



BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

OF THE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FILED

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In Attendance: PRESIDENT MICHAEL PICKER
COMMISSIONER GENEVIEVE SHIROMA

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES RAFAEL L. LIRAG and
ELAINE LAU, co-presiding

)	PUBLIC
)	PARTICIPATION
)	HEARING
)	
Application of Pacific Gas and)	
Electric Company for Authority,)	
Among Other Things, to Increase)	Application
Rates and Charges for Electric and)	18-12-009
Gas Service Effective on January 1,)	
2020. (U39M))	

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1 CHICO, CALIFORNIA

2 JULY 18, 2019 - 1:00 P.M.

3 * * * * *

4 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE LIRAG: All
5 right. I guess it's 1:00 p.m. So we'll
6 start. Let's go on the record. Please come
7 to order.

8 This is the time and place for the
9 Public Participation Hearing for the General
10 Rate Case Application of Pacific Gas &
11 Electric Company or PG&E. And the
12 Application was designated as A.18-12-009.

13 Good afternoon, Everyone. Thank you
14 for all coming here.

15 My name is Rafael Lirag and I'm the
16 Administrative Law Judge assigned to review
17 this proceeding. With me is Administrative
18 Law Judge Elaine Lau. She is co-assigned
19 with myself to review this proceeding.

20 Let's pause to give President Picker
21 time to get up to the podium. Let's go off
22 the record.

23 (Off the record.)

24 ALJ LIRAG: All right. Let's go back
25 on the record.

26 So, with us this afternoon is a
27 Commissioner, Commissioner Shiroma, and then
28 we have President Picker. So the assigned

1 Commissioner is Liane Randolph. She is not
2 here today, but we'll work with her office.
3 And the hearing is being transcribed, so her
4 office will get a copy of everything that is
5 said here today, as well as the other -- the
6 two other Commissioners. So there's a total
7 of five Commissioners with the Public
8 Utilities Commission.

9 Right now I would like to turn it
10 over to President Picker first if he wants to
11 make a few opening remarks.

12 PRESIDENT PICKER: Thanks. I will be
13 very brief.

14 This is one of the few of our formal
15 actions in our processes which are very
16 legalistic where we just hear general
17 comments from the public.

18 My experiences in rate cases is that
19 we hear a variety of different issues that
20 folks are concerned about. But generally we
21 don't answer questions as Commissioners. We
22 are decision-makers. We're almost like
23 judges. So we are only able to make a
24 decision on the evidence that is presented to
25 us on the record. This will form part of the
26 record. But in every case we're, as
27 decision-makers, really not able to speak to
28 opinions, our thoughts, until we actually

1 render a formal decision at the end of the
2 process when all of the evidence is before
3 us.

4 Having said that, we're very
5 interested to hear what people have to say,
6 but please bear with us if we don't react or
7 respond to questions.

8 Thank you very much.

9 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you, President
10 Picker.

11 Next we'll have a few opening
12 remarks from Commissioner Shiroma.

13 COMMISSIONER SHIROMA: Yes. Thank you,
14 Judge.

15 Good afternoon, everyone. My name
16 is Genevieve Shiroma and I am one of the five
17 Commissioners on the Commission, and I'm
18 pleased to attend today's public
19 participation hearing regarding the PG&E
20 General Rate Case and to attend with
21 President Picker and Judges.

22 Now, back in March, I had the
23 opportunity to visit Chico and also Paradise
24 and throughout some of surrounding areas
25 accompanied by the team at CAL FIRE. And
26 during that visit, I was able to spend a
27 little bit of time with Mayor Jones of
28 Paradise, City Manager Gill and City Council

1 member Zuccolillo. And I was really struck
2 by the dedication to rebuilding the community
3 after the devastating wildfires. And I
4 assured that the Commission is continuing to
5 do its part in the path forward.

6 Today's comments are very important
7 at public hearings like today's, and I very
8 much value it. I want to thank everyone for
9 attending and speaking today. As President
10 Picker said, we are here to listen and to
11 hear from you and there will be a record that
12 will go into the deliberations and ultimately
13 before the Commission as we vote. We won't
14 be voting today. We are listening today.

15 So I look forward to hearing your
16 comments and I will be attending the
17 participation hearing this evening as well.
18 And I thank you all for being here.

19 Thank you.

20 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you, Commissioner
21 Shiroma.

22 I would also like to point out
23 Adenike Adeyeye. She's an advisor to
24 Commissioner Guzman Aceves' Office. And we
25 also have Leuwam Tesfai, who is an advisor
26 for Commissioner Shiroma.

27 Let's go off the record.

28 (Off the record.)

1 ALJ LIRAG: Back on the record.

2 So I just introduced two advisors.
3 They're probably going to stick around for a
4 couple of minutes after the hearing. If you
5 have factual questions or questions on how to
6 obtain more information about the PUC,
7 they're going to stay a couple of minutes
8 after the hearing and you can approach them.
9 But I think they're only here for a couple of
10 minutes.

11 You can also approach the person
12 that is outside that signed you up to speak.
13 She is a representative of the Commission's
14 Public Advisor's Office. They provide
15 general information regarding the Public
16 Utilities Commission. She can also point you
17 to helpful links and tell you how to get in
18 touch with us through e-mail or by writing.

19 I also want to introduce the two
20 court reporters that are seated in front of
21 us. They're taking down every comment that
22 is going to be said here today. So President
23 Picker and Commissioner Shiroma can review
24 the comments and then the other Commissioners
25 can also go over them.

26 We are here today to hear you talk
27 about the PG&E's application, which is a
28 general rate case application that they file

1 every three years. So the general rate case
2 application sets the revenue requirement or
3 the funding level that PG&E says that it
4 needs in order to provide safe and reliable
5 services to you. So these are gas and
6 electric services. And we would like to hear
7 from you regarding your thoughts about PG&E's
8 application or any personal experiences that
9 you may have regarding their service.

10 They're going to briefly provide an
11 overview of what is contained in the
12 application, if you don't know what the
13 application entails.

14 But generally for 2020, the average
15 customer -- the average customer's bill will
16 increase by \$10.57. So this is for the
17 average customer. If you consume more than
18 the average customer, then it's probably
19 going to go up a little bit more than that.
20 But PG&E will talk about that when they
21 present their application in the next couple
22 of minutes.

23 So right now there's just a couple
24 of more things I want to tell you about the
25 PUC.

26 So, the PUC is the agency that has
27 regulatory authority over what PG&E does and
28 the PUC has five Commissioners that are

1 appointed by the Governor. So the five
2 Commissioners are the ones that will vote on
3 the outcome of the application. So we, as
4 the -- Judge Lau and I as the Administrative
5 Law Judges, we will be the ones to review the
6 application. We'll be conducting hearings
7 later in September and October. At those
8 hearings, we'll have witnesses from PG&E
9 present testimony and evidence. We'll also
10 have other parties present counter testimony
11 and their own witnesses and evidence.

12 So there are several parties that
13 are parties to this proceeding that oppose
14 PG&E's -- what PG&E is asking for. So, I
15 don't think anyone from those parties are
16 here but they are here -- they do attend the
17 public hearings every now and then. They
18 were at Stockton yesterday. So this was TURN
19 The Utility Reform Network.

20 Let's go off the record for a while.

21 (Off the record.)

22 ALJ LIRAG: Let's go back on the
23 record.

24 I just want to note that Senator
25 Nielsen is here inside the room. He is here
26 to listen to what you all have to say, also
27 and he is here to observe this public
28 hearing.

1 Thank you, Senator Nielson, for
2 taking time to come here.

3 So we'll get to hear your comments
4 pretty soon, but right now I want to turn it
5 over to the PG&E representative to say a few
6 words regarding the application.

7 STATEMENT OF MR. SCHOENHOFER

8 Welcome. Can everybody hear me
9 okay? Welcome and thank you everyone for
10 attending today's public participation
11 hearing on PG&E's 2020 general rate case
12 proposal.

13 My name is Carl Schoenhofer and I
14 am the Senior Manager for PG&E's North Valley
15 Division. Much of my day-to-day focus
16 includes working with our operational teams
17 to improve our customer experience.

18 This is one of 17 hearings being
19 posted by the CPUC throughout our 70,000
20 square-mile service area.

21 At each location, representatives
22 from PG&E will be available to assist
23 customers with their questions. Some of
24 those folks are out in the entryway as you
25 walked in. We also have representatives here
26 today who can help track down information you
27 need related to the specific proceeding. Our
28 customers' feedback in this process is

1 crucial for us to hear because the
2 application outlines a series of critical
3 safety investments to help address the
4 state's growing wildfire threat and further
5 protect the 16 million people we serve.

6 Thank you to the Commission, the
7 Administrative Law Judges Lirag and Lau and
8 Commissioner Shiroma, as well as President
9 Picker for this opportunity to learn more
10 from our customers.

11 Now I would like to introduce
12 Robert Kenney. He is Vice President of
13 Regulatory and External Affairs for PG&E. He
14 would like to say a few words.

15 STATEMENT OF MR. KENNEY

16 Carl, thank you. Good afternoon,
17 everyone.

18 Let me start by thanking President
19 Picker and Commission Shiroma, Judge Lau,
20 Judge Lirag for giving us the opportunity to
21 say a few brief words and for the opportunity
22 to participate in this process.

23 I also want to thank all the
24 members of the public who have taken time out
25 of their day to show up and to participate
26 and be a part of the process. You are why we
27 are here. So thank you very much for being
28 here. And, Senator, thank you also for

1 participating and being here as well.

2 As Carl said, my name is Robert
3 Kenney. I am PG&E's Vice President of State
4 and Regulatory Affairs. And my job is to
5 manage PG&E's filings in relationships with
6 all of the regulatory bodies with which we
7 interact and with the state and local
8 governmental entities with which we interact.

9 Before joining PG&E, I had the
10 privilege of serving on the Public Utilities
11 Commission in Missouri. And I had the
12 privilege of participating in similar
13 hearings as these.

14 These hearings provide a
15 transparent and respectful way for us to
16 interact with and communicate with our
17 customers. We do truly value and I speak on
18 behalf of the entire company when I say we
19 value and appreciate and look forward to the
20 public's participation in this process. And
21 the primary reason we are here is to listen
22 to what you have to say.

23 Briefly, I just want to indicate
24 that PG&E's most important responsibility is
25 the safety of our customers and the
26 communities that we serve. And one of the
27 most important ways that we achieve that goal
28 is through the filing of our general rate

1 case proposal which outlines our plans to
2 upgrade technology and infrastructure to
3 enhance our ability to provide safe and
4 reliable gas and electric service.

5 Our proposal will help bolster fire
6 prevention efforts, risk monitoring and
7 emergency response efforts. It will also add
8 new and enhanced safety measures. It will
9 increase vegetation management and will
10 harden our electric systems, increase
11 resiliency and help further reduce the risk
12 of wildfire.

13 Under our proposal, we are
14 requesting an increase of \$1.1 billion over
15 current revenues. More than half of the
16 proposed increase would be directly related
17 to wildfire prevention, risk reduction and
18 additional safety enhancements.

19 And as Judge Lirag indicated, if
20 approved by the CPUC, it would increase a
21 typical residential customer's bill by
22 approximately 6.4 percent or \$10.57 a month.
23 And that includes \$8.73 per month for
24 electricity and \$1.84 a month for natural
25 gas.

26 So, I believe it's important that
27 you understand and that we share with you
28 where your money is going. It's also

1 important that we share with you and tell you
2 where your money is not going.

3 While the GRC proposal is intended
4 to help fund a series of significant and
5 important safety investments, it does not
6 request funding for any PG&E corporation or
7 utility officer compensation. That means it
8 does not go to paying my salary or the
9 salaries of any of my colleagues.

10 The proposal also does not request
11 funding for potential wildfire claims
12 involved in the Chapter 11 bankruptcy
13 process.

14 The GRC proposal is a significant
15 request. We recognize that fact and it comes
16 at a difficult time. There's really never a
17 good time for a rate increase and we do
18 understand that. As always, our commitment
19 is to keep customer costs as low as possible
20 while meeting our responsibilities to safely
21 serve our customers even as changing climate
22 risks present significant new challenges.

23 The funding proposal, as you know
24 and as the judge has indicated, is subject to
25 the CPUC's thorough, open and transparent
26 review and approval process. As President
27 Picker indicated, this is the part of the
28 process that is exclusively devoted to

1 hearing from customers.]

2 We encourage and welcome our
3 customers to provide feedback and participate
4 in this important public process. I thank
5 you again for being here today, and we very
6 much look forward to hearing what you have to
7 say. Thank you again for allowing us the
8 opportunity to speak.

9 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

10 Is there anyone here a
11 representative from any of the parties?

12 (No response.)

13 ALJ LIRAG: Hearing none.

14 Let's proceed. First, let me just
15 interrupt with a safety announcement: In
16 case of an emergency, we will follow
17 instructions from the CHP officer over here
18 regarding how to evacuate if we need to
19 evacuate. In the event of an earthquake,
20 we'll do the duck, cover and hold. Please
21 raise your hand if you know CPR so that we
22 can ask for your assistance. All right.
23 Okay. So, thank you. Please provide us your
24 assistance, but, hopefully, it won't be
25 needed. So that's our little safety
26 announcement.

27 Let me just clarify regarding the
28 figures that you heard. So those are the

1 figures if all of PG&E's requests are
2 approved. So a different outcome may result
3 depending on the evidence and depending on
4 what the Commissioners vote on regarding the
5 application.

6 So, now, let's get to the main part,
7 which is to hear from you. I have a list of
8 30 names. If you're not here at the end of
9 this list, I'm going to ask if people did not
10 sign up, but want to talk. So there's going
11 to be an opportunity for that. So I'm going
12 to call a couple of names, probably three or
13 four, just so you know you're next in line.

14 Also, we do want to hear from
15 everyone; so let's try to cooperate and make
16 that happen. Please direct your comments to
17 us. We want to hear from you.

18 What you say has bearing on the
19 application, and what is decided regarding
20 the application. So, please, avoid or limit
21 addressing the rest of the folks that are out
22 here. If you want to talk to them, we can do
23 that after the hearing, but for the most
24 part, please direct your comments to us, the
25 four of us here. We definitely want to hear
26 from you, and so the reporters can take down
27 every word that you're saying.

28 When you are called, please spell

1 your last name. We may have gotten it wrong
2 when we took down your name. So we want to
3 get it right when the reporters take it down
4 in the transcript. Also, please put your
5 phones on silent. Off the record.

6 (Phone ringing.)

7 ALJ LIRAG: All right. Let's go back
8 on the record. Please double-check your
9 phones to make sure it's on silent so we
10 don't interrupt whoever is talking. We want
11 to be fully focused on whoever is up there on
12 the podium.

13 I apologize for not having enough
14 chairs. This is probably one of the biggest
15 places we could find, but, hopefully, you're
16 all right there.

17 We'll try to get through everyone so
18 you're not standing for a long time.

19 So let's start right away. First up
20 will be Norman Whitehurst, followed by Josie
21 Whitehurst, and then Debra Herman-Jones.

22 Mr. Whitehurst.

23 STATEMENT OF MR. WHITEHURST

24 Hi. My name is Norman Whitehurst,
25 W-h-i-t-e-h-u-r-s-t. My comments do not
26 affect or are in any way against the PG&E
27 employees. So I don't want my comments to be
28 taken -- misconstrued in that aspect. I am

1 concerned we don't have enough information
2 because I know they're going to give us
3 different numbers. These are just kind of
4 general and broad numbers, but we don't
5 really know what the details are as far as
6 that goes.

7 I'm concerned about the amount. It
8 seems like every time something goes wrong,
9 the consumer has to pay that price. Before
10 it was a water issue. We conserved water and
11 our rates went up.

12 So it seems like everything that as
13 a consumer we do, seems like we're penalized.
14 It's like saying if I were to hook a
15 generator to the side of my house, and I do
16 something wrong, will PG&E come and fix it?
17 They're going to tell me: Oh, that's your
18 fault. That's an error on you, that you've
19 done something wrong. It was a mistake.

20 So it just seems like everyone else
21 is just paying for other people's mistakes
22 and that's my biggest concern that we seem to
23 have.

24 Rates, as far as wildfire
25 prevention, I'm not sure if that's totally
26 their fault, an issue, and the reason why I
27 say that, as I travel through California, I
28 see wires and cables going through trees, and

1 asked the question: Well, why do you guys
2 have wires going through trees?

3 And for some reason or another it's
4 because environment doesn't want them to cut
5 the trees down. So some things that we do we
6 prevent them from making sure that we don't
7 have wildfires, we don't have shorts and
8 things like that. So it's kind of a state
9 issue and not just PG&E, and I think they
10 should also work to take care of those issues
11 also.

12 So some of that money, instead of
13 making us pay an extra \$10 or whatever the
14 case may be and that's what it is now to
15 maybe later, maybe the State needs to pick it
16 up. Again, we're going to pay for in the
17 long run in any event.

18 But my biggest concern is the
19 amount of money that's being asked for. And
20 we don't know what the details are for that
21 amount of money. They also say: We're going
22 to do this; we're going to do that. Money
23 gets redirected or gets used for something
24 else because we need to know the budget. I
25 don't know how well that plays and when you
26 approve a budget amount.

27 So the only thing I actually look
28 at, what I see down here, would be on the

1 last part of it on your statement, as far
2 as -- and I think you have the \$2.5 million.
3 You're talking about gas main replacement,
4 construction, pressure regulators, things
5 like that. Those items I can understand, but
6 some of the other ones, I think, probably
7 should come from someplace else; okay. So
8 that's my concern.

9 I'm not sure if you can rearrange
10 that number or they can request a lesser
11 amount, I don't know. But I understand stuff
12 has to get taken care of. They have to move
13 forward as a business, I get that part of it,
14 but I'm concerned about the amount. That's
15 all.

16 I want to thank you very much for
17 your time.

18 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you, Mr. Whitehurst.

19 Because there's a lot of speakers
20 today, we generally try not to time how long
21 you're taking -- and this isn't anything
22 against Mr. Whitehurst. This is me not
23 reading off my script.

24 So each speaker should take about
25 three-to-five minutes. Once you get to five
26 minutes, I'm going to try to signal you. I'm
27 not going to cut you off, but please wrap-up
28 when I signal you.

1 Also, just to make sure everyone
2 gets a chance to speak, I'll apologize in
3 advance if I have to interrupt someone just
4 to redirect us to what the topic is regarding
5 this afternoon's public hearing.

6 At the end, after everyone has
7 spoken, I'm going to also say a few things
8 regarding where you can find out more
9 detailed information about PG&E's application
10 for those that are interested.

11 So, next, let's have
12 Mrs. Whitehurst.

13 STATEMENT OF MRS. WHITEHURST

14 I'm Josie Whitehurst,
15 W-h-i-t-e-h-u-r-s-t, and I just had a couple
16 of things that were running through my mind
17 about Butte county having suffered a great
18 financial burden because of the fires; that
19 we are distressed as a community and to bear
20 more stress because of PG&E raising our rates
21 at this time, I think is not acceptable.

22 I also would like to ask why PG&E
23 now wants to shore up their infrastructure.
24 It seems like closing the barn door after the
25 horse has gotten out. I think they know and
26 have known for a long time that they have
27 needed to shore up the infrastructure.

28 And the residents of Paradise were

1 sent a notice that their power may have been
2 turned off last fall before the fire, the
3 week of, and PG&E never did turn the power
4 off. And I ask, Why? Why not then?

5 I do believe that would have made a
6 huge difference to the residents of Paradise
7 and to our community.

8 Also, I was listening to the news
9 prior to PG&E declaring bankruptcy, and it
10 was reported that their highest corporate
11 officers were given large raises before the
12 bankruptcy was asked for and put into place,
13 and I asked why that money couldn't have been
14 used instead of our money to raise the rates
15 to shore up the infrastructure.

16 So in closing, I would like to ask
17 you to consider the burden that we all are
18 under as citizens of Butte county.

19 Thank you.

20 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

21 Next up is Ms. Debra Harmon-Jones,
22 followed by Gary Wolt, Joe Cardoza and Bob
23 Mulholland.

24 STATEMENT OF MS. HARMON-JONES

25 Debra Harmon-Jones, D-e-b-r-a,
26 H-a-r-m-o-n-J-o-n-e-s.

27 Thank you for hosting this. I've
28 never attended one of these before, and I

1 want to thank Senator Nielsen for sending out
2 the mailers because that's why I'm here
3 partially. And partially I'm here to
4 represent people that didn't know about this
5 meeting, people that have lost so much.

6 My husband and I were very lucky.
7 We live in Oroville. We were mandatory
8 evacuated for two weeks, and we had a home to
9 return to so we were extremely lucky.

10 I'm here because fire victims who
11 endured deaths an/or total home or possession
12 loss should not pay higher rates as they move
13 to the areas nearby - Chico, Oroville,
14 Gridley, Yuba City, et cetera. So that's,
15 basically, agreeing with the Whitehursts,
16 what their statements were.

17 California rates are already high.
18 The 22 cents for kilowatt hour for Tier 1
19 billing is twice that of other states, such
20 as Arizona and Texas, where they pay half of
21 that on their Tier 1 billing.

22 And just as Mrs. Whitehurst
23 mentioned, the executives were given large
24 bonuses before the bankruptcy, and it seems
25 to me that the PG&E workers don't have a lot
26 of say in the operations. I mean, maybe they
27 do and it just doesn't seem that way, but I
28 think that they work very hard to keep the

1 equipment running, but it seems like in the
2 last five years or so there's been a big
3 change to that.

4 And it's almost like a business or
5 business model or culture that it's less
6 expensive for the company to pay claims than
7 to properly maintain the equipment or replace
8 it, and this is based on my personal
9 experience with low voltage issues.

10 And we had loss of appliances, like
11 four of them, within a couple of months. And
12 so, you know, you file a claim, but, you
13 know, that doesn't -- it's prorated. You
14 still have to go out and buy the stuff and
15 pay more money and all of that.

16 Then we found out that a year
17 later, the equipment was still tagged out.
18 They refer to it as "lock-out/tag-out."

19 So our problem resurfaced and so it
20 just seems to be kind of a culture of the way
21 of doing business, and I don't fault the
22 workers for that. That's got to be a way
23 higher level than they are.

24 My husband and I have been plagued
25 for years with outages and low voltage
26 because we are in a rural area. I feel that
27 the rural areas kind of get second billing to
28 the more populated city areas, which maybe

1 that's normal. I don't know. But there have
2 been so many low voltage outages -- and there
3 was regulator equipment, not near our house,
4 maybe eight miles away or whatever, and they
5 had a really hard time getting that squared
6 away.

7 And then that kind of brings me to
8 the question about the SmartMeter. The
9 SmartMeter doesn't seem to be very smart
10 because when you try to -- if you are having
11 a low voltage situation -- obviously, your
12 surge protectors aren't going to help you
13 with that, but you get this low voltage
14 situation, and you go online to try to do an
15 online report, and the thing checks your
16 meter and it says: Well, you've got power.
17 You know, there's no outage in your area.

18 Just recently I had to call
19 emergency into PG&E because we were in such a
20 low voltage, brown-out situation - I mean it
21 was really low - that it was going to ruin
22 all of our stuff.

23 When you live rural, you have well
24 pumps and other things, you know, to take
25 care of besides just your appliances.

26 So, anyway, the people that I've
27 spoken to on the phone, and workers that have
28 come out to the house have been absolutely

1 wonderful. And this woman on the phone, I
2 said, Hey, you're going to ruin all of our
3 stuff, and all our neighbors, and, you know,
4 you need to turn the power off to our area
5 because it's so bad because the voltage was, I
6 like, under a hundred. I mean 240 is normal.

7 And then wild fluctuation. My
8 husband and I have taught some of our
9 neighbors how to read what your voltage is on
10 your SmartMeter because they didn't know how
11 to do that.

12 ALJ LIRAG: Are you able to wrap up in
13 a minute?

14 MS. WHITEHURST: Yes. So anyway, the
15 fire prevention and safety enhancements I
16 would think would be an incurrent of just
17 doing business, the type of business that
18 they do. And California already had to pay
19 millions of dollars in fire prevention fees
20 for several years, which that is not ongoing
21 right now. And there is also an additional
22 charge on your property tax bill.

23 So, anyway, I just feel that this
24 would be a hardship at the time, especially
25 for those that lost everything. I can't even
26 imagine.

27 Thank you.

28 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

1 Mr. Wolt.

2 STATEMENT OF MR. WOLT

3 My name is Gary Wolt, W-o-l-t.

4 ALJ LIRAG: German.

5 MR. WOLT: I'm as nervous as all get
6 out. I am not a public speaker, but I am a
7 Camp Fire survivor and I lost everything.

