



Working for California

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE CPUC

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Addressing Wildfire Risks in Topanga and Statewide

By [Alice Stebbins](#), CPUC Executive Director

For anyone wanting a crash course on some of the many wildfire-related safety challenges facing California, spending time in the Los Angeles community of Topanga is a good place to start.

Although the last wildfire in the scenic mountain canyon was in 2005, Topanga residents are informed, engaged, and worried that it's only a matter of time before there's another blaze. And given the limited road access in and out of the canyon, folks there paid close attention to the disastrous fire that all but destroyed the similarly isolated Butte County town of Paradise, where 85 people were killed in last year's Camp Fire.

Last month, several colleagues from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and I went down to Topanga for a quarterly meeting of the community's Topanga Emergency Management Task Force. I was impressed with the work this group has done. It's abundantly clear that this is a community that has thought long and hard about wildfires and other potential disasters.

To provide a sense of the complexity of the issues and the collaboration occurring, here is a partial list of people and agencies participating in the meeting at the Topanga Library in the center of town: Congressman Ted Lieu's Office, Assemblymember Richard Bloom's Office, State and Local CalOES, CAL FIRE, Los Angeles



Topanga Canyon residents worry about getting out safely in a big wildfire, like the one that struck in nearby Malibu last year

Sheriff, the Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority, the Topanga Chamber of Commerce, the L.A. Water District, Southern California Edison (SCE), AT&T, Spectrum, and Verizon.

The main item on the agenda was a discussion of how Topanga is prepared for [Public Safety Power Shutoffs](#) that utilities are

using more frequently to mitigate the threat from wildfires during extreme weather conditions. Our timing was interesting because, despite the mild weather, SCE had put many of its customers on notice just a day earlier that it was considering a Public Safety Power Shutoff for part of its service territory because of high winds

expected later in the week. Luckily, weather conditions improved, and SCE didn't go through with the shutoff.

Understandably, the entire subject makes people in Topanga anxious. Though the Woolsey Fire last year that did so much damage in and around Malibu did not

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Commissioner Update

On July 12, 2019, the same day as Gov. Newsom signed new wildfire safety and accountability legislation, he announced the appointment of Marybel Batjer as President of the CPUC. She replaces Michael Picker, the current president, who previously announced his intention to retire. [Read the Governor's press release.](#)

Three days earlier, on Tuesday July 9, 2019, Gov. Newsom's first appointment to the CPUC, Commissioner Genevieve Shiroma, was confirmed by the full Senate.



Wildfire Risks: *continued from page 1*

spread to Topanga, residents of Topanga Canyon were still required to evacuate, and were away from their homes for eight days.

As James Grasso, Director of the Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness, said at the start of the meeting, Topanga is a “densely packed neighborhood surrounded by a lot of fuel.” In fact, as we drove into town on winding Highway 27, it was impossible not to notice the main route in and out of Topanga is a thoroughfare with a thick canopy of trees and utility wires lining the way. As several people at the meeting remarked, some residents are opposed to SCE’s tree trimming efforts, which is one of the community’s big challenges.

Because of local opposition and steep, canyon terrain, Topanga has no cell towers. And as I explained at the meeting, the CPUC has less regulatory authority over telecommunications providers than over SCE. We can and do regulate landline telephone service. But many Californians now rely on cell phones instead of traditional landlines. The CPUC’s authority over wireless service is more limited, but we are taking steps to ensure the availability of service in emergencies. Many customers have switched to Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service, which may not work when the power fails, and the CPUC has very little authority over that service. The reality is that telephone technology has changed, but the regulatory framework for the industry is outdated, and that’s a big concern for communities such as Topanga.

Grasso brought up another troubling point. He said various projections have concluded that if a fire driven by high winds were to start at the north end of the Canyon, it would take about 90 minutes to burn south down to Pacific Coast Highway and the ocean. But with 11,000 residents crowded into a compact area, it would take an estimated 5-7 hours for everyone to evacuate.

“The math just doesn’t work, as we face huge challenges to get people out of here,” Grasso said. “And that’s with communication.”

In the Woolsey Fire, people were evacuated, and power was out,

making communications all but impossible. Some residents didn’t know there was a fire in Malibu or that they were under a mandatory evacuation order, Grasso said. And then he added, “If a fire like Woolsey were to burn through Topanga, it’s not a question of will there be casualties but how many casualties there will be.”

Communication in wildfires, earthquakes, floods, and other disasters is quite literally a matter of life and death, which is why the city is considering installing warning sirens in town as another hedge against people being surprised and not having time to flee, as tragically happened in Paradise, Calif.

