implement PIPP pilot programs, which 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 for current charges set at four percent of their household’s monthly income. Monthly bill caps will be standardized for households in two income tiers: 0-100 percent of Federal Poverty Guidelines, and 101-200 percent of Federal Poverty Guidelines. Customers of the large investor-owned utilities and participating Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) who are enrolled in the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program are eligible for the pilots if they are located in one of the zip codes with the highest rates of reoccurring disconnections in a utility’s service territory, or if they have experienced two or more disconnections during the 12 months prior to the disconnections moratorium.

PG&E, SDG&E, SCE, and SoCalGas will enroll up to 15,000 total participants for 48 months to test whether a PIPP program can reduce the number of low-income households at risk of disconnection, encourage participation in energy saving and energy management programs, increase access to essential levels of energy service, and control program costs.
CPUC Issues Proposal That Would Require Consumer Protections for Verizon’s Acquisition of TracFone

The CPUC has issued a proposal for public comment that would approve Verizon Communications’ acquisition of TracFone Wireless with consumer protection conditions to ensure the proposed acquisition will be in the public interest. The proposal will be considered at the CPUC’s November 18, 2021 Voting Meeting.

The CPUC reviews proposed telecommunication mergers and acquisitions to ensure they are in the public interest. The proposal issued by the CPUC, formally called Proposed Decision, finds that Verizon and TracFone do not meet the burden of proving their proposed acquisition is in the public interest unless the companies adopt a number of specific measures to protect consumers from price increases or service disruptions.

The consumer protection measures include a series of requirements that will enhance service quality and benefits for impacted customers including those participating in the California LifeLine program, which subsidizes phone services based on income qualifications. These enhancements and protections include:

- Verizon and TracFone must participate in the California LifeLine program for as long as they operate in California, and Verizon must offer California Lifeline plans, phones, and devices in its stores.
- To ensure that TracFone maintains a significant level of participation in California LifeLine in future years, TracFone and Verizon must have enrolled at least 200,000 California LifeLine subscribers by June 30, 2023. Additionally, at least 15 percent of those California LifeLine subscribers must be in low-income disadvantaged communities.
- Verizon must provide new phones to current TracFone customers with phones that are incompatible with Verizon’s network, including California LifeLine customers, at no additional cost. In areas where Verizon offers 5G, it must offer these California LifeLine customers 5G-enabled phones. Current TracFone customers that cannot remain TracFone customers because they are not located in an area served by Verizon must be provided free phones.
- In order to facilitate a predictable and timely transition for customers, Verizon and TracFone must migrate all TracFone customers to Verizon’s network within six months following the close of the acquisition, giving priority to TracFone’s current California LifeLine customers.

The proposal also establishes a reporting process as well as a mitigation enforcement program with penalties if specific performance requirements are not met.

Verizon Wireless provides nationwide voice and data services. TracFone is an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of América Móvil that sells and distributes prepaid, no-contract wireless phones and wireless voice service. TracFone does not own its own wireless network, so it operates as a mobile virtual network operator that relies on facilities-based network providers to offer service through wholesale service agreements. Under the proposed acquisition, TracFone would become a wholly owned direct subsidiary of Verizon. Verizon intends to migrate all TracFone customers currently using the networks of other providers (in general, AT&T and T-Mobile) to Verizon’s network.

The CPUC’s Commissioners are scheduled to vote whether to approve the Proposed Decision at the CPUC’s November 18, 2021 Voting Meeting.

Members of the public can comment on the proposal and view documents related to the proceeding on the Docket Card.
The CPUC, in ongoing efforts to narrow the digital divide and improve disaster response, has adopted new post-disaster community engagement and reporting requirements for investor-owned utilities and telecommunications service providers in California. The CPUC also adopted eligibility requirements to help schools and students have access to reliable Internet access.

