## BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION







ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GARRETT TOY, presiding

	)	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Application of Southern California	)	HEARING
Edison Company (U338E) for Authority	)	
to Increase Rates for its Class C	)	
Catalina Water Utility and Recover	)	
Costs from Water and Electric	)	
Customers.	)	Application
	)	20-10-018
	)	

REPORTERS' TRANSCRIPT
Virtual Proceeding
March 30, 2021
Pages 1 - 130
Volume 1

Reported by: Jason A. Stacey, CSR No. 14092 Shannon Ross, CSR No. 8916

1		STATEMENTS	
2	SPEAKER	KNATZ LAVELLE	28 30
3	SPEAKER	AFFOLDER FRIEVALT	34 37
4	SPEAKER	LUXENBERG	38
5	SPEAKER		42 56
6	SPEAKER	HARRISON MORRISON	56 56
7		COLTRIN	56 56
8		LUTTJOHANN	56 56
9	SPEAKER SPEAKER	BANDA	57 58
10	SPEAKER		61 62
11	SPEAKER SPEAKER		64 92
12	SPEAKER SPEAKER	WHITEHEAD PAYSEN	92 94
13	SPEAKER SPEAKER	TURNER NIELSON	96 98
14	SPEAKER SPEAKER	NEWMAN RINCOTT	100 102
15		HOHENSTEIN VANDEZANDE	119 119
16	SPEAKER SPEAKER	LAWS O'NEIL MILLER	119 119
17	SPEAKER SPEAKER	GLASS	119 119
18		FORNASIERE	119 119
19		LAVELLE SALINAS	121 124
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
26			
27			
28			

1	VIRTUAL PROCEEDING
2	MARCH 30, 2021 - 1:30 P.M.
3	* * * *
4	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE TOY: We will
5	now be on the record. The Commission will
6	come to order. This is Tuesday, March 30th,
7	2021, and this is the remote Public
8	Participation Hearing for Southern California
9	Edison, Santa Catalina Water General Rate
10	Case Application. The Application Number is
11	20-10-018. My name is Garrett Toy, and I'm
12	the assigned Administrative Law Judge on this
13	proceeding. Martha Guzman Aceves is the
14	assigned Commissioner. Her Advisor, Justin
15	Fong, is here on her behalf.
16	Mr. Fong, would you like to make any
17	opening remarks?
18	MR. FONG: Yes, I would. Thank you,
19	Judge Toy. I just wanted to say that our
20	office and the CPUC looks forward to the
21	public's discussion regarding this GRC.
22	Thank you.
23	ALJ TOY: Thank you.
24	The purpose of today's hearing is
25	for the Commission to hear from Santa
26	Catalina Water Utility customers and members
27	of the public about Southern California
28	Edison's application to increase rates

1	related to the Santa Catalina Water Utility.
2	If you have a customer-specific
3	question, such as a question about your bill
4	or service, we encourage you to please
5	contact SCE at the following phone for help:
6	(909)824-4547.
7	I'll begin by providing some
8	background on the California Public Utilities
9	Commission and the general rate case
LO	application, and then turn it over to
L1	Ms. Juanita Hill from the Commission's Public
L2	Advisor's Office. We will then hear
L3	statements from Southern California Edison,
L4	the Public Advocates, The Utility Reform
L5	Network, and the Joint Catalina Parties
L6	before we begin the public comment.
L7	If you're participating today and
L8	would like to provide public comment, you may
L9	do so by calling (800)857-1917 and entering
20	pass code 518519 and pressing star one on
21	your phone. This will alert the operator.
22	Please provide your name and location.
23	If you are a public official, please
24	notify the operator of your title and
25	position in addition to your name. Please
26	refer to the slide that will be on the screen
27	later on. We will not be answering questions
28	about the application at today's hearing.

