

Working for California

September 2023

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

Celebrating Rail Safety Month in California

California's extensive railroad and rail transit systems play a crucial role in our state's transportation infrastructure, which is on the forefront of many exciting advancements. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), which is responsible for ensuring safe operations and structural integrity of these systems, this month celebrates Rail Safety Month in California with a commitment to safety and an eye toward the future.

The CPUC holds safety and security regulatory authority over all railroads, rail transit, and rail guideway systems, and all at-grade crossings in California. The CPUC ensures compliance with state and federal rules and regulations to enhance public safety and operational integrity of rail systems. The CPUC continuously reviews safety plans; conducts inspections of infrastructure, rail cars, locomotives, and rail transit vehicles; and investigates derailments and accidents. The focus is on identifying regulatory non-compliance, safety concerns, risks, and unsafe acts or conditions to ensure the well-being of passengers and workers.

The rail industry is poised for significant advancements and innovations that could redefine the way Californians travel. With these innovations on the horizon, the CPUC's role in ensuring safety and overseeing the implementation of new technologies becomes even more critical. Developments on the horizon include:

- INSTRUMENTED TRACK INSPEC-TION DEVICES AND SMART SEN-SORS: These technologies will enable more accurate and efficient track maintenance and safety monitoring.
- HIGH-SPEED RAIL SYSTEMS: California's two ambitious high-speed rail projects promise faster and more sustainable transportation options.
- MAGLEV HIGH-SPEED RAIL SYS-TEMS: Magnetic levitation technology could lead to even faster and smoother rail travel.

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CPUC Now Accepting Applications for New \$30 Million Equity and Access Grant Program

The CPUC is now accepting applications for its groundbreaking \$30 million Equity and Access Grant Program. This innovative program aims to empower tribes and community-based organizations across California by supporting their active engagement in CPUC processes and by promoting clean energy programs. The CPUC introduced this program earlier this summer, with funding allocated by the Legislature. The program has already drawn strong interest, with more than 430 participants attending a recent workshop dedicated to the program.

In this first round, applicants can apply for two of the three grant categories, which include:

- 1. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GRANT:** This grant removes financial and public participation barriers, providing up to \$15,000 to support engagement in CPUC activities such as working groups, panels, or focus groups. A total of \$3.1 million is available for this initiative. Applications will be accepted until June 30, 2025, or until funds are exhausted.
- EQUITY, ENGAGEMENT, AND EDUCATION GRANT: This grant enhances the capacity of Tribal and community-based organizations to engage with the CPUC and its decisionmaking processes, leading to better informed policy that ad-

dresses the needs of vulnerable communities. The program offers up to \$200,000 for projects focused on educating consumers or conducting outreach within underserved communities regarding CPUC matters. A total of \$9.75 million is available for this initiative, with round one applications accepted until Oct. 31, 2023.

The third category, the **CLEAN ENERGY ACCESS GRANT ACCOUNT**, which will award grants up to \$500,000 for work to address access to or education about the CPUC's <u>Microgrid</u> <u>Incentive Program (MIP), Self-Generation Incentive Program</u> (SGIP), and the <u>Technology and Equipment for Clean Heating Initiative (TECH)</u>, will open for applications starting in late 2023/early 2024.

The Equity and Access Grant Program aligns with the CPUC's Environmental and Social Justice (ESJ) Action Plan. It creates opportunities for ESJ and Tribal communities to engage in CPUC proceedings, ensuring equitable access to clean energy resources, transportation, and communication services for all Californians.

For program guidelines and application forms, please visit the CPUC's <u>website</u>.

CPUC Land Conservation Legacy: Safeguarding California's Wilderness

California's natural beauty and abundant resources have always been a source of pride. Ensuring the preservation of these resources is part of the CPUC's continued efforts to impact land conservation throughout the state.

The CPUC has achieved a legacy of long-term land preservation through a 2004 settlement with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) that required the utility to not only create the Pacific Forest and Watershed Stewardship Council (Stewardship Council) but also provide funding of \$100 million —\$70 million for land planning and enhancements, known as the Land Conservation Commitment (LCC), and \$30 million dedicated to youth educational programs.

The CPUC made a recommendation this year to donate additional land to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the University of California, Berkeley Forests (Berkeley Forests), which marks a crucial milestone in the CPUC's land conservation efforts.

> These allocations will have a significant impact on California's land use and conservation efforts.

Land Donations to CAL FIRE

Approximately 15,000 acres of land was donated to CAL FIRE in various locations, including Battle Creek, Bear River (Bear Yuba Land Trust and Placer Land Trust), Cow Creek, Lake Spaulding, Pitt River, and Tunnel Reservoir. This <u>dona-</u> <u>tion</u> was aimed at expanding the Demonstration State Forest system, which serve as a living laboratory for how to care for and manage California's forest lands for multiple benefits.