8 You people are trying to balance
9 this rate increase of how much, without
10 creating public outrage that this should be
11 happening. I don't envy your job.

12 I worked in the Feather River Canyon
13 as a young man. And I watched the PG&E
14 employees back then. Something has
15 dramatically changed in that company in the
16 last 40 years.

17 I don't know if you have the
18 ability, if your job entails actually looking
19 at PG&E and how it's organized. But they
20 have lost something, whether it's the people
21 at the ground level being involved with the
22 CEOs and their board and deciding where this
23 money goes and how it's allocated, I don't
24 know. But having a bunch of pencil pushers
25 in charge of PG&E that have never worked in
26 the field, that have never climbed a pole,
27 that doesn't seem right. You may or may not
28 have the ability to affect that. I don't

1 know.

2 I don't want to ramble on here, but
3 the Governor just signed a bill, maybe you
4 can help me out here. It had something to do
5 with a wildfire contingency fund. We are
6 paying for that. I'm also paying for a rate
7 increase. How about we use some of that
8 money to defray the rate increase? Does it
9 all have to apply to just the consumer? You
10 know?

11 I mean if we're going to affect
12 every PG&E customer in the state, maybe we
13 need to use some of those emergency funds to
14 help those people that are on the bubble.
15 And then part of your deliberation on whether
16 to grant this increase, there's a certain
17 amount of our society that is always on that
18 financial bubble, and a simple increase, and
19 I don't care what the numbers PG&E puts on a
20 piece of paper, they can tell you anything,
21 but there's a certain amount of people in our
22 society that are always financially on that
23 bubble. And when you do a rate increase, you
24 have to ask yourself how many poor homeless
25 people are you going to make? Every tax
26 increase, every utility increase, you are
27 affecting every household in this state and
28 some can be affected adversely.

1 I don't know where you pull your
2 information to make these decisions, but I'm
3 hoping and praying that you do what's best
4 for the consumer in this state.

5 Thank you.

6 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

7 Mr. Cardoza.

8 STATEMENT OF MR. CARDOZA

9 Hello. Can you hear me? Joe
10 Cardoza, C-a-r-d-o-z-a.

11 And this is not just for you, but
12 also for my fellow citizens. Just last week
13 on July 10th, the Wall Street Journal claims
14 that PG&E knew parts of their transmission
15 lines system were faulty and potential -- a
16 potential for wildfire hazard existed.

17 And that Probation Judge William
18 Alsup wants PG&E to respond. Document
19 obtained by the Freedom of Information Act
20 states that for years PG&E declined to pay
21 for upgrades. Yet, after starting so many
22 fires -- and there's tens of them over the
23 last so many years; they had money,
24 \$79 million for logging in the year 2011.
25 They didn't pay taxes between 2008 and 2010.
26 They got a billion dollars in rebates. They
27 made a profit back then of 4.8 billion. They
28 increased executive pay by 94 percent. These

1 are things they may not know. And they paid
2 out \$5 billion in dividends before bankruptcy
3 to their investors.

4 So why do we have to pay for this?
5 We know they're at fault for this. And yet
6 they hand out bonuses. They pay for
7 lobbyists. They make contributions to
8 politicians. And then they're asking for
9 1.1 billion when they're paying out dividends
10 of \$5 billion. So how come nobody says to
11 them, "Save that money and use it to pay for
12 your errors for burning down people's towns."

13 And I hate to have to put it so
14 dramatic, but they killed 85 people. They
15 knew that C-hook was bad.

16 So may I suggest that they take the
17 money from their own funding. If they have
18 \$5 billion for dividends, if they have
19 millions of dollars for bonuses, they can pay
20 for their own safety equipment.

21 They always talk about safety
22 first. They put out commercials for years
23 and yet it's proven that they did not fix
24 their lines. May I suggest in the future
25 that they build a fund for themselves?
26 Instead of profits, instead of dividends to
27 investors, that they keep a fund, an
28 emergency fund for a rainy day, just like

1 Governor Brown did for the State of
2 California. Why don't they do that? What's
3 wrong with that business model? It's a good
4 idea. I don't know why they don't come up
5 with this themselves.

6 I also find it funny we have to
7 speak. To me, the California Public
8 Utilities Commission without our input should
9 be going, "Hey, you guys have all this extra
10 money. You gave out bonuses and dividends.
11 You pay for it."

12 Am I wrong here, people?

13 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (Collective "No."
14 Resounding applause by audience.)

15 MR. CARDOZA: I shouldn't even have to
16 speak with you. If it doesn't go that way,
17 all I have got to say as humans, "Shame on
18 you."

19 That's it.

20 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

21 Next Mr. Mulholland, followed by
22 Brad Nichols, Karen Rogers, Linda Cartier and
23 Steve Hoffman.

24 Mr. Mulholland first.

25 STATEMENT OF MR. MULHOLLAND

26 I'm Bob Mulholland of Chico,
27 M-u-l-h-o-l-l-a-n-d. I'm here -- to Bob,
28 thanks for bringing up that Wall Street

1 Journal.

2 I'm here to state why PG&E needs
3 this rate increase.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What? Say that
5 again.

6 MR. MULHOLLAND: State why PG&E needs
7 this rate increase, just like everyone else.

8 San Bruno gas explosion killed many
9 people. They got convicted. They're a
10 convicted felon. They're on parole. They
11 have to report to their parole officer, which
12 is a Federal judge.

13 The CEO of PG&E earlier this year
14 said that PG&E was responsible for the Camp
15 Fire; that she was responsible.

16 Right down the street here in Hagen
17 Lane. FEMA is putting in a hundred units for
18 some of those survivors and some have spoken
19 today. 19,000 structures destroyed.
20 \$9 billion in damage. And for those who've
21 said, or others have said, 85 people dead.
22 She immediately quit. She wasn't arrested.
23 She quit. And PG&E gave her an \$8 million, I
24 believe, severance package.

25 And then what did PG&E do? They put
26 the word out they needed a new CEO. So who
27 did they hire? Bill Johnson from the East
28 Coast. He was fired at one utility and the

1 other utility he was so incompetent he cost
2 the ratepayers tens of millions of dollars.
3 And he was going to get moving expenses
4 because when you pay somebody several million
5 dollars, you really can't expect them to pay
6 for their U-Haul. And they put in the
7 contract for Bill Johnson that if he gets
8 fired for incompetence, he'll get several
9 million dollars in severance package.

10 ALJ LIRAG: Mr. Mulholland.

11 MR. MULHOLLAND: Mulholland, yeah.

12 ALJ LIRAG: No. I'm not going to
13 interrupt you.

14 MR. MULHOLLAND: I know you're not.

15 ALJ LIRAG: I'm just going to tell you
16 to speak a little slower.

17 MR. MULHOLLAND: Okay.

18 ALJ LIRAG: The reporters are
19 struggling to get down every word --

20 MR. MULHOLLAND: Oh, yeah.

21 (Crosstalk.)

22 ALJ LIRAG: All right. Thank you.
23 Please proceed.

24 MR. MULHOLLAND: Yeah. Yeah. The
25 Governor of this state gets about \$200,000 a
26 year. Why do we pay these people \$8 million?
27 Maybe the PUC doesn't have the ability to
28 limit these people, but because you have the

1 ability to add our rates up, maybe the
2 Legislature ought to move, instead of petting
3 these people, we ought to put them in jail.
4 And as I said at the -- oh, I should say,
5 "Welcome back to Chico, Michael" -- that I
6 would like to see some of these people put in
7 handcuffs for arson. It was arson at the
8 Camp Fire.

9 (Mr. Mulholland displaying
10 handcuffs.)

11 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

12 Next is Mr. Nichols.

13 STATEMENT OF MR. NICHOLS

14 My name is Brad Nichols,
15 N-i-c-h-o-l-s.

16 I don't have any remarks prepared.
17 I'm not much of a public speaker, so bear
18 with me. I heard about this a few hours ago.
19 I thought I'd come down here and express my
20 opinion about the rate hike.

21 ALJ LIRAG: Can you get a little closer
22 to the mic?

23 MR. NICHOLS: I thought I'd come down
24 here and express my opinion about the rate
25 hike. I'm against it.

26 I think this is a private company
27 that is out there to make profits. I think
28 they make good profits. As people have

1 mentioned, they make enough to pay billions
2 in bonuses, millions to lobbyists, \$8 million
3 to their CEO. They're asking for \$10 a
4 month, but they're asking for more from
5 people -- this is a community that's already
6 been greatly affected by their actions or
7 inactions as the case may be. And they're
8 asking, you know, us to foot the bill for
9 their mistakes.

10 They go into bankruptcy. It seems
11 like they can't manage their equipment. They
12 can't manage their finances, but somehow the
13 people that are forced to use them for their
14 power -- we don't have a choice who we get
15 our power from, but they want us to pay for
16 it rather than their investors who chose to
17 associate with that company. If they had the
18 incompetence to invest their money into that
19 company, let them use that money to do
20 business the way it should be done without
21 causing towns to burn to the ground.

22 That's all I have to say about it.
23 So, thank you for giving me the opportunity
24 to speak.

25 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

26 And you spoke very well. We
27 understood what you said.

28 Next is Ms. Rogers.

1 STATEMENT OF MS. ROGERS

2 Karen Rogers, R-o-g-e-r-s.

3 I had some things written down, but
4 a lot of people have already said a lot, but
5 I just want to add my voice.

6 Like everybody else, I was really
7 dumbfounded when I read in the paper and
8 heard on the news reports that the higher-ups
9 were getting bonuses after -- before the
10 bankruptcy and after the fire. And I
11 thought, oh my gosh. This is not right. And
12 then 16 percent of your profit -- of your
13 income is going to go to shareholders?
14 Something is not right there either.

15 And why now are you talking heavily
16 about inspections? I don't know about
17 anybody else, but inspections are like
18 personal work reviews. We get reviewed every
19 six months or once a year for many companies.

20 I work for the Census Bureau on a
21 daily basis and I represent the people, not
22 the government. I represent their voice.
23 You are supposed to represent our voice and
24 what happens in this county, as well as other
25 areas all across the United States or
26 wherever PG&E is located.

27 What happened in San Bruno is
28 unfathomable, I thought at the time. And

1 Paradise? That was preventable. How does
2 anyone look at themselves in the mirror and
3 say, "We did our job." You did not do your
4 job. Inspections should be held regularly,
5 especially with utilities. You're dealing
6 with households with human beings. We are
7 human beings for a reason, not computers, not
8 technological components. We are real people
9 and you're taking our lives every single day.
10 So, please represent us.

11 I was at the Water Commission rate
12 increase. There were not even half as many
13 people there as there are today. And it just
14 -- it really bothers me because we're all
15 expressing from our heart and our experience.
16 And it's not going to mean a damn thing
17 because you're going to do the rate increase.
18 But if you're going to do the rate increase,
19 make it worthwhile. Do your inspections.
20 Care about the people in this community, not
21 just what is going to go in your pocket. I
22 feel very strongly about this.

23 I was fortunate enough not to be
24 affected in personally losing everything, but
25 I know so many people because I dealt with so
26 many people who lived in Paradise, who lived
27 on the Skyway and lost everything. They can't
28 replace that. Thank God many of them

1 survived, but we lost 86 people in that fire.
2 And I don't remember how many people were
3 lost in San Bruno.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Eight.

5 MS. ROGERS: Pardon?

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Eight.

7 MS. ROGERS: Eight. Eight is eight too
8 many. Yes. But it's all preventable. You
9 do your job. We have to do ours in our work.
10 Do your job.

11 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

12 Next is Linda Cartier.

13 MS. CARTIER: Hi. Can everybody hear
14 me?

15 AUDIENCE: (Collective no.)

16 MS. CARTIER: Is that better?

17 Linda Cartier, C-a-r-t-i-e-r. I'm
18 here representing the disabled and other
19 elderly people who could not be here.

20 I don't usually come to meetings
21 like this. I have wanted to go to things
22 like City Council and things like this, but
23 when they're mostly held in the Bay Area or
24 Sacramento, I don't have a car and I don't
25 have a way to get there and I can't afford it
26 anyway. And locally I don't generally have
27 the energy to sit through a meeting. I look
28 okay, but my spine is disintegrating.

1 Anyway, just on a personal note, I
2 had the money a few years ago, about 12 years
3 ago, to buy a mobile home in Paradise for
4 cash, but it was the beginning of the housing
5 crunch or fiasco and I realized that I
6 wouldn't be able to sustain the rent for the
7 space over time because I'm on Social
8 Security disability and SSI, and with \$951 a
9 month income, you know, \$500 was just going
10 to not do it for me.

11 If I had done that, I would have
12 died in that fire because I haven't had a car
13 for seven years and am unable to drive right
14 now. So I would have been one more person
15 dead in the fire.

16 So, again, personally, last summer
17 my PG&E bill was about \$35. The rate
18 increases are already hurting me terribly.
19 This year, this month, it was \$44. That's \$9
20 more and I'm using less energy. I have all
21 LED light bulbs, except for the fluorescents
22 in my kitchen because I haven't afforded
23 buying the LEDs for those. I conserve. I
24 have a small apartment, but I can't live
25 without the air conditioner which I used last
26 year and paid \$35. Okay?

27 So here's somebody who conserves
28 severely and is low income and is disabled

1 and has several lifesaving machines at home
2 and I can't afford any rate increases. They
3 seem to be exponential. It seems that they
4 keep breeding more.

5 Now for the heart of my -- what I
6 think about this; first of all, the 2020
7 increases and the 2021 and 2022 increases
8 total \$22.9 million. That's incredible. I
9 have a question. When you're talking about
10 10 percent rate increase, is that just the --
11 or \$10 rate increase, is that just the 2020
12 increase or is that both of them? If it's
13 not both of them, this is just plain
14 unsustainable.

15 My income went up about \$5. My
16 utility bill went up \$9. Inflation was more
17 than that for groceries. I could end up
18 homeless, even though I have Section 8 rental
19 assistance, if my utility bill continues to
20 increase like that. That's the reality for a
21 lot of people that are elderly and/or
22 disabled.

23 I want to talk about -- some people
24 have touched on this. What are the main
25 reasons for PG&E to cite needing this
26 increase in revenue? Each and every one of
27 these items should have been done all along.
28 They should have had these funded fully all

1 along for years, decades. And that they
2 don't speaks to the problems with their
3 business model as others have said. To give
4 huge bonuses and huge dividends when towns
5 are getting destroyed and people are being
6 priced out of having a home because they
7 can't pay their utilities, is just not okay.

8 Please, do the right thing instead
9 of acting like you're in PG&E's pocket.

10 Thank you.

11 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you. Next is
12 Mr. Hoffman followed by Ann Schwab, Bruce
13 McLelan, Patti Savage and Susan Sullivan.

14 Mr. Hoffman.

15 STATEMENT OF MR. HOFFMAN

16 Good afternoon. My name is Steve
17 Hoffman, H-o-f-f-m-a-n. And I really don't
18 like to come to places like this but I just
19 felt like I was responsible to do that.

20 The first thing I want to say is I
21 have absolutely no confidence in PG&E being
22 able to manage money. If you throw more
23 money at them, it's just going to make a
24 bigger problem.

25 I would like to share a couple of
26 those that I experienced first-hand with.

27 When I first went to work out of
28 college, I went to work at a small auto parts

1 store. I was doing machine work in the back
2 of it. Our best customer was PG&E, many of
3 the powerhouses up and down the canyon.

4 What we routinely did was send new
5 washers and dryers, refrigerators and color
6 TVs up and down the canyon billed out as nuts
7 and bolts and equipment. Okay.

8 The second example I have is I have
9 a relative that used to work for PG&E down in
10 San Francisco. He had a little office and
11 all he did was make planned presentations for
12 the PUC for rate increases.

13 One year he shared with me, after I
14 shared with him the Feather River Canyon
15 episode, he said that he felt the best way to
16 get a rate increase was to -- they needed
17 line trucks I guess they call them. And what
18 he did is he went to Ford and he priced out
19 every single piece of a line truck one item
20 at the time and totaled it all up and it was
21 like a quarter of a million dollars for a
22 \$900,000 truck, of course. Okay?

23 So the PUC thought, "I'm going to
24 save everybody money. PG&E, you're going to
25 get all new line trucks." It's not like --
26 when you refurbish a truck, you don't buy
27 every single piece brand new.

28 The very next day, he was back in

1 his office in San Francisco preparing his
2 next presentation for the PUC.

3 I have to check out my
4 teleprompter here.

5 So how is PG&E going to get their
6 next rate increase? It looks like they're
7 going to burn down a community and kill 85
8 people, of our neighbors.

9 I have a question. Who is going to
10 be held responsible for killing 85 people?
11 The CEO of PG&E? She walked away with a
12 bonus. I read it was \$2 million after two
13 years of working for them. Somebody else
14 said \$8 million. I don't actually know what
15 the number is but I think she should be in
16 prison for criminal neglect.

17 Okay. What is the fix for the
18 PG&E? In my opinion, you've got to break up.
19 You have a complete monopoly. And you have
20 got to break them up. Who's going to run it?
21 Who is going to run PG&E? Well, you need to
22 talk to Gridley. They have it together.
23 They're distributing their own power. The
24 City of Gridley is doing better for it and
25 the community is saving money.

26 Our house up in Tahoe, Liberty
27 Utility's rates are about half of what they
28 are at PG&E.

1 So, you know where these rates go.
2 I do. Let's ask for -- we actually want a
3 five percent increase, we'll ask for ten.
4 Because of all this energy and outpouring of
5 interest, we're going to take care of the
6 people. We are only going to charge 5
7 percent instead of 10 percent. Look what
8 good people we are.

9 But, you know, what? That is all
10 they wanted anyway.

11 So, thank you.

12 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

13 Ms. Schwab.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: She's not here.

15 ALJ LIRAG: Let's move on to Bruce
16 McLelan (sic).

17 STATEMENT OF MR. McLEAN

18 Actually, that's Bruce McLean, M-c
19 capital L-e-a-n.

20 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

21 MR. McLEAN: I recognize the Bruce, so.

22 I -- it's just been touched on now,
23 but I think many if not most of the problems
24 that have been discussed and concerns that we
25 all have, have to do with PG&E being a
26 private company and not being run properly,
27 considering that our safety, security is
28 involved. And I second whoever it was who

1 suggested that PG&E be broken up. They have
2 shown themselves not to be viable as a
3 company and it is not correct to have the
4 ratepayers pay for their unviability.

5 I'm very concerned that their
6 fail-safe device to keep us safe now is to
7 simply shut off the electricity. I mean they
8 provide electricity. That is all they do.
9 If the only way that they can keep us safe
10 ultimately is by denying us the service that
11 we need, and it is not easy for us if they
12 shut off our electricity, who is going to pay
13 for the food that goes rotten in my
14 refrigerator? Me and you. There is
15 something criminally wrong here, something
16 criminally wrong.

17 And I agree with the person who
18 brought up Gridley and you could say
19 Sacramento and Redding also. And there's a
20 movement here in Chico that just started to
21 do something somewhat similar and I encourage
22 us to do it. I encourage our Board of
23 Supervisors to do it on a county-wide basis
24 so that everybody can benefit, not just
25 Chico.

26 And I was very encouraged when I
27 heard the -- I went to PG&E's wildland safety
28 program that they had. I was thinking it was

1 going to be a forum like this where people
2 were going to be able to speak. But there
3 was no forum. There was a suggestion box.
4 And you know where my suggestion would have
5 gone had I put it in there, so.

6 I talked to people. I was happy to
7 hear that they were finally considering
8 putting underground electrical power
9 structure. Yes, it's a big investment, but
10 so is the 9 or \$15 billion that the Camp Fire
11 caused.

12 You go to the country of the
13 Netherlands, which has a very high water
14 table, it's hard to dig a hole there and not
15 strike water. Half the country is under sea
16 level. They buried all of their electrical
17 power structure. You don't see electrical
18 wires there because they have got a
19 publicly-run, smartly-administered on behalf
20 of the users public utility.

21 We don't. We have a privately-run
22 for-profit and poorly-run. So it needs to be
23 broken up and the public needs to be in
24 charge of the running of it.

25 Thank you.]

26 ALJ LIRAG: Ms. Savage.

27 STATEMENT OF MS. SAVAGE

28 I'm also not a public speaker. My

1 last name is Savage, S-a-v-a-g-e.

2 I am a survivor of the Camp Fire.
3 Fortunately, I wasn't at home when the fire
4 came through Paradise because my son had
5 called me on the afternoon of the 7th and
6 said, Hey, my friend Steve is being sent to
7 turn off the electricity in Oroville, and so
8 he asked me to give you a call in case you
9 wanted to -- had plans to do something
10 tomorrow, maybe you should do it today, or if
11 you don't want to be home, don't be home.

12 And I hung up, and I complained to
13 my friend, and I said, I don't want to wake
14 up at 4 a.m. to make coffee, and nobody likes
15 me if I don't have coffee. And so they
16 suggested that I go up to their house in
17 Cohasset where they had a generator and I
18 could have coffee whether we had electricity
19 or not.

20 And so I woke up at 7 a.m. and saw
21 the plume that mistakenly I thought was a
22 storm cloud, and the sun was peeking out from
23 behind it, and I said, Oh, isn't that
24 beautiful, and we're going to have rain and
25 we don't have to worry about fire for a
26 while, and they said, That's not a storm
27 cloud. And then I realized that it was a
28 plume because it was only one.

1 And so I jumped in my car and I
2 tried to make it back up, and I got to Bruce
3 Road and Skyway at 8:30 in the morning and it
4 was already closed. I couldn't go up.

5 I was devastated because I couldn't
6 get my kids and grandkids baby pictures out
7 of the house. I couldn't get the jacket that
8 I kept after my mom died so when I really
9 needed my mom, I could go hug it and smell
10 her. There's lots of things that I had that
11 were stuff, but there's things that can't be
12 replaced.

13 And to have these corporate
14 executives making over a million dollars a
15 year and then asking for more money. They
16 file bankruptcy so they can get out of paying
17 the survivors what they're due because they
18 were negligent in keeping their equipment
19 up-to-date.

20 From what I understand, even if
21 they would have turned off that power that
22 day, it still would have happened because it
23 was a transformer not a line.

24 So they turn off our power now, and
25 what happens when it's another transformer
26 that they can't keep up-to-date?

27 I'm tired of the CPUC giving them a
28 break. They don't deserve it. You make sure

1 they make a profit, and they get money to
2 give their shareholders every year. That's
3 not right.

4 We're the victims and you're asking
5 us to pay the victims. That would be like
6 sending the rape victim to jail and not the
7 rapist. It's pitiful what they're doing.

8 If they want to have more money,
9 how about they reduce their salaries. How
10 about they reduce their dividends. How about
11 they reduce their lobbying and their campaign
12 funds to try to bribe or whatever they plan
13 on doing with those funds.

14 I'm not saying that any of the
15 politicians, whether they knowingly accepted
16 it or not, that they were bribed by it, but
17 money talks. And I don't see a whole lot of
18 people doing the walk, and I'm disappointed.

19 When I rebuild in Paradise, I'm
20 going solar, and if I could have nothing to
21 do with PG&E, I'm going to.

22 Because even though they're going
23 to be there with their lines underground or
24 overhead depending on what they decide to do,
25 I'm not going to pay for their salaries to
26 destroy my home again, and I think it's a
27 shame that they are asking us to do that.

28 Thank you.

1 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

2 Next is Susan Sullivan followed
3 Linda Kennedy and Kathryn Stevens, David
4 Barker and Keith Bristow.

5 STATEMENT OF MS. SULLIVAN

6 Susan Sullivan, S-u-l-l-i-v-a-n,
7 and I don't like public speaking either. I
8 know we're not supposed to ask questions, but
9 I want to know why this wasn't a meeting
10 about breaking up PG&E? That is what we
11 should be here for.

12 I don't know what the CPUC does.
13 They're supposed to regulate PG&E, watch
14 after them, make sure the money is spent
15 wisely.

16 After the San Bruno pipeline
17 explosion, which is a half mile away from
18 where I grew up, many high school friends'
19 parents lost their homes and their lives
20 there, and that was due to improper
21 inspection of lines or pipes, and yet after
22 that, PG&E asked for and got permission to do
23 the SmartMeters. The job of the CPUC should
24 have been to hound on PG&E to make sure their
25 system was safe and ed inspected and
26 repaired.