The CPUC imposed requirements on communications service providers and energy utilities related to coordination efforts and restoration of facilities in the event of a disaster, including wildfires, declared by the Governor of California or the President of the U.S. The utilities are required to:

1. Provide the CPUC with information within 15 days from when the utilities are allowed into a disaster area to assess the damage;
2. Meet in person with the impacted community to allow an opportunity to discuss any rebuilding and restoration plans within 30 days of being permitted back into a disaster area; and,
3. Provide the CPUC with a summary of activities within 60 days after service is restored.

This reporting will provide disaster-impacted communities with more information and allow them the opportunity to provide input and share concerns with the utilities about the rebuild or restoration plans without significant delay. The CPUC’s decision was developed in response to concerns from wildfire-impacted communities in years past who have had difficulties in seeking timely telecommunications services after a disaster.

The CPUC also directed electric utilities to work collaboratively with communities that do not have access to high-speed Internet to build out their much-needed broadband infrastructure.

In addition, the CPUC established eligibility requirements for the Digital Divide Account in the California Teleconnect Fund, which will provide $1 million in grant funding for pilot projects to help close the technological gaps for schools and students from urban and rural low-income small school districts. The projects, which are limited to one school year, must provide a holistic solution, including but not limited to, student home broadband connection and hardware requirements; student curriculum focused on the use of technology; and distance learning software and training for students and teachers.
Remote Public Forums on Great Oaks Water Rates
Coming in November

The CPUC will hold a remote public forum to provide an opportunity for customers of Great Oaks Water Company to offer their perspective and input to the CPUC about the company’s rate request, as follows:

WHEN: November 9, 2021, 6 p.m.

WHERE: Remote access via webcast or phone:
- Live video broadcast with English or Spanish captions via webcast: www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc
  - Participants who choose to participate via webcast only will have audio and video, but will not be able to make verbal comment. If you would like to make comments during the meeting, refer to the phone-in information below.
  - For captions, after clicking on the name of the workshop, click the green button below the video for captions. Then select captions by clicking on the white icon next to the word “live” at the bottom of the video.
  - It will also be recorded and archived for future viewing.
- Phone (English): 800-857-1917, passcode: 1673482#
  - Participants will have audio (in English) and will be able to make comments or ask questions.

The remote public forums will begin with a brief overview of Great Oaks’ request; then public comments will be heard via phone.

Customers from all parts of Great Oaks territory are encouraged to participate in the public forum.

Members of the public can also make their voice heard in this proceeding, and read the comments of others, on the Docket Card.

On July 1, 2021, Great Oaks Water submitted its General Rate Case application requesting CPUC approval to increase its total revenue requirements for water service. Great Oaks is requesting to increase its rate charges for water service by $2.6 million (or 12.05 percent) in 2022; $1.8 million (or 7.23 percent) in 2023; and $1.9 million (or 7.2 percent) in 2024. According to Great Oaks, main contributors to the rate increases include necessary investments in existing and new plant, property, and equipment, groundwater charges levied by the Santa Clara Valley Water District, outside services, payroll expenses, depreciation and taxes, net income, and other operating expenses.

Great Oaks Water services over 20,000 customers, and provides water and wastewater services to the Blossom Valley, Santa Teresa, Edenvale, Coyote Valley, Almaden Valley areas in the City of San Jose.

The CPUC welcomes remote attendance and comment on Great Oaks’ request at the public forum, as public comments will help the CPUC reach an informed decision. The Administrative Law Judge is scheduled to write a Proposed Decision in the case for CPUC Commissioner consideration within a year.

While a quorum of Commissioners and/or their staff may attend the remote access public forum, no official action will be taken on this matter.

If specialized accommodations are needed to attend, such as non-English or sign 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 public forum.
# THE DOCKET:
## Proceedings Filed at the CPUC September 2021

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Application of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) East San Fernando Valley (ESFV) Light Rail Transit Project for an order authorizing construction of two light rail tracks at four (4) grade-separated crossings at (1) Metro Orange Line Bus Overpass, (2) Metrolink Ventura County Overpass, (3) Cabrito Road Overpass, and (4) Interstate-5 Freeway Overpass, in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County.