A representative of SCE talked about some of the weather monitoring and other improvements the utility has made in its service territory, but a great deal of work needs to be done. With 300 weather stations now serving the area, SCE says it needs 800 stations to capture the kind of highly granular wind and other weather-related data needed to make informed decisions about fire threats and when it makes sense to proactively shut off some of the utility’s power.

But the conversation kept coming back to communications. As I told the telecommunications representatives at the meeting, it is just as important for their infrastructure and wires to be hardened, as it is for electric utilities, so those facilities are more resistant to fire or wind damage.

The one overriding takeaway from the meeting for me was the impressive level of collaboration and communication taking place among residents, first responders, electric utilities, telecommunications companies, water providers, and others. This is a degree of cooperation and engagement we need to see throughout the state. Residents and people who work in Topanga have put together an impressive framework for cooperation and mutual assistance that all of us can learn from, but we still need a more resilient and reliable communications system to truly keep people safe.

June CPUC Meeting Highlighted by Multiple Safety Actions



There are many safety initiatives underway at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) as it works to assure Californians’ access to safe and reliable utility infrastructure and services. Safety-related articles will be featured again in future issues.

Safety was addressed on multiple fronts at the CPUC’s June 27, 2019 Voting Meeting in San Francisco, with actions approved to investigate the safety and organizational culture at Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) and its parent company, Sempra Energy, and the opening of another proceeding to consider fines and penalties against Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) for its role in 2017 wildfires.

On a related but separate matter, the CPUC also adopted a framework to consider a utility’s financial status and determine the maximum amount a company can pay for 2017 wildfire costs without

harming ratepayers or materially affecting a company’s ability to provide adequate and safe service, as required by law.

With the passage last year of Senate Bill 901, “The Legislature directed the CPUC to act quickly on numerous fronts,” CPUC President Michael Picker said. “Today we adopt a methodology to allocate costs resulting from fires in 2017. California utilities, which are not in active Chapter 11 proceedings, can access this methodology in future applications for cost recovery. This decision builds on decisions earlier this year on Wildfire Mitigation Plans, and executive compensation. The continued threat of

wildfires to our homes, businesses, and infrastructure, requires the CPUC to continue our work to mitigate fires, and adapt to a dynamic climate.”

PG&E cannot use the framework, called a Stress Test, to recover wildfire-related costs because it is currently in bankruptcy, which makes it impossible for the CPUC to determine the company’s “financial status,” which includes, among other considerations, its capital structure, liquidity needs, and liabilities, as well as its capacity to raise additional debt, cash, or resources that are reasonably available to the utility.

And as Commissioner Genevieve Shiroma noted, “The CPUC’s decision on the stress test to comply with SB 901 includes essential ratepayer protections while ensuring that utilities are able to access the capital necessary to invest in infrastructure and resources to maintain safe and reliable service.”

As the June 27 meeting under-

scored, the CPUC’s safety related work has been ongoing and is occurring across a number of different proceedings. Action taken at the meeting included:

- The CPUC voted to open an investigation that will consider penalties against SoCalGas for the 2015 leak at its Aliso Canyon Natural Gas Storage Facility. A recently released report on the incident by Blade Energy Partners determined that the leak, which lasted more than 100 days and resulted in more than 8,300 households being evacuated in and around the Porter Ranch neighborhood of Los Angeles, was caused by a rupture of well casing due to microbial corrosion resulting from contact with groundwater. The independent analysis also identified a number of management failures that led to what’s been called the largest methane gas leak in U.S.

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Safety Actions: *continued from page 2*

history, including SoCalGas' failure to adequately investigate or analyze more than 60 prior leaks at the underground storage facility.

"Operating safely requires going beyond the bare minimum and preventing issues before they arise," said Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves. "According to the Blade Report, SoCalGas failed to do so for its most important asset. The CPUC will determine what fines and penalties are warranted for the specific failures and the systemic issues that led to the horrendous leak at Aliso Canyon."

- The CPUC also voted to open a formal investigation to determine whether the organizational culture and governance of SoCalGas and its parent company, Sempra Energy, prioritizes safety and adequately directs resources to promote accountability and achieve safety goals and standards. The investigation includes a focus on how SoCalGas reacts as an organization when a significant safety event occurs. A consultant's report will also evaluate Sempra Energy's organizational culture, governance, policies, practices, and accountability metrics in relation to ensuring that its California-regulated subsidiaries operate their systems in a safe manner. This investigation was initiated as a result of recent incidents that raise concerns regarding SoCalGas' prioritization of safety in its operations and the role of its parent, Sempra Utilities, to foster safety throughout its organization.

"The Aliso Canyon incident, the explosion on Line 235, and ongoing leaks at critical infrastructure call into question SoCalGas' safety practices and priorities," said Commissioner Clifford Rechtschaffen. "This proceeding will examine all regulatory tools to assure that SoCalGas adopts a robust safety culture with safety as its highest organizational priority."