27 I don't know how you go home and
28 sleep at night. On a daily basis -- I live

1 in Chico. Hundreds of my friends lost
2 everything. My old home on Honey Run is
3 gone. An old neighbor is gone.

4 A girlfriend, her mother had a
5 stroke the week after the fire. Their family
6 lost two houses in Concow. Her mother passed
7 away last month. She is not going to be
8 counted among the 85 dead. Not everybody
9 here is a survivor from the Camp Fire. There
10 are people from Chico too.

11 It's not only impacted -- you're
12 penalizing the people that lost everything:
13 Their community, their homes.

14 I have friends all over the state
15 now, all over the country because it's going
16 to be years before it's safe to move back to
17 Paradise, and you want to bill them for the
18 negligence of PG&E and the negligence of the
19 CPUC to make sure PG&E maintained their
20 lines?

21 I'm sorry. It's just -- it can't
22 not be emotional. I run into friends. I ran
23 into a friend yesterday that had spent 27
24 hours stuck on up on Edgewood after the fire,
25 and that's the location where people did not
26 make it out.

27 I want to know why the first thing
28 is, if PG&E is concerned about safety, is

1 that they haven't put sirens up in these
2 Foothill communities. They shut down power
3 already for over 24 hours. There's no means
4 for the people in the foothills to
5 communicate if they don't have their cell
6 phones charged.

7 If another fire came, how would
8 they even know?

9 So if PG&E's first concern is
10 safety, the first thing they should do is
11 have sirens up and down and in Chico because
12 the fire did almost come to Chico. It came
13 to Bruce Road and over 99 I think.

14 It's not acceptable. They've had
15 focus groups, spent money on that. I'm sure
16 sirens would be cheaper.

17 This is not the time for a rate
18 increase. Was it \$238 million in bonuses
19 went out to executives?

20 How do any of you sleep at night
21 with what you've done?

22 PG&E needs to be broken up. It
23 needs to be managed on a local level.

24 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

25 Next is Ms. Kathryn Stevens. So
26 Ms. Stevens is No. 16 on the list of
27 speakers. The last number I have is No. 38;
28 so let's try to get through everyone.

1 Ms. Stevens.

2 STATEMENT OF MS. STEVENS

3 My last name is spelled
4 S-t-e-v-e-n-s. I'm speaking as an
5 individual. I do teach up in Paradise. I
6 did lose my home and everything in it, but
7 I'm not here speaking for the school
8 district. I'm speaking as an individual.

9 A lot of things that I have to say
10 are the same things as others, so I'll try to
11 keep that part very quick.

12 My first question - I know you
13 can't answer it, but something to consider -
14 is how do you prevent them from actually
15 using this money, if it were to approved, to
16 go to wages and the lawsuit.

17 So that's what they're saying their
18 intention is, but we all know how money moves
19 within business, and I don't know if there's
20 some way to prevent that, but if this does go
21 forward, it would be great for you to
22 actually not allow that.

23 This money should not be going for
24 them paying for what they've done wrong and
25 for them to be paying more money for people
26 who are not doing their job properly.

27 I also am concerned about them
28 saying that there's money for liability

1 insurance.

2 Having to move from Paradise to
3 Chico, and we're able that we were able to
4 settle in Chico. I have a \$550 increase in
5 my rent. No one is helping me with that.
6 That is just our responsibility.

7 And the people that are living in
8 Magalia and Paradise, have a huge increase on
9 their insurance because they can't get
10 wildfire insurance or are paying extreme
11 amounts of money for it, and no one is
12 helping them.

13 And it's not just about: Well, we
14 can't get; therefore, they shouldn't. That's
15 not what we are saying.

16 There's a lot of pain in this area
17 and you can tell. A lot of people are
18 suffering. A lot of people have lost a lot,
19 but what they are saying is, not that's why
20 you should make your decision. You should
21 make your decision because they have an
22 excess of money that they're not using in an
23 appropriate fashion. They should be making
24 cuts within their own wages. That's what you
25 do when you have a business and you want to
26 spend more money than what you are bringing
27 in: You make cuts and you use your money
28 more efficiently.

1 And that's what we're asking them
2 to do. Not put it all on the back of the
3 people that they've harmed or just the people
4 that are benefiting from it.

5 You know, people have lost their
6 homes. And then you're asking us to pay
7 more. Are you going to exempt us from that
8 because we lost our homes?

9 Or what are you going to do to
10 balance that?

11 They should not be able to collect
12 more money off of us after they burned
13 everything I owned.

14 And so I think that's another
15 consideration to have in there. I do not
16 understand why it's a private company that is
17 for profit.

18 Like in teaching, nothing is for
19 profit. Well, some charters, but we try not
20 to do that. So, you know, I work for the
21 Paradise Unified School District. We do not
22 make money. We teach children.

23 They are providing a service of
24 giving us electricity and gas. They should
25 not be making money off of that.

26 The police force does not make
27 money off of what they do. It's public
28 service, and I think it should be the same

1 way.

2 And then the last thing, and I
3 don't know if you have an opportunity to do
4 this is just more of an explanation of this
5 process and how this works, as far as you
6 making your decision and what you consider.

7 I know there's a websites and
8 things like that, but since we're here if you
9 could explain how this is going to go forth,
10 that would be appreciated.

11 Thank you.

12 ALJ LIRAG: I think I skipped Ms. Linda
13 Kennedy.

14 MS. KENNEDY: I thought you did.

15 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you for waiting,
16 Ms. Kennedy.

17 STATEMENT OF MS. KENNEDY

18 Thank you for having me. Thank you
19 for this opportunity for me to speak.

20 Others have expressed a lot of what
21 I wanted to say eloquently and very factually
22 and I appreciate that.

23 So the point that I would like to
24 make is I want better governance. I want
25 PG&E to be operating in such a way that we
26 don't have to worry about a high wind; we
27 don't have to trade wind for electricity.

28 And I really honestly don't

1 understand the relationship between the CPUC
2 and PG&E. I thought you were an oversight
3 committee, and I thought that you were
4 looking at their operation and that you had
5 some ability to influence the way it's being
6 run.

7 And all these points that have been
8 made about it being a for-profit
9 organization, it's really hard to measure
10 that when you're talking about such personal
11 loss in this community.

12 So, you know, I thought, as I was
13 preparing my remarks, that I could make the
14 point that maybe CPUC is partially
15 responsible for our tragedy, if it is because
16 of a lack oversight, then I would ask for
17 better governance from both PG&E and also
18 CPUC.

19 So, thank you very much.

20 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

21 Mr. David Barker is next.

22 STATEMENT OF MR. BARKER

23 Hi. I'm David Barker, B-a-r-k-e-r.
24 Most people have already touched on pretty
25 much what I wanted to say, and it all goes
26 hand-in-hand. I see nothing going to come of
27 this because nobody is really being held
28 accountable.

1 If you're giving somebody money,
2 before they get bankrupt, so the higher-ups
3 can make more money, and then we all get
4 shafted down here at the lower end. It
5 doesn't make any sense to me, and I'm not a
6 college person, and I haven't gone to college
7 or anything like that. I work like the rest
8 of everybody else.

9 I just feel that, you know, we're
10 not stupid. None of us in here are stupid.
11 We can say what we want and we know what we
12 want to say, and what's going on here is just
13 totally, in my opinion, ignorant.

14 I mean, let's be real about it.
15 Anybody that wants to argue that would really
16 have a hard time doing that.

17 So I'm just here to say it's just
18 totally wrong. PG&E should be held
19 accountable. If I go and wreck my car
20 because I was drinking, is somebody going to
21 come bail me out?

22 No. No. I have to bail myself
23 out. Then I got to go through whatever they
24 do anymore.

25 So, you know, it doesn't work that
26 way with PG&E. We're supposed to bail them
27 out while they sit at their pools and drink a
28 glass of wine and watch a ballgame?

1 I'm sorry. That just doesn't work
2 in my book. And I'm going solar. And I know
3 a lot of other people are too, and when then
4 happens, then where's PG&E going to be?

5 Asking for more money from us
6 because we are all solar now?

7 Yeah, That's not going to fly
8 because they won't get it then because this
9 is going to be a short course.

10 Thank you.

11 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

12 Mr. Bristow.

13 STATEMENT OF MR. BRISTOW

14 Hi. My name is Keith Bristow,
15 B-r-i-s-t-o-w. I am a Camp Fire survivor.
16 This is a burn that is still healing
17 eight-and-a-half months later.

18 This is it really simple. You
19 don't reward somebody for doing something bad
20 by raising the rates. You're rewarding them
21 for doing something bad.

22 If the schoolyard bully does
23 something bad, you punish them. PG&E does
24 not deserve a rate increase. They deserve to
25 give us free electricity for the of our
26 lives. There's 85 people that ain't got a
27 life. It just ain't right. I'm just a
28 simple person. I'm just here to tell you:

1 They don't deserve a rate increase.

2 Thank you for your time.

3 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

4 Ms. Helen Dennis is next.

5 Ms. Dennis.

6 Let's go off the record.

7 (Off the record.)

8 ALJ LIRAG: Let's go back on the record
9 so that we can get everything that you're
10 saying. Go ahead, Ms. Dennis.

11 STATEMENT OF MS. DENNIS

12 Hello. My name is Helen Dennis,
13 D-e-n-n-i-s. And I'm here to represent the
14 poor. I'm not homeless, but I'm nearly
15 homeless because I can't afford to do any
16 maintenance on my home. I can't afford to do
17 any -- anything exciting or fun or anything
18 because I have to pay my bills.

19 And what's my biggest bill, besides
20 my house insurance, which has been, you know,
21 sky-rocketing because of fires -- and guess
22 what? PG&E. That's the big one.

23 And I have to have PG&E so that I
24 can live. I have machines at home that are
25 necessary for my life. So I'm here to say I
26 get \$801 a month from social security.

27 They turn off the power, the last
28 time they did in my neighborhood - because

1 they were doing maintenance, they said. And
2 they blew up my TV, so now I no longer have a
3 television.

4 So what are they going to blow up
5 next? And what are they going to do for my
6 food that goes to be waste because I can't
7 eat it, I can't cook it, I can't do anything
8 with it because they've turned off my power.

9 I want to know what's going to
10 happen. Why are they being allowed to be
11 kings of our country?

12 They think they're a god, and you
13 guys allow it and that's wrong.

14 It should not ever be that way. It
15 should never have gotten to this point where
16 they're getting such an astronomical amount
17 of money. And believe me, the workers get
18 good pay, but they're just workers, and they
19 get fired right and left whenever they're not
20 doing whatever PG&E wants them to do.

21 If they speak up and say: Hey,
22 you're not doing things right, what do they
23 get? Shaft.

24 But what do we get? We've been
25 getting shaft all along. And look how many
26 emergencies and disasters - I live Oroville -
27 our community has accepted and has had to
28 deal with, and every one of those cuts our

1 lives shorter.

2 I plan to be 115. Now, I'm going
3 to have to reevaluate at 100 because I'm
4 never going to make it with all these
5 disasters that we keep having. This is
6 wrong. We should not be having that.

7 I never hear the town of Concow
8 being talked about, but there was 750 homes
9 up there. 700 of them are gone. No more.
10 Nothing. To the ground.

11 I went to my friend's house up
12 there just the other day for her birthday.
13 She is trying to live in this little-dinky
14 trailer. No bathroom facilities. No water.
15 No nothing. She's trying to live there while
16 they're supposed to be clearing her property.
17 No effort has been made so far so that she
18 can start having a home put there.

19 The other six members of that
20 family are homeless, not just for her, but
21 other members in the family.

22 I want to know, because I'm
23 speaking for those people too, I want to know
24 what you're going to do for that.

25 And why PUC doesn't stop this, take
26 and knock them down off that thrown they put
27 themselves on. They are not my god. I just
28 have to pay them or die.

1 That's not what any of us want.
2 And nobody has ever talked about how many
3 little animals are dead.

4 Did you notice I have a service dog
5 on my lap?

6 That service dog is a life-giver:
7 It alerts. Guess what? If PG&E turns off, I
8 am going to have to get up because we can't
9 breathe. Does it matter?

10 It should. It shouldn't be just
11 because I live in a semi-rural area that I'm
12 having this kind of problem. Numerous fires
13 have been started in the field behind my home
14 because of PG&E, their little transformer
15 stations. That's ridiculous.

16 None of us should have to live like
17 that. And I'm asking you: Please do not
18 give them this rate increase. Please make
19 them start digging in their own pockets
20 instead of taking bonuses and raises.

21 We do not need that. They
22 shouldn't be getting that kind of money.
23 Nobody in this world should be getting that
24 kind of money on the backs of the poor and on
25 the backs of the people they serve.

26 You're not serving me when you do
27 that. You're not serving any of us, and I
28 ask that you do something about it.

1 Thank you.

2 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

3 Next is Ms. MaryKay Benson, followed
4 by Anna Meehan, Roger Braddy, and then I only
5 have a name "Benson."

6 STATEMENT OF MS. BENSON

7 I'm MaryKay Benson, B-e-n-s-o-n.
8 I'm here representing myself and also 350
9 Butte County, which includes Chico 350.
10 We're an environmental education/advocation
11 group.

12 I feel so many great things have
13 been said by so many people already and
14 really just speaking from the heart, our
15 community is terrorized. This feels like
16 domestic terrorism to me because we have
17 85 -- at least 85 people dead and no one is
18 keeping count of ones that died shortly
19 thereafter because of the fire.

20 I testified before this CPUC in
21 Sacramento on January 31st. I found out that
22 right after I testified, the CPUC gave
23 another billion dollars to PG&E.

24 So I don't know how much we affect
25 your decisions. I think not much.

26 But I would like to put on the
27 record that PG&E lobbied the CPUC last year
28 \$350,000. What for? You're a regulatory

1 agency. That feels like terrorism to me.

2 When we're told that if another
3 fire comes along, if the winds are high,
4 they're going to shut down our power, our
5 electricity.

6 Well, it gets to be 108 probably
7 more up here. It's really hot. We are
8 front-line community that got burned out, but
9 we're also in a climate crisis, and we're
10 going to have more and more hot days and more
11 and more hot nights, and - guess what - even
12 when it's really super hot like that and the
13 wind blows, then if PG&E is going to shut
14 down our electricity, you're going to kill a
15 bunch more of us.

16 I don't understand. The whole
17 system is corrupt to me. PG&E pays 80
18 percent of our California elected
19 officials -- they lobby them. 80 percent of
20 our elected officials are on the take from
21 PG&E. Your Commission itself took \$350,000.

22 I think it's like follow the money,
23 but the money is California crony capitalism,
24 disaster capitalism, and I think it's
25 domestic terrorism. You've got us all
26 frightened to death.

27 I won't live that long to see all
28 the damages that are being done, but I do

1 know that for the young people, that's why
2 I'm here. I have led a good life. I'm 71,
3 but there are a lot of young people who are
4 not going to sit and take this.

5 And I can tell you, if PG&E caused
6 1500 California fires - I'm reading some
7 headlines now - the day before they declared
8 bankruptcy, the CPUC gave them six-plus
9 billion dollars, and that makes you
10 co-conspirators, and that also makes you,
11 since PG&E is a six-time convicted felon,
12 that makes you co-conspirators to the murders
13 that they have committed, and that's not
14 acceptable.

15 And I also just want to tell you
16 that 10,000 corrections or repairs have to be
17 made that they found since the wildfires. I
18 feel like it's like big oil keeping us
19 bamboozled for 20, 30, 40 years. They knew
20 the repercussions of their drilling, and they
21 knew it was killing people, and they spent
22 their money instead for misinformation and
23 climate denial, paid political operatives.

24 It's the same thing here. You know
25 that what you're doing is killing people.
26 That makes you serial killers.

27 And we are not going to just lay
28 down and be the collateral damage to

1 corporate profits.

2 Shareholders, the shareholders
3 themselves are hedge fund managers. These
4 are not mom and pop investors. I think the
5 whole system is crooked, and I call it
6 domestic terrorism.

7 Thank you.

8 ALJ LIRAG: Next is Anna Meehan.]

9 STATEMENT OF MS. MEEHAN

10 Hi. I'm Anna Meehan. I'm here as
11 an individual citizen, meeting member and
12 also on behalf of 350.org and DSA.

13 I echo the sentiments of most of
14 the speakers that spoke today. They brought
15 up a lot of really good points and asked a
16 lot of good questions.

17 And I also, I guess my main
18 question and concern is -- I guess, first of
19 all, yeah, I echo the concerns that I'm
20 opposed to the rate increase first of all, to
21 address that. But also I am concerned about
22 PG&E's monopoly on our energy and that people
23 can't go off the grid. That just doesn't
24 seem fair. It seems that we should have a
25 choice and I want to continue that dialog
26 that we have.

27 If it's something that -- people's
28 life support, if energy is something that the

1 people's life support is on to get their
2 water from their well and all of the things
3 that we need for our day-to-day lives, keep
4 our food fresh and all that, it shouldn't be
5 a business.

6 I'm just going to put it out there.
7 People should not be making profit off of us.
8 And it should be public-owned, worker-owned,
9 and then we will have more input, more say.
10 So I propose that we have more of a
11 discussion on that level because that is what
12 I want. That is what I think a lot of people
13 in our community want because we're sick of
14 PG&E.

15 Thank you. And also, yeah. I'm
16 tired of the corruption and, yeah. Yeah, I
17 just want to propose that we continue that
18 discussion of how we can get away from PG&E
19 and create, like Gridley, a community,
20 public-owned, worker-owned option for our
21 public utilities.

22 Thank you.

23 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

24 Next is Roger Braddy. Is it
25 B-r-a-d-d-y?

26 STATEMENT OF MR. BRADDY

27 That is correct. It's Scottish.

28 ALJ LIRAG: All right.

1 MR. BRADDY: What I want to say is in
2 2020, all new homes are going to go solar.
3 It's already been mandated. This means PG&E
4 is going to be looking for those who are not
5 solar to make up their revenue. Who will not
6 have solar? People like me. People who
7 can't afford to go solar. I would like to.
8 I can't afford it. So, do I, "A", go solar
9 and not eat? Or do I have to pay more in
10 revenues to PG&E because I can't afford both?
11 It's just unreal.

12 I'm sure you have heard that there
13 is a lot of disdain for PG&E in this
14 community at present. I think you know why.
15 It's fair to say that we are all grieving in
16 our own ways.

17 But I'm going to suggest that we
18 turn them down with this request at this
19 point in time for just willful indifference
20 of how they have treated our communities.

21 I have also seen that Berkeley is
22 going to go natural gas on new construction.
23 So, again, there's more places in the north
24 state that are getting away from PG&E. I
25 suggest that there's been other people that
26 have recommended going, you know, to other
27 venues as well.

28 Thank you.

1 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you. Next I have
2 someone listed only as Benson. And then
3 after that is Julian Zener and then Susan
4 Parke and then Elle Hill.

5 STATEMENT OF MR. BENSON

6 So all the PUC, CPUC, I have been
7 waiting to talk to you for a while. So
8 thanks for the opportunity.

9 The writing on this piece of paper
10 here it says, "What are the main reasons for
11 PG&E cites for needing the increase in
12 revenue?" And of course what we want to
13 know: What is the PG&E's main reasons for
14 citing the need for the increase, the
15 shareholders and the salaries of their
16 executives?

17 Thank you. Yeah. Okay. This is
18 -- I'm reading from the Berkeley News East
19 Bay Times editorial:

20 In the wake of California's deadly
21 wildfires, the impending PG&E
22 bankruptcy, it's time for the
23 California leaders to again question
24 whether or not the State's
25 utilities' regulator is up to their
26 task. The California Public
27 Utilities Commission's ability to
28 provide adequate oversight of PG&E

1 --

2 ALJ LIRAG: Sorry. Sorry. Maybe a
3 little slower. Carol is really fast, but not
4 that fast.

5 MR. BENSON: Okay. I'll start with
6 that last part.

7 The California Public Utilities
8 Commission's ability to provide
9 adequate oversight of PG&E has been
10 in doubt since the 2010
11 San Bruno explosion, which killed 8
12 people, injured 66 people and
13 destroyed 38 homes.

14 And actually it happened during the
15 daytime. If it happened in the evening when
16 people were home, we would be talking over a
17 hundred people dead.

18 The independent audit in 2/15 found
19 that PUC frequent management
20 changes, shifting priorities and
21 reactive responses to
22 internal/external recommendations
23 post-San Bruno has led to less
24 focus, lack of clear direction and
25 loss of trust and leadership and
26 unexpectable work backwash in the
27 PUC.

28 There is no use talking about the

1 PG&E if the PUC can't do its job. That's you
2 folks. And it would be nice if you would
3 actually answer these charges. I'm sure you
4 have already read the editorial many times
5 over.

6 PUC's shortcomings also include lack
7 of consistency, focus organization,
8 depth and rigor, adequate
9 recordkeeping, clear expectations
10 and follow-through and utility
11 inspection practices.

12 If you guys don't stand up and do
13 your job, what is the use of talking about
14 PG&E?

15 There's an organization by the
16 citizens called TURN, The Utility Reform
17 Network. We formed that to make you guys do
18 your job. We can't even make you do your
19 job. We formed citizens' groups to help you
20 or make you do your jobs and you don't do it.
21 It would be nice if you would tell these
22 people, you know, "Why you don't do your
23 jobs?"

24 Really quick, all you people out
25 here, how many of you trust the PUC? Raise
26 your hands. There you go. Thank you.

27 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

28 Julian Zener, Z-e-n-e-r.

1 STATEMENT OF MR. ZENER

2 My name is Julian Zener, Z-e-n-e-r.
3 I'm a citizen of Chico.

4 I think that PG&E acts the way a
5 major corporation in this country does.
6 There's been a change in the past 50 years.
7 A big corporation does not look after its
8 customers. It looks after its profits and
9 its shareholders. And there is no reason to
10 think that now, after San Bruno, Redding,
11 Santa Rosa, Paradise, that they'll change
12 their habits. This is part of our culture.

13 So how are things supposed to work?
14 There's supposed to be oversight and
15 regulation. And that falls to California
16 Public Utilities Commission. I think that
17 the fault of all of this lies directly with
18 you.

19 There's a bill of particulars. The
20 PUC knew for decades that the high-tension
21 towers in the forest were aged and
22 susceptible to failure. PG&E told you that.
23 They told you that, for instance, the area
24 where the tower was faulty was to be replaced
25 25 years ago. And PUC asked PG&E, "When are
26 you going to do it?" And they said, "Oh.
27 Oh. We will, we will." And this
28 conversation went on back and forth.

1 The second thing is that PUC has
2 known that PG&E diverted ratepayers' funds
3 that were to go -- that were earmarked to go
4 for safety inspections were being funneled
5 off to executive salaries and to
6 shareholders. Did the Regulatory Commission
7 do anything about that? No. It talked and
8 said, "You guys should be nice." Right? And
9 PG&E said, "No. We're, you know -- citizens
10 united said we're an individual and we can be
11 greedy." And that's the culture.

12 Okay. So, the proposal to put
13 lines underground in Paradise, from my point
14 of view, is a travesty. If those lines had
15 been underground on November 8th, Paradise
16 would still be turned into ashes. The
17 problem is that the high transmission lines
18 going through the forests are structurally
19 unsafe. And PG&E has, despite
20 recommendations for decades, has not
21 insulated those wires.

22 My understanding is that the
23 high-tension wire came loose, fell down and
24 sparked. If they put the money into
25 insulating the high-tension wires, Paradise
26 would not have happened.

27 So, I think that there has been a
28 real travesty and a scandal, as far as

1 California Public Utilities Commission doing
2 their job. They have known about problems.
3 They have not had -- they have not utilized
4 the power and the teeth they have to regulate
5 and I don't see any change. And I think that
6 is really, really sad. And it may be that
7 the ultimate solution is to eliminate our
8 utility -- our energy utility provider from
9 being a private entity, to a public entity,
10 because you guys have not been doing your
11 job.

12 Thank you.

13 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

14 Next is Susan Parke. So I'm going
15 to start asking the spelling of your names.
16 If it is incorrect, please correct it when
17 you get to the stand. Otherwise, I'm just
18 going to do it.

19 It's P-a-r-k-e.

20 STATEMENT OF MS. PARKE

21 That is correct.

22 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

23 MS. PARKE: I'm one of many in a long
24 line here. And what I wanted to say has
25 already been said, except that there is one
26 word that I haven't heard spoken. And that
27 is that although what's been talked today and
28 what PG&E is asking for may be legal, but

1 it's immoral. And it's immoral because of
2 the ongoing negligence that they have shown
3 for so many years and, you know, this is just
4 repeating what other people said, but I have
5 a good memory and I remember the San Bruno
6 fire, the explosion and the fire there.

