

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA



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

Application of Pacific Gas and
Electric Company for Authority,
Among Other Things, to Increase
Rates and Charges for Electric and
Gas Service Effective on January 1,
2020. (U39M)

) PUBLIC
) PARTICIPATION
) HEARING
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)
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) Application
) 18-12-009
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OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

JULY 24, 2019 - 6:00 P.M.

* * * * *

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE LIRAG: Let's start. Please come to order.

This is the time and place for the Public Participation Hearing, or PPH, in Application 18-12-009. This is the General Rate Case Application of Pacific Gas & Electric Company, or PG&E. This was filed with the California Public Utilities Commission.

So welcome, everyone. This our second session for this day. We had an earlier public hearing at 1:00 p.m. at this same place. And I think some of the folks that were there this afternoon are here again, so welcome back.

Anyway I just want to go over briefly that the purpose of this public hearing is to hear from you regarding the impact of this general rate case application. And also -- you can also talk about your personal experiences regarding the PG&E's service.

Good evening my name is Rafael Lirag and beside me is Elaine Lau. We are the administrative law judges, or ALJs, assigned

1 to review PG&E's application.

2 By way of introduction, the PUC is
3 an agency that regulates PG&E. And that's
4 why we're also here today. So the PUC has
5 five commissioners who were appointed by the
6 governor. And the Commissioners, the five
7 Commissioners, they are the ones who are
8 going to vote on the outcome of PG&E's
9 application.

10 So with us tonight is Anand
11 Durvasula. He is an advisor from
12 Commissioner Randolph's office. Commissioner
13 Randolph is the assigned commissioner.

14 Anand, do you want to say a few
15 words?

16 STATEMENT OF MR. DURVASULA

17 Sure. Thank you all for coming
18 here. We are looking forward to what you
19 have to say. Commissioner Randolph wishes
20 she could have been here, but she is out of
21 the country on travel. But luckily we have
22 the court reporters here and there will be a
23 transcript, which will be publicly available.
24 And we'll be reviewing the transcripts from
25 all 17 PPHs to see what your concerns are.
26 And it will help us determine and evaluate
27 PG&E's application.

28 Thanks. And if you have any

1 questions, feel free to come up to me
2 afterwards, and I'm happy to talk to you.

3 Thank you.

4 ALJ LAU: Thank you, Anand.

5 So you heard him mention
6 transcripts. What does that mean? We have
7 Jason, our court reporter, who is taking down
8 everything that's being said in this public
9 hearing. So for the Commissioners that are
10 not here, their office is going to receive a
11 copy of this transcript. And it's certain
12 that they are going to read all of your
13 comments. So rest assured that the
14 commissioners are going to know or going to
15 listen to what you're going to say tonight.

16 Next let's have a presentation from
17 Nathan Poon. Nathan is part of the
18 Administrative Law Judge Division. He is a
19 proceeding analyst, and he will give a brief
20 summary regarding what the general rate case
21 is and PG&E's application.

22 Nathan.

23 STATEMENT OF MR. POON

24 Thank you. Good afternoon. I'm
25 Nathan Poon, a proceedings analyst in the
26 Administrative Law Judge Division of the
27 California Public Utilities Commission, and
28 I'll be providing a brief overview of PG&E's

1 application.

2 Every three years, PG&E files a
3 general rate case application, or GRC, to
4 request funding for its gas and electric
5 operations. The Commission gathers
6 information and evidence to determine whether
7 PG&E's proposed revenue requirements are just
8 and reasonable.

9 As part of the process, the
10 Commission conducts public hearings, like
11 today, to hear directly from affected
12 customers like you. Formal evidentiary
13 hearings are then held where witnesses from
14 the parties present evidence and are subject
15 to cross-examination.

16 Currently, there are many active
17 parties in this proceeding including several
18 consumer groups, community-based
19 organizations, city and county governments,
20 unions, and large user groups. Many of these
21 groups oppose what PG&E is requesting. Their
22 participation can affect the amount of money
23 the Commission would authorize PG&E to claim.

24 At the conclusion of the process,
25 the Commission issues a decision that
26 determines the appropriate rates PG&E can
27 charge.

28 In this application, PG&E is

1 requesting rates for years 2020, 2021, and
2 2022. Specifically, PG&E is requesting to
3 increase its revenues by \$1.058 billion in
4 2020, an increase of 5.8 percent from the
5 total of 2019 revenues.

6 Additionally, PG&E is requesting an
7 increase of \$454 million, or 2.4 percent for
8 2021. And an increase of \$486 million or 2.5
9 percent in 2022.

10 PG&E states that the main reason
11 for the requested increases are to fund core
12 operations, liability insurance, and wildfire
13 prevention. Namely its Community Wildfire
14 Safety Program.

15 If the full requested amount is
16 granted by the Commission, an average
17 residential customer, one who uses 500
18 kilowatt hours of electricity and 34 therms
19 of gas will see their gas and electricity
20 bill increase by 7 to 8 percent or
21 approximately \$10.50 a month.

22 An average low-income alternate
23 rate or "CARE customer" would see their bill
24 increase by about \$7 a month. A more
25 detailed summary of PG&E's application is
26 available on the handout -- found on the
27 handout -- found on the handout that's
28 available in the lobby.

1 Thank you.

2 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you, Nathan.

3 We'll have a short presentation from
4 PG&E.

5 STATEMENT OF MR. TYURIN

6 Good evening. Welcome and thank
7 you, everybody, for attending today's public
8 participation hearing on PG&E's 2020 general
9 rate case proposal. My name is Vitaly
10 Tyurin, and I've been a PG&E employee for 14
11 years.

12 As the local customer service
13 manager for the East Bay Division, I'm
14 responsible for leading a cross functional
15 division leadership team of local leaders
16 from across all major lines of business
17 driving local collaboration of internal PG&E
18 teams with a focus of achieving resolution of
19 local customer issues.

20 This is 1 of 17 hearings being
21 hosted by the CPUC throughout our 70,000
22 square-mile service area. At each location,
23 representatives from PG&E will be available
24 to assist customers with their questions. We
25 have representatives here today that can help
26 track down information you need related to
27 this specific proceeding. My colleagues are
28 just outside the auditorium.

1 Our customers' feedback in this
2 process is crucial for us to hear because the
3 application outlines a series of critical
4 safety investments to help address the
5 State's growing wildfire threat and further
6 protect the 16 million people we serve.

7 Thank you for the Commission, ALJ
8 Lirag, and ALJ Lau for this opportunity to
9 learn from our customers.

10 I'd like to now introduce Robert
11 Kenney vice president of regulatory external
12 affairs who will say a few words.

13 Thank you.

14 STATEMENT OF MR. KENNEY

15 Vitaly, thank you very much. Good
16 evening, everybody. And good evening to the
17 judges. Thank you for letting us be here
18 today and thank you for allowing us to
19 participate.

20 And I want to thank all of our
21 customers that came out at 6:00 o'clock on a
22 weekday evening to participate in the
23 process. We very much appreciate your
24 presence.

25 Again, my name is Robert Kenney.
26 I'm the vice president of regulatory and
27 external affairs. My job is to manage PG&E's
28 relationship and interactions with our

1 regulators and with our state and local
2 governmental entities with which we interact.

3 Before joining PG&E, I had the
4 honor and privilege of serving on the Public
5 Utilities Commission in Missouri. And I had
6 the honor and privilege of participating in
7 hearings that were very much like this. I
8 always appreciated the opportunity to
9 interact with customers and to have the
10 customer voice be a part of the proceeding.
11 So, again, thank you very much for being
12 here.

13 These hearings provide a
14 transparent and respectful way for us to
15 interact with our customers and it's very
16 important to us. We value and appreciate and
17 look forward to hearing what you have to say
18 this evening.

19 PG&E's most important
20 responsibility is the safety of our customers
21 and communities that we serve. And one of
22 the ways that we go about achieving that and
23 guaranteeing that is through our GRC
24 proposal, which outlines our plans to upgrade
25 technology and infrastructure to enhance our
26 ability to provide safe and reliable gas and
27 electric service.

28 The proposal that we have before

1 the Commission will help bolster wildfire
2 prevention, risk monitoring, and emergency
3 response. It will also add new and enhanced
4 safety measures and will increase our
5 Vegetation Management Program and harden our
6 electric system to increase resiliency and to
7 help further reduce wildfire risk.