- A proceeding was opened that will consider fines and penalties against PG&E for 2017 wildfires and ordered the utility to create a mobile application that empowers the public to report utility pole issues. This proceeding will evaluate the findings in the CPUC's Safety and Enforcement Division's (SED) investigation into whether PG&E violated any rules, regulations, or requirements pertaining to the maintenance and operation of its electric facilities that were involved in igniting fires in its service territory in 2017.

SED's report says that PG&E failed to follow industry best practices, and that there were various deficiencies in PG&E's Vegetation Management practices and procedures and equipment operations in severe weather



er conditions. The CPUC directed PG&E to provide a report on various aspects of its operations of its electric facilities and to take immediate corrective action.

"PG&E's violations during the 2017 fire siege are extensive and disturbing, and go to basic requirements, such as the failure to maintain adequate records," said Commissioner Rechtschaffen. "We will consider all appropriate sanctions in response."

The decision also orders PG&E to create a downloadable mobile application that customers can use to report safety concerns with utility poles. The public will be able to send pictures of the utility poles in question to a database maintained by PG&E. The database would include GIS coordinates, attachments, and operations and maintenance records.

President Picker called the app "our way of crowdsourcing public safety and helping reduce the risk of wildfires." The mobile app and database, Picker added, are to be developed at shareholder expense and not paid for by ratepayers.

Fighting to Protect Telecommunication Consumers

In 2011, the Legislature approved, and former Governor Jerry Brown signed, a bill prohibiting the CPUC from regulating the then-nascent telecommunications technology known as VOiP, short for Voice Over Internet Protocol.

The technology allows a caller to use a broadband Internet connection instead of a regular or analog phone line and is said to have several advantages over landlines, including cost, access, and flexibility.

With the technology still relatively new, telecommunications providers sought the bill, arguing that de-regulation was needed to encourage innovation and VOiP expansion. Seen as a temporary measure, the law included a sunset provision that takes it off the

books in January 2020, unless the Legislature acts to extend what is now Section 710 of the California Public Utilities Code.

And in the current session, Assembly Bill (AB) 1366, sponsored by Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez, D-San Diego, would extend the regulatory ban another decade.

However, with breakdowns in the state's communications grid becoming more common during and after deadly wildfires and other emergencies, there's growing concern about the wisdom of leaving the fastest growing part of the state's telecommunications industry virtually unregulated. A CPUC bill [analysis](#) covers some of those concerns.

At its June 27, 2019 Voting

Meeting, the CPUC, which still has regulatory authority over traditional but disappearing landline service, came out strongly opposed to the bill, something the CPUC does only infrequently.

As Hazel Miranda, Director of the CPUC's Office of Governmental Affairs, said at the meeting, "I would like to call on the Legislature to recognize that no good has come of this measure and no harm will come from letting it sunset."

Miranda also said, "If this bill is enacted, along with this transition will come the evaporation – without any public process or deliberation – of our authority to ensure public safety, service quality, and universal service for all Californians, especially those in rural and high fire hazard zones."

Commissioners, by unanimous vote, agreed with Miranda's assessment and recommendation. Legislators and the Governor's office were notified in a letter delivered after the vote of the CPUC's opposition to the bill.

"The original purpose of this bill has been more than fulfilled," Commissioner Clifford Rechtschaffen said. "VOiP was a nascent technology in 2011. It is now a dominant technology that is going to overtake and replace landlines and the services it provides are indistinguishable from those of traditional landline service.

He said extending the bill would be "a barrier to consumer protec-

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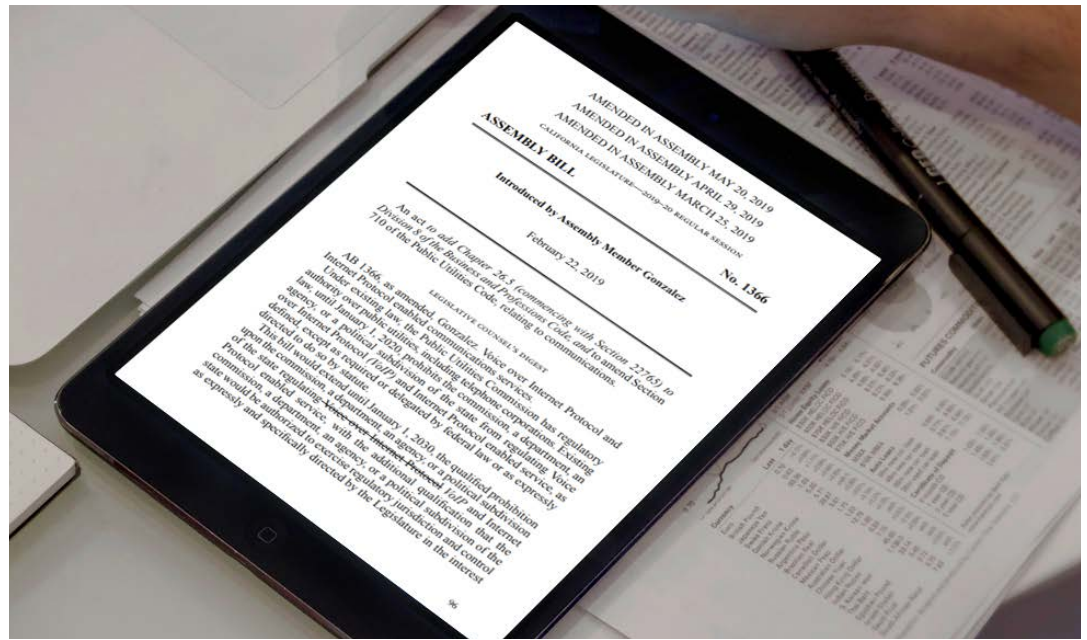
AB 1366: continued from page 3