7 What was particularly egregious
8 about San Bruno was not only that PG&E
9 ignored, people would call in and explain
10 about the smell of gas for over a year before
11 the explosion, that nothing was done. But
12 then what was particularly egregious is that
13 they tried to cover it up through changing
14 their documentation and not making things
15 available. And it was only through the
16 diligence of that mayor of San Bruno, who
17 just went after them, and then finally they
18 became responsible. If my memory is right,
19 they were fined a huge amount, billions and
20 millions of dollars. And that fine was
21 completely reduced to something that is
22 probably a few days of profit for PG&E.

23 At this point in time rather than go
24 on and on and restate what has been stated, I
25 just want to say that when you have somebody
26 who tells you one thing but behaves in
27 another way, it causes craziness. When you
28 do that to a child, it causes them to be

1 nuts; when you do that to a spouse, and that
2 is what PG&E does to us when they put on
3 those marketing advertisements telling us how
4 important our safety is. It's just -- how
5 stupid do they think we are? It is
6 absolutely ridiculous.

7 My -- I work at Feather River
8 Hospital as an RN.

9 The fire was on November 8th. My
10 mother was 93 at the time. She was in
11 assisted living down in Chico. She had bad
12 COPD -- coronary -- COPD. I can't -- I'm so
13 nervous, I can't think of it. Breathing
14 difficulties. She required oxygen
15 constantly. She died November 21st from
16 pneumonia. Her -- the hallways where she was
17 living were filled with smoke. She is not
18 going to be counted in the 85, but she needs
19 to be counted.

20 And the other people -- the other
21 thing that is not being counted and I'm very
22 concerned about is all the toxicity that is
23 up in Paradise right now, people moving back
24 into that area, I just wonder about the
25 asbestos that is still left on the ground.
26 What happens when a wind comes up? In a way,
27 isn't it kind of a 9/11 repeat? And what are
28 we going to see in another, you know,

1 19 years what we're seeing now from the first
2 responders? What are we going to see from
3 this, the effects of the health community,
4 the community of health? Not only in
5 Paradise, but all the surrounding communities
6 and Chico. I mean how far does that blow?
7 We don't know. I have relatives in the Bay
8 Area who were totally smoke-bound after this.

9 So it's not just here and now. We
10 are the victims today, but what about all the
11 victims tomorrow?

12 Thank you.

13 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

14 Next it's Elle Hill followed by
15 Cynthia Fabian, Robin McCollum, Kim Young and
16 Richard Gowins.

17 Elle Hill, H-i-l-l. That was pretty
18 easy. Thank you.

19 STATEMENT OF MS. HILL

20 Just for clarification, PG&E is a
21 limited liability corporation masquerading as
22 a public utility.

23 Law is generated from maxims and
24 true we have not found a maxim which suggests
25 that a damaged party should pay itself back
26 for the damage caused by another party. That
27 is what these rate hikes are doing. I'm a
28 damaged party and you are asking me to pay

1 myself back for the damage caused by PG&E.

2 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

3 Cynthia Fabian, F-a-b-i-a-n.

4 STATEMENT OF MS. FABIAN

5 First off, I wanted to, and you
6 can't answer me, but I want the judges to
7 know that there was a line fire on Wood
8 Street in Magalia and that is where I'm from.
9 That just happened this last week but it was
10 not reported by the news media and I don't
11 know why.

12 But for Helen Walker, who died a
13 horrible gruesome death, and her neighbor who
14 was trying to save her died the same death in
15 Concow, this is for her, too.

16 We suffered greatly. And I
17 suffered greatly. And one of the things, on
18 November 7th, an employee, a local employee,
19 PG&E employee came to my door and said,
20 "We're going to turn off your electricity for
21 the next five days." And that was in the
22 evening he came by and knocked on my door and
23 said that. So I was upset. I asked him,
24 "Well, what are all these people that are
25 disabled going to do that have oxygen or
26 whatever?" "Oh. Well, go out and buy a
27 generator." And he left. I knew then it was
28 going to be bad.

1 And we are not getting our
2 communication, text communications in
3 Magalia. And I have addressed that with
4 PG&E. And I want the judges to know that. I
5 didn't get them before the fire, but they
6 came in like four or five days later when I
7 was in Yuba City in a hotel.

8 Just recently, the same thing
9 happened. I got the e-mail that they might
10 turn off the electricity, but that was it.
11 The text message came in two or three days
12 later, after -- for 22 hours I was without
13 electricity.

14 I now have a lady in Hospice that
15 I'm Power of Attorney for her care, her aide,
16 housing with me because her house burnt down.
17 And I had to get them out, the aide out and
18 then go back up to Magalia.

19 So I have been through a lot. I
20 was on the fire line. My house restoration,
21 it's completely smoke-filled. It's a mess.
22 I struggle with insurance companies. I can't
23 get the text messages. I don't know when
24 you're going to turn it off; when you're not
25 going to turn it off. Needless to say, I did
26 go out and buy a generator. And luckily I
27 was able to gather the funds just from the
28 rent that I'm getting from the 94-year old

1 who is now on Hospice.

2 Another thing is I want the judges
3 to know that I think there should be an
4 audit. If they give us this \$10 increase, I
5 want an audit of exactly where it goes. Is
6 it cleaning the forest? Is it really doing
7 what they say it's going to do? I got a bill
8 and I didn't get a say from Del Oro. That's
9 over \$10 I'm paying for what -- the 50
10 percent of the houses in Magalia were burned
11 down. So they're not getting that. So they
12 are charging us \$10 and some odd cents for
13 that, for their water bill. I paid a fire
14 tax. Where is that money? How -- what's
15 going on with that? You know. They couldn't
16 even get to my house. Luckily I'm on the
17 fire line and I was just lucky; lucky that I
18 have a neighborhood and lucky I can house two
19 people. But my house is a mess inside.

20 And I'm against any kind of hike
21 whatsoever. In fact, I feel you should have
22 bought everybody a generator in Magalia, you
23 know, and supplied that because there are so
24 many people on the edge of homelessness up
25 there.

26 We have -- San Francisco has 60,000
27 homeless people. And since this fire, Chico
28 has picked up -- I don't even know the stats

1 on that how many homeless, but we see it all.
2 It's just at mess and we're just -- people
3 are just right on the line of homelessness.

4 Another thing I wanted to bring up
5 to the judges is to -- when that happened,
6 when the PG&E came to my door and said
7 they're going to turn off everything for five
8 days, I was talking to friends afterwards and
9 they said, "Well the Rothschilds own PG&E."
10 So I looked it up on the internet. How could
11 that be? I don't even know anything about
12 who owns or what stocks or whatever that are
13 in PG&E and there was the name. That bothers
14 me. That concerns me because it was there.
15 Their name was there. And they have deep
16 pockets. That is the central bank.

17 And I'm worried about weather
18 modification and the spraying of aluminum
19 barium I see every day. I have pictures. I
20 came in from Hawaii and I cannot believe it
21 when I came to Magalia. I absolutely
22 couldn't believe it. That's an accelerant.

23 ALJ LIRAG: Are you able to wrap up?

24 MS. FABIAN: Yes. I'm done, actually.

25 I want accountability and I want the
26 judges to take into consideration all these
27 things and everything that people have said
28 today.

1 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

2 Next is Robin McCollum,
3 M-c C-o-l-l-u-m.

4 STATEMENT OF MR. McCOLLUM

5 Robin McCollum. M-c -- I think
6 it's unnecessary to repeat.

7 I have been to the PUC twice. Once
8 I was invited by an Administrative Law Judge
9 to help with the OII on tree trimming in
10 1996. And then I came again in February,
11 February 7th. And I fault PG&E for failing
12 to manage their vegetation correctly. And I
13 don't mean that they don't cut enough. I
14 mean they cut too much. The consequence,
15 their vegetation program, management program
16 has failed. It induced rapid growth back
17 into the wires. This came down from
18 San Francisco, not from the experienced tree
19 trimmers that were doing the work, because
20 they knew as most arborists know that if you
21 hit a tree too hard, it's going to respond
22 radically.

23 But this is a problem that is
24 systemic in PG&E. The orders come from on
25 top. They don't get feedback from the
26 fields. Messages get screwed up. People go
27 cut the wrong trees because they had orders
28 to cut this tree but it hadn't been checked

1 out. There is a failure of coordination
2 there.

3 The most important thing that I
4 want to bring to your attention and I tried
5 on February 7th is that PG&E needs to
6 insulate the wires. I don't know if it's
7 possible to insulate the transmission wires
8 that started the fire, but they could
9 definitely, as other countries, other states
10 in the United States do, insulate those
11 wires. That would probably take care of, and
12 I don't have statistics, but PG&E surely
13 could work some up.

14 Southern California Edison -- and
15 Mr. Picker you may know -- presented the
16 workshop on covered conductors. The
17 economics are very clear. It's the most
18 cost-effective way to bring the electricity
19 to us. It costs \$300,000 per mile for bare
20 wire, \$430,000 per mile for covered
21 conductor, and \$3 million per mile for
22 undergrounding.

23 Now undergrounding is certainly
24 more appealing. It's safer. It is safer.
25 It's not feasible in all cases and it's not
26 fast. PG&E came to Paradise and somehow got
27 a standing ovation -- I don't know who, yeah
28 -- when he promised to put in undergrounding

1 in five years. And I don't believe that is
2 going to happen. I mean Christmas in July.
3 Paradise is a tough place to put in
4 underground everything. I don't believe it's
5 going to happen.

6 In the meantime, immediately after
7 the fire, they went in and stood up their
8 power. They put the poles and wires back up.
9 They were done in March. They had started
10 tree trimming with this new extreme clearance
11 that you guys are standing back and letting
12 them do. This is a great assault on natural
13 resources. This is unnecessary. If they
14 were covered conductors, you would not have
15 to trim the trees as harshly or to make those
16 wide clearances. You could stand with these
17 long-standing four-foot clearance and be
18 perfectly safe. The insulated conductors can
19 go back up quickly. They could have been put
20 up immediately after the fire. But they're
21 still cutting trees up there.

22 My point being that this errand
23 that they're on to cut all the trees in
24 California, a hundred million trees they told
25 you -- they told Judge Alsup, excuse me, that
26 they would have to cut a hundred million
27 trees to conform to this idea of 15 feet of
28 clearance on each side. That is totally

1 unnecessary. It's a waste of time. PG&E has
2 a profit interest in the business of cutting
3 trees and it's a big show. It makes people
4 think that they're really doing something,
5 but it's unnecessary. It's a waste of
6 resources, a waste of time. They're not
7 dealing with the risk that is out there.

8 There's going to be more fires soon
9 because of bare wires, as the one that she
10 just referenced in Magalia the other day.

11 And we have photographs of fires
12 that started from their lines where there are
13 no trees; a bird, a balloon, all these things
14 can cause an arc and start a fire.

15 Now, as to the costs, I want to try
16 the keep it on the money. It is absurd and I
17 concur with other people that have spoken to
18 have given bonuses to their people after
19 this? Are you kidding me? Bonuses? Their
20 salaries are enough to absorb several hundred
21 people for a lifetime. So they don't need --
22 I mean, that's their salaries. They should
23 take a cut in pay and they would still be
24 able to live in a high rise.

25 ALJ LIRAG: Are you able to wrap up in
26 the next couple of seconds?

27 MR. MCCOLLUM: Yes. Anyway, I'm
28 calling for justice and a rapid response to

1 the threat of fire from bare wires. No one
2 would have a bare wire in their house and we
3 have them in the forest, tinder dry forest.

4 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

5 I have 10 more people on the list.
6 And we will get to everyone.

7 Next is Kim Young, Y-o-u-n-g,]
8 followed by Richard Gowins.

9 STATEMENT OF MS. YOUNG

10 I want to thank all the speakers
11 who spoke and brought up great points I
12 wanted to make, and I don't want to reiterate
13 because I really want to stay on task.

14 Like many of us here, we're
15 California natives. We've been born in this
16 state. We've known PG&E all our lives. It's
17 all that we've had, and in the many decades
18 that I've lived, I see it going downhill and
19 nothing being done.

20 The only thing I see was Federal
21 Judge William Alsup ever give them any
22 consequences for a private company that makes
23 a lot of errors and lot of gross negligence
24 and a lot of lives are being lost.

25 So that this is happening after our
26 state, and especially our community up here,
27 when we've lost so many lives, it feels like
28 such a gross affront to the timing, and it's

1 almost uncomprehensible that it is being
2 asked at this time.

3 The other point, I feel like PG&E
4 through the decades, we go through the
5 regular required hearings, meetings, the
6 public being able to speak, and then the rate
7 increases are just approved, and PG&E never
8 does a lot of work to really earn that
9 increase and to prove it and show to the
10 public why they need it.

11 Anybody who has been raised with
12 PG&E knows and has heard or had a family
13 member of the extreme waste that the company
14 has done throughout all my life that I've
15 heard, which I'm sure a lot of these great
16 public speakers have heard also, the ways
17 that this company does with absolutely no
18 accountability, but the rate increases keep
19 getting asked for.

20 I really respect the PG&E speaker
21 that spoke, but when he said the words
22 "improved customer experience," the hairs
23 went on my arms and raised.

24 I am American Red Cross. We own
25 some land, quite a bit of acreage, and we had
26 at one time more, but we have five RVs of
27 fire survivors on our property.

28 My husband and I are very

1 conservative in our power usage because we
2 don't want to give our hard-earned money to
3 PG&E, but we went from a \$180 PG&E bill to
4 1,200 helping fire survivors. We have called
5 PG&E repeatedly to ask for a better rate
6 plan. They have not got back to us.

7 So your "improved customer
8 experience," you need to work on that one,
9 and they need to work harder to show us and
10 to earn rate increases from a public, and
11 especially a public that has gone through
12 what we have gone through.

13 We have had our citizens running
14 for their lives. I have had -- and all of us
15 could tell thousands of stories. I had a
16 fire survivor little boy, his back burned.
17 He barely escaped the fire, his hand burned
18 touching the car door inside as they're
19 trying to leave Paradise.

20 We need to make these rate
21 increases be much more difficult for PG&E,
22 and through the decades, every single time, I
23 don't see the Public Utilities Commission
24 being the safeguard that they are supposed to
25 be, and this is a private company. We expect
26 for more from you, and we hope that you deny
27 this rate increase at this absolutely
28 implorable time to ask for it.

1 Thank you so much.

2 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

3 Richard Gowins, G-o-w-i-n-s.

4 Followed by Robert Woods and Judy Westbrook.

5 STATEMENT OF MR. GOWINS

6 Right. Thank you. I hope my voice
7 is clear and concise. I appreciate the input
8 so far. I concur with it. And I think that
9 the people hat I've listened to and heard
10 from in Paradise, which I am still a
11 resident, although I lived in Magalia for a
12 while, would voice their opinion consistent
13 with what you've heard today in so many of
14 the areas.

15 I'm a retired state employee. I've
16 lived in Paradise 25 years. I have am a
17 volunteer in the Paradise community and
18 intend to continue with that in rebuilding
19 our beautiful community.

20 We went from a 2,800-square-foot
21 home to a 28-foot trailer with three labs,
22 and we're making it. It's been fun. The
23 only problem I have is my wife. She is part
24 of a very important tort committee, because
25 of the bankruptcy, looking at the entire
26 state of California, and what you folks were
27 responsible for as well as PG&E.

28 Karen comes home from that

1 committee that's been appointed by the
2 federal government through the Department of
3 Justice, crying, upset, angry - thank heavens
4 she doesn't take that out on me - and
5 concerned about your role and the role of
6 PG&E in terms of negligence, accountability
7 and follow-through, especially with the
8 claimants in the state of California.

9 And I must be honest with you, I'm
10 here representing strongly the claimants that
11 they don't get lost in the shuffle of
12 payouts, rate increases, or whatever might be
13 the case.

14 Rate increases, we can talk that.
15 My home, the last increase went up 250
16 percent. We were never told why. And that
17 was one of the issues that we've had with you
18 folks, our legislative people, as well as
19 PG&E.

20 Let me give you a couple more
21 examples: More people, if they'd known about
22 this meeting today, would have come. Most of
23 Paradise is scattered. They have very
24 limited means of communication. The
25 technology of listening to news, paper or
26 whatever. They're in different communities,
27 but they're concerned about Paradise and
28 what's going on with rate increases. They

1 didn't know about it. Most of them didn't.

2 It's interesting. I found out late
3 last night through the news. And I'm one of
4 the advocates in the community of staying
5 up-to-date on things taking place. It was
6 difficult to adjust. I came from a meeting,
7 a legal meeting, on issues regarding
8 insurance to come to this, and then I go back
9 to a similar meeting.

10 I got to stress communication. One
11 of things I would strongly suggest, and part
12 of this is if you want our trust and PG&E
13 wants our trust, which they don't have, and
14 which I don't have, you follow through with
15 what you state in public; you communicate
16 that well; and you let us know what you're
17 doing and why on an ongoing basis and make
18 every effort to do that.

19 I met in Sacramento with two of our
20 assemblymen last week, the author of HR1054.
21 It was like Pelosi stating again at the
22 Federal level, and I respect her. I only use
23 her as an example because that bill which
24 effects rates in two or three different areas
25 for us, they didn't have time to read it. It
26 was a political push, and it's going to have
27 a severe impact, perhaps, on the payout as
28 well as what type of recourse we will have as

1 claimants and people in our community. That
2 shouldn't have happened that way.

3 PG&E: I've had to visit them five
4 times in the office. I had write the
5 vice-president. I've had to write San
6 Francisco on three different issues that
7 could have been very simplistically handled.
8 It wasn't.

9 I listened to their vice-president.
10 They came to Paradise, promised things; never
11 happened.

12 I go out in the field telling PG&E
13 staff what we were told, felt good about it,
14 and they go: No. He or she has it wrong.
15 That's not the case. We're not doing that.
16 We're not following through.

17 And they're talking to people who
18 have lost their homes, everything.

19 ALJ LIRAG: Are you able to wrap-up in
20 less than a minute?

21 MR. GOWINS: Yes.

22 And just handling that in such an
23 insensitive-type-of-way for our residents.

24 Lastly, let me just finish. I just
25 want to concur with don't increase the rates
26 at all. And if you have to for some reason,
27 let us know, and where those rates are going
28 to go and how the people are going to be

1		accountable.
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2 I understand you have a safety
3 division or will have, and then the rates.
4 Make sure they're working together, and
5 that's the communication from our community.
6 Realize the impact. 10 bucks?

7 Folks, if you haven't sensed the
8 disposition of our people and what effect
9 that will have, you missed the target. You
10 missed the view of what's going on in the
11 lives of the people.

12 Don't -- and this is loud and clear
13 from our community and my neighborhood and
14 everything else: Don't reward people for
15 negligence and criminal behavior.

16 Please be accountable. Let us know
17 what is going on. Treat us as human beings,
18 and we will respect you even better if you
19 show that you follow through with what your
20 commitment is, especially with what you hold
21 people accountable for and have in the past.

22 And make sure you're up front with
23 us on that and in the same ballpark with us
24 as a community. Please do that. It's time.

25 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

26 Robert Woods, W-o-o-d-s.

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1 Followed by Judy Westbrook, Ross
2 Patterson, Pamela Posey and Mike Schultz.

3 STATEMENT OF MR. WOODS

4 Robert Woods from Forest Ranch.
5 Thank you for coming up here today and
6 listening to all of us.

7 I think one of the big problems
8 that we have is that the decisions are not
9 made here, but made in corporate boardrooms
10 and so forth, whether it's cutting our trees
11 or raising our rates or whatever our
12 problem -- or cutting our power to our houses
13 like PG&E is proposing.

14 One of the things is, I went to a
15 PG&E presentation out at the Elks, and we
16 hardly got to talk with anybody. They just
17 handed out literature. I got to talk with
18 one person, but they didn't really listen to
19 what our concerns were out there.

20 And when those decisions are made
21 in the corporate boardrooms, they don't
22 really relate to what our problems are, and
23 in Forest Ranch, when they cut off our power,
24 it disrupts our water systems. It actually
25 has life problems with people who need
26 electricity for keeping themselves alive.
27 Those problems aren't related by those people
28 in the boardrooms.

1 My idea is that we really need to
2 have the state of California have a stake in
3 the delivery of electricity. I think we need
4 government to control that process more, and
5 I think this is the time to do that.

6 When PG&E is in bankruptcy, I think
7 the state of California needs to step in and
8 do the things that are necessary to do: Put
9 the power underground. That will save much
10 money in the long run. It's an expensive
11 process, but power needs to be underground as
12 much as possible.

13 It's been done in many
14 neighborhoods in this town and some
15 neighborhoods up in Forest Ranch where I
16 live, power should be underground. Don't cut
17 the trees. We don't need to cut the trees.
18 Put the power underground. Thank you.

19 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

20 STATEMENT OF MS. WESTBROOK

21 Judy Westbrook, W-e-s-t-b-r-o-o-k.
22 Hi, I'm a 39-year resident, 40-year resident
23 of Paradise. And I received this in my
24 mailbox up in Paradise and was shocked:
25 "PG&E proposes rate increase," and I was just
26 like -- and it had State California Senator
27 Jim Nielsen on it, and I was just like that's
28 like pouring salt in the wound. I was

1 totally disappointed in that, and I am still.

2 And I'm also disappointed in the
3 obscure location of this meeting and the
4 times. Because I'm from Paradise, I don't
5 know Chico that well. I'm very grateful to
6 be here. I'm very grateful to be alive.
7 It's only by the grace of God I'm alive with
8 my husband.

9 I feel like you would have a lot
10 better population input if you had it in a
11 place that was more accessible with more
12 times. Maybe you need more meetings to get a
13 better, you know, discussion going.

14 Anyway, I feel also like the
15 increases for the rates need to come out of
16 the pockets of the executives; not us.

17 As a senior, I have experienced
18 nine months of living in Chico. The cost of
19 living, I'm not sure I'm going to be able to
20 stay in this area, No. 1; and I'm not sure
21 I'm going to even be able to remain in
22 California because of the cost of living,
23 with rent that I'm looking at, and now the
24 PG&E.

25 What else? We don't know. We
26 don't know all the fallout of what's going to
27 happen. The medical costs from medical care:
28 I have a disabled husband I was taking care

1 of at home for a year and the fire swept us
2 out.

3 And like I said, there was no clue
4 there was a fire on our side of town. We had
5 no smoke; we had no smell; we had nothing; we
6 did not get a 911 reverse call. I called for
7 an ambulance; there were none. We had no
8 clue. The system completely wasn't
9 activated.

10 So there's a lot things that are
11 keeping me from probably returning up there
12 because I feel like it's in grave danger to
13 happen again. To be perfectly honest,
14 there's no way to control the winds and no
15 way to control the drought.

16 And, now, I feel like PG&E is a
17 major player for scaring us, and almost like
18 the terrorism the lady talked about. I have
19 no confidence in PG&E and I would really
20 rather not have to deal with them.

21 The other thing, I think it's
22 unethical. This in unethical thing, not only
23 absurd, but I feel like it's going to change
24 the demographics of Chico.

25 It's not only with what we're
26 looking at from all the influx of population,
27 but people on a fixed income, like I am now,
28 and other people that are on welfare and

1 Medi-Cal, people with health issues and the
2 homeless, all of these people are at grave
3 risk with these increases.

4 And so we're going to be moving out
5 of state. Chico may become the city where
6 only the people that can afford to live here
7 and pay these increases will be, you know,
8 the population. The rest of us will probably
9 have to exit stage left. So I would request
10 that please deny the rate increase.

11 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

12 Ross Patterson, P-a-t-t-e-r-s-o-n.

13 STATEMENT OF MR. PATTERSON

14 Thank you. First off, I speak to a
15 lot of people across California about
16 different things. And PG&E pops up from time
17 to time and it's a resounding "no" to a rate
18 increase for them.

19 And there's a big reason behind
20 that, and it goes back to overpayment for
21 executives from the regional managers all the
22 way to the top are paid way too much money.

23 There's no reason for you people
24 allowing this to happen to we, the people of
25 California. It's time to stop it and stand
26 up for we, the people.

27 It's not going to help to just keep
28 giving them more because they're going to put

1 more in their offshore account that is their
2 backup because they're a self-insured
3 company, and they're going to pay their
4 stockholders more money. They've got to take
5 and bite the bullet like the rest of us. I
6 lost a company because I didn't know how to
7 manage the book work end of it. It's time
8 for them to do the same.