1	Now, some background on the
2	California Public Utilities Commission. The
3	Public Utilities Commission is a state agency
4	that decides how much money the Santa
5	Catalina Water Utility may earn in the rates
6	that will be included on your bills for water
7	service. The Commission is comprised of five
8	Commissioners who are appointed by the
9	governor and confirmed by the California
LO	state senate.
L1	As the judge in this proceeding, I
L2	manage the day-to-day activities of the case.
L3	The five Commissioners are the ones who will
L4	decide with a vote on whether to approve
L5	Southern California Edison's request.
L6	My role, as the judge, is to
L7	evaluate the evidence in the proceeding and
L8	to write the Proposed Decision based on that
L9	evidence. The Proposed Decision will then be
20	considered by the five Commissioners who will
21	decide whether to adopt the Proposed Decision
22	from the judge or to adopt their own
23	alternate decision based on the evidence in
24	the proceeding. The current schedule for
25	this proceeding indicates that the Commission
26	will vote on the decision in the first
27	quarter of 2022.
28	Now, I will provide a summary of

Southern California Edison's application: 1 This past October, Southern California Edison 2. submitted its general rate case application 3 for Santa Catalina Water Utility seeking Commission approval of their expected costs 5 6 owning and operating the company for the 7 years 2022 through 2026. The expenses included in Edison's 8 9 rate case application cover increased costs 10 of capital expenditures as well 11 drought-related expenses. We are here today to receive 12 13 comments from the public on SCE's request to 14 increase rates and revenue for costs related 15 to the Santa Catalina Water Utility. 16 SCE has currently proposed to 17 increase rates for Santa Catalina Water 18 Utility customers as well as Electric Utility 19 customers. The proposal would increase rates 2.0 for Santa Catalina Water Utility customers by 21 \$1.04 billion each year from 2022 to 2026 22 amounting to increases 25 percent above 2.3 present revenues in 2022; 20 percent in 2023 24 over proposed 2022 revenues; 17 percent in 25 2024 over proposed 2023 revenues; 14 percent 26 in 2025 over proposed 2024 revenues; and 13 27 percent in 2026 over 2025 revenues. 2.8 The proposal also asks for approval

1	to increase SCE's Electrical Customer
2	Surcharge Revenue by \$5.8 million annually
3	for the years 2022 to 2026. This proposal
4	was the average summer bill derived from
5	\$78.51 in 2019 to \$222.84 in 2027 for Santa
6	Catalina Water Utility customers.
7	SCE has also put forth a proposal in
8	which the proposed revenue requirement is
9	supplied completely by Catalina Island water
10	customers resulting in revenue collections of
11	39.7 percent each year from 2022 through 2026
12	with a subsequent 50 percent drop in 2027.
13	The proposal would see an average
14	summer bill increase from \$78.51 in 2018 to
15	\$474.46 in 2026.
16	Please see the Water Division's Fact
17	Sheet for additional information about these
18	proposals. Although we would typically
19	receive comments in person, current
20	conditions have precluded that option. Your
21	participation today is, nonetheless, greatly
22	appreciated. Comments from the public help
23	the Public Utilities Commission reach an
24	informed decision.
25	You may also leave written comments
26	on the Commission's online docket card. The
27	Commissioners and I will pay close attention

to the opinions expressed in today's public

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hearing. A court reporter will be 1 2. transcribing everything that is said today. If you speak, I ask that you speak 3 slowly and clearly so that the reporter is 4 able to capture everything that is said. 5 6 written transcript for today's hearing will 7 be posted publicly on the docket card for this proceeding. 8 9 Written comments may be submitted on 10 the docket card for this proceeding by going 11 to cpuc.ca.gov/a2010018comment. As of today we have received 243 written public comments. 12 I will now invite Ms. Juanita Hill 13 14 of the Commission's Public Advisor's Office 15 to provide quidance on participation in this 16 proceeding. 17 Ms. Hill, please proceed. 18 MS. HILL: Thank you, Judge. 19 Welcome, everyone. My name is 2.0 Juanita Hill and I am the supervisor in the CPUC's Public Advisor's Office. The Public 21 22 Advisor's Office assists in advising the 23 public with participation in Commission 24 proceedings. First, I want to thank all of 25 you for participating today. 26 As the Judge and the Commissioner's 27 advisor stated, public participation and 2.8 input are essential to the Commission's