tions and our ability to protect public safety during emergencies,” and he said the CPUC can provide that protection without undermining competition.

Commissioner Rechtschaffen, the assigned Commissioner on several emergency preparedness and safety proceedings, went on to say, “Communications is at the very core of emergency response. It makes a difference between people being evacuated, emergency responders getting to the right place, people getting medical attention, people living and dying. And what we’ve learned through a variety of contexts is that there are a lot of holes. There are a lot of dropped calls. There are a lot of missed 9-1-1 calls. We see just the lack of resiliency in the system. We don’t have a lot of great real-time data about service outages because of the regulatory construct. And that needs to change. We need to be able to provide better telecommunications infrastructure in order to ensure public safety.”

Commissioner Liane M. Randolph said, “Letting this statute sunset . . . really moves us into the modern world. It recognizes how most people are receiving their phone service and it allows us to ensure access to 9-1-1. It allows us to ensure safety and reliability for residents in California . . . I am pleased that we will state very clearly and very strongly to the Legislature that we oppose this bill.”

Breakdowns in the state’s communications grid during wildfires and other emergencies has been noted by first responders in com-



munities hit by deadly fires, and it was addressed by Mark Ghilarducci, Director of the CalOES, at a 2018 CPUC workshop.

During the October 2018 wildfires, Ghilarducci said, 341 cell sites went offline, 72,000 people had difficulty reaching 9-1-1, some due to the inability of the 9-1-1 system to ‘move the signal.’ His conclusion: “Our wireless network is just not built to survive the disasters, and many of the cell sites do not have that resiliency, whether it’s power backup or they’re built to a standard at which they can withstand these kinds of events.”

Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves said the telecommunications industry has consistently maintained that competition for customers, rather than regulation, is the best way to address

consumer issues.

But, she added, the Federal Communications Commission, which regulates wireless phone service, is doing little to protect consumers under the current administration in Washington. And, she noted, Section 710 of the Public Utilities Code that AB 1366 would keep on the books, has been used by telecommunications providers to evade a variety of sound regulations dealing with issues related to everything from privacy to charging excessive rates for phone calls by prison and jail inmates.

“Competition is good, but competition alone does not ensure these kinds of protections for consumers . . .,” she said. “Some of these things that are very basic protections that we’ve had in place for a long time have been

eroded over the last few years here.” Moreover, she added, many communities don’t have competing telecommunications providers to choose from, especially in rural parts of the state.

And in her comments on the decision to oppose AB 1366, Commissioner Genevieve Shiroma noted that it was something the CPUC does infrequently.

“I understand the Commission does not do this very often. It does not take lightly taking a public position (on legislation), but this is one that is essential,” she said. “The Commission regulates utilities and services with the charge that we protect consumers, we safeguard the environment, we assure Californians access to safe and reliable utility infrastructure and services, in particular in the aftermath of the wildfires.”

Returning Land to California’s Native Americans

By [Martha Guzman Aceves](#),
CPUC Commissioner

Every day, we walk on stolen land. We can’t help it. The history of this country is a history of theft and the forced displacement of indigenous people.

As Governor Newsom said recently when he signed an [Executive Order](#) formally apologizing to Native Americans for their mistreatment in our state, “California must reckon with our dark history.

California Native American peoples suffered violence, discrimination and exploitation sanctioned by state government throughout its history. We can never undo the wrongs inflicted on the peoples who have lived on this land that we now call California since time immemorial, but we can work together to build bridges, tell the truth about our past and begin to heal deep wounds.”

We can never entirely cure that

harm, but we can also try to repair it by returning at least some of that stolen land to the descendants of the aboriginal people.