9 If they've got bad people that
10 don't want to spend their money where it
11 belongs to keep their utility working, then
12 get rid of them.

13 Thank you.

14 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

15 Pamela Posey, P-o-s-e-y, followed by
16 Mike Schultz, Chris Connell, Kathryn Azevedo.

17 STATEMENT OF MR. HARTHORN

18 You're probably guessing that I'm
19 not Pamela Posey. She had to leave. I'm her
20 husband. My name is Allen, A-l-l-e-n,
21 Harthorn, H-a-r-t-h-o-r-n.

22 I just wanted to address a little
23 bit of the vegetation management. I want to
24 be a voice for the tree as several people
25 have spoken to today.

26 The vegetation management that is
27 being conducted by PG&E is horrendous. It's
28 extreme. It's not doing the job.

1 As Robin mentioned, there were
2 tree-cutting crews on the ground in Butte
3 county two months before the fire. The crews
4 were actually from Texas. Most the tree
5 cutters did not speak English. They know
6 very little about the forest of California,
7 most importantly, about the foothill oak
8 forest, and they literally clear-cut these
9 easements on trees that grow back as
10 incredibly flammable bushes, so they are
11 going about completely wrong.

12 Several people have mentioned
13 insulated conductors. Why are we not forcing
14 PG&E to use insulated conductors anywhere
15 there's a chance of wildfires. Save our
16 forest. Use insulating conductors.

17 I live in Butte Creek Canyon which
18 everybody in this county knows is a beautiful
19 pristine place. It has been torched. We
20 have blackened sticks everywhere. Hundreds
21 of thousands of trees are dead.

22 And then to add insult to injury,
23 PG&E continues in their tree-cutting crews
24 and clear-cut right down to the stream banks,
25 across the streams. They took out 25
26 heritage Sycamore trees right on the stream
27 banks of Butte Creek. It was a travesty.

28 We called the California Department

1 of Fish and Wildlife and said: Help us. We
2 need to do something. They are destroying
3 our stream banks.

4 The wardens came, took a look at
5 and said: Yes. That's bad. But we are
6 powerless. PG&E has a Get Out of Jail Free
7 Card. It's time for you to revoke that Get
8 Out of Jail Free Card.

9 I just want to mention what one of
10 our neighbors who did lose their home has
11 said several times that when the fire came
12 through and destroyed her home, she felt like
13 she was being raped by PG&E the first time.
14 When they came through and they clear-cut the
15 all power lines in Butte Creek Canyon, she
16 said she felt like she was being raped a
17 second time. This rate increase would be the
18 third rape of an innocent person. Please do
19 not give them any more money.

20 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

21 Mike Schultz, S-c-h-u-l-t-z.

22 STATEMENT OF MR. SCHULTZ

23 That's correct. Hello.

24 I understand that PG&E is a unique
25 private and public organization. Before
26 asking the ratepayers for the \$1.1 billion
27 that are needed, I suggest that the money
28 come from the investors, the stock prices for

1 PG&E. Not operating costs. I'm not talking
2 about operating cost. I'm talking about
3 investment income.

4 My late father was a photographer
5 down in southern California, and if he had a
6 loss in his business, he wouldn't be able to
7 collect revenues beyond operating costs until
8 that lost was absorbed. That's the nature of
9 things. PG&E's situation should not be any
10 different.

11 Also, most income from the lower
12 and middle class people comes from earned
13 income, wages; okay. But most income from
14 the wealthy in our society, in our state,
15 comes from investment income; okay.

16 When the wealthy dodge their
17 responsibilities and rate increases come from
18 the lower and middle class, that's wealth
19 redistribution from the middle to the upper
20 class, and I think that's wrong.

21 Now, this idea of taking the needed
22 money, the 1.1, from the investment income, I
23 don't want to hear that that's not possible
24 because of the organizational structure.

25 People created this organizational
26 structure and people can make exceptions
27 under exceptional circumstances. That's what
28 we're in, exceptional circumstances.

1 I also don't want to hear, Oh, this
2 can't be done for this reason or that reason.

3 What I want to know is how it can
4 be done. What structural change needs to
5 happen in such a way that the investment
6 income for the investors can be redirected
7 toward this financial need; okay.

8 I realize that what I'm suggesting
9 would result in lower stock prices. I
10 understand that.

11 Frankly, that's not an obstacle.
12 PG&E is not going to go away just because the
13 structure of how this organization is. It's
14 not like other businesses that if you lower
15 the stock prices, oh, the businesses go away
16 because it isn't revenue; therefore, stock
17 prices would go down, and as any wise
18 investor knows, you want to buy low and sell
19 high.

20 So low stock prices would result in
21 investment opportunities for people who are
22 in the long-term investment goals; okay.

23 Just finishing here, I don't want
24 to just make this statement and then be
25 ignored sometime in the future. Like: Okay.
26 We heard you. You know, that's your goal, is
27 to just hear me out.

28 I want an answer to why this -- why

1 my idea can, or if not, couldn't work; okay.
2 There's nothing worse in my mind than being
3 ignored; okay.

4 And to make a statement, to make a
5 request and to be ignored about it, would be
6 the most insulting thing. If this is not the
7 appropriate forum to get an answer to my
8 question about how this could be done, what
9 is the proper forum?

10 When would I hear that this idea
11 that I'm having to you here today, when can I
12 hear back as to how it's feasible; what would
13 need to happen in order for that feasibility
14 to be implanted?

15 Is there an answer to the forum
16 question, of what would be the forum?

17 ALJ LIRAG: Not in this public hearing.

18 MR. SCHULTZ: Okay. Hopefully, I will
19 hear and not be ignored about what forum is
20 appropriate to get response to this idea and
21 its implementation.

22 Thank you.

23 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

24 Chris Connell, C-o-n-n-e-l-l.

25 STATEMENT OF MR. CONNELL

26 That is correct. There's another
27 company out there called Southern California
28 Edison. They also have other states. PG&E

1 is not looked at well because they don't have
2 backup transformers.

3 In Oroville, the hospital
4 transformer blew, and it took them 16 hours
5 to get a replacement, not to put it in, just
6 to get a replacement.

7 And they're asking for increases
8 and yet they're paying their upper management
9 money. How about repairing things before you
10 start asking for money. Having backups
11 before you start asking for money.

12 They cut down a tree on my family's
13 property that we couldn't even move, but they
14 cut it up in a way that we can't even sell
15 it. The rounds were as high as my waist.
16 They would have taken up a complete tractor
17 trailer.

18 They just felled it, and said:
19 Well, it could have knocked down one of our
20 power lines. How? It was 60 feet from a
21 power line.

22 When you're up in the mountains,
23 you see about a 120-foot path between their
24 main power lines. How big of a path do they
25 need?

26 They can drop those power lines
27 down to the ground and enclose them in
28 something. Not everything has to go

1 underground, but it can be put on the ground.

2 I'm done.

3 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

4 Kathryn Azevedo, A-z-e-v-e-d-o.

5 STATEMENT OF MS. AZEVEDO

6 First of all, just reiterating all
7 of them. This is not an emotional issue for
8 you. I understand that. As public service
9 providers, you have a moral and ethical
10 responsibility and obligation to provide
11 honest and consistent service to secure a
12 safe environment for all of the people you
13 represent throughout California.

14 Do not approve a rate increase for
15 a company that is looking for an easy way
16 out. Stock investments are not guaranteed.
17 You have a personal portfolio. You hope your
18 portfolio increases. There is no guarantee.

19 It's no different for the public
20 service that PG&E is supposed to provide for
21 us. Do not approve this rate increase. The
22 Public Utilities Commission can set a new
23 precedent: Don't bail out a mismanaged
24 company just because you can. Keep them
25 responsible. Keep them accountable.

26 The accountability for businesses
27 should be just as stringent as for an
28 individual. You have an opportunity again to

1 set a precedent that will be seen across the
2 United States, not just California.

3 The rate increases is another
4 reflection of poor management, misplaced
5 priorities. Fire prevention is safety. The
6 cost that businesses' responsibilities have
7 is to provide us with that safety.

8 Please, don't wait for another
9 emergency where you have to respond.
10 Encourage PG&E to be liable, responsible, and
11 forward thinking in preparation for the
12 future for the services that they will
13 provide.

14 Holding a public office provides
15 responsibility. Allow PG&E to be culpable.
16 Do not approve this rate increase, please.

17 Thank you.

18 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

19 Sue Hilderbrand.

20 H-i-l-d-e-r-b-r-a-n-d.]

21 STATEMENT OF MS. HILDERBRAND

22 That is the correct spelling. It's
23 great being one of the last people because I
24 really learned a lot.

25 I applaud everybody here for being
26 so knowledgeable and sharing the numbers and
27 I really did learn a lot and I will not
28 repeat some of the amazing things that came

1 up.

2 I do want to mention on the notice
3 that I received at the door it says, "A
4 general rate case allows the CPUC to take a
5 broad, in-depth look at the energy company's
6 revenues and expenses and consider quality of
7 service and other factors to arrive at just
8 and reasonable rates."

9 And the reason that I bring that up
10 is because I have a feeling that what you all
11 will do is you will go back and you'll review
12 the numbers and you will come to the bottom
13 line and say, "Yes they deserve or they can
14 justify a rate increase." What I really hope
15 that you do is you go back to your offices
16 and you remember the emotion that you heard
17 here and you not only consider the bottom
18 line number but you think about the morality
19 and the emotional aspect of what you're --
20 what PG&E is asking to do. This is truly
21 adding insult to injury at that time that our
22 community does not deserve this. And based
23 on what I -- so much of what I learned in the
24 room in the last couple of hours is they
25 don't deserve it even monetarily.

26 So, please, if you would go back
27 and make decisions not only on the
28 bottom-line numbers, but also the morality

1 and the emotion that must be considered in
2 the situation.

3 Thank you very much.

4 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

5 Jim Minto, M-i-n-t-o. You're the
6 last speaker.

7 STATEMENT OF MR. MINTO

8 Thank you. That is the correct
9 spelling. And thank you, PUC, for showing up
10 and subjecting yourselves to our feelings and
11 what we have learned to expect from you in
12 the last years.

13 I am a fourth generation
14 Californian, been here for a long time. I
15 have very little respect for you people and
16 the PUC because I know not what you do, but I
17 know what we are exposed to and it's not a
18 good deal. Okay?

19 I am a General Contractor,
20 Electrical Contractor, and I know quite a bit
21 about what's going on and I think that our
22 government has totally let us down in
23 California. And it's sad, but it's not just
24 on the political level. I realize you're
25 political appointees and you're subject to
26 all the tolerances that are given by the
27 laws, but the fact of the matter is, there
28 were 85 people that died in Paradise. And

1 there's about 20 people that have died since
2 because of the Paradise fire.

3 The fact of the matter is I talked
4 to a coroner the week -- it was about 14 days
5 after the fire and the coroner said they had
6 collected 200 body bags. I think this is a
7 cover up. I think the government is covering
8 up what's really happened. And this is just
9 part of it.

10 PG&E was planning on doing
11 extensive power cutting, tree trimming and so
12 forth and so on long before the fire.

13 (Lights in the building went out.)

14 ALJ LIRAG: Off the record.

15 (Off the record.)

16 ALJ LIRAG: Back on the record.

17 MR. MINTO: I hope I'm not responsible
18 for that.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Notice the court
20 reporter's didn't go out.

21 MR. MINTO: Some of the things I would
22 like to bring attention to is the power grid
23 in Northern California, PG&E's power grid is
24 failing. It is not capable of handling all
25 of the new solar installations that are going
26 on. PG&E's power is the worst. It's the
27 noncleanest power, what they call dirty
28 power. When it fluctuates, it's the dirtiest

1 power in the United States of America and
2 Canada. PG&E is responsible for the dirtiest
3 power. That needs to be fixed. PUC has got
4 to be responsible for holding them up. It's
5 not okay. Okay?

6 One of the other things that nobody
7 knows about is the power grid that failed
8 that caused the Camp Fire, PG&E crew on the
9 7th spent a whole day working on the
10 insulator that caused the fire. Do you know
11 that? Does PUC know that? Does the public
12 know that? They need to. They need to know
13 that because that's the truth. There was a
14 crew spent the whole day on the 7th and then
15 went home and improperly secured that fire or
16 maybe they were told to do it. Do we know?
17 Is there an investigation? We don't know
18 that. Do we? That's pretty scary. Most
19 people don't know that California, CAL FIRE
20 was told by the State heads only do
21 evacuations in Paradise on the day of the
22 fire. They weren't even supposed to ever
23 pull out any fire equipment, no hoses off the
24 rigs. Nothing was supposed to ever be put
25 out on the day of the fire. Half of Paradise
26 could have been saved if CAL FIRE would have
27 tried to put the fire out. They didn't even
28 try. And the people don't know that.

1 There's a lot of unknowns that need
2 to be published that need to come out. And I
3 think that needs to be heard in a public or a
4 government situation.

5 And I thank you for your time.

6 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you. Anyone else?
7 Step forward. Yes. Please step forward to
8 the mic and then the gentleman in orange.

9 Please state your name.

10 STATEMENT OF MR. SHALLENBERGER

11 My name is Gary Shallenberger.

12 I'll spell it. Last name
13 S-h-a-l-l-e-n-b-e-r-g-e-r.

14 I was a 47-year resident of
15 Paradise, along with my wife. We lost our
16 house on the day of the fire on November the
17 8th. We managed to escape.

18 I'm on oxygen 27 -- 7/24. I
19 managed to get out with my oxygen and this
20 sort of thing. I was prepared for this sort
21 of thing to happen. I had been warned we
22 possibly would be -- power would be shut off,
23 so I played some games of "what ifs?" So we
24 made it out, fortunately, by the skin of our
25 teeth. We lost our house, everything in it.

26 What I am upset about is I'm also a
27 35-year employee of PG&E in customer service
28 here in Paradise and Chico. So I spent my

1 working career with PG&E. If I had done
2 something wrong at PG&E, had said something
3 wrong to a customer or did something that was
4 not correct, I would have been fired and
5 kicked down the road without anything left.

6 What really ticks me off as a
7 former PG&E employee, was the ability for the
8 executive branch of the PG&E corporation to
9 pay their incapable leadership bonuses for
10 felony manslaughter. That really upsets me.
11 That senior PG&E employees was allowed by the
12 CPUC and you have the authority to look over
13 this. You could stop this right now. You
14 could have a whole new business acumen and we
15 need to face this with corporate America and
16 this could be a test case.

17 I would like to see the other
18 gentleman's proposal go forward. This is the
19 time to take for senior corporation
20 executives to be held responsible for their
21 screwups and not get paid for getting bonuses
22 for doing something wrong. It's not right.
23 It's immoral. It's incorrect. It's
24 criminal. And it's time for the CPUC which
25 is a government agency to overlook the
26 operation of PG&E and what you can do as
27 Commissioners is look at what they did after
28 the last increase that they got that you

1 approved of, did they do the job? Make sure
2 that they did the job that they said they
3 were going to do at the last increase. If
4 they didn't and they didn't do it because we
5 had a major disaster in Paradise. It's
6 obvious they didn't complete the job they
7 said they were going to do last time, make
8 things safer. They didn't do it. They
9 didn't complete it. So don't give them a
10 raise. It's as simple as that. You did not
11 complete the job. Just tell them that.

12 It's your responsibility as
13 Commissioners who are appointed by elected
14 officials who we vote for. And you have that
15 responsibility. That is -- I am, as a voter,
16 I can vote in who I want to vote for into
17 support in the Legislature, State Legislature
18 and the Governor. And if they don't do their
19 job, I will fire them by not voting for them.
20 I will get somebody in there that will do it.

21 And you have a responsibility, as
22 Commissioners, as appointees affirmed by the
23 State Senate to be Commissioners, you have a
24 responsibility of doing the job. If PG&E did
25 not complete the job they applied for at the
26 last rate increase, if they didn't do it,
27 then they don't deserve this one. Make them
28 accountable for what they did before.

1 And the other part of that is if
2 they did something wrong, then fine them for
3 it, the individuals, the senior leaders.

4 ALJ LIRAG: Can we get to your final
5 point?

6 MR. MINTON: That's it.

7 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you. The gentleman
8 in orange first and then you will be last.

9 STATEMENT OF MR. "DUSTY"

10 Hello. Sorry. I'm kind of nervous
11 and I just kind of wrote this down so it
12 might be a little bit fragmented.

13 ALJ LIRAG: Can you state your name?

14 SPEAKER DUSTY: Dusty, D-u-s-t-y.

15 How do you expect us to trust you?
16 You have killed almost a hundred of us and
17 now you're stabbing us in the back again.
18 You've given almost everyone alive in this
19 room untreated PTSD. Our water is pretty
20 poisonous. How many of us are going to die
21 for you? How many people in this year are
22 going to die from your actions? How many
23 people in the room are going to die for you?

24 My father has housed a survivor who
25 has watched her friend burned to death and
26 watched her own skin burn off her body as she
27 sucked air through a tire. My father does
28 not make a lot of money and his home is not

1 physically fit to house more people. He has
2 done more for her and the people than you
3 have. You have only ruined her life. With
4 your rate increase, it feels like you are
5 penalizing her for still being alive.

6 Why don't you just do things right
7 the first time and stop cutting corners? It
8 ultimately costs you less money and less
9 deaths, so I don't understand. Your actions
10 -- use your actions to win us over. It feels
11 like you are gas lighting this whole county
12 just when you just say that our lives are
13 important only for us to get killed.

14 Our community needs to stay
15 together. You should be happy that we are
16 not more united; that we have not taken back
17 our compensation by force, because we do have
18 the power.

19 We have done more for each other
20 than you have done and we need to keep it up.
21 We need to stay together so we can be
22 prepared for when you potentially screw us
23 over, kill us and pilfer our wallets again.
24 And when we come back to this place, we'll
25 bring our own chairs to show you how numerous
26 we are.

27 Please do something. You are all in
28 the position of power. You can help us.

1 Please, please do something. Don't just let
2 rich White people get money.

3 Thank you.

4 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you, Dusty.

5 The gentleman in the cap. Please
6 state your name.

7 STATEMENT OF MR. CAVALLERO, JR.

8 Gabino Joseph Cavallero, Jr. And
9 that's spelled C-a-v-a-l-l-e-r-o, J-r.

10 ALJ LIRAG: And if you can, get direct
11 to the point.

12 MR. CAVALLERO, JR.: I will definitely.
13 Mine will be short and sweet.

14 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

15 MR. CAVALLERO, JR.: I retired in 1973
16 from the military. I built my home two years
17 later. In the interim, I looked at what the
18 CPU was all about and I looked at PG&E. All
19 right. There was some problems at the time.
20 But I still had no choice. I had to have
21 power for my new home.

22 But I can tell you now, since the
23 year 2000, I have lost total confidence in
24 you people up there. All of you.

25 As a Provost Marshall in the United
26 States Army of a major installation, and as a
27 Battalion Commander, I can tell you right now
28 all of you not only would have been relieved

1 by then, you would have all been court
2 marshaled.

3 As far as the stockholders of the
4 PG&E organization, they would have also
5 suffered consequences for being complicit in
6 what has happened in Paradise.

7 I feel for those people because I
8 have seen people burn. I have smelled their
9 flesh. AND YOU ALL DON'T GIVE A DAMN. And
10 that's in capital letters.

11 I heard what these people said here
12 today and I had been prepared to discuss that
13 with you, but not anymore. I think you and
14 the senior employees of PG&E should be
15 relieved and be charged with a criminal act.

16 Thank you for your time.

17 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

18 The gentleman in the white shirt?

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The young lady over
20 here.

21 ALJ LIRAG: The lady that is raising
22 her hand. Sorry. And if you can, get direct
23 to the point. Thank you.

24 STATEMENT OF MS. HUNT

25 My name is Rose Hunt, H-u-n-t.

26 And what I would like to say is the
27 shareholders of PG&E have had -- they have
28 had 75 years of conglomerate. This is the

1 largest electric company in the United States
2 and they are the most corrupt.

3 When I started looking into it, the
4 Carlyle Group owns five separate parts of the
5 largest shareholders. And they are owned by
6 the Rothschilds. If you really want to get
7 to brass tacks, I don't think they need our
8 money. If you have to, break up PG&E so it's
9 not so large and they can handle it. They
10 are rich enough.

11 They're talking about cutting the
12 power for 15 hours. My husband is on
13 breathing treatments. He can't do that. He
14 was in the Army Airforce and he doesn't need
15 to be treated like this by the American
16 people; by the rich so that they can become
17 richer? This is too much.

18 There are co-ops that are running
19 well in America. The fact is most of your
20 equipment at PG&E is over 65 years old.
21 There is a lot of electrical problems that
22 some of these electricians could explain to
23 you if you're too stupid to know what happens
24 when the breakdown of running electricity
25 through hot and cold for years happens. This
26 is why we're having the problem.

27 They have equipment that is 106
28 years old still standing. But when we had

1 the fires down south of here, I watched the
2 -- when they went into court and they said
3 that their first obligation is to their
4 shareholders. That was before our fires.
5 And they're still. Their first obligation is
6 to their shareholders. They don't care about
7 us. They never have or they would have fixed
8 this equipment and stopped trying to patch
9 and put band aids on equipment that should
10 have been pulled out at least 30 years ago.

11 Our prices have doubled in the last
12 10 years. This is unacceptable. We cannot
13 do this anymore. There is no place for us to
14 go in California. This is one of the poorest
15 counties in California. And the people that
16 live here love each other. We take care of
17 each other, as this fire has proved. We get
18 sent the homeless because Utah doesn't want
19 them. So they put them on buses and ship
20 them here and so does Arizona and Nevada.
21 But we try to take care of them and we get
22 ridiculed for it.

23 What is wrong with the rich in
24 America that they want to die with bazillions
25 of dollars in their pockets? This is too
26 much. We can't take any more. You're going
27 to have rioting in the streets. We are
28 simple people and we want to live simple

1 lives.

2 Enough is enough. Get rid of the
3 shareholders. I don't care what you have to
4 do to PG&E. It needs to be broke up. It
5 needs to be looked at. It needs to be
6 evaluated. All this information I found
7 online. I think it would be -- you guys are
8 probably better at the computer than I am.
9 And you can probably find this information
10 out. If you do, you're going to find out how
11 appalling it has been.

12 Please, do something to help us,
13 before this happens and Nevada City is
14 worried. Tahoe is worried. They're scared
15 to death because they're dealing with the
16 same problem: PG&E. The shareholders always
17 get their money. We don't even get proper
18 equipment. And we get raises all the time,
19 raises. We can't afford anything.

20 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you, Ms. Hunt.

21 Any closing remarks from
22 Commissioner Shiroma?

23 COMMISSIONER SHIROMA: Simply put, I
24 really appreciate everyone who has spent time
25 with us today. All of your comments are in
26 the record with our court reporters, our
27 notes and in our hearts and minds. And I do
28 thank you.

1 ALJ LIRAG: President Picker, any
2 closing remarks?

3 COMMISSIONER PICKER: No.

4 ALJ LIRAG: I just want to thank
5 everyone. We really appreciate hearing from
6 you. We are glad that we were here today and
7 we thank you again for coming here and to
8 those that spoke and to those that listened.

9 Thank you, again.

10 Judge Lau?

11 ALJ LAU: No. No.

12 ALJ LIRAG: All right. Thank you. We
13 are adjourned. There is another public
14 hearing at 6 p.m.

15 So, off the record.

16 (Whereupon, at the hour of 3:52 p.m.
17 a recess was taken until 6:00 p.m.)]

18 * * * * *

1 CHICO, CALIFORNIA

2 JULY 18, 2019 - 6:00 P.M.

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4 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE LIRAG: Please
5 come to order. We're on the record. This is
6 the time and place set for the Public
7 Participation Hearing in the General Rate
8 Case Application of PG&E. The Application is
9 A.18-12-009.

10 Good evening, everyone, and thank
11 you for coming here. My name is Rafael
12 Lirag. Beside me is Elaine Lau. We're the
13 Administrative Law Judges assigned to review
14 the PG&E rate case application, which they
15 file every three years to set their revenue
16 requirement for the funding they need in
17 order to provide safe and reliable gas and
18 electric services.

19 With us tonight is President Michael
20 Picker and Commissioner Genevieve Shiroma.
21 They are two of the five Commissioners at the
22 PUC. The five Commissioners are appointed by
23 the Governor, and they are the ones who will
24 vote on the outcome of PG&E's application.

25 They can vote to either adopt the
26 proposed decision that Judge Lau and I will
27 write or they can draft an alternate.