1	decision-making process. This is your
2	opportunity to be heard, to share your
3	thoughts on the application with the
4	Administrative Law Judge and the
5	Commissioner.
6	If you have specific questions about
7	the application or your service, please reach
8	out to the Public Advisor's Office at
9	public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov or visit the CPUC
10	or the utilities' website for more
11	information.
12	Second, if you or anyone you know is
13	not able to make a comment today, there are
14	several other ways to become involved. If
15	you wish to find more information on becoming
16	a party, subscribing to this proceeding or
17	submitting comments via e-mail or the phone,
18	please go to our website cpuc.ca.gov or
19	e-mail the Public Advisor at
20	public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov.
21	All of this information is also on
22	the notice that you received for this public
23	participation hearing. We look forward to
24	your comments today. Thank you.
25	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Ms. Hill.
26	We will hear from some of the
27	parties in this proceeding beginning with a
28	representative of Southern California Edison,

1	followed by the Public Advocates Office,
2	Catalina Parties and TURN.
3	Mr. Douglas Snow on behalf of SCE,
4	are you ready?
5	MS. SNOW: I am. Can you hear me?
6	ALJ TOY: Yes.
7	MR. SNOW: Thank you, Judge Toy, and
8	thank you, everyone, for taking time out of
9	your busy schedules and participating in
10	these very important public participation
11	hearings today.
12	My name is Doug Snow, and I'm the
13	Director of the general rate case for
14	Southern California Edison's Water Utility.
15	It is privilege to be here to learn from you
16	and to listen to your input and concerns you
17	may have regarding our 2022 Catalina Water
18	General Rate Case.
19	Edison recognizes this proceeding as
20	taking place during unprecedented times. We
21	understand that our customers and the
22	communities we serve, including Catalina, are
23	facing hardship during the continuing
24	COVID-19 pandemic and may need help from us
25	with their bills.
26	SCE is sensitive to rate increases
27	during this time, and we're working hard to
2.8	continue to provide safe, reliable service

while mitigating rate increases as much as 1 2. possible. SCE has also put in place important 3 customer protections to help customers with 4 difficulty paying their bill. If you need 5 more information on these customers 6 7 protections, please go to SCE.com/billhelp or call (800)367-8851. And there you can find 8 9 information on money-saving programs and 10 tools. 11 Additionally, Mr. Jaime Gaitan from 12 our customer service organization is in 13 attendance today to provide a contact to help 14 resolve any customer service questions you may have. 15 16 Now, turning back to the general 17 rate case, we are currently in the middle of 18 what we refer to as the discovery period 19 where parties to the proceeding are learning 2.0 more about our application and cost-recovery 21 proposal. 22 Next in the proceeding, other 2.3 interested parties, including consumer advocates, will submit their testimony to 24 25 present their analysis in SCE's application and recommend adjustments to our proposal. 26 27 In September, there will be

evidentiary hearings so that the Commission

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can continue to build its official record of our proposal.

Now, it's easy to get caught up in the process, but at the end of the day, the general rate case is all about funding projects, programs, and people to provide you safe and reliable service and improve that service continuously.

The focus of our request in this general rate case mostly includes funding to improve three things: Safety, reliability, and drought resiliency. Our request for funding covers both historical and future cost for the Catalina Water Utility including capital projects completed since our last general rate case, costs related to the recent historic drought that impacted the island, operating expense updates since our prior general rate case that we filed back in 2010, and a forecast of capital improvements.

We recognize that SCE has not submitted a general rate case for the Catalina Water Utility in several years. I mentioned since 2010. And that we're requesting a substantial increase in revenue, but we believe our cost-recovery proposal strikes a reasonable balance for recovering costs for routine system operations and

management, and unplanned costs due to 1 2 extraordinary events. Our GRC seeks to provide adequate 3 funding to continue providing the, 4 approximately, 4,000 residents and roughly 5 one million annual visitors to the island 6 with safe and reliable water service. 7 Ultimately, the Commission will 8 9 decide the appropriate level of funding after 10 a thorough and rigorous legal process that includes all stakeholders with different 11 viewpoints, including consideration of the 12 13 comments you share today. 14 So that brings us to paying for this 15 work -- right -- your bill. We are very 16 mindful of the impact of these costs on your 17 bill and have developed a cost-recovery 18 proposal that recognizes this. 19 Our GRC proposes to recover revenues 2.0 from Catalina water customers to cover the 21 normal operations, maintenance, and capital 22 investments made by the utility. 2.3 SCE is also proposing to phase in 24 the revenue increase over a five-year period 25 to spread out that increase and reduce the 26 rate impacts in year one. 27 We propose to recover the balance of water utility cost, including exceptional 2.8