I recently visited some of the land in what is now known as Plumas County that is held by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) that will soon return to the Maidu people. I made this visit along with members of the Maidu Summit Consortium, Pacific Forest and Watershed Stew-

ardship Council staff and board members, staff from the CPUC, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, PG&E, the Feather River Land Trust, and community members from Plumas County. It’s impossible to overstate the significance of these historical collaborations and the efforts made by all these people to bring this land home to the Maidu.

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Maidu Land Return: *continued from page 4*

On June 3, 2019, the CPUC approved PG&E's formal request, to transfer approximately 2,325 acres of Plumas County land to the Maidu Summit. Known as Tasmam Koyom to the Maidu, or Humbug Valley to most non-Maidu people, this land and other nearby acreage are being donated subject to a conservation easement, which means the Maidu will own the property but with certain restrictions set forth in that easement. This approval represented the culmination of more than a decade's work and was the final action clearing the way for the Maidu Summit to reacquire ancestral homelands that had been taken from them in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

For generations, Maidu families hunted, fished, and held sacred ceremonies in the grassy meadows and oak-studded hills of the Feather River watershed some 50 miles northeast of Chico. But the Maidu were pushed off their homeland and dispersed when European settlers flocked to California.

Over the years, timber, power, and livestock interests mauled the meadows and flooded the valleys. Indian settlements and sacred sites were destroyed. Many California Native American burial sites were desecrated or moved without tribal consent and we heard about one Maidu cemetery that was trampled before eventually being saved and moved to another location in the valley.

The Maidu Summit is a non-profit organization made up of federally recognized and non-federally recognized Maidu tribes and groups. It is ironic that the springboard that led to this historic return of tribal lands was the 2001 bankruptcy of California's largest investor-owned utility, PG&E.

Over the years, PG&E had acquired more than 140,000 acres of scenic watershed lands—stretching from Shasta County in the north to Kern County down south—for hydroelectric generation and related uses. Much of this land is ancestral tribal territory that was acquired either directly or indirectly through entities that PG&E purchased over the years. It's well documented that this land was taken from tribes through theft, deceit, and other unconscionable means.

In its 2001 bankruptcy, PG&E proposed to sell these watershed properties to pay off debt it incurred during the electricity crisis that hit California that same year.

Environmental groups, state agencies, and other organizations opposed the sale and argued in bankruptcy court and before the CPUC for preservation of these undeveloped lands. And in 2003, the CPUC and the bankruptcy court adopted a settlement creating a non-profit organization that included public and private representatives on its board of directors to manage conservation and protect publically beneficial values tied to these properties. A year later, the non-profit Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council was established. Ironically, a tribal representative was added to the Council by Resolution of the Board of Directors on December 10, 2004, as one was not included in the initial stipulation or settlement.

At first, the Maidu Summit was in competition for the land with Fish and Wildlife. After many years of asserting its rights to the property and discussions with the Stewardship Council and the Feather River Land Trust, which is the entity initially designated to hold the conservation

easement once the property was donated, an agreement was reached.

Importantly, the Stewardship Council awarded funds to help the Maidu Summit build the capacity needed to fulfill the conservation requirements spelled out in the easement and recommended donating the 2,200 acres to the Maidu Summit.

Fish and Wildlife and the Feather River Land Trust were to be co-easement holders, with all three entities teaming up to ensure the restoration, preservation, and conservation of these lands using traditional ecological knowledge as a core land management practice.

"Our people are tied to this land," Maidu elder Lorena Gorbet explained on my recent visit. "I believe we were here to take care of the land and that the land in return takes care of us. We always got what we needed from the land and we believe the birds, the flowers, and wildlife are all relations to us."



Commissioner Guzman Aceves and members of the Maidu Summit Consortium visit the land being returned to the Maidu

Lorena has spent a significant part of her life battling to restore her tribe's ancestral homelands, never losing sight of that dream. Along with fellow elder Beverly Benner Ogle, and Beverly's son, Ken Holbrook, who's also executive director of the Maidu Summit, Lorena played a significant role in seeing this dream become a reality.

Beverly, who's published two books on the tribe and its history in Plumas County, also spoke to us on our tour. She talked about her great-grandfather who is buried in the valley, and how she fought to preserve the area over the years. In addition to advocating most of her life for the land to be returned to the Maidu people as Lorena has done, Beverly also led successful efforts to erect a monument celebrating Tasmam Koyom's indigenous heritage.

"You are in the historic homeland of the Maidu people," the monument declares, "where their spirits still linger to guard sacred sites in this pristine valley . . . where they lived free for thousands of years. . . their paradise."

As we listened to the Maidu stand on their homeland and recount their story, I was overwhelmed by the heart, spirit, and patience that contributed to this long overdue restoration of home to the Maidu people.