Miscellaneous | Not Applicable In the Matter of the Notice of Appeal of MBE Certification by The Supplier Clearing House Verification No. 20000924 Andersen Integrated Services, Inc. Appellant, vs. The Supplier Clearinghouse Respondent.


Proposed Decision Granting Pacific Gas and Electric Company Contingent Authority to Refinance and/or Extend the Maturity Date on $1.5 Billion in Temporary Long-Term Debt.


Application of San Diego Gas & Electric Company (U 902 M) to Update Rate Design to Include a Residential Untiered Time-of-Use Rate with a Fixed Charge.


Application of Vyve Business Services, LLC for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide limited facilities-based local telecommunications service throughout the service territories of Pacific Bell Telephone Company, Frontier California, Inc.; Frontier Communications of the Southwest, Inc.; Citizens Telecommunications Company of California, Inc.; and Consolidated Communications of California Company, and limited facilities-based interexchange telecommunications services in the State of California.


Sonya Sokolow, Complainant vs. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (U39E), Defendant. [Charging allegation is billing error.]


Application of BNSF Railway Company for an Order Granting an Exemption from the Requirements of California Public Utilities Code Section 7662.


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


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


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A2109005 | 10-SEPT.-2021 | CITY OF FOLSOM
Application of the City of Folsom to Construct At-Grade Crossing at Kilrush Drive across the Southern Pacific Transportation Corridor in the Vicinity of Mile Post 115.9 in the City of Folsom, County of Sacramento.

A2109006 | 10-SEPT.-2021 | CITY OF FOLSOM
Application of the City of Folsom to Construct At-Grade Crossing at Via Sole across the Southern Pacific Transportation Corridor in the Vicinity of Mile Post 115.7 in the City of Folsom, County of Sacramento.

A2002004 | 13-SEPT.-21 | ALJ/SISTO/CPUC
Proposed Decision adopting settlement and authorizing Pacific Gas and Electric Company to recover specific insurance costs recorded in its Wildfire Expense Memorandum Account.

A2109004 | 13-SEPT.-2021 | CHEAP GEEKS IT CONSULTING
Application of Cheap Geeks IT Consulting for Registration as an Interexchange Carrier Telephone Corporation Pursuant to the Provisions of Public Utilities Code Section 1013.

A2003014, A2005015, A2005016, A2006004 | 15-SEPT.-21
Proposed Decision on The Small and Multijurisdictional Utilities' California Alternate Rates for Energy and Energy Savings Assistance Program Applications for Program Years 2021-2026.

R2007013 | 17-SEPT.-21 | CMMR/RECHTSCHAFFEN/CPUC
Proposed Decision Addressing Phase I, Track 1 and 2 Issues. We adopt 32 Safety and Operational Metrics for Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), to be used in accordance with Decision 20-05-053, which approved PG&E's post bankruptcy reorganization plan. We require PG&E to report on these Safety and Operational Metrics every six months starting March 31, 2022.

A2003001 | 17-SEPT.-21 | ALJ/NOJAN/CPUC | WATER | RATESETTING | 19906

A2106016 | 24-SEPT.-21 | ALJ/JUNGREIS/ POWELL/CPUC | ELECTRIC | RATESETTING | 19916
Proposed Financing Order authorizing Southern California Edison Company's Second Issuance of Recovery Bonds pursuant to Assembly Bill 1054. Pursuant to Rule 14.6(c)(11), comments on the proposed decision must be filed within 17 days of its mailing (i.e., October 11, 2021) and reply comments must be filed within 20 days of its mailing (i.e., October 14, 2021).

A2008002 | 30-SEPT.-21 | ALJ/LARSEN/CPUC | ELECTRIC | RATESETTING | 19916
Proposed Decision Approving PacifiCorp’s 2021 Energy Cost Adjustment Clause Rates. Opening Comments are due on October 20, 2021. Reply Comments are due 5 days after the last day for filing Opening Comments.

R1901011 | 30-SEPT.-21 | CMMR/RECHTSCHAFFEN/CPUC
Proposed Decision on Incentive Layering, the Wildfire and Natural Disaster Resiliency Rebuild Program, Data Sharing, Rate Adjustments for Electric Heat Pump Water Heaters, and Propane Usage. Opening comments are due no later than October 20, 2021. Reply comments are due within five days after the last day for filing opening comments.