8 Under the proposal, we are
9 requesting approximately \$1.1 billion
10 additionally over our current revenues. More
11 than half of that proposed increase will be
12 directly related to wildfire prevention, risk
13 reduction, and additional safety
14 enhancements.

15 If approved by the CPUC, it would
16 increase a typical residential customer's
17 bill by approximately 6.4 percent, or \$10.57
18 a month. Which includes approximately \$8.73
19 for electric service. And approximately
20 \$1.84 for gas service.

21 It's very important that we share
22 with you where your money's going and what we
23 intend to do with that money. It's also
24 equally as important that we share with you
25 where we won't be spending your money.

26 While this GRC proposal does help
27 fund a series of important safety
28 investments, it does not request funding for

1 PG&E corporation or utility officer
2 compensation. In other words, my salary or
3 the salaries of my colleagues are excluded
4 from this request.

5 The proposal also does not request
6 funding for any potential wildfire claims
7 involved in the Chapter 11 bankruptcy
8 proceeding.

9 We recognize that our proposal is a
10 significant increase and it comes at a
11 difficult time. We do fully appreciate that
12 there's never a good time for a rate
13 increase.

14 And as always our commitment is to
15 keep customer rates and costs as low as
16 possible while ensuring that we're able to
17 meet our responsibility to safely serve our
18 customers even as changing climate presents a
19 significant new challenges and risks.

20 This funding proposal is the
21 subject of the CPUC's thorough, open, and
22 transparent review process. These public
23 participation hearings are a critical and key
24 component of that transparent process. We
25 encourage and in fact we welcome our
26 customers to provide feedback and participate
27 in this important part of the public process.

28 Judges, thank you again for your

1 time today. And to our customers, thank you
2 very much again for taking the time to be
3 here. And we look forward to hearing what
4 you have to say.

5 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you, Mr. Kenney.

6 Next we have Ms. Constance from
7 TURN. TURN is one of the active parties in
8 this proceeding, and she will explain a
9 little bit of what TURN does.

10 STATEMENT OF MS. PIERRE

11 Good evening. My name is Constance
12 Slider Pierre. I'm the organizing director
13 for TURN, The Utility Reform Network.

14 I'd like to first thank Judge Lirag
15 and Lau for the opportunity to speak today
16 and say a few words to welcome members of the
17 community here today.

18 Thank you for taking time to come
19 to today's public hearing. I hope you all
20 will take advantage of the opportunity to
21 share your experiences and your concerns. We
22 know that safety is very important, and we
23 all are concerned about it. However, we also
24 want to make sure that every dollar earmarked
25 for safety improvements is spent on just that
26 and nothing else.

27 Public participation hearings
28 represent the California Public Utilities

1 Commission at its best. In the hearing
2 rooms, the judges give the opportunity to
3 hear from utility attorneys and consumer
4 attorneys locked in battle arguing over
5 numbers and technical issues.

6 Today, however, the judges want to
7 hear from you, the consumers. They want to
8 know how the proposed changes and rate
9 increases affect you, your family, and your
10 community. Your voice makes a difference.
11 And today you have a chance to share your
12 opinion before decisions are made. Because
13 by the time you hear the new policy on the
14 news or in the newspaper, it's too late to
15 engage in the public discourse that can
16 affect the change and have the greatest
17 impact.

18 PG&E's latest proposal will
19 increase residential customers' bills
20 annually from 2020 through 2022. If
21 approved, this proposal would raise your
22 monthly bill \$20 by 2022; grow PG&E's revenue
23 23 percent by 2022 over 2019; create a
24 \$2 billion annual increase for PG&E by 2022
25 resulting in a \$4.6 billion total increase
26 for PG&E above 2019 over the next three
27 years.

28 Additionally, this proposal comes

1 on top of other ratepayer increases currently
2 being proposed by PG&E that would authorize a
3 60 percent profit margin increase to
4 shareholders while forcing ratepayers to pay
5 billions for additional tree trimming and
6 cost associated with wildfires caused by
7 PG&E's negligence.]

8 To be clear, TURN opposes these
9 exorbitant rate hikes.

10 During your testimony today, I
11 encourage you to use your time to reflect on
12 your experience as a PG&E customer. Tell the
13 Commission how current energy costs affect
14 you, what trade-offs you have been forced to
15 make and what measures you will have to take
16 to reduce costs and conserve energy in the
17 future if these hikes were to be approved.

18 Finally, if you haven't already
19 signed up to speak, please consider doing so.
20 I hope our statement has provided some
21 context and inspiration to you so that you
22 can lift your voice and be heard today.

23 Thank you.

24 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

25 We are almost at the Comments
26 section. I just want to run through a couple
27 of more last-minute things.

28 First we have the Public Advisor's

1 Office table that is outside, the lady that
2 was signing up people to speak. Her name is
3 Claudia. And if you have questions about
4 procedures regarding the PUC or helpful links
5 to websites where you can find more
6 information, please don't hesitate to
7 approach and ask for it after the hearing.

8 Also if you have friends, family,
9 neighbors, people that you know that were not
10 able to make it here but would like to
11 comment and make your voice be heard, please
12 e-mail us at public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov.
13 Again, that's public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov. We
14 read each and every one of these comments
15 that are sent to this address.

16 Also, I want to point out that we
17 have Maria Sotero. Please raise your hand.
18 She is an advisor for one of the five
19 Commissioners, Commissioner Guzman Aceves.
20 Thank you, Maria, for being here.

21 So, we're going to start the comment
22 process from you. I just want to remind
23 everyone that we're here to listen to you.
24 What you say has an impact on this proceeding
25 and that's why we're here. So if you can
26 help it, please don't address the rest of the
27 public. Please address your comments to us.

28 If you have signs that you're

1 holding, feel free to hold it up. We'll look
2 at it. We'll read it. Usually, you know --
3 raise it right now. If you want to take a
4 photo, take a photo. All right. You can
5 raise it from time-to-time. We read what
6 these placards say. So, I'll give like a few
7 seconds for a photo to be taken.

8 (Photos taken.)

9 ALJ LIRAG: All right. Thank you.

10 All right. So we were in Chico last
11 week and we heard comments from people from
12 Paradise or people that knew people in
13 Paradise. But we're here tonight. We are
14 happy to be in the great city of Oakland and
15 we'd like to hear your comments.

16 So let's start it off. What I'm
17 going to do, I'm going to read a couple of
18 names. I'm going to spell your last name.
19 If that is correct, you don't need to do
20 anything. If I spelled it wrong, please
21 correct it on the podium.

22 First is Shreya Shankar followed by
23 Jessica Tovar and Pastor Lee Henry.

24 So let's start with Ms. Shankar,
25 S-h-a-n-k-a-r.

26 STATEMENT OF MS. SHANKAR

27 Hello. Greetings. Hey everybody.
28 Good evening. Hello judges. Thank you for

1 having me.

2 I'm here. First of all, I'm going
3 to try to hold this while I speak. Just so,
4 yes, yes, yes. So I'm here --

5 ALJ LIRAG: Let me interrupt you. I'm
6 not going to cut your time. I forgot to say
7 that the comments should be from three to
8 four minutes so everyone has a chance to
9 speak.

10 So, please, go ahead, Ms. Shankar.
11 Sorry for the interruption.

12 MS. SHANKAR: Okay. Thank you.

13 So I'm here in support of Local
14 Clean Energy Alliance, as well as the No
15 Bailout PG&E Coalition.

16 And I just wanted to recognize, you
17 know, that safety is important. And we have
18 like, you know, in 2012, right, PG&E took a
19 hundred million from gas pipeline safety and
20 put that into bonuses.

21 So these are the kinds of things
22 that we want to be thinking about, especially
23 at a time like this when, you know, there is
24 a climate emergency and we do need very
25 immediate action. And part of what that
26 looks like is, you know, divesting from
27 centralized energy systems and investor-owned
28 utilities and reinventing that into

1 publicly-owned, community-controlled energy
2 systems.

3 And so I'm really excited that we
4 are surfacing some of those systems. And so
5 I would really encourage us to put our
6 resources, our money, time, energy of course
7 into real community-controlled energy.

