

# How to Participate in CPUC Proceedings



## Where Can I Follow and Find More Information About CPUC Proceedings?

- Use the CPUC's Subscription Service to follow proceedings: [www.cpuc.ca.gov/subscription](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/subscription)
- Contact the Public Advisor's Office if you have questions:



**EMAIL:**  
[public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov)



**CALL:**  
866-849-8390  
or 415-703-2074  
TTY 866-836-7825



**WRITE:**  
CPUC Public Advisor's Office  
505 Van Ness Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94102

## What is a CPUC Proceeding?

A proceeding of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is a legal process that forms the basis of our decisions, such as approving or denying rate increases, or introducing new safety rules. Proceedings fall into one of three categories:



### RATE-SETTING PROCEEDINGS

set or investigate rates that utilities charge customers.



### QUASI-LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS

establish policies or rules affecting regulated entities.



### ADJUDICATORY PROCEEDINGS

investigate possible violations of state law or CPUC orders or rules.

During proceedings, the CPUC often needs to gather information to help make the best decision possible. To do so, the CPUC may hold a variety of hearings and meetings, including:

- **Evidentiary Hearings**, to take evidence through oral presentation and cross-examination.
- **Public Forums (also called Public Participation Hearings)**, for the general public to provide input and perspective on the proceeding.
- **Full Panel Hearings or En Banc Hearings**, for a majority of the five CPUC Commissioners to hear and discuss issues.
- **Workshops**, where the technical issues of a proceeding are analyzed and discussed.

All these events are open to the public to observe. The CPUC provides remote access options to many of its events, including webcasts and live streams, to allow those that cannot attend in person an opportunity to participate.



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[cpuc.ca.gov](http://cpuc.ca.gov)

# What is the Process for a Typical Proceeding from Start to Finish?

- 1** A utility's application to, for example, change the rates its customer pays, is filed with the CPUC and appears in the CPUC's Daily Calendar ([www.cpuc.ca.gov/DailyCalendar](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/DailyCalendar)). Interested parties usually have 30 days to formally protest the application.
- 2** The application is categorized (e.g., Rate-setting, Quasi-Legislative, Adjudicatory), and a CPUC Commissioner and Administrative Law Judge are assigned to lead the proceeding.
- 3** If needed, a Pre-hearing Conference (PHC) is scheduled 45 to 60 days from the start of the proceeding.
- 4** At or after the PHC, a Scoping Memo is issued that outlines the schedule and the issues to be addressed in the proceeding.
- 5** What follows next is either a process of written comments and responses, or an Evidentiary Hearing process, which includes testimony, briefs, and comments by entities that become formal "parties" to the proceeding.
- 6** The assigned Administrative Law Judge writes a Proposed Decision as a result of either process.
- 7** The public has 30 days to review and comment on the Proposed Decision. Comments may be submitted on the proceeding's Docket Card ([www.cpuc.ca.gov/DocketCard](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/DocketCard)).
- 8** The CPUC's Commissioners vote on the Proposed Decision at a public Voting Meeting ([www.cpuc.ca.gov/Commission\\_Meeting](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Commission_Meeting)).
- 9** An Alternate Proposed Decision can be filed by a Commissioner prior to the vote. In that case, the CPUC's Commissioners consider the Proposed Decision and the Alternate Proposed Decision at the Voting Meeting.
- 10** The adopted decision is implemented.



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- Submit comments on the proceeding's Docket Card ([www.cpuc.ca.gov/DocketCard](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/DocketCard)) or email [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov).
- Attend and speak at CPUC meetings where there are opportunities to make public comment.
- Request to become a formal party in a proceeding. The Administrative Law Judge assigned to the proceeding will determine whether to grant you party status. All parties have rights, responsibilities, and obligations including providing testimony and cross-examining witnesses.
- Anyone who would like to participate in a CPUC proceeding must follow the CPUC's Rules of Practice and Procedure ([www.cpuc.ca.gov/Party\\_to\\_a\\_Proceeding/](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Party_to_a_Proceeding/)).