drought and environmental cost and deferred 1 2. revenues resulting from our five-year 3 phase-in proposal from SCE's systemwide electric customers. 4 5 If SCE's cost recovery proposal is approved, it will increase an average 6 7 residential bill by about \$32 per month for nonincome-qualified customers; \$19 for 8 9 enrolled, income-qualified customers; and \$32 for commercial customers in 2022. 10 11 The increase would be an additional 12 \$23 for nonincome-qualified residential 13 customers; \$24 for enrolled, income-qualified 14 customers; and \$45 for commercial customers 15 each year for the years 2023 through 2026. 16 Alternatively, if all costs were to 17 be recovered from just the island customers 18 or our water customers on the island, again, 19 phased-in over a five-year period, the 2.0 increase would average about \$41 for 21 nonincome-qualified residential customers; 22 \$40 for income-qualified customers, and \$88 for commercial customers in 2022 with monthly 2.3 24 bill increases growing to \$123, \$108 and \$239 25 in 2026 respectively. I realize this GRC is impactful for 26 27 many of you and the timing is not ideal, but 2.8 the GRC is necessary to recover aging costs

1	for historical projects and events while
2	generating the necessary revenues to continue
3	providing safe and reliable water service to
4	the island. We believe our proposal strikes
5	a prudent balance between essential services
6	we provide to you and what it costs to
7	provide those services.
8	We realize any increase in bills can
9	be challenging, and we have several programs,
10	tips, and tools to help reduce bill impacts
11	that may come in handy.
12	So as I mentioned before, please
13	visit SCE.com/billhelp or call (800)367-8851
14	for information on these resources.
15	Again, thank you for taking the time
16	out today and attending, and I look forward
17	to hearing your comments and feedback.
17 18	to hearing your comments and feedback.  ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Snow.
18	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Snow.
18 19	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Snow.  We will now hear from the Public
18 19 20	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Snow.  We will now hear from the Public  Advocates Office Mr. Mehboob Aslam. Are you
18 19 20 21	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Snow.  We will now hear from the Public  Advocates Office Mr. Mehboob Aslam. Are you ready?
18 19 20 21 22	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Snow.  We will now hear from the Public  Advocates Office Mr. Mehboob Aslam. Are you ready?  MR. ASLAM: Yes, sir. I am.
18 19 20 21 22 23	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Snow.  We will now hear from the Public  Advocates Office Mr. Mehboob Aslam. Are you ready?  MR. ASLAM: Yes, sir. I am.  ALJ TOY: Let's go off the record for a
18 19 20 21 22 23 24	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Snow.  We will now hear from the Public  Advocates Office Mr. Mehboob Aslam. Are you ready?  MR. ASLAM: Yes, sir. I am.  ALJ TOY: Let's go off the record for a second.
18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Snow.  We will now hear from the Public  Advocates Office Mr. Mehboob Aslam. Are you ready?  MR. ASLAM: Yes, sir. I am.  ALJ TOY: Let's go off the record for a second.  (Off the record.)

I am Mehboob Aslam. I am a project lead 1 2. presenting for the California Public Advocates Office. I will briefly talk about 3 today what is our role in this proceeding and 4 5 why it is important to present consumer voice at the Commission. 6 7 Next slide, please. So let's talk We are California Public about who we are. 8 9 Advocates Office. We are also known as Cal 10 Advocates, and we are an independent office 11 within the CPUC, the California Public Utilities Commission, that represents the 12 13 interest of ratepayers. 14 We have a multi-disciplinary staff 15 with expertise in engineering, economics, 16 accounting and finance. I'd like to emphasize that the Cal Advocates' views do 17 18 not necessarily reflect the views of the 19 Commission because, as I mentioned, we are an 2.0 independent segment within the California Public Utilities Commission, and our sole 21 22 purpose is to advocate on behalf of our 2.3 customers. 24 Next slide, please. Our mission is 25 twofold. As you can see here, it is to 26 obtain the lowest possible rate for service 27 consistent with reliable and safe service level. As you can imagine, this is a very 2.8