Nothing can change the injustice that the Maidu people have suffered under California statehood. And there is a great deal more that must be

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Maidu Land Return: *continued from page 5*

done to repair past wrongs. But I take pride in being a small part of the long overdue efforts to restore these lands to the first people of California. Visiting Tasmam Koyom and spending the day with the Maidu people was a privilege, and one of the most gratifying experiences I've had serving the state of California.

As Californians, many of us have benefited from this history, and we must all work towards healing it. The CPUC is ensuring that moving

forward, we will seek a return of lands to the first nations of this state when any utility owned land is proposed for transfer. (The CPUC's Emerging Trends Commissioner Committee has proposed that the CPUC adopt a Tribal Land Transfer Policy. The proposed policy can be found on the CPUC's website at <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/tribal/>.)

Every day we walk on stolen land. We can't help it. But we can acknowledge it and work to repair it.

Commissioner Shiroma Joins the Low Income Oversight Board

CPUC Commissioner [Genevieve Shiroma](#), Governor Gavin Newsom's first appointment to the CPUC, has worked for years to help economically disadvantaged communities, so her ascension to the CPUC's [Low Income Oversight Board](#) (LIOB) feels like a perfect fit.

Established by the Legislature in 2001, the LIOB meets quarterly and advises the CPUC on issues concerning low-income electric, natural gas, and water customers. The LIOB also serves as a liaison between the CPUC and low-income ratepayers and their representatives.

"It's something I paid close attention to at SMUD," Commissioner Shiroma said of the 20 years she spent as an elected member of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District board. "The people of Sacramento County were willing to pay their utility bills and have a little bit of that money go to low-income customers who needed help paying their bills. That's a longtime core value and, I think, a very good thing."

The CPUC administers several programs designed to help low-income Californians pay their utility bills and save energy, including [CARE](#), which stands for the California Alternate Rates for Energy program, and [ESA](#), the Energy Savings Assistance Program, which provides free weatherization and other energy efficiency services.

With both programs closing in on 2020 statutory goals for the number of participating households, the CPUC and LIOB are now asking regulated natural gas and electric utilities to propose new ways to make the programs more effective from 2021 on. As part of those efforts, the CPUC unanimously approved a deci-



The Board's June meeting at the Compton City Council chambers

sion at its June 27, 2019 Voting Meeting that provides guidance for utilities as they consider the programs' futures, including a new effort to target multi-family buildings.

"I'm keenly aware of the importance of the CARE and ESA programs to reduce the energy burden on low-income customers and to help on the bills," Commissioner Shiroma said following the guidance decision vote. "And I appreciate that the decision provides for creativity and flexibility for the utilities, rather than being prescriptive, because there's always something new on the horizon that can help bring down the cost for low-income customers."

Utilities will report on their plans at the LIOB meeting in September 2019, she said, which is expected to be held in the San Diego area. "So, I look forward to seeing what the utilities come up with and the innovations for the future."

Commissioner Shiroma was seated on the LIOB following the two-year term of fellow Commissioner Clifford Rechtschaffen, whose time on the Board won high praise from the rest of the LIOB.

"The Board thanked Commissioner Rechtschaffen for his service and expressed their utmost admiration for his dedication, devotion, and compassion to the low-income and disadvantaged communities," read LIOB minutes approved during the Board's June meeting at the Compton City Council chambers. "Through his leadership, the LIOB has been able to take a strong lead on issues that affect these communities. The support that Commissioner Rechtschaffen has given the Board has surpassed any expectations. The Board appreciates the passion, the relationships built, and the strong interest in low-income issues that Commissioner Rechtschaffen has demonstrated, not only in his role at the Com-

mission but in his tenure at the LIOB."

Commissioner Shiroma knows the bar has been set high by her fellow Commissioner, but she is not one to shrink from the task.

"I mention my work on the Low Income Oversight Board every chance I get," she said, "because I know if we take care of low-income customers and lift them up through the Commission and through the utilities—whether it's electric, gas or water—we will lift up all communities. This is important work we're doing here, and I am honored to serve on this Board."

Before the LIOB meeting, she and Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves toured the site of a proposed community solar project in the unincorporated Willowbrook community near Compton and Watts. The site visit was

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hosted by the Clean Energy Access Working Group, led by the Greenlining Institute and Southern California Edison.

Commissioner Guzman Aceves said she was pleased to learn about the progress being made toward developing the community solar project, which stems from a CPUC [proceeding](#) last year for which she was lead Commissioner.

“We developed our Disadvantaged Community Solar programs for communities just like Willowbrook,” she said of the CPUC’s work supporting sustainable energy projects in communities that have historically been bypassed.

“The site, which is next to some exciting improvements to the regional Earvin Magic Johnson Park, would be a perfect demonstration site for

how community solar can work,” Guzman Aceves said.