8 And I also want to speak to -- we're
9 here in Oakland and the rent is hella high,
10 y'all. So I would prefer not to pay an extra
11 \$20 a month. That might not sound like a lot
12 to some folks, and to others, especially
13 folks that are, you know, in service in any
14 way, whether it's organizers, teachers, it's
15 a lot to us. So I would prefer that the
16 customer not be held accountable for the
17 issues of the investor-owned utility.

18 Thank you for your time.

19 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you, Ms. Shankar.

20 Next is Ms. Tovar for Round 2.

21 T-o-v-a-r.

22 STATEMENT OF MS. TOVAR

23 I will try to keep it short.

24 So, one of the things I wanted to
25 like just reiterate from earlier today is
26 what happens when we don't pay our bills or
27 we can't pay our bills? Our utilities get
28 shut off, right?

1 PG&E is choosing not to pay
2 wildfire victims and instead is running to
3 bankruptcy protection.

4 As far as I'm concerned, it's time
5 to turn the lights out on PG&E. Hold them
6 accountable. But we also need to flip the
7 script and actually put our utilities into
8 the hands of the public because if the public
9 owns and runs our utilities, it will be
10 accountable to the people.

11 PG&E has the audacity to come here
12 today asking for money on top of the bailout
13 by raising our electricity and gas rates.
14 That is absolutely disgusting. Of course we
15 oppose that.

16 I really beg of you, the judge, and
17 all the other folks involved to not allow
18 this to go forward. The CPUC must listen to
19 the people. Apparently that's in their
20 mission. I have yet to see it. This is a
21 good opportunity for them to say "no" along
22 with us.

23 Clean power to the people!

24 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you, again,
25 Ms. Tovar.

26 Next it is Pastor Henry, followed by
27 Quanah Brightman, Barbara Stebbins and Ceyda
28 Dogan.

1 Pastor Henry, H-e-n-r-y.

2 STATEMENT OF PASTOR HENRY

3 Yeah. I am Pastor Lee Henry,
4 Greater Life Community Outreach. And I can't
5 afford this PG&E, this hike because my shames
6 (phonetic) stay on all night and I have to
7 use the bathroom through the night and I have
8 to have a light on to see. And I have
9 diabetes and a lot of things that is wrong
10 with me. And so I can't deal with this PG&E
11 hike.

12 And then members of the church,
13 sometimes TV is out or they can't afford
14 PG&E.

15 That's it. Pastor Henry.

16 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you, Pastor Henry.

17 Next is Quanah Brightman,
18 B-r-i-g-h-t-m-a-n.

19 Mr. Brightman.

20 STATEMENT OF MR. BRIGHTMAN

21 (Greeting in native language.)

22 Good day, my relatives. My name is
23 Quanah Parker Brightman. I'm Executive
24 Director of the United Native Americans. I'm
25 also an enrolled citizen of Lakota Nation, my
26 nation.

27 I have come here today to bring
28 voice to the voiceless who, of course, are

1 the indigenous populations whose land that
2 all of you currently occupy illegally.

3 Now, as far as UNA, we were founded
4 in 1968, the Greater Bay Area San Francisco.
5 We were involved in the Takeover Alcatraz,
6 Wounded Knee, couple of long walks across
7 country.

8 ALJ LIRAG: Mr. Brightman, just a
9 little slower so our court reporter can get
10 every word. Thank you. Sorry to interrupt.

11 MR. BRIGHTMAN: I apologize about that.
12 I speak a little fast, you know.

13 But anyway, we have done tremendous
14 things for over 50 years of building our
15 community, starting the Native American
16 Studies Program, the first in America at U.C.
17 Berkeley during the third world strike as far
18 as advocating for improved health care
19 conditions for indigenous people.

20 The reason why I'm here today and of
21 course our group the United Native Americans
22 is opposing PG&E getting a bailout, I would
23 like to list these things.

24 PG&E has thousands of these
25 transmission towers that have not passed a
26 thorough safety inspection. Most of these
27 transmission towers are almost 108 years old.
28 Now PG&E obviously has known about these

1 particular transmission, you know, devices
2 and towers not being checked for a number of
3 years.

4 Now, when you do your job as a
5 safety inspector, you're supposed to go to
6 every single place and make sure that that
7 place is safe, every single one, not just
8 when you feel like working. You need to do
9 your job.

10 Now this is ridiculous that we as
11 the community and especially the indigenous
12 population have to pay for power that is
13 being illegally mined and, you know, taken
14 from us in our lands, our Mother Earth. It's
15 ridiculous.

16 PG&E should be held accountable for
17 the massive devastation from the San Bruno
18 and the Paradise fires that killed over 107
19 people.

20 UNA asks for the double-standard of
21 justice to end today and for PG&E to be
22 charged with criminal negligence. We ask
23 that the Commissioners please vote "no" to
24 another PG&E bailout.

25 Thank you.

26 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

27 Next is Ms. Stebbins,
28 S-t-e-b-b-i-n-s.

1 STATEMENT OF MS. STEBBINS

2 B-b. Good.

3 ALJ LIRAG: Two b's. Thank you.

4 MS. STEBBINS: I have three points to
5 make tonight, mostly as framing for why we
6 are here. The first has to do with trust.

7 So PG&E is asking us for more money
8 and yet they are a criminal corporation that
9 they are currently on parole for six felony
10 counts; five counts of criminal negligence
11 for not taking care of the pipeline that blew
12 up San Bruno when they had the money to do
13 that; one count of obstruction of justice for
14 lying about whether or not they were actually
15 doing what they said they were going to do.

16 So why would we trust them to give
17 them more money, more of our money to do
18 anything that might make us safer? Okay. I
19 think that's a really bad idea.

20 So the second one has to do with the
21 fact that this is only the beginning of rate
22 increases that are going to be crippling to
23 most of the people in California.

24 So this is a regular kind of rate
25 increase. But we all know that your
26 Legislature in Sacramento just passed AB-1054
27 that will allow them to seek bailout money
28 anytime they go to that wildfire fund that

1 supposedly we're not paying for, but when
2 they have to pay that fund back, guess where
3 the money is going to come from?

4 When they say shareholder profits
5 are going to go into that fund, where do the
6 shareholder profits come from? They come
7 from what we pay. Exactly.

8 So adding \$20 to bills, how much
9 will that increase the number of shutoffs in
10 this state? There are hundreds of thousands
11 of shutoffs every year. How many people will
12 not be able to afford their utility bill, who
13 will not have electricity, who will not have
14 gas if in fact these rate increases all are
15 approved and our bills go sky high?

16 Thank you.

17 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you, Ms. Stebbins.

18 Next is Ms. Dogan, followed by Susan
19 -- I'll go with Schacher, then Lawrence Lu,
20 Benjamin Zank.

21 STATEMENT OF MS. DURMAZ-DOGAN

22 Hi. My name is --

23 ALJ LIRAG: Sorry. D-o-g-a-n.

24 MS. DOGAN: Yes. My name is Ceyda
25 Durmaz-Dogan. I'm with the Local Clean
26 Energy Alliance.

27 I'm against PG&E rate hikes. I
28 think increasing rates won't make PG&E a more

1 responsible utility. I think it will only
2 send a message that it's okay to ignore its
3 responsibility -- its responsibilities
4 because the ratepayers will pay for the costs
5 anyway.]

6 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

7 Next is Ms. Susan Schacher,
8 S-c-h-a-c-h-e-r.

9 MS. SCHACHER: Very well the first
10 time.

11 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

12 STATEMENT OF MS. SCHACHER

13 Okay. So I'm Susan Schacher. I
14 live in Oakland. I oppose the rate increase
15 and the increase in profit that could be
16 allowed to PG&E.

17 Consumers should not be required to
18 pay more for electricity as most of us are
19 saying. PG&E is a profit-making entity. The
20 shareholders should cover the cost of safety
21 not the ratepayers.

22 I also want to speak about power
23 shutoffs. I believe that a number of people
24 addressed this matter earlier today, and I'm
25 glad that they came at 1:00 o'clock and did
26 that. I brought some show and tell.

27 When I go to sleep, I wear two
28 masks. This one is to keep the light out so

1 I can sleep if the light is shining. And
2 this one helps me breathe and makes me
3 breathe well.

4 I was recently diagnosed with sleep
5 apnea. On my healthcare journey, I learned
6 that many older women have sleep apnea. How
7 many people here have sleep apnea or use some
8 kind of electrical device for their health
9 and survival?

