



California Public Utilities Commission
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PRESS RELEASE

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CPUC ACTS NOW TO PROVIDE A SAFE, RELIABLE ENERGY FUTURE FOR CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO, May 3, 2018 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), keeping with its core mission to ensure that California has adequate supplies of affordable, reliable, and low-carbon electricity, is calling on legislators and stakeholders to join forces with the CPUC in tackling new challenges confronting the state's energy future and reliability.

Today CPUC staff issued, "*California Customer Choice: An Evaluation of Regulatory Framework Options for an Evolving Electricity Market*," a paper also known as the Green Book, to raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities in California's rapidly changing electricity market and to advance a public dialogue.

"The state's electric system has worked well the past 15 or so years, since the Legislature took steps to correct the problems that rose out of the energy crisis, but customers are now getting their electricity increasingly from rooftop solar, Community Choice Aggregators, and other non-utility sources," said CPUC President Michael Picker. "In the last electricity deregulation we had a plan, however flawed. Now, we are deregulating electric markets through dozens of different decisions and legislative actions, but we do not have a plan. If California policy makers are not careful, we could drift slowly back into another predicament like the energy crisis of 2001."

The paper does not advocate specific policy actions, but seeks instead to jumpstart a conversation by raising questions about how to ensure reliability of the electric grid and a fair, affordable, and durable transition while still advancing California's ambitious clean energy goals. CPUC staff looked at Great Britain, Texas, New York, and Illinois for guidance on how other jurisdictions have



managed the disaggregation of energy procurement for lessons learned that may be applied to California.

As observed in the paper, “Now, as the state adapts to an electricity market transformation driven by more providers and resource choices, this project offers lessons learned from its own history and the experience of other markets as a way to help California policymakers address the state’s electricity future.”

This project began approximately a year ago when the CPUC and the California Energy Commission hosted an En Banc on the topic. Speakers at the hearing included representatives from the state’s large publicly owned utilities, Community Choice Aggregators, providers of rooftop solar installations, and other electricity providers. In the months following the En Banc, a team of analysts from the CPUC’s Policy and Planning Division interviewed additional experts in California and around the nation and hosted a workshop in October 2017 before compiling the paper issued today.

The CPUC staff will host a webinar to discuss the paper on May 3, 2018, at 1:30 p.m. A copy of the paper, frequently asked questions, and information on the webinar are available on the CPUC’s Customer Choice Project webpage at www.cpuc.ca.gov/customerchoice.

The CPUC will take public comment on the paper through June 4, 2018, to customerchoice@cpuc.ca.gov in advance of an En Banc scheduled for mid-June. Details on the future En Banc will be posted to the Customer Choice Project webpage.

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 www.cpuc.ca.gov.

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