In her remarks to close the visit, Commissioner Shiroma spoke of her own humble origins as a farm worker’s daughter who went on to earn a degree in materials science and engineering at UC Davis. And she was equally enthusiastic about a project coming to fruition that will allow Willowbrook residents to share in the benefits of renewable and affordable energy.

“I benefited from teachers and community who opened my eyes to the greater world and my potential to contribute in it,” she said. “I’m confident the community solar synergy with the park will do that for the children of Willowbrook, too.”

The Docket: Proceedings Filed at the CPUC in June 2019

PROCEEDING NUMBER • FILED DATE • FILER

A1905008 • 23-May-2019 • Bright Packet, Inc.
Application of Bright Packet, Inc. (U7343C) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity in Order to Provide Limited Facility Based Competitive Local Exchange in the State of California. <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=296576192>

R1211005 • 31-May-2019 • CMMR/RECHTSCHAFFEN/CPUC
Proposed Decision approving greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements for the Self Generation Incentive Program Storage Budget. <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=294815788>

A1905007 • 31-May-2019 • San Diego Gas & Electric Company
Application of San Diego Gas & Electric Company (U902E) for Approval of: (i) Contract Administration, Least-Cost Dispatch and Power Procurement Activities in 2018, (ii) Costs Related to those Activities Recorded to the Energy Resource Recovery Account and Transition Cost Balancing Account in 2018 and (iii) Costs Recorded in Related Regulatory Accounts in 2018. <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=296255749>

A1906001 • 03-Jun-2019 • Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company for Adoption of Electric Revenue Requirements and Rates Associated with its 2020 Energy Resource Recovery Account (ERRA) and Generation Non-Bypassable Charges Forecast and Greenhouse Gas Forecast Revenue and Reconciliation. (U39E) <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=296255753>

A1906002 • 03-Jun-2019 • Southern California Edison Company
Application of Southern California Edison Company (U338E) For Approval of its Forecast 2020 ERRA Proceeding Revenue Requirement. <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=296576176>

A1906003 • 04-Jun-2019 • NGA 911, LLC
In the Matter of the Application of NGA 911, LLC (U7347C) to expand the scope of its certificate of public convenience and

PROCEEDING NUMBER • FILED DATE • FILER

necessity to include authority to provide full facilities-based and resold competitive local exchange service to serve existing and future Public Service Answering Points (PSAPs) in the service territories of Frontier Communications of the Southwest, Inc., Calaveras Telephone Company, Cal-Ore Telephone Company, CenturyTel of Eastern Oregon, Ducor Telephone Company, Foresthill Telephone Company, Happy Valley Telephone Company, Hornitos Telephone Company, Kerman Telephone Company, Pinnacles Telephone Company, Ponderosa Telephone Company, Sierra Telephone Company, The Siskiyou Telephone Company, Volcano Telephone Company, and Winterhaven Telephone Company. <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=298846526>

A1803018 • 05-Jun-2019 • ALJ/JuneGREIS/CPUC
Proposed Decision granting Trans Bay Cable LLC exemption from some reporting requirements of certain General Orders. <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=297204069>

A0712026 • 05-Jun-2019 • ALJs/COLBERT/MCKENZIE/CPUC
Presiding Officers’ Decision regarding alleged violations by certain independent small local exchange carriers. Any party to this adjudicatory phase of this proceeding may file and serve an Appeal of the Presiding Officers’ Decision within 30 days of the date of issuance of this decision. <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=297114251>

A1702008 • 07-Jun-2019 • ALJ/STEVENS/CPUC
Proposed Decision approving Settlement Agreement. The Commission authorizes San Diego Gas & Electric to implement a Standard Economic Development Rate that is substantially similar to those that are currently being offered in the Pacific Gas and Electric Company and Southern California Edison Company service territories. <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=297204104>

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A1712011, A1712012, A1712013 • 07-Jun-2019 • ALJs/PARK/DOHERTY/CPUC
Proposed Phase IIB Decision addressing residential default time-of-use rate design proposals and transition implementation. <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=299659451>

R1803011 • 07-Jun-2019 • CMMR/PICKER/CPUC
Decision Adopting an Emergency Disaster Relief Program for Electric, Natural Gas, Water and Sewer Utility Customers. <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=299659230>

A1208007, A1208008, A1208009, A1208010 • 07-Jun-2019 • ALJ/DOHERTY/CPUC
Proposed Decision deferring funding for consumer messaging in the Aliso Canyon affected areas and closing proceedings. <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=299659228>

A1208007, A1208008, A1208009, A1208010 (alternative) • 07-Jun-2019 • CMMR/PICKER/CPUC
Alternate Proposed Decision of Commissioner Picker approving Flex Alerts, Moving Winter Time Messaging to A.18-11-005, and Closing this Application Proceeding. <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=299659229>