10 (Hands raised.)

11 MS. SCHACHER: Okay. This a big
12 concern because of these power outages that
13 PG&E might do. And that's why I came
14 tonight.

15 The great irony for me is that while
16 PG&E wants me and others to pay more for my
17 electricity, if there is a power outage, I
18 won't need this mask because it will be dark.
19 And this mask won't work, and it's attached
20 to a machine that won't work. My brain won't
21 get the oxygen it needs, and my brain and
22 health will deteriorate.

23 So I'm very concerned about all of
24 the people who will be affected and harmed by
25 the rate increases and power shutdowns.

26 Thank you.

27 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you, Ms. Schacher.

28 Next is Mr. Lu, L-u.

1 STATEMENT OF MS. LU

2 Hi. I'm Lawrence Lu. I'm a member
3 of the Democratic Socialists of America. I
4 just want to make two points. I think the
5 reason for the general rate case is so that
6 the operations of PG&E can be funded through
7 the market. And my concern is that if the
8 risk premium is incorporated into that
9 general rate case, it pretty much guarantees
10 a rate return while subsidizing PG&E for the
11 risk it caused.

12 And my other concern is that in the
13 2018 Form 1 thorough Energy Regulatory
14 Commission, the damages and injury money that
15 was set aside -- I think was around \$14
16 billion -- this was in the noncurrent
17 liabilities. And in a footnote it said that
18 this was a forecast from reasonable
19 parameters from low-case estimate.

20 But if anyone has ever done
21 forecasting, it's -- everyone knows you use
22 mid-case estimate. So my fear is that
23 through this accounting, PG&E is hiding its
24 insolvency because it's using this low-case
25 estimate when anybody who knows anything
26 would know that you're supposed to use a
27 mid-case estimate.

28 So, yeah, that's my two things.

1 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you, Mr. Lu.

2 Next is Mr. Zank followed by Tex
3 Butler, Jones Lichterman, and then Lawrence
4 Vanhook.

5 Mr. Zank, Z-a-n-k.

6 STATEMENT OF MR. ZANK

7 Good evening, everybody. Good
8 evening, judges. My name is Benjamin Zank.
9 I'm here with the East Bay Democratic
10 Socialists of America and with the No PG&E
11 Bailout Coalition.

12 I think one of the ironies for me
13 is that PG&E has failed over and over again
14 and has made murderous mistakes, and I feel
15 like they've never proven themselves to take
16 safety seriously or to take the concerns of
17 their customers seriously. And I think it
18 should be on them to prove themselves before
19 getting more money.

20 They have a history of delaying
21 critical maintenance that they knew about and
22 that directly led to these wildfires in which
23 people died. The vast majority of the recent
24 huge wildfires are due to their equipment
25 failures. And, yeah, it's worse because of
26 climate change, but the fires wouldn't be
27 happening if it weren't for them.

28 I want to know does the CPUC have a

1 way to enforce these maintenance plans?
2 Because previously PG&E just says they're
3 going to do something and we have to believe
4 them. So what is the CPUC's plan to enforce
5 these maintenance plans? How are you going
6 to make sure that the money is going to
7 safety and maintenance?

8 ALJ LIRAG: We can't really answer
9 questions right now, but we'll take that as a
10 statement. Thank you.

11 MR. ZANK: Thank you. PG&E is not
12 accountable to us. They've never been
13 accountable to us. They're not accountable
14 to the CPUC either. So how many chances are
15 they going to get? I think they've had more
16 than enough.

17 I think we need, like, a real change
18 to this structure and this system. We --
19 clearly our investor-owned utilities are not
20 working for us. They've proven that without
21 a doubt.

22 I think we need a public utility.
23 One that cares about us, because it is us.
24 One that really represents our needs. We
25 need a transition to a more democratic,
26 local, clean vision. And I really hope that
27 the CPUC decides not to pass these rate
28 hikes. I really hope that the judges

1 recommend to the commissioners not to pass
2 these rate hikes.

3 And, yeah, thanks for being here.

4 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

5 Next is Tex Butler, B-u-t-l-e-r.

6 STATEMENT OF MR. BUTLER

7 Yes. My name is Tex Butler. I am
8 a minister of Greater Saint James Missionary
9 Baptist Church. I'm standing on behalf with
10 the people to let them know that -- let the
11 judges and everyone know that we cannot pay
12 no more on our PG&E.

13 I'm standing on behalf of my wife.
14 She also has a sickness, diabetes. She have
15 to have special heating and all of this. And
16 she's not able to, you know, not have it.

17 And sometime things can get a
18 little expensive, and we're not able to pay
19 extra money to try to, you know, support
20 PG&E. I know that PG&E have helped me a lot
21 coming up in the sense of giving me life when
22 I needed it.

23 But now I need them to give me some
24 freedom. Freedom on not paying them money
25 for something that they, you know, done.
26 Something that happened with them. And so
27 I'm here just to say that, you know -- I'm
28 against -- I'm against the raising of the

1 bill.

2 So thank you.

3 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you, Mr. Butler.

4 Next is Jones, L-i-c-h-t-e-r-m-a-n.

5 STATEMENT OF MS. LICHTERMAN

6 Jones Lichterman. I live in
7 Oakland. I appreciate you having this in the
8 evening so people who work can come here. I
9 think many meetings are often during the day.

10 I think it's a profit-making
11 entity. PG&E put its shareholders first.
12 The results have been disastrous for the
13 people of California.

14 PG&E's history before and since the
15 2010 San Bruno explosion shows why we deserve
16 a utility run for people not profit. I would
17 like to see PG&E taken out of the hands of
18 investors and put into the hands of the
19 public and PG&E's workers. The decision to
20 keep PG&E as it is and to bail it out yet
21 again was taken too hastily and not with
22 enough public input.

23 If I recall correctly before the
24 San Bruno explosion, PG&E had raised
25 ratepayers' rates to cover maintenance of the
26 pipes. But instead of doing the needed work,
27 had given their investors a bonus.

28 PG&E was convicted of five felony

1 counts of pipeline safety violations that led
2 to the 2010 San Bruno gas explosion and one
3 felony count of obstruction of justice for
4 lying to officials.

5 Last year PG&E caused the deadliest
6 fire in California's history annihilating the
7 town of Paradise and killing 86 people.

8 The year before, PG&E was found
9 liable for 17 major fires most of which were
10 tied to violations of State Code.

11 Now that the company is being sued
12 for billions, they are trying to pass the
13 cost of their negligence down to ratepayers
14 like all of us.

15 Next year the average household
16 electricity bill will go up by over \$20 a
17 month despite PG&E rates already being among
18 the highest in the country. I want to see
19 the CPUC or the State reverse the bailout and
20 recommend a public energy system that is
21 affordable, safe, and amortized.

22 Thank you.

23 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

24 Next is Lawrence Vanhook, followed
25 by Dr. Michael Jones, and Lindsay Vurek, and
26 Keith Brown.

27 Mr. Vanhook, V-a-n-h-o-o-k.

28 Let me interrupt you for a little

1 bit, Mr. Vanhook. I think the questions that
2 were asked deserve some sort of explanation.
3 So I think we owe it to you to explain why
4 we're not answering questions.

5 We still have to conduct evidentiary
6 hearings in September and October regarding
7 this proceeding, and there are many things
8 that are going to be litigated. And so we
9 can't really express our opinion before those
10 hearings occur. So we apologize for that.

11 I apologize to Mr. Vanhook for
12 making you stand there a little bit.

13 STATEMENT OF MR. VANHOOK

14 I want to ask my question to if by
15 a spit chance that you going to say no, then
16 what do PG&E do.

17 (Crosstalk.)

18 ALJ LIRAG: I'll take -- I am sorry.
19 But I'll take that as a statement.

20 But let me just explain though.
21 Their rate increase that PG&E is requesting
22 is not a singular request. Their request --

23 (Crosstalk.)

24 ALJ LIRAG: What I mean is that they're
25 not asking for one thing. They're asking for
26 many things and these are made up different
27 amounts. And these -- the sum of these
28 amounts adds up to what's represented as what

1 they're asking for is what I meant.

2 MR. VANHOOK: Thank you all so much for
3 being here today. There's so many people
4 that's in the audience that's not going to
5 speak, but they came to support.