We need to balance the 1 tight rope to walk. 2. lowest rate with reliability of water and safety. 3 Next slide, please. Cal Advocates 4 Office correctly is in the stage called 5 "discovery," where we are analyzing SCE's 6 7 filed application and asking for data requests and figuring out the pertinent 8 details and facts. 9 10 We'll present analysis of SCE's 11 Catalina Water general rate increase request and make recommendations on issues considered 12 13 in all general rate cases. These issues are 14 mostly such as capital investment and need 15 for the utility, sales and rate design, 16 conservation and operating expenses, 17 low-income rate assistance, and also tax 18 expenses. 19 Next slide please. At the end of 2.0 our discovery, we will be issuing a report 21 and that report will be available after July 9, 2021 at our website which is 22 23 www.publicadvocates.cpuc.ca.gov. I'll repeat 24 that. It's www.publicadvocates.cpuc.ca.gov. 25 And I really appreciate this 26 opportunity, and our main purpose at this 27 public participation hearing is to hear and listen to the public voices and I'm looking 28

1	forward to it. Thank you very much.
	* *
2	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Aslam.
3	We will now hear from the Joint
4	Catalina Parties. Mr. Bishton, are you ready
5	to give your presentation?
6	MR. BISHTON: Yes, I am, and I have a
7	slide presentation.
8	ALJ TOY: Okay. Whenever you're ready.
9	MR. BISHTON: Thank you very much,
10	Judge Toy. Thank you, everyone, for
11	attending this web meeting. It's not the
12	same as being there in person, but this is
13	the best we can do under the circumstances.
14	Catalina Parties represent all of
15	the classes of ratepayers on Catalina Island.
16	The city of Avalon is where 95 percent of
17	ratepayers live. The Catalina Chamber of
18	Commerce represents 220 commercial
19	businesses, which is the vast majority of the
20	commercial ratepayers on the island.
21	Santa Catalina Island Conservancy is
22	where that's 88 percent of the island and
23	it's where the vast almost all of the
24	water that is not desaled water comes from.
25	Guided Discoveries runs three of the
26	eight campgrounds and is representative of
27	all the camp grounds. I missed one when I
28	was preparing this slide. The Santa Catalina

Island Company is also a member of the 1 Catalina Parties. It has 11 percent of the island and is a major business operator on 3 the island. And, lastly, Hamilton Cove 5 6 Homeowners Association is the largest 7 condominium association on the island. It's 190 residential units. It is 13 percent of 9 all the residential ratepayers, and it is 6 percent of all of the commercial connections 10 11 that are also located at Hamilton Cove Homeowners Association. 12 I am not new to this nor are the 13 14 Catalina Parties. They were all involved in 15 the prior rate case, which started in 2010 16 and ended in 2014. I personally have been involved. I have owned condominiums on 17 18 Catalina Island since 1988. I've been 19 president of Hamilton Cove Homeowners 2.0 Association since 1998. I spent 18 years on the Board of the Santa Catalina Island 21 22 Conservancy. As a lawyer, I have represented a number of the businesses on Catalina Island 2.3 as well as a number of individuals; so I 2.4 25 personally have extensive knowledge about this problem. I also represented the 26 27 Catalina Parties in the prior rate case. The Catalina Parties do not 2.8

represent any individual group. It is not a 1 2 battle between commercial ratepayers and individual ratepayers. There is no -- all of 3 our decisions in representing the ratepayers are made jointly by all the members of the 5 6 Catalina Parties and we meet frequently. 7 We are assisted in this procedure by Brian Brady, a professional engineer, who has 8 9 35 years of engineering and management 10 experience in both the public and private 11 sectors of Western Electric and water 12 utilities. He was also our expert in the 13 prior GRC, and early in his career, he was 14 employed by Southern California Edison. 15 What are our goals? Our goals are 16 adequate and reasonable rates without 17 discrimination. That has been said by the 18 California Supreme Court to be the primary 19 purpose of Public Utilities Act. 2.0 The Commission itself says the goal 21 is clean, safe, and reliable water, and 22 reasonable rates. That's what we're trying to do. 2.3 The word "reasonable" is an important 2.4 word. 25 I think we need to start to understand where we stand today with today's 26 27 rates, with today's revenue requirement of