In 2019, CAL FIRE also received a 1,052-acre parcel of land at the North Fork Mokelumne River. The Shasta Land Trust holds a conservation easement over some of the lands donated to CAL FIRE as well. This significant step contributes to the protection of California's forest resources and environmental sustainability for current and future generations.

Land Donations to Berkeley Forests

<u>Berkeley Forests</u> was granted land parcels to further its research and conservation efforts. In 2015 and 2016, Berkeley Forests received approximately 1,500 acres in the Narrows and Lake Spaulding areas.

The land donation will help Berkeley Forests operate a network of five research forests across the state to develop and test appropriate management strategies for forested watersheds that will flourish under different climate change scenarios. One of its core objectives is to address the critical issue of wildfires in California. Recognizing the significance of fire in various ecosystems and the challenges posed by human development in fire-prone areas, their mission centers on fostering a sustainable coexistence with wildfires. They are committed to the development and dissemination of sciencebased solutions to tackle the complex challenges posed by wildfires, emphasizing the importance of understanding and managing fire in California's unique landscape.

These land allocations reflect a commitment by the CPUC to the preservation and responsible management of California's natural resources, while also supporting research and recreational opportunities that will benefit all Californians.

The <u>Stewardship Council</u> has nearly completed its work and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (a California State Agency) was appointed by the CPUC to administer the remaining funds following the dissolution of the Stewardship Council.

CPUC Commissioner Karen Douglas Confirmed by State Senate

The California State Senate has confirmed the appointment of <u>Karen</u> <u>Douglas</u> as Commissioner at the CPUC!

Commissioner Douglas was <u>appointed</u> to the CPUC by Governor Gavin Newsom on Dec. 22, 2022.

"It is my privilege to serve the people of California at the CPUC. I thank the Governor and the Senate for this opportunity," said Commissioner Douglas. "I look forward to continuing my work overseeing essential services that Californians rely on every day."

Prior to her appointment to the CPUC, Commissioner Douglas

served as the Senior Advisor for Energy in the Office of Governor Newsom since 2022. She was a California Energy Commission member from 2008 to 2022, and she was Director of the California Climate Initiative for the Environmental Defense Fund from 2005 to 2008. She held several positions at the Planning and Conservation League from 2001 to 2005, including Acting Executive Director and General Counsel. Commissioner Douglas earned a Juris Doctor degree from Stanford Law School and a Master of Public Policy degree in Environmental Policy from the University of Colorado Boulder.



CELEBRATING RAIL SAFETY MONTH IN CALIFORNIA continued from page 1

- DRONE INSPECTION AND SECURITY USAGE: Drones will play a crucial role in inspecting infrastructure and ensuring security along rail lines.
- HYDROGEN-POWERED LOCOMOTIVES: Sustainable hydrogen-powered locomotives pulling trains will reduce emissions and promote eco-friendly transportation.



- HYPERLOOP TRANSPORTATION: Hyperloop technology, still in development, holds the potential for near-supersonic rail travel.
- AUTONOMOUS TRAIN OPERATIONS: Self-driving trains are set to revolutionize rail transportation, offering increased efficiency and safety.

While the future of rail transportation in California holds immense promise, it also brings new challenges and safety risks that will require careful consideration, design, implementation, and regulation.

The CPUC, through its <u>Rail Safety Division</u>, will continue to play a pivotal role in ensuring the safety, integrity, and security of all rail systems in the state. With a commitment to transparency, accountability, and the adoption of innovative safety technologies, the CPUC is not only safeguarding the present, but also paving the way for the future of safe rail transportation in California.

THE DOCKET: Proceedings Filed at the CPUC August 2023

PROCEEDING NUMBER | FILED DATE | FILER

A2112007 | 7/28/2023 | ALJ/NOJAN/CPUC

Proposed Decision adopting settlement agreement and resolving remainder of disputed issues.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=515421568

A2204010 | 7/26/2023 | ALJ/STEVENS/CPUC

Proposed Decision authorizing Southern California Edison Company's request for an extension of the previously authorized capital structure waiver.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=515145284

I1702002 | 7/28/2023 | ALJ/ZHANG/CPUC

Proposed Decision granting in part and denying in part the Joint Petition for Modification of Decision 21-11-008.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=515329559

R2009001 | 7/28/2023 | CMMR/ALICE REYNOLDS/CPUC

Proposed Decision granting compensation to The Utility Reform Network for substantial contribution to Decisions 21-10-020 and 22-04-055.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=515232286

C2301003 | 7/27/2023 | ALJ/RAMBO/CPUC

Presiding Officer's Decision dismissing Complaint and denying relief.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=515232243

A2307010 | 7/24/2023 | NW TECHNOLOGIES GROUP, INC.