6 Those of you that are not speaking,
7 can you just stand so that the people can see
8 that so they can get cameras on you. Look at
9 all these people.

10 (Crosstalk.)

11 MR. VANHOOK: I want you all to just
12 know that it's so very, very, very important
13 that we're here to voice our opinion. This
14 is called a democratic right. We have a
15 right to voice our opinion. The problem is
16 if we don't participate in that right, should
17 we survive? The answer for my perspective is
18 maybe.

19 There's so many people who don't
20 have a voice. One of the reasons why I got
21 up again for a second time is because no
22 other county that actually -- other than the
23 Bay Area -- that PG&E covers, has as high a
24 rates as this Bay Area do.

25 We have the highest rent. We have
26 the highest home buyers. And so think about
27 -- and I understand the Valley have the
28 lowest. And so they got more heat than we

1 do. But when you paying -- in West Oakland
2 down by my church they just finished an
3 apartment complex. \$3,200 for a two-bedroom.
4 The people I serve do not have \$3,200. Now,
5 some of them do. Some of them can do very,
6 very, very well.

7 But I have so many members who are
8 on fixed incomes who are seniors who have
9 health conditions. And they cannot pay the
10 extra \$20, \$30, \$40, \$50 a month that we're
11 going to keep coming back for. This is not
12 the first time that we've been here asking
13 "No." But it seems like we haven't said "no"
14 loud enough.

15 And I'm not for sure how to vote
16 somebody out of office in PG&E. I'm not for
17 sure how to do that. I mean, you know, at
18 least a politician 45 plus -- 44 plus 1. If
19 we don't vote, we get what we get.

20 So what I'm asking us to really
21 consider we're in you all's hands. We know
22 you all are independent. But we have to
23 consider looking at other alternatives.

24 While I was in the break, I thought
25 about it. Why don't we just have anybody
26 whose on baseline, CARE, FERA, we ain't
27 touching them. Come at the rest of us. Come
28 after me. Don't go after the people at the

1 bottom. That way at least we can cover the
2 people who are at risk of loss.

3 I'm trying to help myself and help
4 PG&E. Because you can't just put a blanket
5 across the board. I have members in my
6 church that have issues in their homes where
7 they're actually being priced out of their
8 homes. New people are moving in and
9 complaining about people who been there 30,
10 40, 50 years. So now they're being forced
11 out because they got to pay exorbitant fees.
12 They got to pay extra. And another \$20, \$30,
13 \$40, \$50, will not be kind to their budget.

14 And I'm really asking that the
15 California Public Utilities Commission would
16 hear the voices of the people who really
17 don't have a voice. And I want to thank you
18 all.

19 I really want to, again, say that
20 PG&E -- I'm asking PG&E, through you all, to
21 spend a big bulk of money on education.
22 Empowering the customers on when to use PG&E.
23 When not to use it. Between 5:00 and 3:00 or
24 3:00 to 5:00. Whatever that time is you
25 can't turn your drier on because peak times.
26 We need more information.

27 I've done the research, as we've
28 done the lobbying to help people on CARE and

1 FERA, most people didn't know that they were
2 in a rate tier. Most people didn't even know
3 about rate tiers. People period.

4 So we need more education, we need
5 more people that's empowering the people so
6 that we can become conscious. We have people
7 in the communities. We've got organizing --
8 community-based organizations, faith-based
9 organizations that can help partner with PG&E
10 to make sure that we spend a lot of time --

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

13 MR. VANHOOK: Yes. Where we going
14 next? I'll say some more.

15 ALJ LIRAG: We're in San Jose tomorrow.

16 MR. VANHOOK: Thank you so very much.

17 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you, Mr. Vanhook.

18 Next is Dr. Jones.

19 STATEMENT OF REVEREND JONES

20 Good evening to the Commissioners
21 again.

22 ALJ LIRAG: I think it's supposed to be
23 Reverend Jones; right?

24 REVEREND JONES: Yes.

25 ALJ LIRAG: They made you a doctor now.

26 Okay. Reverend Jones.

27 REVEREND JONES: Again, I thank you for
28 coming. But what I have to say is enough is

1 enough. We cannot continue. This morning
2 when I spoke, I spoke about that we are on
3 the frontline. We sign people up daily for
4 CARE, for medical baseline. I shared with
5 you how this affects our schools. How it
6 affects our schools. If there's going to be
7 a bailout, a bailout needs to be given to all
8 of the nonprofit organizations and all the
9 churches that's been carrying the load.

10 Dr. Vanhook just got through
11 speaking about the fact that we need to do a
12 better job of educating and all. The
13 churches have doing that for years. Pastors
14 have been reaching into their pocket paying
15 people's PG&E to keep heat on and all.

16 Just like Pastor Vanhook mentioned
17 that we need to do something especially for
18 the people that are on the bottom of that
19 tier. Medical baseline, the CARE, the FERA.
20 We need to help those people. We can't
21 continue to attack those people.

22 If PG&E is going to be
23 transformed -- I mean transparent. And the
24 CUP (sic) you're going to be accountable, the
25 first thing that PG&E needs to do is they
26 need to do more education.

27 Why is it that when we have these
28 meetings, we find out at the last minute?

1 Why can't that be on the TV? Why can't there
2 be an advertisement that they run?

3 Why can't -- the last meeting that I
4 spoke at, I suggested to them get in touch
5 with all the pastors. The pastors of every
6 church see their members every Sunday
7 morning. When they have an issue and they
8 can't deal with it, the first place they go
9 to is the pastors. Why can't this
10 information be translated or e-mailed or
11 something to pastors? Why can't PG&E, why
12 can't the CUP (sic) recommend that PG&E reach
13 out to as many churches as possible? That's
14 the best kind of communication in the world.

15 Even though we have the internet,
16 even though we have Facebook, still the best
17 kind of information in the world is the word
18 of mouth and all.

19 You want -- PG&E wants a rate
20 increase. The State of California just set
21 aside millions of dollars. That's taxpayer
22 money. Now you want to tax us even more.
23 Now we got to pay again. How much can we
24 bear?

25 Even the meeting place we're having
26 right now. How is this logistically set up
27 for people that -- handicapped people or
28 people that's challenged, how is this set up?

1 The parking is lousy. It's downtown Oakland.
2 You work your eight hours all day. We got to
3 do a better job. Maybe a Saturday meeting
4 might be in order and all when people are off
5 and all.

6 Thank you.

7 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

8 Next is Lindsay Vurek followed by
9 Keith Brown, Allan Marling, and Zolboo
10 Nankhaidor.

11 Vurek, V-u-r-e-k.

12 STATEMENT OF MS. VUREK

13 I'll just read a short paragraph.

14 You might have heard it before:

15 According to the district
16 court, the judge overseeing
17 PG&E's probation for its
18 felony criminal
19 convictions. PG&E pumped
20 out \$4.5 billion in profits
21 to let the tree timing
22 budget wither. They have
23 not paid anything to the
24 victims of the Camp Fire.
25 But they found the ability
26 to pay \$204,800 to
27 contribute to Governor
28 Newsom's gubernatorial

1 campaign.

2 They're like part of the problem.
3 Generally, PG&E talks out of the two sides of
4 their mouth. I attempted -- you know,
5 there's some effort in the community to
6 decentralize at least the supply system. Of
7 course they own the distribution and that
8 would be hard to change.

9 But the supply system, they've
10 lobbied the PC -- CUP -- CPUC to prevent any
11 more community aggregation. So that's a
12 moratorium right now. And then also they
13 complained about the fact that there's so
14 much solar and then at night they don't have
15 enough power. So then the CUPUC (sic) did do
16 a little of its job and said, "Go ahead and
17 allow for battery at night."

18 Try to do that. I invite judges,
19 CUPUC (sic) members to go ahead and try to do
20 both solar and battery and flow it back to
21 the grid. They make it near impossible
22 because they covet planning on both sides
23 distribution and supply. They're doing
24 everything to fight any decentralization when
25 there are utilities that are decentralized in
26 smaller grids. Cleveland and I think Ukiah
27 in California. They were operating much
28 better than PG&E. They don't have any of the

1 -- this set of problems we're facing now.