four-million-three that was established back

2.8

1 in 2014 in the prior GRC. 2. One way to compare water companies 3 is to look at revenue per customer. Simply taking the number of customers and dividing in their total annual revenue. We were able 5 to obtain that information from annual 6 7 reports that all regulated water companies have to file with the Commission every year, 9 and the last year was 2019. The 2020 reports 10 have not been filed as yet. 11 There are four classes of water 12 companies: A, B, C and D. A and B are the 13 larger; C is the middle ground, and D is 14 primarily very small water companies. Southern California Edison is the 15 16 water company -- is the largest of the Class 17 C water companies, and we try to determine 18 where does its revenue per customer stand 19 relative to others. 2.0 May I have the next slide. 21 I haven't been calling for my slides. sorry. 22 Next one please. Next one please. One more. 2.3 One more. 24 The average -- these are the 10 25 largest of the Class Cs. There's 19. The 26 average -- average annual revenue per 27 customer of the 10 largest Class C is \$992 or 2.8 \$83 a month. Edison is 1,822 currently.

Currently. It's 184 percent higher revenue 1 2. per customer than any other Class C water. We are already paying Edison -- Catalina 3 Island has the highest water rates. 4 I've been advised by Mr. Brady that it's also 5 6 higher per customer than any A or B, Class A 7 or Class B. We start with the highest possible 8 9 rates, highest existing rates in the state of 10 California. There are really two different 11 plans being put forth by Edison. I'll call the first one Plan A. 12 13 Can I have the next slide please. 14 Plan A proposes that 30 million of past cost, 15 not anything going forward, but past cost to 16 be passed on to its electric ratepayer. 17 that were the case, the revenue requirement, 18 the amount of money they will collect, Edison 19 would collect with rates in the first year 2.0 would be \$5,314,000, and in year five, 21 \$10,049,000, which is a huge, huge increase 22 from where we are today at four-million-three. 2.3 24 What it means is revenue per 25 customer would be \$2,668 per year or \$222 a 26 month. And in the fifth year, it would be 27 \$5,045 per year or \$425 per month. 28 Looking at current rates paid by

Class C customers as an average, in the first 1 2. year it would be 269 percent of that, and in the fifth year, it would be 590 percent or, 3 in other words, the bill that's currently -currently is \$38.84 for a residential 5 6 customer, who uses the minimum -- the first 7 tier of water, 2,000 gallons, would jump to \$110.30 a month in the first year, and then 9 by the year five, it would be \$208.67. Huge 10 increase. 11 Can I have the next slide. 12 other proposal assumes that none of those 30 13 million is passed on to electric ratepayers. 14 And two of the participants today, California 15 Advocates and TURN have already stated strong 16 positions against passing anything, any 17 money, to the electric ratepayers. Well, 18 this is a very, very real chance that this is 19 going to happen. 2.0 Year one the revenue requirement 21 would be \$5,771,000 according to Plan B. Jumping to 22 million -- jumping to -- in 22 23 year five. Incredible increase. 24 It would go as -- in comparison of 25 revenue per customer that first year to 292 26 percent of what Class C customers and revenue 27 is currently and to 1,113 percent of what it 2.8 is for Class C customers today.

What would it mean for a residential 1 2 bill that is currently about \$74? The first year would be about \$110, and then the fifth 3 year, \$456 a month -- \$456 a month for 4 5 someone using 2,000 gallons of water. 6 Can I have the next slide, please. 7 Next slide, please. ALJ TOY: Let's go off the record for a 8 9 second. (Off the record.) 10 11 ALJ TOY: Back on the record. 12 MR. BISHTON: I want to commend Judge 13 Toy for his summary of the proposals Edison 14 has put forth. Because it is so different --15 it was so different in the proposals that 16 were outlined in the notice that went to all 17 ratepayers. There is no way that that in any 18 way informed ratepayers of what the impacts 19 are going to be. 2.0 One of the things that the notice 21 used was assuming that the average 22 residential user uses 1,466 gallons per 2.3 I just wanted to explain what that month. 24 That means 47 gallons a day for a means. 25 family. The capacity of a standard bathtub is 42 gallons. This means that a four person 26 27 household would use 12 gallons per person per 2.8 day. The average residential water use in