Application of NW Technologies Group, 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&Doc ID=514815829

A2307012 | 7/28/2023 | PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

Expedited Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company Pursuant to the Commissions Approved Energy Resource Recovery Account (ERRA) Trigger Mechanism. (U39E)

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=515626271

C2307011 | 7/21/2023 | MYRON DONG

Myron Dong, Complainant vs. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (U39E), Defendant. [Charging allegation is failure to remedy safety hazard.]

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=515355320

A2307001 | 7/7/2023 | CALIFORNIA WINE TOURS, INC.

Application of California Wine Tours, Inc. (PSC-9679) to Abandon Scheduled Passenger Stage Corporation Service Between Points in Napa, Sonoma, Vallejo, the San Francisco International Airport, and the Oakland International Airport.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=513349256

A2307009 | 7/20/2023 | THE SONOMA COUNTY AIRPORT EXPRESS, INC.

In the Matter of the Application of: THE SONOMA COUNTY AIRPORT EXPRESS, INC. (PSC-1120) to modify Applicant's existing Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to abandon service between hotels in Sonoma County and wineries located in Santa https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=514688267

A2011001 | 11/5/2020 | TRACFONE WIRELESS, INC.

In the Matter of the Joint Application of TracFone Wireless, Inc. (U4321C), América Móvil, S.A.B. de C.V. and Verizon Communications, Inc. for Approval of Transfer of Control over Tracfone Wireless, Inc.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?docformat=ALL&doc id=515329525

R2008020 | 8/2/2023 | ALJ/HYMES/CPUC

Proposed Decision addressing remaining proceeding issues.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=515973905

(ECP) C2307013 | 7/31/2023 | VICTOR MUNIZ

(ECP) Victor Muniz, Complainant vs. Spectrum Mobile, LLC (U4522C), Defendant. [Charging allegation is billing error.]

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=515526707

(ECP) C2307014 | 7/31/2023 | SONYA SOKOLOW

(ECP) Sonya Sokolow, Complainant vs. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (U39E), Defendant. [Charging allegation is failure to provide complete bill information.]

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=515927968

A2007012 | 7/15/2020 | GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY

In the matter of the Application of the Golden State Water Company (U133W) for an order (1) authorizing it to increase rates for water ser-

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vice by \$49,518,400 or 14.97% in 2022; (2) authorizing it to increase rates by \$16,107,100 or 4.22% in 2023, and incrincrease rates by \$17,207,900 or 4.31% in 2024 in accordance with the Rate Case Plan; and (3) adopting other related rulings and relief necessary to implement the Commission's ratemaking policies.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=516047327

I1906016 | 8/10/2023 | ALJ/POIRIER/CPUC

Presiding Officers Decision approving settlement of the Safety and Enforcement Division, Southern California Gas Company, and the Public Advocates Office resolving substantive issues related to the adjudicatory investigation of the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak oand from the San Francisco International Airport and the San Jose International Airport.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=516988085

A2308001 | 8/4/2023 | GT MONTEREY, LLC

In the Matter of the Application of GT MONTEREY, LLC, DBA MON-TEREY AIRBUS: to expand its current passenger stage authority under PSC-38556 to establish an additional scheduled airport service within the city limits of Morgan Hill, California, and to and fto and from the San Francisco International Airport and the San Jose International Airport.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=516162684

A2308003 | 8/10/2023 | 46 LABS LLC

In the Matter of the Joint Application Pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 854for Authorization of the Acquisition of Control of Intrado Communications, LLC (U6592C) by 46 Labs LLC. No Link Provided (Confidential) A2308009 | 8/10/2023 | PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY Third Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company for Authority to Issue Recovery Bonds for Fire Risk Mitigation Expenditures pursuant to Article 5.8 of the California Public Utilities Code. (U 39 E) https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=516988104

(ECP) C2308005 | 8/10/2023 | JONATHAN MARCUS

(ECP) Jonathan Marcus, Complainant vs. Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (U3001C), Defendant. [Charging allegation is unauthorized changes to service terms and conditions.]

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=516781554

K2308002 | 8/8/2023 | BACKBONE COMMUNICATIONS INC.