2 So of course it wouldn't be good to
3 award them with a rate increase.

4 Thank you.

5 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

6 Keith Brown, B-r-o-w-n.

7 STATEMENT OF MR. BROWN

8 Good evening, judges. Good
9 evening, everybody. My name is Keith Brown.
10 I live here in Oakland. I'm a doctoral
11 student in Berkeley. And I am co-chair of
12 the East Bay Democratic Socialists of
13 America. We're a 1,300 member organization
14 here in the East Bay and we stand for a
15 renewed deal and a publicly owned PG&E.

16 Now, I understand it's your job,
17 judges, to take back feedback from us in the
18 community to this hearing that's happening.
19 And I want you to take back loud and clear we
20 do not want to see the corporate investors
21 and the executives of this company rewarded
22 for the horrific disasters they've caused in
23 this state.

24 They will be coming to you asking
25 for rate increases from working people in
26 California based on wanting to increase their
27 rate of return for private profit to their
28 investors. They'll make all sort of excuses

1 about how they need to increase their profits
2 and bring in more private capital from Wall
3 Street.

4 But what I think every working
5 person knows is that you only get a raise at
6 work if your performance shows it. And if
7 PG&E gets a raise in a year of performance
8 like this, I can't imagine how much you're
9 going to jack up our rates in a year when
10 they don't burn down half the state. So I
11 really strongly urge you not to even consider
12 a rate of return increase this year.

13 Beyond that they're going to ask
14 for a rate hike on the basis of safety
15 upgrades and they'll make a lot of big
16 projections about all the new spending they
17 need to do this year. They'll say that we
18 have to go to the ratepayer and hike up the
19 rates for all of these needed things we need
20 to do. Meanwhile, their company is going to
21 make a lot of money doing that. Their
22 investors will make a lot of money off of
23 those investments and new infrastructure.

24 It's extremely important that we
25 move away from a system where working people
26 bear the brunt of those costs while the 1
27 percent in the state, the richest people in
28 the state, are getting rich off of those

1 investments that are a part of PG&E or pay
2 the same amount as the rest of us for that.

3 We heard earlier from a pastor here
4 about the need for freedom from -- fear of
5 freedom from this, you know, vulnerability to
6 rate increases that actually put churches and
7 community institutions, working people at
8 risk of losing their homes even if bill
9 delinquency results in eviction as it often
10 does.

11 So we need to move toward a system
12 where we have progressive rates at the very
13 start. I urge the CPUC to look at not
14 charging working people, poor folks, retired
15 folks, at the same rate as the rich folks who
16 live in \$5 million condos in San Francisco
17 who are getting rich off of the labor that
18 working people in the state do for them.

19 It's extremely important that we
20 move to that sort of system at a bare minimum
21 in the long term it supports real freedom.

22 Energy is a basic human need of
23 survival in this modern society. We need to
24 move to a system where that basic need is not
25 something that can be gouged for profit for
26 private institutions. It's not something
27 that's metered out based on who can afford
28 it. It's a basic human need of survival that

1 should be publicly provided.

2 I urge you to do serious research
3 and inquiry into what that kind of system
4 would look like here in California.

5 And I want to double down on the
6 comments of many speakers before that we need
7 serious inquiry at the CPUC into a
8 publicly-owned energy system. That was
9 something that the CPUC toyed with early on
10 after PG&E filed for bankruptcy this year.

11 I think we all know that if
12 business as usual -- if the hedge funds run
13 PG&E, if corporate investors run PG&E keeps
14 going forward, we're going to end up in this
15 situation year after year over and over
16 again. And the tune of \$500 million for
17 wildfire safety that you're going to be
18 throwing at this year is not going to prevent
19 this kind of disaster from happening over and
20 over again.

21 We need a publicly owned PG&E run
22 for public safety, for good union jobs, for
23 clean energy, and accountability to the
24 working people of California.

25 Thank you.

26 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

27 Mr. Allan Marling, M-a-r-l-i-n-g.

28 STATEMENT OF MR. MARLING

1 If PG&E were a publicly-owned
2 non-profit company, I could well believe that
3 this was a legitimate rate increase. But
4 what we have here is a private company trying
5 to protect its bottom line. Whether or not
6 these specific dollars go to paying
7 settlements for their criminal negligence, it
8 will give them the total funds to pay for
9 those fees while protecting their executive
10 and shareholder benefits.

11 What we have here is a felonious
12 company whose negligence sparked wildfires
13 that devastated California. What we have
14 here is a bankrupt company both fiscally and
15 morally. It should not fall on the taxpayers
16 to protect their bottom line.

17 PG&E does not deserve a rate
18 increase but a rate decrease. If that makes
19 them unable to do business, good. Their
20 operation should be seized for the public
21 benefit.

22 And on another note, the governor
23 and our state legislature have been paid off
24 by PG&E. We're counting on you to serve the
25 public good. And right now at least last
26 year during and after the Camp Fires, the
27 public was suffocating on wildfire smoke of
28 PG&E's criminal neglect.]

1 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

2 Next is Zolboo N-a-n-k-h-a-i-d-o-r,
3 followed by Eric Ruud, Ruby Holder and Sharee
4 Barranco.

5 STATEMENT OF MS. NANKHAIDOR

6 Good evening. My name is Zolboo
7 Nankhaidor and I'm an Oakland resident. I'm
8 also a youth organizer with Communities for a
9 Better Environment.

10 So we have folks who have been
11 fighting for \$15 an hour which isn't even
12 considered a living wage here in the Bay Area
13 anymore and PG&E wants a bailout.

14 It would be irresponsible to bail
15 out PG&E. Doing so is only going to enable
16 this criminal corporation to take advantage
17 of ratepayers, while maximizing their profit.

18 During this time of climate crisis,
19 ratepayers who don't even have air
20 conditioning or schools or cooling centers
21 are only going to need to consume more energy
22 to stay cool during the warmer months.

23 And we're going to need a reliable
24 agency that doesn't endanger our lives. So
25 please do not support this rate hike.
26 They're not dependable and they definitely
27 don't deserve it.

28 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

1 Eric Ruud, R-u-u-d.

2 STATEMENT OF MR. RUUD

3 Hello. My name is Eric Ruud. I am
4 from Santa Rosa originally. I now live in
5 Oakland.

6 So about two years ago, I didn't
7 really know or think too much about PG&E or I
8 didn't know what the CPUC was. I didn't know
9 that you were appointed by our Governor, not
10 elected. I didn't know any of these
11 structures. I didn't know the difference
12 between a transmission line or the
13 distribution line, but some things happened
14 to my family that changed that.

15 So in October of 2017, my parents'
16 house burnt down. Luckily everyone is okay
17 from my family. My father was able to escape
18 without his shoes, with no shirt.
19 Unfortunately, my neighbor didn't make it
20 out. He was in a wheelchair. He didn't make
21 it out.

22 So that sort of sparked me to start
23 reading things and looking into, you know,
24 how this all works. Not really something I
25 would have enjoyed doing like, you know,
26 going through these incredibly Byzantine
27 government websites and finding, as someone
28 mentioned, the place where the meeting times

1 are published. It's very buried. And it's
2 all very like obscured and technocratic. So,
3 yeah, not the fun thing to do. Most people
4 aren't really interested in this stuff.

5 But -- excuse me. Basically the
6 more I learned, the more horrified I was at
7 how this structure works. And, you know, the
8 guaranteed rate of return that several people
9 have mentioned effectively is \$2 billion a
10 year that's just sucked right out of the
11 working people's pocket and just flown right
12 over to Wall Street every single year. For
13 hundreds of years essentially, this has been
14 happening.

15 And in the meantime, you know, the
16 transmission lines, like the one that sparked
17 and burned my parents' house down, you know,
18 PG&E management was actually advising their
19 workers to falsify records. They were
20 ordering them to not do their jobs because it
21 was too expensive.

22 Basically we see, when these things
23 come into conflict, the money versus the
24 people's lives, the money always wins. And
25 we saw the same exact fire situation happen
26 only a year later which is completely insane.

27 You know, I'm sitting here watching
28 this like how is this system continuing to

1 perpetuate the way it is? Like, is it
2 obvious that this is broken?

3 You know, and then now here we are
4 now and we are talking about extracting
5 money, more money out of, you know, the
6 people in this room's pocket, the, you know,
7 the members of the churches, the people who
8 are already struggling. I mean it's obscene.