California is 85 gallons per person per day. 1 And that obviously is a little different than on Catalina Island because of the use of salt 3 water to flush toilets. 4 That is not in any way 5 6 representative of a family of two or three or four would use. It's totally misleading. 7 The reason -- one of the reasons why things 9 are difficult to put averages on Catalina Island is a lot -- of the 190 units -- and 10 11 Hamilton Cove is the example. 13 percent of 12 the residences only 20 are occupied full 13 time. 14 A lot of them are used during the 15 summer months. But they stand idle. But the 16 overall use, the people actually using water 17 at Hamilton Cove is 30 or 35 percent of the 18 available days that people could be using 19 water. And that's true of -- also in the 2.0 main part of Avalon. There are many places 21 that are not occupied year round. So that 22 any kind of averages are very distorted. 2.3 I want to go to the second -- next 24 slide, please. One of the things that Edison 25 is asking for in this rate case I found

40 percent. The state -- the governor's goal

somewhat distressing. During the drought,

Catalina ratepayers reduced water usage by

26

27

2.8

during the drought was 25 percent. Catalina 1 2. ratepayers stood up and reduced water by 3 40 percent. Plan B requires that Catalina 4 ratepayers to pay \$6 million plus \$500 5 million (sic) in interest for the water they 6 7 did not use. Plus an additional \$5 million in drought-related costs. 9 In other words, Catalina ratepayers 10 were much better off using the water instead 11 of not using it and now have having to pay 12 for it with interest. I mean it's just an incredible disincentive to save water during 13 14 the periods of the drought. 15 ALJ TOY: Mr. Bishton, this is ALJ Toy. 16 Please try to wrap up. MR. BISHTON: I have one more slide. 17 18 What we are concerned with is water 19 The total amount people are going to burden. 2.0 have to pay for water. The average household 21 income in California according to the U.S. Census Bureau is \$106,916. The average 22 2.3 household income of Catalina Island according to the SEC is \$61,655 annually. 24 25 How can they pay \$456 a month? residents of Catalina Island \$456 a month for 26 27 water? 2.8 I thank everyone for their

And I thank you, your Honor. 1 attention. 2. ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Bishton. At this point in time, I do not 3 believe the TURN representative is on the 4 So we will continue on for now. 5 line. 6 Can I please get a count from the 7 operator how many calls are in queue. MR. STANFORD: Your Honor, this is 8 Robert Stanford. You currently have eight 9 10 public commenters in the queue. Thank you. We will now hear 11 ALJ TOY: 12 from members of the public. To those who wish to speak if you have not done so 13 14 already, please press star one on your phone, 15 and the operator will add you to the queue. 16 If you're not currently queued at 17 any time during this session and you later on 18 decide you'd like to speak, the line will remain open for you to join. Provide the 19 2.0 operator with your name and location. 21 If you're a public official, please notify the operator of your title and 22 23 position in addition to your name. 24 A reminder to those waiting on the 25 Please speak slowly and clearly so 26 that our court reporters may accurately 27 transcribe your comments. When the operator 2.8 let's you know it is your turn to speak,

1	please start your comments by providing your
2	full name spelling your last name and your
3	location.
4	We will be able to hear you best if
5	you speak directly into your phone or
6	headset. Please avoid having your phone on
7	speaker when you are providing comment.
8	Hang on. Off the record.
9	(Off the record.)
10	ALJ TOY: Back on the record.
11	Please keep comments brief and
12	concise in order to ensure that we can hear
13	everyone.
14	Operator, are there any public
15	officials on the line?
16	THE OPERATOR: Not that I can tell, no.
17	ALJ TOY: Thank you. Please go ahead
18	and call on the first person in the queue.
19	THE OPERATOR: Our first speaker is
20	Geraldine Knatz. Your line is open.
21	STATEMENT OF SPEAKER KNATZ
22	Thank you. My name is Geraldine
23	Knatz, K-n-a-t-z. And I own a home in
24	Avalon, 383 East Whitley where there are
25	three, three-story townhomes built on one lot
26	in 1976.
27	The bottom story of my unit was
28	never finished and has a dirt floor and I

