

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA



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Order Instituting Investigation and Ordering
Pacific Gas and Electric Company to Appear
and Show Cause Why It Should Not Be
Sanctioned for Violations of Article 8 and
Rule 1.1 of the Rules of Practice and
Procedure and Public Utilities Code Sections
1701.2 and 1701.3.

Investigation 15-11-015
(Filed November 19, 2015)

**MOTION FOR PARTY STATUS OF
THE OFFICE OF RATEPAYER ADVOCATES**

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January 19, 2016

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Rule 1.4 of the California Public Utilities Commission's ("Commission") Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules"), the Office of Ratepayer Advocates ("ORA") moves to become a party to in this instant proceeding.

A. Rule 1.4

Rule 1.4(a) grants party status to those filing a motion for such. In addition, Rule 1.4(b) requires that a party must:

- (1) fully disclose the persons or entities in whose behalf the filing, appearance or motion is made, and the interest of such person or entities in the proceeding; and
- (2) state the factual and legal contentions that the person intends to make and show that the contentions will be reasonably pertinent to the issues already present.

ORA seeks party status in this proceeding in order to "represent and advocate on behalf of the interests of public utility customers and subscribers within the jurisdiction of the Commission. The goal of the office shall be to obtain the lowest possible rate structure for service consistent with reliable and safe service levels."¹ The conduct of Pacific Gas and Electric Company in violating the Commission's *ex parte* rules on communications undercuts the ability of ORA to comply with its statutory mandate, and has had and may continue to have a deleterious impact on customers' rates. ORA is currently reviewing the documents at issue in this proceeding and cannot at this time set forth its legal and factual contentions other than to state that its contentions will be pertinent to the issues already identified by the Commission as appropriate for consideration in this proceeding.

Lastly, ORA notes that the assigned Commissioner directed that ORA and the Safety and Enforcement Division ("SED") "should coordinate their representation in this proceeding and notify other parties ... as to how Commission Staff will be represented in this proceeding." As set forth above, ORA has a statutory right to represent ratepayers

¹ See, Public Utilities Code Section 309.5(a).

before this Commission. While ORA and SED may have aligned interests some of the time, there may be other such times when they do not. If ORA and SED are in agreement in this proceeding then ORA will certainly coordinate with SED.

II. SERVICE LIST REQUEST

ORA requests that its formal appearance be entered in this proceeding as follows:

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III. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, ORA respectfully requests to be granted party status in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ NICHOLAS SHER

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