9 Like we need a big change. We
10 don't need these little fixes that are
11 masquerading as, you know, wildfire safety
12 funds, when in fact immediately after that
13 news is announced we have hedge funds
14 fighting over, you know, hostile takeovers of
15 the PG&E Corporation because they know what
16 it is. They know that it's this giant profit
17 machine that isn't about people.

18 Yeah. We need a big change. I
19 really urge you to take bold steps and
20 investigate public ownership because we are
21 already paying for it. We should be able to,
22 you know, choose how the company is run. We
23 should be able to have some agency in
24 preventing our state from burning down,
25 preventing our lives from being destroyed.
26 It's really the only option that is going to
27 get us where we need to go.

28 Thank you.

1 ALJ LIRAG: Ruby Holder, H-o-l-d-e-r,
2 followed by Sharree Barranco, Audrey Ichinose
3 and Shawn Scharf.

4 STATEMENT OF MS. HOLDER

5 Thank you. My name is Ruby Holder
6 and I'm from Unity Church and I'm here to
7 represent the seniors. And I'm here to tell
8 you that this \$20, this \$30, whether it's
9 \$50, whether it's \$10 is too much.

10 We are on a set income and the
11 income we're on, you take half of it as it
12 is. And why I say half? Because sometimes
13 we can't meet the bill. And so we call PG&E
14 and PG&E tells us, "Oh. I will make you a
15 payment plan." And you say, "Oh. Okay.
16 Thank you."

17 Now, on that payment plan, you must
18 pay that first bill, the whole bill, then pay
19 the payment plan of maybe \$40. Your bill may
20 be \$180. Now what kind of plan is that?
21 What kind of help is that? How you going to
22 help somebody with a plan like that?

23 Then you'll turn around and say,
24 "Well, the best I can do for you is give you
25 a three-day notice." A three-day notice?
26 You got a man in a wheelchair, a woman on
27 oxygen in a bed and you're talking about "I
28 will give you a three-day notice"? You

1 already have sick plans. They have already
2 signed in and turned in the application where
3 they have medical. But you're going to give
4 them a three-day notice anyway.

5 So, we can't pay that. We need
6 more time. You at least have to wait till
7 our next check. "Oh. We can't wait that
8 long. Do you realize how much you owe? You
9 owe \$280 on your bill. We have to have half
10 of it."

11 How? "Well, can't you get help
12 from your family members, from your son, from
13 your daughter, from the cat, from the dog?
14 There is some place to go and get help.
15 Spectrum." Oh, yeah, go all the way to
16 Spectrum. How are you going to get there?
17 "Well, I will tell you, here's a map. Take
18 this map, follow this map and it will take
19 you all the way out to Hayward," way out in
20 the desert almost.

21 And then once you get to Spectrum,
22 they will look at it. They want to know
23 everything. And then they say, "Oh. That's
24 good. We will pay \$150 of your bill." And
25 then we said, "Oh. Okay."

26 And we come back to you and tell
27 you that. And you live on it, and you wait
28 on it, and you wait on it, and you wait on

1 it. And you said, "Did you ever go to
2 Spectrum?" We said, "Yeah. We went. They
3 said they'll pay \$150." "Well, when are we
4 going to get the rest?"

5 Now I'm telling you and then you
6 want to raise PG&E? What do you want? You
7 want us to live outside because once you
8 raise it and we can't meet it, you're going
9 to put us in the dark. We are going to have
10 to run a wire to somebody else's window to
11 get some PG&E.

12 And then you talk about those
13 SmartMeters. Oh, let me tell you about those
14 SmartMeters. That's your fault. That is not
15 ours. That SmartMeter, I haven't seen a
16 meter man come to my house since I got that
17 SmartMeter. The bill has always been 280 or
18 some odd dollars like that. And I turned all
19 my lights off. I don't use that. I don't
20 even use the heater. Everybody in my house
21 walk around in my house in coats and
22 sweaters, cold. And my gas is still high.
23 Explain that. If anybody could explain why
24 my gas is still high, and everybody in the
25 house walking around in coats?

26 ALJ LIRAG: Ms. Holder.

27 MS. HOLDER: Tell them the time is up.
28 I realize.

1 ALJ LIRAG: No. I was going to say:
2 Can you wrap up in a minute? So you have a
3 minute more.

4 MS. HOLDER: Well, I can keep going.

5 ALJ LIRAG: Let's have you go for
6 another minute.

7 MS. HOLDER: Keep going. Because I
8 have so much to say and I've got people to
9 say it to.

10 ALJ LIRAG: Well, let's see what you
11 can come up with in a minute.

12 MS. HOLDER: And I'm telling you that
13 you guys got to find a better way. You can't
14 take \$20 from us. You know, what? You can't
15 take \$20 from a heart that don't have it.
16 You just can't do it. Because you're going
17 put the them out in the dark in the cold.
18 But I'm sure you don't. I'm sure if you are
19 human, you care.

20 But let me tell you this before I
21 go: God gave water. It's free. God taught
22 man how to make energy. It's supposed to be
23 free. Why are we paying our life for what
24 God gave us? And he made you and me. Why
25 are we paying our life?

26 ALJ LIRAG: I'm going to interrupt you
27 now. Thank you. I think you made your
28 point.

1 Next is Sharee Barranco,
2 B-a-r-r-a-n-c-o.

3 STATEMENT OF MS. BARRANCO

4 Good evening, Commissioners. I
5 gave my sister Ruby some of my time. So what
6 I have to say will be real short and sweet.

7 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

8 MS. BARRANCO: I live in San Leandro
9 and I work and worship in Oakland. I'm a
10 native Oaklander.

11 I was going over these talking
12 points because I really wasn't prepared to
13 talk, but my pastor has pushed me up here to
14 say a few words.

15 All the PG&E customers are in an
16 abusive relationship with PG&E. We're in a
17 relationship with a lying felon who will not
18 take accountability for their actions.

19 That \$20 may not make a big
20 difference to a lot of households, but for
21 some it's life or death. \$20 is a co-pay for
22 a doctor's appointment. It's a co-pay for
23 medication.

24 I'm not in bad health, but I take a
25 couple of medications a month. So does my
26 husband. That \$20 is going to come out of
27 one of those budgets, so now I'm needing to
28 decide, so who's going to get their blood

1 pressure medication this month? So I will
2 get it and I will split it with you. And
3 then halfway through the month, we are going
4 to have to call Pastor Van and pray a lot and
5 hope that neither one of us have a stroke.
6 Because if we do have a stroke, we won't have
7 electricity. That's it.

8 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

9 Next is Audrey Ichinose,
10 I-c-h-i-n-o-s-e.

11 STATEMENT OF MS. ICHINOSE

12 Thank you. Good evening. My name
13 is Audrey Ichinose. I am a resident of South
14 Berkeley and a strong supporter of Community
15 Choice Energy.

16 I'm so glad to speak after these
17 speakers because it really shows the truth of
18 the separate systems that we live under.
19 There's one system for normal people,
20 everyday people, families, communities. And
21 there's another system that carries on behind
22 the system. And that is the system for
23 corporations, for financiers, for investment
24 bankers.

25 So I wanted to point out that the
26 -- I wanted to point out the financial
27 context in which you raise these, or PG&E
28 would like to have a rate increase. It's a

1 very cynical move on their part. They have
2 filed for bankruptcy but not after giving out
3 many millions in bonuses to their employees.
4 They want to -- they see in their bankruptcy
5 protection a chance to cheat their creditors
6 of the creditors' rightful payment.

7 It's so -- it's so, yes, cynical is
8 all I can think of. It's inhumane and it is
9 a system where no one is responsible.

10 So I want you to think of rate
11 increases in terms of fattening this cow,
12 fattening this pig, which really is going to
13 be taken over or at least some very powerful
14 financial interests are going to try to take
15 it over. And what these -- what your rate
16 increases are going to do is to make PG&E
17 look really worth taking over, because others
18 can easily see that there's much more profit
19 to be made on the backs of these -- of
20 everybody else. It is such a cynical and
21 inhumane approach to the way we run our
22 lives, our society.

23 So, I guess I would just like to
24 ask you: Do these people get a chance to
25 file for bankruptcy protection too, like
26 PG&E?

27 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I want a bailout.