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A2109016 | 17-SEPT.-2021 | HORIZON WEST TRANSMISSION, LLC AND TRANS BAY CABLE LLC
Joint Application of Horizon West Transmission, LLC (U222E) and Trans Bay Cable LLC (U934E) Requesting an Exemption from the Requirement for an Annual Independent Audit Verifying Compliance with the Affiliate Transaction Rules.

C2109014 | 22-SEPT.-2021 | IVOR FRANK BENCI-WOODWARD
Ivor Benci-Woodward, Complainant vs. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (U39E), Defendant. [Charging allegation is unlawful meter reading practices.]

C2109010 | 23-SEPT.-2021 | CHARLES CASHION
Charles A. Cashion, Complainant vs. San Diego Gas & Electric Company (U902E), Defendant. [Charging allegation is billing error.]

C2109012 | 23-SEPT.-2021 | ROBERT ARMSTRONG
Robert W. Armstrong III, Complainant vs. San Diego Gas and Electric Company (U902E), Defendant. [Charging allegation is billing error.]

C2109011 | 24-SEPT.-2021 | EDITA CAPUZZI | ELECTRIC | ADJUDICATORY |
(EP) Edita Capuzzi, Complainant vs. San Diego Gas & Electric Company (U902E), Defendant. [Charging allegation is violation of smart meter opt-out requirements.]

C2109013 | 28-SEPT.-2021 | CITY OF LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE
City of La Cañada Flintridge, Complainant vs. Southern California Edison Company (U338E), Defendant. [Charging allegation is for failure to provide safe and reliable service.]

K2109015 | 28-SEPT.-2021 | GOGO CHARTERS LLC
Appeal of GoGo Charters LLC of Citation Number T.21-08-003 in the amount of $3,000 issued on August 12, 2021 by the Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division

A2109017 | 28-SEPT.-2021 | SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY
Application of Southern California Edison Company (U338E) to issue, sell, and deliver one or more series of Debt Securities and guarantee the obligations of others in respect of the issuance of Debt Securities, the total aggregate principal amount of such indebtedness and guarantees not to exceed $5,075,000,000 and to execute and deliver one or more indentures; to sell, lease, assign, mortgage, or otherwise dispose of or encumber utility property; to issue, sell and deliver in one or more series, an aggregate amount not to exceed $800,000,000 par or stated value of Preference Stock, and guarantee the obligations of others in respect of the issuance of that Preference Stock.

A2109018 | 30-SEPT.-2021 | PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company for Approval of its 2023 Gas Cost Allocation and Rate Design Proposals for its Gas Transmission and Storage System (U39G).

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A2109019 | 30-SEPT.-2021 | SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

A1909011 | 11-SEPT.-2019 (REOPENED WEEK OF SEPT. 27) | PROPSF, LLC
PETITION FOR MODIFICATION OF DECISION 21-04-007 | Application of PropSF, LLC (VCC94) to amend its Vessel Common Carrier Authorization to Add Unscheduled Prearranged Service Between Points in San Francisco, Marin, the Peninsula, and the East Bay, Establish Rates and a ZORF for Unscheduled Service, and Request a ZORF of 20% for Both Scheduled and Unscheduled Services.

R0506040 | 30-JUNE-2005 (REOPENED WEEK OF SEPT. 27) | CPUC - PG&E, EDISON, SDG&E ET AL.

R1902012 | 1-OCT-21 | CMMR/SHIROMA/CPUC
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A1610012 | 1-OCT-21 | ALJ/LEE/CPUC
Decision Granting DCR Transmission, LLC a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Ten West Link Project.

I1702002 | 1-OCT-21 | ALJ/ZHANG/CPUC | GAS | RATESETTING | 19927 |
Proposed Decision setting the interim range of Aliso Canyon Storage capacity at zero to 68.6 billion cubic feet.
Alternate decision: https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=411231568