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PRESS RELEASE

## CPUC TO EVALUATE ADOPTION OF POST-DISASTER CONSUMER PROTECTION MEASURES

SAN FRANCISCO, March 22, 2018 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today said it will evaluate adoption of comprehensive post-disaster consumer protection measures for all utilities under its jurisdiction.

In November 2017 and January 2018, and consistent with the Governor's declaration of a state of emergency in several counties, the CPUC ordered utilities to take reasonable and necessary steps to assist Californians affected by a series of devastating wildfires in Northern and Southern California. The protections adopted were designed to ensure that Californians who experienced housing or financial crises due to the wildfires did not lose access to vital utility services.

The CPUC will seek comments on whether to adopt the emergency consumer protections that were ordered in <u>November 2017</u> and <u>January 2018</u> for use by all utilities in the event of disasters in which the Governor issues a state of emergency proclamation. In addition, the CPUC may also consider whether those consumer protections, if adopted, should be modified or augmented to ensure the availability of well-defined and consistent post-disaster protections in emergency situations.

The proposal voted on is available at: http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M212/K335/212335424.PDF.

The CPUC regulates services and utilities, safeguards the environment, and assures Californians' access to safe and reliable utility infrastructure and services. For more information on the CPUC, please visit <u>www.cpuc.ca.gov</u>.

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