28 MS. ICHINOSE: So please, I too think

1 that there's really a lack of transparency in
2 the system of which unfortunately the CPUC is
3 a part.

4 The CPUC has not been a very good
5 regulator. And actually some have said that
6 the CPUC is in the pockets of forces more
7 powerful and more knowledgeable and legally
8 have greater legal expertise.

9 So please consider that you are --
10 we want more transparency, which actually is
11 -- I don't want to digress.

12 We want more transparency. And
13 that's what we will get if we go to a more
14 decentralized, community-based clean energy
15 entity like EBCE, like Clean Power Assessed,
16 like San Jose Power Authority. There are
17 nine CCAs in -- that blanket the Bay Area
18 currently. And these are really solid
19 community-based, community-supervised, not
20 run but, you know, we see enough that the
21 communities can control them and guide them
22 and express their priorities.

23 So, that's a much better system than
24 the current system which is totally opaque to
25 normal people. And it should not exist. We
26 should convert over to this other system.

27 Thank you very much.

28 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you, Ms. Ichinose.

1 Next is Sean Scharf, S-c-h-a-r-f.

2 STATEMENT OF MR. SCHARF

3 Hi. Thank you. Thank you for
4 being here. I thank everyone for coming.

5 I'm a San Jose -- or, sorry,
6 Hayward resident that's been living in the
7 Bay Area for 10 years now. And like the many
8 people here, I have strong concerns against
9 this proposal for a rate increase,
10 considering the actions of PG&E.

11 Anywhere we go, any kind of a stake
12 we have, we have consequences of getting
13 fired, let go, no longer having that job.
14 And I do feel a lot like a lot of the
15 residents here that there is a gun in my
16 head. I have no choice. If I don't want
17 PG&E to give me service, where else do I go?
18 How do they compete against other services?
19 That to me is a monopoly. That is a private
20 entity taking advantage of ratepayers and
21 every other citizen here.

22 And so for you there needs to be
23 better options than the terms that they give
24 us. And that's what I hope you're here to do
25 is to look for better options, not just take
26 what they want to give us. And I ask you to
27 look for other options, look for a better
28 solution that doesn't include a private

1 company making millions off of us for no
2 other reason than their mess up. They did
3 mess up. They killed people. And they wiped
4 out a lot of our frickin' land. And it was
5 pure negligence out of greed. And if it was
6 any other company, if it was an employee of
7 any other company, they'd be fired and in
8 jail.

9 And that's what we want. We want
10 to see justice. We want to see that they are
11 held accountable and prevent any of this from
12 ever happening again, which would include a
13 smarter system like some have mentioned
14 before, smart grids, local energy systems,
15 which right now PG&E kind of fights because
16 if you want to put solar panels or anything
17 on like that, you're limited to how much you
18 use. So PG&E is, no matter what we want to
19 do, it's there and we always have to deal
20 with it.

21 And so everything we do in the Bay
22 Area, California, is by their terms. And I'm
23 asking you as your group to fight for us, do
24 the right thing and hold them accountable and
25 give us better options than what they're
26 giving us.

27 Thank you.

28 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

1 Mr. Scharf is the last speaker on
2 the list.

3 Is there anyone else that wants to
4 talk, please come forward? We'll allot two
5 minutes for the people that have not signed
6 up.

7 Please state your name when you get
8 to the podium. So the gentleman in the gray
9 shirt first, followed by the lady in brown
10 and white.

11 STATEMENT OF MR. GLASS

12 Hi. My name is Joe Glass. I was
13 a --

14 ALJ LIRAG: Spell your last name.

15 MR. GLASS: G-l-a-s-s.

16 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

17 MR. GLASS: I was an energy and climate
18 researcher at Lawrence Berkeley Labs.

19 I think that I want to echo all of
20 the things that have been said throughout
21 this hearing and touch quickly on the
22 environmental aspect.

23 PG&E is a gas provider that has been
24 willfully negligent all the long with energy.
25 And splitting off the gas business was an
26 option that was briefly investigated or
27 talked about and then quickly laid aside.

28 I want to encourage this CPUC to

1 investigate the phasing out of the natural
2 gas arm of PG&E and potentially splitting it
3 off as a condition to any type of bailout,
4 which I hope doesn't happen, but in the event
5 that it does, I believe that we are currently
6 in a climate crisis.

7 Natural gas is a fossil fuel. It
8 contributes to global warming and we need to
9 phase out our use of natural gas as quickly
10 as possible, if there is to be a livable
11 planet for me and future generations.

12 And so I believe that this is
13 actually a great, fantastic opportunity to
14 phase out natural gas in the PG&E service
15 area. And I think that CPUC ought to fully
16 investigate that possibility.

17 Thank you.

18 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you, Mr. Glass.

19 Please state your name and spell
20 your last name.

21 STATEMENT OF MS. DELAHOUSAYE

22 My name is Helen Delahoussaye,
23 D-e-l-a-h-o-u-s-s-a-y-e.

24 And I'm here to say that I get help
25 from PG&E through Medical Baseline. And if
26 you cut that, they already cut it so they
27 going to raise it back up so then we have to
28 pay more. And I don't think that's right.

1 And I'm going to say it, that you should find
2 some other way to get your money than from us
3 that don't have it. And we already paying
4 rent that is too high. And then PG&E instead
5 is going up.

6 I went to another company besides
7 PG&E and they told me they were going to cut
8 my rate 30 percent more, that it would never
9 go with 30 percent high. And they lied.
10 They sent me a bill the next month for \$247
11 and I couldn't pay it. So I appealed that
12 and went back to PG&E. But if PG&E is going
13 to do the same thing, how can we win?

14 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

15 Next. State your name and spell
16 your last name.

17 STATEMENT OF MS. PERKINS

18 My name is Karen Perkins,
19 P-e-r-k-i-n-s.

20 I -- we don't happen to have an
21 investor-owned fire department. We don't
22 have investor-owned police departments.
23 These are things that we consider very
24 important. We don't let monopoly
25 corporations take over.

26 As someone pointed out, energy and
27 power are necessary for our very lives and
28 they should not be under a corporation whose

1 main motive is -- all corporations are -- is
2 to maximize profits. Their main
3 responsibility is not to us the customers,
4 not to keep our rates low, not to prevent
5 wildfires, but to maximize their profits.
6 And most -- many, many corporations cut
7 corners.

8 This is incredibly important. And
9 people mention climate change as well;
10 climate crisis I would call it, at this
11 point.

12 And I was in Sacramento. There was
13 a bill about bailing out PG&E. The senators
14 are the people, assembly members on that
15 particular committee actually were very torn
16 about bailing out PG&E.

17 PG&E, as people have mentioned, has
18 a criminal felony for San Bruno. It has
19 caused now two major wildfires that have
20 killed many, many people. And we need to
21 make it a public-run energy upgraded grid for
22 the CCAs and other responsible-type entities.

23 Thank you.

24 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you. And thank you
25 to everyone that attended, everyone that
26 spoke. We're very happy that we went here to
27 Oakland to hear from all of you. All of your
28 comments were well said. We heard all of

1 them. Our court reporters took it all down.
2 And the folks, the other Commissioners that
3 are not here will be able to read each and
4 every one of your comments.

5 Any last words?

6 MR. DURVASULA: Just that, Judge, thank
7 you so much for coming out here on a weekday
8 evening and telling us about all of your
9 concerns. It's very important to have your
10 voice in our deliberative decision-making
11 process.

12 Thank you.

13 ALJ LIRAG: Judge Lau?

14 ALJ LAU: No.

15 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you everyone, again.

16 This public hearing is concluded.

17 We are off the record.

18 (Whereupon, at the hour of 7:29
19 p.m., this matter having been continued
20 to 1:00 p.m., July 25, 2019, at
San Jose, California, the Commission
then adjourned.)]

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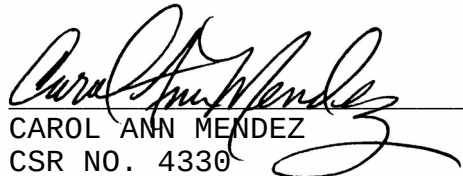
BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDING

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EXECUTED THIS AUGUST 05, 2019.


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CSR NO. 4330

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JAS STACEY', written over a horizontal line.

JASON A. STACEY
CSR NO. 14092

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