A1710002 • 07-Jun-2019 • ALJ/STEVENS/CPUC
Proposed Decision directing, among other things, Southern California Gas Company to incorporate Advanced Metering Infrastructure data into its scheduling and balancing process. <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=298505235>

A1712006 • 01-Dec-2017 (re-opened, week of Jun 2, 2019 • California-American Water Company
Application for Rehearing of Decision 19-04-015. Application of California-American Water Company (U210W), Rio Plaza Water Company, Inc. (U319W), and John Chris Nickel, Sr., Trustee for the John C. Nickel. <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=297204090>

A1906004 • 07-Jun-2019 • Atos Public Safety, LLC
In the Matter of the Application of Atos Public Safety, LLC (U7346C) for Expansion of its Existing Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Include Additional Service Territories so that the Company May Provide Resold and Limited Facilities-based Competitive Local Exchange Service Throughout the State of California. <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=299659952>

A1906005 • 07-Jun-2019 • CenturyLink Communications, LLC
In the Matter of the Application of CenturyLink Communications, LLC (U5335C) to Expand the Scope of its Authority to Include the Small LEC Service Territories for the Exclusive

Purpose of Providing Next Generation 911 Service. <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=299659757>

A1906006 • 13-Jun-2019 • Front Range TopCo, Inc.
In the Matter of the Joint Application of Zayo Group, LLC (U6102C), Electric Lightwave, LLC (U5377C) and Zayo Group Holdings, Inc., and Front Range TopCo, Inc. for Expedited Approval to Transfer Indirect Control of Zayo Group, LLC and Electric Lightwave, LLC Pursuant to California Public Utilities Code Section 854(a).

A1906007 • 14-Jun-2019 • Falcon Bus LLC
In the matter of the Application of Falcon Bus LLC, for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to transport passengers and baggage express, on an on-call, city-to-city basis, between points in the city/community of San Bernardino, Riverside, Perris, El Cajon, San Ysidro and Otay (CBX); and to establish a Zone of Rate Freedom (ZORF) under 454.2, et. Seq., of the PU Code. <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=301924955>

A1906008 • 14-Jun-2019 • About Me, Transportation, LLC
Application of About Me, Transportation, LLC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate as an On-Call Passenger Stage Corporation in the Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Solano and Sacramento; and for a Zone of Rate Freedom. <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=302240822>

A1906009 • 14-Jun-2019 • Southern California Gas Company
In the matter of the application of Southern California Gas Company (U904G) regarding Year 25 (2018-2019) of its Gas Cost Incentive Mechanism. <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=299660216>

A1906012 • 25-Jun-2019 • California High-Speed Rail Authority
Application of the California High Speed Rail Authority to construct proposed high-speed tracks and rail-rail grade separations (MP 190.51 and MP 190.76) beneath San Joaquin Valley Railroad's Wye tracks (MP 206.8) north leg and MP 207.0 south leg) in Fresno County, California. <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=306417334>

I1906013 • 27-Jun-2019 • CPUC
Order instituting investigation for the purpose of establishing a list for the fiscal years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 of existing crossings at grade of city streets, county roads or state highways in need of separation, or existing separations in need of alterations or reconstruction in accordance with section 2452 of the California Streets and Highways Code. Pending mailing

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I1906014 • 27-Jun-2019 • CPUC

Order Instituting Investigation on the Commission's Own Motion to Determine Whether Southern California Gas Company's and Sempra Energy's Organizational Culture and Governance Prioritize Safety (U904G). <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=306870841>

I1906015 • 27-Jun-2019 • CPUC

Order Instituting Investigation on the Commission's Own Motion into the Maintenance, Operations and Practices of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (U39E) with Respect to its Electric Facilities; and Order to Show Cause Why the Commission Should not Impose Penalties and/or Other Remedies for the Role PG&E's Electrical Facilities has in Igniting Fires in its Service Territory in 2017. <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=303773212>

I1906016 • 27-Jun-2019 • CPUC

Order Instituting Investigation on the Commission's Own Motion into the Operations and Practices of Southern California Gas Company with Respect to the Aliso Canyon storage facility and the release of natural gas, and Order to Show Cause Why Southern California Gas Company Should Not Be Sanctioned

for Allowing the Uncontrolled Release of Natural Gas from its Aliso Canyon Storage Facility. (U904G) <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=306041251>

R1903009 • 28-Jun-2019 • CPUC

Decision regarding increased limits for direct access transactions. Opening comments, which shall not exceed 15 pages, are due July 18, 2019. Reply comments, which shall not exceed 5 pages, are due 5 days after the last day for filing comments. <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=306101555>

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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.

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