Appeal of Backbone Communications Inc. U#6323-C from Citation No. CD-2023-07-002 in the amount of \$1000.00 issued July 11, 2023 by the Communications Division Pursuant to T-17601.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=516768709

K2308004 | 8/9/2023 | LONG DISTANCE CONSOLIDATED BILLING CO. Appeal of Long Distance Consolidated Billing Co. (U6532-C) from Citation No. CD2023-07-041 in the amount of \$1000.00, by the Communications Division Pursuant to T-17601.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=516786410

K2308006 | 8/10/2023 | ATHERTON FIBER, LLC

Appeal of Atherton Fiber, LLC (U-7318-C) from Citation No. CD-2023-07-037 in the amount of \$1000 issued July 11, 2023, by the Communications Division Pursuant to T-17601.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=516768744

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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 <u>www.cpuc.ca.gov/careers</u> or email <u>CPUCRecruiter@cpuc.ca.gov</u>.

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K2308007 | 8/10/2023 | NETWORKIP, LLC

Appeal of NetworkIP, LLC U-6330-C from Citation No. CD-2023-07-061 in the amount of \$3,000 issued July 11, 2023, by the Communications Division Pursuant to T-17601.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=516786418

K2308008 | 8/10/2023 | CAPTEX TELECOM, LLC

Appeal of CapTex Telecom, LLC U-7081-C from Citation No. CD-2023-07-057 in the amount of \$3,000 issued July 11, 2023, by the Communications Division Pursuant to T-17601.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=516675546

A1505014 | 5/14/2015 | CITY OF SANTA ROSA

Application of the City of Santa Rosa for Approval to Construct a Public Pedestrian and Bicycle At-Grade Crossing of the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) Track at Jennings Avenue Located in Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, State of California.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=516786407

A2304013 | 4/27/2023 | VNILA SERVICES, INC.

Application of VNILA SERVICES 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&Doc ID=507387842

A1811015 ET AL. | 8/18/2023 | ALJ/LAKEY/CPUC

Proposed Decision approving Click-Through Enhancement Applications.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=517610156

A1911019 | 8/16/2023 | ALJ/DOHERTY/CPUC

Proposed Decision resolving Petition for Modification and Premature E-TOU-D Modification.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=517610089

A2011001 | 8/18/2023 | ALJ/GLEGOLA/CPUC

Proposed Decision granting compensation to Center for Accessible Technology for substantial contribution to Decision 21-11-030.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=517604711

A2109004 | 8/16/2023 | ALJ/MELVIN/CPUC

Proposed Decision granting Cheap Geeks IT Consulting a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide resold interexchange services.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=517621003

A2110010 | 8/15/2023 | ALJ/RIZZO/CPUC

Proposed Decision granting Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Petition for Modification of Decision 22-12-054.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=517407649

A2202012 | 8/17/2023 | ALJ/MILES/CPUC

Proposed Decision granting Atlantis Utility, Incorporated, a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide resold interexchange services.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=517621048

A2308010 | 8/14/2023 | GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY

In the matter of the Application of the GOLDEN STATE WATER COM-PANY (U133W) for an order (1) authorizing it to increase rates for water service by \$87,060,700 or 22.95% in 2025; (2) authorizing it to increase rates by \$20,699,200 or 4.42% in 2026, and incrincrease rates by \$22,408,200 or 4.57% in 2027 in accordance with the Rate Case Plan; and (3) adopting other related rulings and relief necessary to implement the Commission's ratemaking policies.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=517407195

C2308011 | 8/15/2023 | CAROLINE VERTONGEN

Caroline Vertongen, Complainant vs. California Water Service Company (U60W), Defendant. [Charging allegation is failure to provide adequate water pressure.]

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=517407874

R2005003 | 8/24/2023 | ALJ/FITCH/CPUC

Proposed Decision denying Petition for Modification of Decision 22-05-015 on Modified Cost Allocation Mechanism.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=518155544

A2308013 | 8/22/2023 | SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

Application of Southern California Edison Company (U338E) for Authority to Recover Costs Related to the 2017 Thomas Fire and 2018 Debris Flow Events Recorded in the Wildfire Expense Memorandum Account and Catastrophic Event Memorandum Account.

https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=517847573

(ECP) C2308012 | 8/21/2023 | G. DOUGLAS BARKETT

(ECP) G. Douglas Barkett and Rita M. Barkett Trustees on Behalf of the Barkett Family Trust dated September 20, 1995, as amended and restated on May 28, 2014, Complainants vs. San Diego Gas and Electric Company (U902E), Defendant. [Charging allegation is (ECP) G. Douglas Barkett and Rita M. Barkett Trustees on Behalf of the Barkett Family Trust dated September 20, 1995, as amended and restated on May 28, 2014, Complainants vs. San Diego Gas and Electric Company (U902E), Defendant. [Charging allegation is billing error.] https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&Doc ID=517843407



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

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