28 Later on, PG&E a representative from

1 PG&E, is going to explain a little bit about
2 what they are asking for in their application
3 and why, but before that, I would like to ask
4 if Commissioner Shiroma and President Picker
5 have a few opening remarks.

6 Let's start with Commissioner
7 Shiroma.

8 COMMISSIONER SHIROMA: Good evening,
9 everyone. I am pleased to attend this
10 evening's Public Participation Hearing on the
11 PG&E General Rate Case with President Picker
12 and the judges and with all of you.

13 We were able to hear from many
14 people this afternoon at 1:00, and I'm sure
15 we'll hear very important and insightful
16 comments from you this evening.

17 I want to share that in March I had
18 the opportunity to visit Chico and also to
19 visit Paradise and the surrounding areas with
20 our Cal Fire team, and during that visit, I
21 was able to meet with Mayor Jones of Paradise
22 and City Manager Gill, and City Council
23 Member Zuccolillo.

24 It struck me that their dedication
25 on behalf of the community and all of you who
26 are either from Paradise or the surrounding
27 areas, Magalia and so forth, that their
28 dedication to rebuilding after the

1 devastating wildfires is very inspiring and
2 remarkable given the challenges.

3 The comments we hear from you this
4 evening are very important. Everything is
5 being reported by the court reporters, and we
6 are hearing firsthand your feedback and your
7 comments.

8 And I do want to thank you for
9 taking your time out this evening to attend
10 tonight and for speaking with us today. I
11 know that means time away from other personal
12 commitments and I do appreciate it.

13 So I look forward to hearing your
14 comments this evening on the PG&E proposed
15 general rate case.

16 Thank you.

17 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you, Commissioner
18 Shiroma.

19 President Picker.

20 PRESIDENT PICKER: Thank you.

21 I generally like to explain a little
22 bit about why we don't answer questions.

23 As Commissioners, we are here mostly
24 to bear witness. Ultimately, when we make a
25 decision on the proceeding, this is probably
26 one of the least formal of the parts of that
27 process, but it will be based on the full
28 record. You can see the two court reporters

1 here are actually making a record to publish.

2 Additionally, there will be a point
3 in which the judges will examine people who
4 come forward to be parties in this
5 proceeding, just like parties would go before
6 a judge in a court action. People have to
7 justify why they have standing. They have to
8 pledge to follow the rules. They will be
9 asked to present evidence in the form of
10 briefings, in terms of documents, and then
11 they'll actually cross-examine each other.

12 The judges will then assemble that
13 record. That's what all five Commissioners
14 use to make our decision. So things that we
15 say here could be considered to be
16 prejudicial to the eventual decision that we
17 make. So that's why we generally listen very
18 carefully. We bear witness to the things
19 that you tell us, but we don't really respond
20 to questions. Our apologies for that, but
21 it's part of the process, and it's designed
22 to guarantee that we don't make premature
23 decisions before all the evidence is in
24 before us.

25 Thank you very much and thank you
26 for joining us tonight. I will probably have
27 to leave around 8:00 or 8:30. So, hopefully,
28 you'll all get a chance to speak before then.

1 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you, President
2 Picker.

3 We also have advisors: There is
4 Adenike Adeyeye from Commissioner Guzman
5 Aceves's office, and beside her is Leuwam
6 Tesfai from Commissioner Shiroma's office.

7 So if you have questions for a
8 Commissioner, it's probably better to ask
9 Adenike and Leuwam after the public hearing.
10 They can only answer factual questions or how
11 to get more information from the PUC's
12 website. There's also representatives from
13 the Public Advisor's Office. They can direct
14 you to helpful links if you want to find out
15 more about this general rate case.

16 Also I understand not everyone is
17 able to make it here. So if you have
18 friends, neighbors or family that also want
19 to make comments based on what goes on here
20 today and from what you find out about this
21 rate case application, the website is
22 public.advisors@cpuc.ca.gov.

23 So send the comments there, and all
24 of us here will receive it, and then we'll
25 reread each and every comment that we receive
26 that's sent to that site. So that goes into
27 the Public Advisor's Office's website.

28 We also have, as President Picker

1 said, we also have two court reporters that
2 are taking down all your comments so that we
3 can review them. We're going to take down
4 notes, but it's good to have a copy of
5 everything that was said.

6 Also, the Commissioners that were
7 not able to make it here to this public
8 hearing will have a chance to be read and
9 review everything that was said.

10 So the assigned Commissioner to this
11 proceeding is Commissioner Liane Randolph,
12 who, unfortunately, is not here, but we'll be
13 working with her office regarding what went
14 on today.

15 So the main purpose of this public
16 hearing is to hear from you, and we'll get to
17 that soon, but, first, let's hear from PG&E's
18 representative. They're going to talk a
19 little bit about the application they've
20 filed.

21 STATEMENT OF MR. SCHOENHOFER

22 Welcome, and thank you for
23 attending today's Public Participation
24 Hearing on PG&E's 2020 General Rate Case
25 proposal.

26 My name is Carl Schoenhofer, and
27 I'm the Senior manager for PG&E's North
28 Valley Division. This is one of 17 hearings

1 being hosted by the CPUC throughout our
2 70,000-square-mile service area. At each
3 location, representatives from PG&E will be
4 available to assist customers with their
5 questions. We have a couple folks outside if
6 you have questions regarding your service.
7 We also have representatives here today who
8 can help track down information you need
9 related to this specific proceeding.

10 Our customers' feedback in this
11 process is crucial for us to hear because the
12 application outlines a series of critical
13 safety investments to help address the
14 state's growing wildfire threat and further
15 protect the 16 million people we serve.
16 Thank you to the Commission's Administrative
17 Law Judges Lirag and Lau, and Commissioner
18 Shiroma, as well as President Picker, for
19 this opportunity to learn from our customers.

20 Now, I'd like to introduce Robert
21 Kenney. He is the Vice-President of
22 Regulatory and External Affairs for PG&E.

23 STATEMENT OF MR. KENNEY

24 Carl, thank you very much.

25 Good evening and good to see you
26 again. President Picker, Commissioner
27 Shiroma, Judge Lirag and Judge Lau, thank you
28 for allowing us the opportunity to present,

1 and to all the members of the public that are
2 here this evening, thank you for taking the
3 time to come out and participate in this
4 important part of the process.

5 Like Carl said, I'm Robert Kenney.
6 I'm PG&E's Vice-President of Regulatory and
7 External affairs. In that role, I am
8 responsible for leading PG&E's interactions
9 with all our state and federal regulators as
10 well as our local and state governmental
11 entities as well.

12 Prior to joining PG&E, I had the
13 opportunity and privilege to serve on the
14 Public Utility Commission in Missouri, and in
15 that role, I had the privilege and
16 opportunity of participating in similar
17 public participation hearings, and that
18 informs my thinking about the importance of
19 these public participation hearings: The
20 importance for the company and the importance
21 for the Commission as well, and the
22 importance for the entire process.

23 These hearings provide a
24 transparent and respectful way for us to
25 interact and communicate with our customers.
26 I truly value and appreciate the
27 public's participation in the process and I
28 look forward to listening to all the things

1 you have to say tonight.

2 PG&E's most important
3 responsibility is the safety of our customers
4 in the communities we serve, and one of the
5 most important ways we achieve that is
6 through our general rate case application,
7 which outlines our plans to upgrade
8 technology and infrastructure to enhance our
9 ability to provide safe and reliable gas and
10 electric service.

11 Our proposal will help bolster
12 bonfire prevention, risk monitoring, and
13 emergency response. It will also allow us to
14 add new and enhanced safety measures,
15 increase vegetation management, and harden
16 our electric system to increase resiliency
17 and to help further reduce wildfire risk.

18 Under the proposal, we are
19 requesting \$1.1 billion. More than half of
20 the proposed increase would be directly
21 related to wildfire prevention, risk
22 reduction, and additional safety
23 enhancements.

24 If approved by the CPUC, it would
25 increase the typical residential customer's
26 bill by approximately 6.4 percent and that
27 includes -- that's \$10.57 approximately,
28 which includes \$8.73 for electricity and

1 \$1.84 for natural gas.

2 It's very important that we share
3 with you where that money is going and what
4 we're using it for. It's equally as
5 important that we share with you what we're
6 not using that money for.

7 While the GRC proposal is intended
8 to fund a series of important safety
9 investments, it does not request funding for
10 PG&E Corporation or for the utility's
11 executive compensation; in other words, it
12 doesn't go toward paying me or any of my
13 colleagues. The proposal also does not
14 request funding for potential wildfire claims
15 involved in the Chapter 11 bankruptcy
16 proceeding.

17 The GRC proposal is a significant
18 request, and we recognize that, and we also
19 recognize that it comes at a difficult time.

20 As always, our commitment is to
21 keep customer costs as low as possible while
22 meeting our responsibilities to safely serve
23 our customers, even as the changing climate
24 presents significant new challenges and
25 risks.

26 The funding proposal that we put
27 forward is subject to the CPUC's thorough,
28 open, and transparent process. This is the

1 first -- or an additional part of that entire
2 process. We encourage and welcome our
3 customers' participation throughout the
4 process and particularly here tonight in
5 providing your feedback.

6 And with that, I look forward to
7 listening to what you have to say this
8 evening. Thank you for allowing us to speak,
9 and thank you for being here.

10 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

11 So the amounts that you've heard
12 from PG&E and the rate impacts, those are the
13 impacts if all their requests in their GRC
14 application are approved. So it's also
15 possible that a different outcome will be the
16 result and this will be what will be
17 litigated in the evidentiary hearings that
18 are scheduled for September and October.

19 So in those hearings, there will
20 also be other parties. These are large user
21 groups, community groups, and other local
22 groups that are parties to the proceeding.

23 Many of these groups oppose what
24 PG&E is requesting, and they will also
25 present their own witnesses and their own
26 testimony to try to advocate for what they
27 believe is a reasonable amount, or reasonable
28 outcome, with regards to PG&E's request.

1 So PG&E will also present their
2 witnesses and evidence, and we will evaluate
3 these in the evidentiary hearings.

4 Before we begin with the public
5 comments, let me just go over a quick safety
6 note. So in the event of an emergency if we
7 do have to evacuate for safety reasons, we'll
8 follow the instructions of the CHP officers
9 that are here. So they will direct us to
10 evacuate or exit the building in a safe
11 manner. Also, in the unlikely event of an
12 earthquake, we'll do the duck, cover, hold.

13 If it's necessary, are there folks
14 here that know CPR? Please raise your hand.
15 So these are the folks that will help us out
16 in case that is needed.

17 So, let's get to the comments which
18 is the main purpose of why we're here. So
19 we're here to hear about your comments
20 regarding PG&E's rate application or your
21 experience regarding their service.

22 So I have many speakers on the list.
23 So in order to get to everyone, we want to
24 hear everyone talk, the length of time that
25 you should talk would be from around three to
26 four minutes. So once it gets to that time,
27 I won't say, "I'll stop." I will say, "Can
28 you wrap up in the next minute or so?" You

1 might see a green light on the podium. So
2 that's going to -- it may or may not light
3 up. It depends on Doris.

4 Anyway, so, I'm going to call
5 several names and then when you hear your
6 name, get ready to move forward. I want to
7 stress that we do want to hear from you, so
8 please direct your comments to us. Your
9 comments are very important. They impact
10 this application and it impacts what PG&E's
11 requesting and we want the to hear what you
12 have to say. Please try to avoid directing
13 your comments to the rest of the public. If
14 you want to talk to someone in the public
15 that's part of the public that's here, please
16 do that after this public hearing is
17 concluded. For the most part, please talk to
18 us because we want to hear from you.

19 So anyway, let's begin. When I call
20 your name, I'm going to spell out your last
21 name. If it's correct, you don't need to do
22 anything. But if it's incorrect, please
23 correct us. Sometimes we make misstates in
24 taking this down. So please step up to the
25 podium, use the mic and then tell us what you
26 have to say.

27 So, we'll begin with Rod Shier, Matt
28 Sutter, Ali Knight and Arnold.

1 So, Mr. Shier, S-h-i-e-r.

2 STATEMENT OF MR. SHIER

3 Thank you for pronouncing that
4 correctly.

5 COMMISSIONER PICKER: And thanks for
6 your patience. You were the first person to
7 get here.

8 MR. SHIER: I'm only an individual.
9 I'm not here with a group or anything, but as
10 for this rate increase, I really oppose it.

11 ALJ LIRAG: Can you speak into the mic?
12 They want to hear you talk. Thank you.

13 MR. SHIER: I'm sorry.

14 I oppose this rate increase,
15 especially after hearing representatives from
16 PG&E where the funds were supposed to go to.
17 I was part of a system back in the late '70s
18 when Howard Jarvis pushed the Prop 13 to get
19 rid of the hogwash upstairs and yet it didn't
20 get rid of hogwash. It got rid of five
21 peons. Excuse my expression. However, it
22 doesn't work the way everybody would like it
23 to.

24 I have seen so many deep pockets get
25 lined with these rate increases. Instead of
26 them taking care of their equipment, what
27 they're trying now to say they want to use
28 the funds for.

1 A little bit about myself. I'm a
2 hundred percent service-connected disabled
3 veteran. My spouse is also disabled and I
4 reside in Forest Ranch.

5 I was impacted by that fire. I was
6 lucky enough not to lose my property.
7 However, I was out of my home for a few
8 weeks, which was an output for my wife and I.
9 My wife is needing dialysis three times a
10 week. We couldn't even -- I had to go travel
11 350 miles south to get her treatment done
12 because of the circumstances in Chico weren't
13 available for our health.

14 I'm starting to get emotional now.
15 These type of circumstances, and as of today
16 I'm receiving notices from PG&E indicating
17 that there are -- could be times where my
18 power can be cut off for up to 48 hours
19 because of weather conditions. Well, why
20 would that affect me if they didn't take care
21 of their equipment properly 10 years ago,
22 20 years ago?

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: 100.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: 50.

25 MR. SHIER: So, in my opinion, I don't
26 seem like I should have to relocate when I'm
27 settled into my home just because PG&E wants
28 to ruin my life every week or every two weeks

1 for 48 hours at a shot. It gets awful hot in
2 the summertime around here, but that's about
3 pretty much all I wanted to at least relate
4 to the Board and have their understanding on
5 just my personal position and why I oppose
6 this rate increase.

7 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you for your
8 comments, Mr. Shier.

9 Mr. Sutter, S-u, double-t-e-r.

10 STATEMENT OF MR. SUTTER

11 I'm obviously here because I'm
12 opposed to the rate increase. I'm opposed to
13 the rate increase because I'm opposed to the
14 continued existence of PG&E as any kind of
15 public entity.

16 PG&E has a long history of
17 destroying communities. I grew up in
18 Paradise. I teach and work in Paradise. My
19 whole existence is wrapped up in that
20 community. My life and everything I care
21 about is up there or at least it was.

22 PG&E destroyed my home town. They
23 killed 85 people in my hometown. They
24 committed 85 murders in my hometown.

25 I don't want to see PG&E's rates
26 increase. I want to see the CEO brought up
27 for murder. I want to see their major
28 executives put on trial for murder. I want

1 to see is their major shareholders put on
2 trial for murder. They have a long history
3 of doing this.

4 I went online early today just to
5 see how long that history goes. It goes all
6 the way back at least to the 1950s.

7 Many of us are familiar with the
8 movie Erin Brockovich. That movie takes
9 place in the early '90s. What they don't
10 tell you is the dumping of what is called
11 hexavalent chromium waste water into that
12 community happened in -- between 1952 and
13 1963. They obviously changed CEOs, changed
14 executives, changed a lot since then, but
15 what hasn't changed is the fact that they
16 destroy communities and harm people.

17 It's beyond time that the State of
18 California go ahead, take PG&E, break it up.
19 Give its assets to the people that they have
20 harmed and that local communities go ahead
21 and form their own local small power
22 cooperatives to deal with power transmission.
23 It's clear that PG&E can't handle the job.
24 So a rate hike? Absolutely not.

25 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

26 MR. SUTTER: Thank you.

27 ALJ LIRAG: Ali Knight.

28 MS. KNIGHT: I'm willing to -- I'm

1 going to pass and let speakers go before me.

2 ALJ LIRAG: Okay. I will call you
3 again at the very end.

4 All right. Next is Arnold followed
5 by Donna Shary, Rene -- I can't pronounce
6 your name but it starts with a "V" and then
7 Joe Onate.

8 So, Arnold.

9 STATEMENT OF MR. "ARNOLD"

10 Yes. First I want to say I agree
11 with everybody that Trump was way out of line
12 the other day and -- oh, wrong reason, wrong
13 reason. Okay.

14 No. It's just the only thing I
15 have to say is something you have probably
16 heard a million times and you probably heard
17 it, so I will -- but I just want -- I just
18 couldn't help myself. I had to drive a long
19 way.

20 I mean if PG&E can say that they're
21 at fault right away, which has got to be the
22 fastest bankruptcy, the fastest admission of
23 guilt that I have ever seen, okay. But then
24 obviously somebody must be held criminally
25 liable. Okay. So, I mean we won't hold our
26 breath for that, but, you know, that's just
27 the way things are.

28 But the one thing that I'm just

1 upset about and maybe I shouldn't be, maybe
2 I'm weird, but when I see all these lawyers
3 on TV right away, you know, obviously going
4 "Oh, man. There's going to be buckets of
5 money." Right? Now can't we just get a
6 process where there's some set of lawyers
7 that are going to take care of what lawyers
8 need to take care of and not get all these
9 lawyers get to put their hand in the pot?
10 Because how much are our rates going to go up
11 just to pay those lawyers? Right?

12 And so, really I know you guys
13 don't answer questions but that is one of the
14 questions. What percentage of my rates is
15 just going to pay those lawyers? There's
16 four of you. Come on. You had said you
17 would answer my question earlier. Okay.

18 ALJ LIRAG: The rate case does not go
19 into paying salaries of executives. If the
20 lawyer is not an executive --

21 SPEAKER ARNOLD: The lawyers on TV,
22 right? And they're going to get PG&E
23 settlement. I'm sorry to interrupt. I'm
24 sorry. Maybe you're going to answer.

25 ALJ LIRAG: All right. So, according
26 to PG&E, the general rate case application
27 does not go into paying officer compensation.
28 If -- I don't know where the lawyer falls

1 under, but there are representatives of PG&E
2 here and they're willing to talk to you to
3 answer your question. So I think they're
4 going to be able to answer that question.
5 So, please.

6 SPEAKER ARNOLD: Okay. Well, you know.
7 Okay. Okay. Okay. But please go back to
8 the Governor and tell him that he should set
9 up just a team of lawyers that need to take
10 care of lawyer cases. I mean this ain't
11 going to happen. I'm just saying as a person
12 who knows the rates are going to go up
13 because this is nice, right?

14 See, in my view and I will sit down,
15 right, is just what is obvious; right? Is
16 the politicians go, "Okay. PG&E will just
17 take blame." And then, you know, the
18 politicians will allow PG&E, CPUC allow them
19 to raise rates, took care of. So now they
20 don't have to go tax us more and new fees at
21 least right now, right?

22 So why can't they just -- because
23 you know, already -- anyway I already said
24 it. It's just those lawyers on TV when you
25 see them, and they're obviously going to want
26 to at least to pay for their commercials,
27 right, which is adding up. Anyway.

28 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

1 First I would like to acknowledge
2 Senator Nielson. Thank you for being here
3 and listening to what everyone has to say.

4 So, the next speaker is Donna Shary,
5 S-h-a-r-y.

6 STATEMENT OF MS. SHARY

7 So I confess there's been many
8 times when we get the little notices in our
9 bill that talks about rate increases that I
10 have not said anything. Because I felt I'm
11 just one person, what difference does that
12 make? And to be honest with you, I'm kind of
13 disheartened that only two of the five
14 Commissioners are here today because that
15 makes me feel even more does my voice really
16 matter?

17 But I'm going to go ahead and share
18 what I wanted to share and that is that I,
19 too, am opposed to this rate increase because
20 -- and I suspect that we'll hear many
21 examples of reasons why. So I won't get into
22 that, but I feel like: Why should the
23 taxpayers have to -- not the taxpayers. I'm
24 sorry, the ratepayers, continue to have to
25 have it on our backs to continually have our
26 rates increased because the executives at
27 PG&E continue to make poor decisions with our
28 money in how they use it?

1 According to my bills in roughly
2 the last five years, the first tier kilowatt
3 usage has gone up 60 percent. The second
4 tier kilowatt usage has gone up 77 percent.
5 And that's just for the electricity. I
6 didn't figure out the gas.

7 To me they have had plenty of
8 opportunities to look and figure out better,
9 wiser ways to use the money and to use the
10 rate increases that they have been getting.

11 And so I would just like to ask
12 that this be looked at again and that maybe
13 it should be put on the backs of the
14 executives in figuring out better ways to use
15 our money instead of continually increasing
16 our rates.

17 Thank you.

18 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

19 Next is Rene Vercruyssen,]
20 V-e-r-c-r-u-y-s-s-e-n.

21 Followed by Joe Onate, John
22 Stonebraker, Debby Adema, and Kevin Durkin.

23 STATEMENT OF MR. VERCRUYSEN

24 The name was spelled correctly.
25 It's pronounced "Vaircruzin."

26 I'm dead-set against any rate
27 increase. My wife and I just paid our PG&E
28 bill for June. The combined rate, Tier 1 and

1 Tier 2, was 25.6 cents per kilowatt hour.
2 That's the highest average cost in the United
3 States, with the exception of Hawaii, right
4 here in Chico. Think about that.

5 Tier 1 is 22.3 cents. Tier 2 is
6 28.1 cent. So when you send more electricity
7 through the same infrastructure, you charge
8 more for it. That's insanity. Nobody in the
9 real world gets that.

10 You deliver more product through
11 the same infrastructure, you charge less for
12 it. Nothing but a quasi-governmental
13 monopoly like PG&E could do a thing like
14 that.

15 The nationwide average for power is
16 13.3 cents per kilowatt hour. So my wife and
17 I in June paid double what the national
18 average is.

19 And what's PG&E want? They want to
20 raise the rate. That is nuts.

21 Only a quasi-governmental monopoly
22 like PG&E would try something like this. In
23 case anybody has any question about my
24 PG&E -- about the rate increase, it is no.

25 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

26 Mr. Onate, O-n-a-t-e.

27 ///

28 ///

1 And I'm probably pronouncing it
2 wrong.

3 STATEMENT OF MR. ONATE

4 It's a Bask name. Bask is a tough
5 language. I'm a veteran like the other
6 fellow. I served as an officer in the
7 military. My dad was a fighter pilot. He
8 didn't come home from the war, Vietnam.

9 I got my degree from UC Davis in
10 Environmental Policy, with an emphasis in
11 Energy Policy. I don't see any energy policy
12 here that's reasonable. This country has not
13 had an energy policy since I went to school
14 35 years ago; okay.

15 It is because the special interests
16 have taken away from the public interest, and
17 this is an example of it. I'm also a public
18 health nurse. So I have a little
19 environmental public health stuff going on.

20 The governor recently signed some
21 legislation that created a fund. It was
22 created real fast, and they signed it real
23 fast to create a fund to bail out people's
24 mistakes so they won't be held accountable,
25 or the accountability factor will be easier
26 to ignore. It's another wedge. And we'll
27 have to pay for it it looks like.

28 Gavin Newsom, I think his dad was

1 an oil and gas attorney, and his mom at one
2 point sold PG&E stock as he was growing up as
3 a kid. So that kind of explains a little
4 bit.

5 Historically, your Commission has
6 not done the public a very good service; and,
7 therefore, you really have no business to
8 have anything to do or say about raising our
9 utility rates.

10 In fact, your agency should be
11 under federal receivership for historical
12 inability to consistently rule in favor of
13 the public's interest that you're supposed to
14 be serving.

15 Instead, you've enabled utilities
16 like PG&E to escape reasonable and prudent
17 regulation as it relates to the public's
18 pocketbook and safety. PG&E is a monopoly;
19 therefore, they have no competitors, and,
20 therefore, there's no inherent motivation or
21 incentive to do anything other than to make
22 as much money as possible -- as much money
23 they can, however possible, and nobody does
24 anything about it.

25 PG&E has had for decades, at least
26 45 years, to have made the necessary
27 technological adjustments to their
28 infrastructure over time and in a gradual

1 manner. That has not happened. It didn't
2 happen. And PG&E has pocketed that
3 difference over the past five decades.

4 They had access to the best
5 scientists, scientific journals, research
6 papers, and the like, but it seems that all
7 of these resources were not utilized, and
8 they were further summarily ignored;
9 therefore, this does not create an emergency
10 for any of the affected ratepayers as it
11 relates to rate increase. It should come out
12 of PG&E's salaries and benefits and their
13 hides.

14 The senior executive staff should
15 not only be paying reparations in cash,
16 instead of raising their rates, but they
17 should be paying reparations as a debt to
18 society in a prison cell.

19 ALJ LIRAG: Next, John Stonebraker,
20 S-t-o-n-e-b-r-a-k-e-r.

21 STATEMENT OF MR. STONEBRAKER

22 That's correct. I've been a
23 reluctant PG&E ratepayer for 10 years, and
24 I've seen my bills go up almost double
25 without raising my consumption, just as
26 everybody else in this room has, and now they
27 want to add another 10 percent to that, but
28 that is not the exact reason why this should

1 be --

2 ALJ LIRAG: I'm going to try to slow
3 you down so that Shannon, our reporter, can
4 catch every word. Thank you.

5 MR. STONEBRAKER: That is not the sole
6 reason why this rate increase should be shot
7 down. Their shareholders are already
8 scheduled to make a four-to-six percent
9 return on investment based on the current
10 rates, which is more than most people in this
11 room are making on our investments.

12 They do not need an additional 10
13 percent this year and an additional increase
14 in 2021 and 2022 on top of that.

15 And if they're saying that they need
16 this for safe and reliable service to their
17 customers, I don't think PG&E's current board
18 or executives can provide that at any price
19 because their culture simply does not support
20 it. Their organization is too large, too
21 disorganized, too chaotic, and, again, too
22 internally corrupt that they are focused only
23 on making money and pocketing it, and putting
24 it into the pockets of their shareholders,
25 and not serving the customers in their
26 service territory.

27 I would say what is just and
28 reasonable is approximately what Mr. Sutter

1 said: We can start a minus 100 percent
2 return on investment as all of their assets
3 are liquidated, sent off to small public
4 cooperatives and to pay the victims of not
5 just the Camp Fire, but other fires, and also
6 for the downwinders, including those in
7 Sacramento, who, you might have known, were
8 forced to breathe toxic smoke for two weeks.

9 I am going to focus specifically on
10 where they think their money is going to go
11 or where they are alleging their money is
12 going to go. Even though, as we all know, in
13 the San Bruno case, when they had taxpayer
14 and ratepayer money earmarked for a certain
15 safety use, it did not go there.

16 ALJ LIRAG: I'll slow you down again.

17 MR. STONEBRAKER: Regarding the
18 Community Wildfire Safety Program as they
19 call it, last year they were attempting to
20 clear everything within 12 feet of all of
21 their conductors all the way up to the sky.

22 And that involved marking for
23 destruction huge numbers of healthy, robust
24 conifers in the upper ridge and the other
25 heavily forested island areas.

26 So a number of us were opposed to
27 this, and got together, and now they're not
28 asking for quite that much. They're only

1 asking for four feet on either side, which
2 will still be enough to take off most of the
3 healthy foliage that grows from the conifer
4 stem towards the break in the canopy.

5 That will kill all of those trees,
6 which are 100 years old or more, and once
7 those are gone, it will encourage the growth
8 of brush - flammable, small-diameter brush,
9 such as broom - along the roadsides.

10 This is already beginning to happen,
11 both along the Lovelock-to-Sterling corridor,
12 which was clear-cut without permits, without
13 Environmental Impact Reports last summer, and
14 along such as Humbug Road, where PG&E has
15 their own property.

16 And you can go up there into
17 Magalia, and you can see what this looks
18 like, and you can see what it will look like
19 in a few years' time, and what all of the
20 other roadsides and power-line corridors in
21 the Tier 2 and Tier 3 areas will look like if
22 this comes to pass.

23 So I will say that this enhanced
24 vegetation management project is not really a
25 fire prevention safety effort. It is
26 transferring one risk, that of ignition from
27 a branch falling onto the bare wires, which
28 should have been swapped out long ago, or

1 another risk, which is small-diameter brush
2 catching from a spark off of a flat tire, or
3 propagation from fire coming out of the
4 canyon and across the ridge.

5 We had just had on Humbug Road, on
6 Nimshew Road, on Centerville Road a shaded
7 fuel break put in in 2017, which was used to
8 save dozens of homes in Butte Creek Canyon.

9 Those tall shade trees were
10 maintained on purpose because they help
11 suppress that flammable brush.

12 So when they're saying that most of
13 this increase is going to safety
14 improvements, that's not 100 percent true.

15 Now, if we are putting in covered
16 conductors, which again should have already
17 happened, and it would be better to be using
18 self-supporting aerial cable, spacer cable,
19 rather than simply tree wire on crossarms;
20 that's a good thing. But that's a capital
21 improvement that will reduce their vegetation
22 management costs and their outages in years
23 to come.

24 ALJ LIRAG: So at this time, can I have
25 you wrap up in half a minute?

26 MR. STONEBRAKER: Oh.

27 ALJ LIRAG: You can speak faster.

28 MR. STONEBRAKER: The third part is

1 they're trying to put in more cameras and
2 more weather stations for their so-called
3 "public safety power shutoffs."

4 But in the June 8th case, which I
5 won't have time to fully discuss, they didn't
6 notify the people in the Orofino circuit that
7 our power was going to be shut off, and that
8 caused far more impact than there should have
9 been.

10 If what they really believe was most
11 important was to protect the safety of their
12 customers, there would have been notification
13 in that zone as well as in other zones, and I
14 have far more to say than I can say in three
15 minutes.

16 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

17 Next is Debby Adema, A-d-e-m-a.

18 STATEMENT OF MS. ADEMA

19 That is correct. Thank you very
20 much. I, too, am opposed to this rate
21 increase.

22 For the last 20 years my husband
23 and I -- well, actually we've owned the
24 property 30 years: Built our house; raised
25 two children. We do everything we can to be
26 a small carbon footprint. We grow our own
27 vegetables; we grow our own animals for the
28 freezer.

1 We have put in solar, trying to do
2 everything right that PG&E has asked us to do
3 and the community has asked us to do to make
4 our life and society better.

5 So we put in the solar, and they
6 raised the rates because our rates dropped.
7 We didn't use as much based on the kilowatt
8 buy-back so that raised up.

9 Then they put us on the tier system
10 because I'm in an ag situation. I used to
11 have an ag system.

12 Now, they want to raise our rates
13 again, and at times cut our power for upwards
14 of 48, 72 hours, who knows how long. I can't
15 sustain my life without any kind of power.
16 You can't live on just the solar that goes
17 back into a relatively nonexistent
18 infrastructure.

19 That's what they say: You know, I
20 can't take this all back; we don't have the
21 infrastructure to do this.

22 They have been raising our rates
23 for over 20 years and not putting it to the
24 things that they have determined they said
25 they would do, the infrastructure, the
26 continued increase in safety precautions and
27 these other things.

28 I have a well. I can't run my well

1 on a battery. I can't run my house on a
2 battery if I charged it with my solar system.
3 So turning my power off for that length of
4 time is not acceptable.

5 Raising my rates is not acceptable
6 for that reason because there's no guarantee
7 at the end of 48 hours, when the wind is
8 blowing, that they'll be able to turn that
9 back on until they run the lines and make
10 sure that nothing was a problem.

11 You don't hear of wildfires across
12 the nation. You only hear of PG&E or these
13 kinds of wildfires caused in the state of
14 California, and they need to be held
15 accountable, and they need to utilize what
16 they have already been given over the years
17 for the rate increases to protect what they
18 say they're going to protect, which is the
19 society. Thank you.

20 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

21 Ali Knight, K-n-i-g-h-t. Followed
22 by Kevin Durkin and then Maggie Scarpa.

23 STATEMENT OF MS. KNIGHT

24 Good evening. So I come here, and
25 I'm with a group of people, and we kind of
26 know this meeting is this just a procedure
27 for approval; right.

28 So if PG&E doesn't get these

1 hearings finished and done, then their tax
2 hike is going to have come hiccups; right?

3 So what we want to do is
4 demonstrate here with Sunrise Movement how to
5 shut down a meeting because it's not
6 necessary.

7 You're not really going to do
8 anything but go meet with the PG&E executives
9 and make the decision you want to make behind
10 closed doors.

11 So we're thinking about, we can
12 just shut this meeting down. You've seen a
13 demonstration. We're going to show you how
14 we shut down PG&E, and we're going to shut
15 down institutions that oppress people and do
16 not put people over profits because this is
17 all about putting people over profits.

18 You are actually -- you're
19 conforming to this. And we know that this is
20 about murder. This is about capitalizing on
21 a disaster where people died, and PG&E is
22 willing to ask people to pay the price
23 financially. So here, we want to shut this
24 down.

25 Does anybody else want to shut this
26 down? We're going to keep talking. I don't
27 think you're going to have a meeting now.

28 ALJ LIRAG: You don't want to let the

1 other people talk first?

2 (People chant: "People over
3 profits.")

4 ALJ LIRAG: Let's have Kevin Durkin
5 talk.

6 We're off the record.

7 (Off the record.)

8 ALJ LIRAG: Let's go back on the
9 record. So, Mr. Durkin.

10 STATEMENT OF MR. DURKIN

11 My name is Kevin Durkin. I've
12 lived in Butte County for nearly 33 years.
13 In my life, this is the biggest disaster
14 that's ever hit any part of California. From
15 what I've read and gathered in the
16 newspapers, PG&E is directly responsible.

17 Is PG&E going to rebuild the houses
18 of people who have lost their house?

19 Are they going to pay for the
20 medical cost for people who suffered smoke
21 inhalation during this area? They are
22 directly responsible for this: The
23 90-lives-plus that we're still finding more
24 lives that were killed by this fire.

25 I would recommend that PG&E give
26 every single person that's in the county that
27 was displaced, whether they rented or owned a
28 house, 10 years of free energy and everyone

1 in Butte county three years of free energy
2 for what you've done.

3 And judging by the amount that you
4 charge people compared to other states, this
5 is doable. This is very doable. In fact,
6 it's merciful.

7 You know, I don't think people
8 learn from prison necessarily. I think our
9 system is completely antiquated, but what you
10 did, what PG&E did to this community and
11 other communities in Northern California and
12 other parts of the state is completely
13 despicable.

14 Justice falling gently on the
15 largest laps is so evident by how you are
16 being treated by the state. How can you do
17 this? This is one of the poorest counties in
18 the state, and yet you're willing to raise
19 the rate on people that are already paying.
20 Some of them had 28 years left on their
21 mortgage and they are responsible to pay for
22 a place that they can't even live in anymore.

23 How is this okay? That's all.

24 No rate hike.

25 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

26 Maggie Scarpa, followed by Jared
27 Geiser, Rod Beitz, and Jim Henson.

28 ///

1 Ms. Scarpa, S-c-a-r-p-a.

2 STATEMENT OF MS. SCARPA

3 Yeah, hi. I came up here today to
4 say that I do not support the ratepayer
5 increase. PG&E, having known that the power
6 lines up in Paradise for years were suspected
7 failures and they're responsible for 17 other
8 fires since 2017, I just can't -- and I
9 cannot support the ratepayer increase.

10 The criminal and fatal negligence
11 of the corporation should not fall on the
12 ratepayers, and the safety infrastructure
13 funds need to come from the corporation.

14 Let's see. I think we need a
15 publicly-owned and controlled utility as the
16 benefit would be in the interest of the
17 community, not the shareholders or the profit
18 of PG&E. That's all I came up to say.

19 Thank you.

20 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

21 Jared Geiser, G-e-i-s-e-r.

22 STATEMENT OF MR. GEISER

23 Hello. Thank you for coming out
24 here, down to Butte county. I felt like crap
25 all day, but I dragged myself here anyway
26 because this is important.

27 I think raising the rates of the
28 ratepayers is absurd. I don't think people

1 in California should have to pay any more for
2 power than we already are.

3 We've been hit pretty hard here in
4 Butte county. I'm sure you are all aware of
5 the Camp Fire, but I encourage you to drive
6 up the ridge, drive up and see the
7 destruction. It will haunt you. It's really
8 horrible.

9 The people in this community in
10 Chico are feeling the impacts of it, but the
11 people up on the ridge, their lives have been
12 shaped negatively forever.

13 There's no reparations for
14 something like that, and I think to then go
15 and ask -- after this private utility company
16 burned our ridge down, to then come and ask
17 us for more money, is just ridiculous.

18 I don't think that's right. I
19 don't think your Commission should allow
20 that, and I don't think we can continue to
21 allow energy to be run for profit. I think
22 it needs to be run publicly so that we focus
23 on providing renewable energy to the people
24 of our region, not making a profit off of the
25 distribution and production of energy.

26 And so I think that's a transition
27 that we have needed for a long, long time,
28 and I think in light of the disasters that we

1 keep seeing, that it's especially important
2 to do this now.

3 So going forward, as a Commission,
4 when you figure out what you want to do with
5 PG&E, I think it's clear that a rate hike is
6 not fair.

7 If you look at the salaries of the
8 executives of the corporation, they're
9 exorbitant. There's no one in Butte county
10 that makes that much money. They're making
11 millions of dollars, and we pay more for
12 energy than anywhere else in the country.

13 And I really think running this for
14 profit is wrong in so many ways.

15 And I really hope you consider
16 looking at alternative models of producing
17 and distributing energy.

18 Thank you.

19 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

20 Mr. Beitz, B-e-i-t-z.

21 STATEMENT OF MR. BEITZ

22 I have a couple of related
23 questions. If you can answer them, that
24 would be great. If not, you can take them as
25 a comment.

26 What I would like to know is, what
27 is the Commission doing to direct funds from
28 internal PG&E paid bonuses and stockholder

1 profits to subsidize proposed fire safety and
2 service program?

3 Some of these issues have been
4 addressed by other speakers, but if you can
5 answer that question, that would be
6 appreciated.

7 What is the Commission doing to
8 direct funds from internal bonuses and
9 stockholder profits to the fire safety and
10 service program?

11 The second part of this question
12 is, what safeguards do the ratepayers have
13 that PG&E will dedicate any rate increases to
14 fire safety and electrical system efficiency?

15 Those are the questions. Can you
16 answer them?

17 ALJ LIRAG: We will take it as a
18 statement for this hearing.

19 MR. BEITZ: Okay. All right. That's
20 my statement then.

21 What my statement would be then -
22 and I've heard this comment from many people
23 here today and up in Magalia and Paradise -
24 is that most people want to have assurances
25 that the Commission is going to make sure
26 PG&E does not take rate increases for their
27 own personal profits or the shareholders'
28 personal profits.

1 In other words, the people that I
2 talked to want to see any proposed rate
3 increase, however large or small, go to
4 electrical system efficiency and fire safety
5 just as PG&E has proposed. That's my
6 statement.

7 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

8 Next is Jim Henson, followed by Mark
9 Milburn, and Keith Lickey, and then Dr. Kathy
10 Kaiser.

11 Mr. Henson, H-e-n-s-o-n.

12 STATEMENT OF MR. HENSON

13 That's correct. I'm here because I
14 lived through the Camp Fire. I'm here to
15 represent just myself, but the concerns that
16 I have about the repercussions that the fire
17 and what PG&E is now looking to do.

18 I oppose the rate increase because
19 the rate increase is something that they no
20 longer really need. They had 10 years of
21 privatizing and getting rid of workers of
22 their own, employees of their own, to fill
23 their pockets for the shareholders and CEOs
24 and not repair or fix any of the lines that
25 need to be done.

26 Now, here we are today already
27 hearing that the CEOs and shareholders got a
28 big chunk of money before they claimed

1 bankruptcy.

2 In the bankruptcy case, there will
3 not be anything that will be doled out until
4 the bankruptcy case is solved.

5 That means they could go into
6 litigation for years, and years, and years,
7 and years, and years until they finally run
8 out of money just doing the litigation part.

9 My concern is, is that at this
10 moment in time, what would the raise be?

11 Would the raise be to fill the
12 lawyers that they have to have to do
13 litigation or would they actually do the work
14 that they promised to do 10 years ago?

15 I thank you for this time, and I
16 thank you for listening to all of us.

17 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

18 Mr. Milburn, M-i-l-b-u-r-n.]

19 STATEMENT OF MR. MILBURN

20 Spelling is correct.

21 So, I guess I'm going to start out
22 with my disappointment with PG&E. You know,
23 two weeks prior to the fire they were saying,
24 you know, "There's going to be a red flag
25 warning and we're going to shut off your
26 power." And we got e-mails. We got notice
27 after notice. And then when they have a line
28 that is sparking and a red flag warning, they

1 didn't turn anything off. So that is kind of
2 disappointing.

3 And so I live up in Magalia and our
4 house stands but our community doesn't. And
5 I have heard about the financial side of
6 things. And I also look at, you know, their
7 source. At least in our area one of the
8 cheapest forms of power generation is
9 hydroelectric. So in our area we have some
10 of -- they're generating electricity at the
11 cheapest rate and yet our rates are the
12 highest in the nation from what I've heard.
13 And to hear that they're going to raise the
14 rates after a community is devastated, it
15 seems like PG&E, I wish they would break up
16 and be more efficient.

17 I have a neighbor that is an AT&T
18 worker that has worked side-by-side with PG&E
19 workers and he -- it's really rough on him
20 because they have a system on how to, you
21 know, get overtime and that sort of thing.
22 So they're standing side-by-side with PG&E
23 workers, and so there's a lot of
24 inefficiencies as I see it.

25 Before the fire, PG&E had some
26 people come out and said, "That pole is bad
27 and we need to trim the trees." Since then,
28 they've come up six to seven different times

1 and they go, "That pole is bad and we need to
2 trim the trees." And the pole is still there
3 and the trees are still there. So, with this
4 rate increase, they will probably send out
5 six more people to evaluate the same pole and
6 the same trees.

7 So I think there's some real
8 inefficiencies there and I'm not really
9 excited about increasing rates.

10 It would be my suggestion that
11 people in fire-affected areas by PG&E get
12 amnesty or something, for a period of time at
13 least that they're exempt from the rate
14 increases to help us recover, not add to our
15 load.

16 So that's my thoughts.

17 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

18 Next is Mr. Lickey, L-i-c-k-e-y.

19 STATEMENT OF MR. LICKEY

20 Hello. My name is Keith Lickey.
21 And I want to thank everybody who has
22 participated so far tonight. I had a lot of
23 good ideas and I respect everyone and their
24 voicing their opinions.

25 I just have a simple thing to say
26 that I guess the Public Utilities Commission
27 has the choice to okay all this. You know,
28 like PG&E is asking for a raise. And people

1 are going to decide, "Well, is that going to
2 happen and after PG&E admits that they're
3 culpable for all that has happened?" And so
4 it's kind of a disconnect there, kind of an
5 add injury to insult to admit that you're
6 culpable and then asking for a raise.

7 So, nothing against you people.
8 It's just the right thing, but, yeah, it
9 would be great if our public utilities are
10 really owned by public and communities and
11 the people who use them.

12 And I guess that is what people are
13 speaking about outside. So that's all I have
14 to say.

15 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

16 MR. LICKY: Thank you.

17 ALJ LIRAG: Next is Dr. Kathy Kaiser,
18 but let me pause for 15 seconds. Let's go
19 off the record.

20 (Off the record.)

21 ALJ LIRAG: Let's go back on the
22 record.

23 Dr. Kaiser, K-a-i-s-e-r.

24 STATEMENT OF DR. KAISER

25 Yes. Dr. Kaiser. I'm a deviant
26 specialist, which applies completely to this
27 situation.

28 PG&E has already been ruled a

1 felon. They have bragged in print that you
2 have never ever turned down a rate increase.
3 That is the second time you've come to our
4 community to ask us to assess the validity of
5 a rate increase. The last one happened
6 without a blink. We were also told that they
7 would never charge the rate holders for them
8 blowing up San Bruno and then several years
9 later they did and you let them.

10 These lines were a hundred years
11 old. The last time a community in the United
12 States burnt totally down was a hundred years
13 ago. Isn't that ironic?

14 You have a group of people who said
15 they were going to go and improve the safety
16 of these lines three years before the fire
17 and yet never did anything. So, why would
18 you believe a felon?

19 There are several versions of crime
20 here. A robbery means somebody uses a
21 weapon, but a burglary is they just come and
22 steal things from your house. I think you
23 have a burglary situation.

24 The fact that you have never turned
25 down a rate increase petition from PG&E and
26 that the Commission has been in print accused
27 of being too close to PG&E suggests that
28 there is some other kind of behavior that may

1 not be legal.

2 Solar has dramatically increased
3 and all they've done is raise the tiers; not
4 just raise the tiers, but if you're on solar,
5 now they have changed the time period. So it
6 used to be if you were a solar customer, you
7 would have an option about what time you
8 wouldn't use power. Now it's when everybody
9 is home from work. So you're not going to
10 cook for your kids. You're not going to do
11 laundry. And you're not going to watch TV.
12 Oh, unless you want to pay PG&E more per unit
13 that you're using.

14 When I moved to the neighborhood
15 I'm in now, my house was 1,000 feet larger.
16 I had a pool, but I had the same number of
17 people for the same number of hours using
18 power. And when the person who was a woman
19 came by to read the meter I asked her why was
20 my rate so high? She said, "Oh. Well PG&E
21 based the rate on the size of houses that
22 used to be in this neighborhood." That
23 neighborhood was a rice farming community
24 where they had workers who had small houses
25 and the few owners had large houses.

26 Now the majority of houses are
27 large houses. We all have wells and we are
28 paying as if we were these small houses

1 overusing power.

2 So, I suspect that anything PG&E
3 tells you they're going to use the rate for,
4 based on their past historical behavior, you
5 can check out, is a lie.

6 They blew up San Bruno and yet we
7 paid for it. They never used the
8 three-years-ago money that they had to
9 improve the wires for the Camp Fire. And
10 what makes you think they will do fire safety
11 improvement now?

12 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

13 Next is Chris Slobodzian, Mary Ann
14 Priddy --

15 MR. SLOBODZIAN: You say it better than
16 I do.

17 ALJ LIRAG: Charles Priddy.

18 S-l-o-b-o-d-z-i-a-n.

19 STATEMENT OF MR. SLOBODZIAN

20 Yes. That's correct. And you say
21 it better than I do, so.

22 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

23 MR. SLOBODZIAN: First of all, I want
24 to say I'm deathly opposed to the rate hike.
25 Okay. And like previous speakers have said,
26 the Commission has never denied PG&E a rate
27 hike and that is wrong. That tells me you're
28 looking out for them and not the ratepayer.

1 Okay. And so that makes me wonder if you're
2 nothing but corporate lackeys and lapdogs of
3 these people, you know, and you're getting
4 paid off.

5 What I think is needed is a new
6 initiative or ballot measure or whatever to
7 change the bylaws of the Commission that
8 strips the Governor of his authority to
9 appoint you guys to the Commission and that
10 all future members of that Commission are
11 drawn for the voter registration rolls of the
12 three utility companies in California because
13 it's obvious you don't care about the safety
14 of the ratepayers.

15 The second thing is there was a
16 recent article, just so everybody knows this
17 is the Wall Street Journal on July 11th of
18 this year about PG&E knew the aging grid was
19 a fire risk. A full 3,500 of their towers
20 are over a hundred years old and their life
21 expectancy is 65 years. So that tells me
22 PG&E's been negligent for at least 40, 50,
23 years. And that's in the 115-kilovolt line
24 that caused the Camp Fire. And in that line
25 there, 49 towers in that particular line in
26 that region there were supposed to be
27 replaced in 2010 according to the article.

28 So they're criminally negligent.

1 And, like I said, I believe the other people
2 that died there, PG&E has committed murder.
3 And as far as I'm concerned, so has the
4 Commission for failing to uphold safety
5 standards that need to be.

6 And then further in the article it
7 says, "3,500 towers installed in the 1900s
8 and 1910s." And, like I said, the
9 life-expectancy is 65 years. So they're 45
10 to 50 years overdue.

11 And then in their 230-kilovolt
12 system, it says "60 percent of the structures
13 were built between 1920 and 1950," which
14 means their life-expectancy is 5 to 20 years
15 overdue.

16 So PG&E is just burning up the
17 state. I'm wondering how many billions that
18 they paid out in bonuses and dividends that
19 needed to be put toward fire safety.

20 And as far as I'm concerned, this
21 fire fund that these guys just passed, that
22 the State Legislator just passed, it is a
23 bunch of BS, because I see where it said that
24 ratepayers will put in 10.5 billion and that
25 the utility companies have the option to buy
26 into it.

27 So, in other words, we're baling out
28 the criminal corporation again, just like

1 with the 2008 fiasco with the meltdown of the
2 mortgages.

3 You know, you guys ought to be
4 ashamed of yourselves for what you have done
5 to the ratepayers in this.

6 I myself have cut my electricity
7 consumption by 40 percent and my rate still
8 goes higher. Shame on all of you. You all
9 need to be replaced.

10 And if anybody knows here how to put
11 that initiative to change the Commission
12 guidelines and put just regular people in
13 instead of you corporate insiders, we need to
14 do that and we need to do it on the 2020
15 ballot.

16 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

17 MR. SLOBODZIAN: But I encourage all of
18 you to read this Wall Street Journal article
19 of July 11th of this year.

20 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

21 Ms. Priddy, P-r-i-d-d-y.

22 STATEMENT OF MS. PRIDDY

23 I, too, along with everyone else,
24 oppose the rate hike.

25 One thing I'm wondering in reading
26 this, the Community Wildfire Safety Program,
27 how much has PG&E allotted in the past for
28 this program and it's not been effective,

1 obviously? So, why, you know, why do we want
2 to spend three hundred or \$580 million more
3 for fire safety when it's not been effective
4 up to this point?

5 Also, another thing that is not
6 listed here that I've read about is that one
7 reason for the rate hike is to lure
8 investors. And so why should we be paying
9 for that? That doesn't make any sense to me.

10 Another thing that I object to is
11 why doesn't PG&E, if they are lacking in
12 money, start at the top? I just looked up
13 some of the -- some of the salaries, and this
14 year's CEO, \$9 million. \$9 million. Okay.
15 The other officers are almost as much.
16 Special Advisor, PG&E Company; what does the
17 Special Advisor do; we don't even know, for
18 \$3,714,000?

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Very special.

20 MS. PRIDDY: The salaries are just
21 incredible. I would rather see the employees
22 who work out in the field get a raise, rather
23 than paying the corporate people so much
24 money. So why don't they start at the top
25 and cut back on the salaries and the benefits
26 that these people get? It's outrageous to
27 me.

28 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

1 Charles Priddy is next, same last
2 name, followed by Michael Ranney and then
3 Elaina McReynolds and then Margie Rackley.

4 STATEMENT OF MR. PRIDDY

5 This is probably not the proper
6 place to ask this question, but I had General
7 Motors stock. And when they went bankrupt,
8 my stock became worthless. How does PG&E
9 stockholders -- how come they're not
10 affected? Maybe their value goes down a
11 little, but it seems to me like they should
12 be broke like PG&E is supposed to be,
13 bankrupt. I don't know how they keep making
14 money.

15 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

16 Michael Ranney, R-a-n-n-e-e. Oh,
17 sorry. R-a-n-n-e-y.

18 STATEMENT OF MR. RANNEY

19 Michael Ranney, R-a-n-n-e-y. It's
20 Ranney, not Rainey.

21 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

22 MR. RANNEY: Okay. Thank you.

23 I hear a lot of folks seem to be
24 expressing that they don't want the rate hike
25 in terms of it being a punitive measure
26 against PG&E for the Camp Fire. In other
27 words, don't give them the rate hike; punish
28 them for what they have done. And that is

1 well and good, but I'm looking at it as we
2 have had so many rate hikes over the years
3 that working people, people on fixed incomes
4 and people just over the level of being in
5 the CARE Program are having a hard time
6 making ends meet, because not only are
7 utilities up, but everything goes up, food,
8 DMV fees, insurance. Everything is going up
9 while their wages are stagnant. So people
10 just can't afford another rate increase.
11 It's not just a matter of being punitive
12 against PG&E.

13 Now, and I don't want to express all
14 of my situation and my wife's situation, but
15 we were victims of the Camp Fire. We were
16 trapped on our street for 27 hours and we
17 were -- we lost everything, our vehicles and
18 everything, absolutely everything. And I'm
19 not the same person that I was before the
20 fire and I never will be. It's changed --
21 it's actually ruined our lives.

22 And so anyway, but I don't want to
23 go into -- everybody already knows how
24 devastating this fire was.

25 I didn't know a couple of hours ago
26 that I was going to be here to speak, so I
27 scribbled down some points I would like to
28 make. And so bear with me as I make these

1 points.

2 I heard people talk about PG&E
3 should be, or some of the executives should
4 be charged with murder. And I don't agree
5 with that, but perhaps manslaughter would be
6 more appropriate. And these, you know, the
7 executive pay, the bonuses, raises to attract
8 investors just doesn't seem realistic at this
9 point, you know, in PG&E's history.

10 Like I said before, working people
11 and folks on fixed income, retired, disabled,
12 they can't cope with another rate increase.

13 PG&E and the PUC and State
14 government rationalized the status quo
15 operation of this private utility. We have
16 endured many rate increases over the years.
17 Working class folks have seen incomes nearly
18 flat. I have already said that. The more
19 affluent among us, perhaps including some of
20 yourselves and corporate executives, they can
21 absorb cost increases. They can't truly
22 empathize with the working class, people of
23 modest incomes. PG&E and other large
24 corporations are closely connected to Wall
25 Street. If we asked PG&E's CEO, he would
26 probably say that public safety is a top
27 priority while delivering reliable power to
28 the public and to its customers. But if you

1 ask Wall Street, if it had a voice, and we'd
2 ask its priority, it would say profit and
3 increasing shareholder value. And so those
4 things are closely tied together.

5 Perhaps the legacy of PG&E has run
6 its course. And now may be the time to break
7 the company into smaller entities and create
8 more municipal, not-for-profit power
9 providers.

10 Wall Street and State economists
11 might say that a profitable PG&E is necessary
12 for the state's economy as it provides power
13 for large businesses and infrastructure and
14 any large interruption of their business
15 model would cause great harm to the entire
16 state's economy. This is one example of
17 rationalization of the status quo.

18 If PG&E were to be at least
19 downsized, there may be a somewhat awkward
20 transition period; however, I believe the
21 market would respond with creative solutions
22 if given the chance.

23 PG&E is a convicted felon which has
24 broken its probation more than once. The PUC
25 was also implicated by Federal investigators
26 for lazy supervision regarding the San Bruno
27 incident.

28 You may think that a bailout on the

1 backs of ratepayers and taxpayers is a form
2 of opportunity for rehabilitation for this
3 felon. In the view of many, it is a form of
4 enablement, enabling a criminal to continue
5 to profit.

6 Perhaps a transition to a
7 not-for-profit distribution model, there
8 could be a place for a reformed PG&E to
9 provide power to only the largest customers
10 for critical infrastructure and public
11 transportation projects, while new smaller
12 companies and municipal utilities could pop
13 up to service homes and smaller businesses.

14 Please try to empathize with the
15 majority of customers. Don't drive them
16 deeper into personal austerity. We have
17 reached our limits. We are sometimes only
18 given the illusion of choice or opportunity,
19 as some of these folks expressed, that you
20 give us this illusion that we are able to
21 speak and you hear us, but nothing changes
22 and we just keep paying more and more.

23 A few weeks ago, I was in Modoc
24 County and the utility there had rates of
25 around \$0.08 a kilowatt hour and they were
26 buying power from Bonneville, which I believe
27 is all the way in Washington state. So we
28 are just paying too much already.

1 I would just beg that we all come
2 together as human beings, as caring human
3 beings caring for each other and not cogs in
4 a cold, ultimately unsustainable capitalist
5 machine.

6 And let's do the right thing for the
7 good of those who don't have the power to
8 force change, because their political power
9 has been hijacked by a corporate ruling class
10 that can buy out even our democracy.

11 There would be great possibilities
12 for the quality of life in our society for
13 the health of our economy in the long run if
14 we allowed the poor and working class to
15 receive their fair share of the pie so they
16 could contribute more to the velocity of the
17 entire economy and not be slaves to a few
18 segments of the economy.

19 ALJ LIRAG: Are you able to summarize
20 the rest in half a minute?

21 MR. RANNEY: Just a couple of more
22 sentences.

23 For the sake of fairness and
24 justice, please deny this rate increase
25 bailout and let's begin a new paradigm, a
26 new era of corporate responsibility. It
27 doesn't matter the reasons. No more
28 increases.

1 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

2 Elaina McReynolds,

3 M-c-R-e-y-n-o-l-d-s.

4 STATEMENT OF MS. McREYNOLDS

5 Correct. Thank you.

6 I oppose the increase. No
7 surprise. I believe I would like to correct
8 my, and with one opinion that PG&E's mission
9 is to increase stockholder salaries or
10 dividends and to increase their salaries,
11 \$9 million is pretty high. That person
12 didn't take one cut due to this poor decision
13 to not plan for safety for all these years.

14 I have lived here in Chico for 10
15 years. I live in a small apartment and that
16 apartment was about \$85 when I started to
17 cool off in the summertime. It's now \$186
18 because of rate increase already existing.
19 And all this time with all those increases,
20 nothing has been done to improve the safety.
21 It appears nothing is going to be done for 85
22 people who lost their lives.

23 I left the town for a couple of
24 days because I couldn't breathe with the
25 offer 500 parts-per-million smoke issue. And
26 I had to come back because I had no money to
27 stay out longer. My job closed down for a
28 week because the air was so bad.

1 I am concerned about accountability
2 and I believe that PG&E, certainly the
3 executives were criminally negligent and they
4 helped these people die.

5 I also feel like these folks that
6 are outside that this isn't going to do any
7 good. This is a valve to let off steam and
8 then you will support the increase no matter
9 what. And that's disheartening.

10 I read that the increase to me
11 might be \$50 a month. That will eat up my
12 annual increase. It's insane. That is over
13 \$600 a year for one person. And you're going
14 to meet other people in groups and stuff. We
15 are the largest group that's out there;
16 individual users of the energy.

17 I believe what happened was
18 criminally negligent. I believe \$50 is going
19 to hurt me and everyone else in this city and
20 this county.

21 I don't have any trust whatsoever
22 that safety is the first concern of PG&E in
23 this effort because they gave increases
24 before. Yes, this increase will not increase
25 gold monies to the executives or the
26 stockholders. They already did that. They
27 already cut that deal. And now they're
28 asking us to pay for it.

1 I don't have \$50 a month. I do
2 not. It's already paying \$186 for like a 750
3 square-foot apartment to cool it off or heat
4 it up.

5 So, I thank for this opportunity to
6 speak. I don't think it's going to do any
7 good.

8 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

9 Next is Margie Rackley,
10 R-e-c-k-l-e-y.

11 STATEMENT OF MS. RACKLEY

12 It's Margie Rackley, R-a-c-k-l-e-y.

13 ALJ LIRAG: Sorry. Thank you. And
14 then followed by Laurie Smith and David
15 Goymer.

16 MS. RACKLEY: I just want to say that I
17 have no faith in what PG&E is telling us and
18 I hope that you guys will hear everything
19 that we're saying and use it personally, not
20 just your committee-wise, because I think if
21 you think about their past history and
22 everything, you can't believe that there's
23 truth to it. They say that the rate increase
24 is not related to the recent fires; however,
25 that would have been more believable if they
26 had asked for this rate increase before our
27 two large Northern California fires;
28 definitely after the first fire and before

1 the Camp Fire.

2 Debbie earlier made a very good
3 point that we have seen huge rate increases
4 already. And, again, why didn't they use
5 those rate increases to begin what they want
6 to do for wildfire prevention? Had they,
7 maybe our recent devastating fires could have
8 been prevented.

9 One speaker noted that two weeks
10 prior to the fire the warnings were sent --

11 (Interruption by protestors.)

12 MS. RACKLEY: They are very rude,
13 disrespectful.

14 One speaker noted that two weeks
15 prior to the fire, they received warnings
16 that the power could be shut down during a
17 high wind, red-flag period.

18 I actually have to cry. I'm sorry.
19 I have a friend who lost her home, barely
20 evacuated with her two children and her dog.
21 She received warning two days before the
22 fire. So why didn't they follow through
23 then? They may have had a prevention plan
24 back then that didn't work. What says that
25 this rate increase will work now?

26 Again, that just brings me back to
27 how can we believe what they say? It didn't
28 take any more money than they've already got

1 to flip a switch and they couldn't do it. So
2 what makes them think that now they can come
3 up with an effective prevention plan, when
4 they couldn't follow through with something
5 simple that they said they would do?

6 And, again, is this the first of
7 many increases? Shall we just continue to
8 expect more because they can't follow through
9 with the things that they say they're going
10 to do? How do we trust that they're going to
11 come up with a good plan? How transparent
12 will PG&E be with the money if this rate is
13 unfortunately approved? Will we get to know
14 in advance what the money is being spent for?
15 Will we learn about it afterwards or will we
16 never really know anything about what the
17 money was being spent on? What assurance is
18 there that the funds won't be for bonuses?

19 I can't believe that they gave out
20 \$235 million in bonuses right after the Camp
21 Fire, after everybody lost everything, that
22 was what was more important to them was
23 paying their shareholders and everything
24 instead of putting that money towards fire
25 prevention. That is just an unacceptable
26 thing. And so that just leads me to believe
27 that no matter how high of a rate increase
28 they give us, we won't see the fire

1 prevention we need.

2 If they truly want to do what's
3 right, they will come up with a way to find
4 fire prevention for our community and all of
5 the other communities without a rate increase
6 so that they can do what is right.

7 They can't fix the wrong that they
8 have created but maybe by doing something
9 right now, that will help others believe that
10 they do have a heart. I want to see PG&E
11 have a heart.

12 I ask that you guys think about this
13 from your heart, not from your political
14 standpoint.

15 Thank you.

16 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

17 Next is Laurie Smith.]

18 STATEMENT OF MS. SMITH

19 Yes. Elaine, Rafael, Genevieve,
20 and Michael, this PG&E situation has affected
21 everybody from the Camp Fire more than you
22 will ever understand. My husband and I have
23 lived there for 40 years. He's been a
24 hospice nurse for 25 years up in Paradise.

25 It has affected the community in
26 unbelievable ways that you will never
27 understand. We have not only lost our
28 community, 85 plus of our community members,

1 friends, family, our dogs, everybody, they
2 burnt. They actually burnt. I don't know if
3 you can really understand that and
4 consequences of that that we have to live
5 with every day.

6 Our water is polluted. Our soil is
7 polluted. Our air is polluted.

8 How is all of this going to affect
9 our health in 10 years? How many people in
10 10 years or 15 years are going to get cancer?

11 I mean, it's unbelievable if you
12 think about the ramifications of PG&E's
13 actions and irresponsibility.

14 I mean, what? They gave the CPUC
15 \$360 million. On 4/23/19, \$235 billion in
16 bonuses. 6-20-19, an additional \$11 billion,
17 and you're asking us for rate increases?

18 For what?

19 Just down street a few days ago a
20 PG&E line lit on fire right across -- up
21 Magalia, across the Skyway, near the Wood --
22 near Wood Drive. That is just our
23 neighborhood, just right there it did not
24 burn.

25 We don't have a chance if you can't
26 help us. PG&E is not going to be
27 responsible. Like everyone else here has
28 said, the history of PG&E is only for their

1 investors.

2 We are collateral damage because
3 they don't care about our lives. They don't
4 care about the 85-plus that they haven't
5 found people yet, or the people that have
6 died of their injuries and smoke inhalation,
7 or the people who are going to die of cancer
8 because of lung respiratory illnesses.

9 Please, please, do not approve it.
10 Don't approve their rate. They need to be
11 reorganized like everyone else said.

12 PG&E should be prosecuted for the
13 murders, not given permission by this
14 Commission to raise their rates. They need
15 to be held accountable. And that's the only
16 way that you're going to affect PG&E is by
17 affecting their bottom line.

18 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

19 Mr. Goymer, who is followed by Joey
20 Haney, and then Addison Winslow.

21 Mr. Goymer, G-o-y-m-e-r.

22 STATEMENT OF MR. GOYMER

23 That is correct. Well-pronounced.

24 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

25 MR. GOYMER: Without a doubt, I believe
26 the rate increase should not happen. As a
27 teacher of mathematics and physics, I have
28 not seen my salary increase in years. In the

1 evenings, we've had to reduce our power
2 consumption by turning off almost every
3 single light because we have seen our bills
4 increase steadily over the past 14 years.

5 Our home survived the carnage, the
6 flames that ravaged Paradise, but it was
7 damaged. Insurance paid enough to cover for
8 very expensive cleaning, but it's up to me
9 now to do my own work building a fence,
10 rebuilding a shed, repairing my own roof.

11 When I saw this notice about 6.4
12 percent increase, I knew I had to come here.
13 Our family cannot afford another increase.

14 Others have very eloquently spoken
15 about numerous factors, I shan't reiterate
16 those to be concise, but I do believe that a
17 good faith response from PG&E would be to
18 actually lower our rates. That would go a
19 long way, would go a long way.

20 Commissioners, thank you for being
21 here, and we do believe that you do have the
22 power to make a good decision.

23 Thank you very much.

24 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

25 Mr. Haney is next, H-a-n-e-y.

26 STATEMENT OF MR. HANEY

27 Hello. Thank you for coming up
28 here and listening to us. I'll start out

1 with making what is probably a pretty popular
2 opinion here, that I am opposed to the rate
3 increase.

4 What is maybe a less popular
5 opinion is that I think, you know, it's
6 reasonable for electricity to be expensive.
7 It's kind of magic and it's being sent across
8 the state, and it's being produced in so many
9 ways and cheap electricity is maybe a relic
10 of an earlier time when we had cheap sources
11 of electricity.

12 What I think I'm opposed to, what I
13 think a lot of people are really drilling
14 down on is that the rates are going up, but
15 our energy production maybe isn't improving
16 in the same way. We are still getting power
17 from coal, from natural gas, from fracking,
18 from things that are baking the planet, and
19 making our environment even worse.

20 We are paying more for power and
21 that money is not going to improve our power
22 delivery. It's not going to improve our
23 power production. It is going to enrich
24 shareholders, and it is going to enrich
25 executives.

26 Just a quick, you know, phone
27 calculation I did with the information given
28 in the handouts today: That that average

1 10.57 cent increase that PG&E is requesting
2 multiplied across the population of Butte
3 county will be about \$26-and-a-half million,
4 which I looked at the same source that the
5 lady earlier today mentioned for PG&E's
6 executive salary for those eight people, they
7 are making just under \$25 million projected
8 in 2019, which is just about the entire
9 amount that Butte County would be paying in
10 the increase in that one year.

11 And seeing things like that,
12 numbers like that, are what I think are
13 really driving people to oppose these rates.
14 They are not actually credibly being returned
15 to us in value.

16 And that's what I would hope that
17 all of you, as Commissioners on the CPUC,
18 would look into, is not just how much money
19 we are paying, but how is that money being
20 used?

21 And listen to a lot of the people
22 and a lot of the evidence that seems to go
23 that maybe PG&E as an institution and
24 organization is too big as a for-profit
25 business and it's just fundamentally
26 incapable of delivering power efficiently and
27 safely and needs to be converted into
28 something that's not-for-profit because every

1 for-profit business exists to serve its
2 owners.

3 That's just fundamentally how every
4 business operates, to turn a profit for their
5 owners, and customers are just a means to
6 accomplish that end.

7 And I think what we need to do is
8 create a utility and an energy production and
9 transmission organization that exists to
10 serve users.

11 And that's the only way I think
12 you'll be able to really get people, like the
13 people in this room and across state, on
14 board with paying the amounts, the rates,
15 that are required to convert ourselves to a
16 sustainable and healthy energy grid.

17 Thank you for coming out here to
18 Chico.

19 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

20 Next is Mr. Winslow, W-i-n-s-l-o-w.

21 STATEMENT OF MR. WINSLOW

22 Hi. Welcome to Butte County. I
23 don't suppose any of you spent much time here
24 before. You're all from the bay area, LA,
25 maybe in there. This is an area -- we have a
26 very diverse geography, diverse topography.
27 We're one of the poorest counties in the
28 state of California.

1 We have coastal -- inland wages and
2 coastal speculation, and we're seeing rent
3 increases here in Chico and all around
4 because of the people that left the fire that
5 PG&E started.

6 This is a cost increase for
7 everybody for the cost of living. People are
8 scraping by here. People are leaving.

9 And you're coming here, telling us
10 you want to give us another rate hike,
11 increase the cost of living on everybody,
12 power, on something that we need because PG&E
13 neglected to upkeep their infrastructure for
14 100 years. The line that blew up was over
15 100 years old. Neglecting it for decades
16 while they've been taking profits, dishing
17 them out to the shareholders; okay.

18 So you, the CPUC, sued PG&E \$1.6
19 billion for falsifying public records, for
20 generally cutting corners around pipeline
21 safety after the San Bruno explosion.

22 Who is paying that fine?

23 It is criminal charges, and you're
24 leaving criminals in charge of our power, in
25 charge of a necessity.

26 You would be hard-pressed to find a
27 single person in this county who trusts PG&E.
28 And so why is it that four people up there

1 are the people who trust PG&E most in this
2 room? Humm.

3 I think we're in a situation where
4 you seem to think - the government does,
5 Newsom, everybody, they're all greased up,
6 the majority of them anyway - that PG&E,
7 that's our only option; right?

8 So it's either, like, no
9 electricity or electricity from criminals
10 dishing up profits all the way.

11 There's no way of reinvestment, no
12 Green New Deal, no movement to clean energy.
13 There no taking this seriously. There's no
14 taking fire safety seriously.

15 Nobody believes this is actually
16 going to happen. We've all seen it before.
17 There's been rate increases before. They
18 said they're going to upkeep damaged
19 infrastructure before.

20 There's been fires before. They've
21 been sued for fires before. This is no,
22 like, we're suddenly figuring this out. It's
23 all unraveling before you right here.

24 Everything that everybody is
25 saying, we all knew before. We all knew
26 before the Camp Fire. This could have all
27 been deduced.

28 And here you are asking questions

1 about it like it matters what we say, what
2 decision you make.

3 I don't know if any of you, do you
4 ever turn down a rate hike before? If you
5 are going to this time; if there is even a
6 chance in your mind that you will turn down
7 this rate. Like, it doesn't matter what
8 people say here.

9 If you don't -- do not recommend,
10 if you don't bring up the possibility that
11 there are other alternatives, we're going to
12 be stuck in this for every industry and we'll
13 never move to renewables, and more towns,
14 one-road towns, that we have up here, are
15 going to burn down.

16 You're going to have more hearings
17 here, more people from Forest Ranch who
18 suffered the same way the people on the ridge
19 did will come here and tell you the same
20 things.

21 The dependence on PG&E is based on
22 two paternalistic myths - right - that we
23 depend on PG&E; we need PG&E to provide us
24 power.

25 And I think that's not true because
26 it's a large corporation that can be managed
27 publicly.

28 Simply, we could have a commission,

1 like yourselves, and instead of controlling
2 the rate hikes and making sure there's secure
3 profit margins, and then putting some
4 stipulations on PG&E, in fact, you'd be
5 overseeing like the majority of the large
6 decisions and their enterprise. We would run
7 it publicly.

8 The second is the workers need PG&E
9 and the executives, and that's not true. We
10 do trust the people that upkeep the lines who
11 when they're given the money, do upkeep the
12 infrastructure and do the work and keep the
13 power running.

14 We do not trust PG&E. We need a
15 public option for electricity.

16 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

17 Mr. Winslow was the last speaker on
18 the list. Is there anyone else that wants to
19 talk that wasn't on the list?

20 (No response.)

21 ALJ LIRAG: Hearing none.

22 I'll ask Commissioner Shiroma if she
23 has any closing remarks.

24 COMMISSIONER SHIROMA: I want to thank
25 everyone who took the time to attend the
26 meeting this evening and assure you that your
27 comments have been recorded by our court
28 reporters and each of us up here on the dais

1 have been listening very carefully to what
2 each of you have said. And we, as I told the
3 public in the earlier meeting, we will carry
4 those in our hearts and minds.

5 I do thank you for your time with us
6 this evening. Thank you.

7 ALJ LIRAG: President Picker, any
8 closing remarks?

9 PRESIDENT PICKER: No.

10 ALJ LIRAG: Judge Lau?

11 ALJ LOU: No.

12 ALJ LIRAG: We were really happy to be
13 here. Thank you, everyone, for your very
14 insightful comments. Thank you for
15 attending. The public hearing is concluded.
16 We're off the record.]

17 (Whereupon, at the hour of 7:45
18 p.m., this matter having been continued
19 to 1:00 p.m., July 24, 2019, at
Oakland, California, the Commission
then adjourned.)

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