have permits to construct from the City. 1 I am on hold due to requiring a water allotment from Edison. And I have been on 3 the water allotment list for years. 4 5 I request the PUC not take any action to approve any increases in water 6 rates without clearing the water allotment 7 That is allowing the people who have been waiting for water to receive their 9 10 allotment. The water allotment issue lacks 11 12 transparency. At one point I was told once the reservoir fills, water will be released. 13 14 Then it was the mandatory drought 15 requirements. Another time it was after 16 testing of some wells. 17 Edison seems to be moving the goal 18 post finding any excuse to block improvement. 19 There's no clear pathway to seeking a water 2.0 allotment. And I believe this lack of 21 transparency is inappropriate for a public 22 resource. 2.3 I'll conclude by saying that I --24 you know, this is very frustrating 25 considering my house was built in '76. assumed the water mains were considered. And 26 it's quite ironic I'm adding a bathroom that 27 flushes the salt water. Again, please do not 2.8

move forward without clearing water allotment 1 list. 2 3 Thank you. 4 ALJ TOY: Thank you, Ms. Knatz. 5 Operator. THE OPERATOR: Our next speaker is 6 7 Council Member Lisa Lavelle. Your line's 8 open. 9 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER LAVELLE 10 Thank you. City Council Member Lisa 11 Lavelle. 12 Judge, I appreciate your time today, 13 and I appreciate all of the parties 14 presenting the details of the case. As a 15 near lifelong resident of Catalina, I 16 remember the last rate increase case and 17 having to go before the judge at the meeting 18 location in town and discuss how the rate 19 increase would equal the cost of my dad's 2.0 medication that he was required to take at 21 the time on a monthly basis. 22 He has since passed way. So it's 2.3 just my mom and I now, you know. And the 24 average rate volume that Edison is quoting 25 seems like it is quite off. We are only two 26 people and have a very small home, and our 27 water rates are \$10 to \$15 per month on average already above what they're listing as 2.8

their average family household water rates. 1 2 The majority of households in Avalon 3 tend to have more than that many people living in them. And I'm speaking 4 specifically of the families that call the 5 6 city of Avalon home. 7 An increase anywhere from 147 percent to potentially 400, 500, or 600 8 9 percent depending on what type of water main 10 you have in your home or business, it is not 11 sustainable. There is no way that our family 12 could afford to pay \$200 to \$300 a month just 13 That doesn't include rent, that for water. 14 doesn't include other utilities, that's just 15 for water. 16 I think that it is time to get on an 17 even keel plan with Edison so that moving 18 forward there's regular increases that are 19 sustainable that happen in conjunction with 2.0 the cost of living and in conjunction with 21 the cost of projects for the future. 22 very challenging to accept the idea of having 2.3 to go back and pay for things that have 24 already been done and approved and pay for 25 things that were not the fault of our 26 citizens. 27 Repeatedly the citizens of Avalon 2.8 are asked to conserve water. They do so

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usually exceeding expectations of any State or Board and then are damaged in financial ways for having conserved that much water. I don't know of any business that would be able to cut services and then go back and charge people more because they cut services. That doesn't make sense to me.

And I'm hoping that you will err on the side of caution when looking at this rate case and understand both the Cal Advocate and TURN's concerns with regards to charging funds to people who don't live on the island. But I also understand that the inordinate amount of money requested by Edison for some of these projects will literally put people out of businesses and potentially out of homes.

We are not a rich community contrary to what most people believe. The majority of us citizens work two to three jobs to make ends meet and have multigenerational families living in their home. We would ask that you just please be considerate in remembering that we are definitely not a community that can afford this kind of charge.

I would also ask that you consider, Judge, if possible the opportunity to have an additional public comment period that is not

during the height of the tourism season. 1 Although COVID-19 has negatively impacted the island in the last year significantly to the 3 point with over 70 percent of our workers 5 were out of work, on unemployment, or unable 6 to gather funds, we are now luckily reopening slowly and safely. But this happens to be the busiest week of the year for us in the 8 9 last 18 months. If it is possible to have another session sometime in between the 10 11 middle of April and the beginning of June so 12 that people can be properly notified via mail from Edison, can be able to ask for time off 13 14 of work, and can be available for additional 15 public comment, we would greatly appreciate 16 it. The Edison notice that went out to 17 18 ratepayers for notification was sent on the 19 23rd of March, which was seven days ago. We 2.0 live on Catalina and unfortunately the mail 21 rates have slowed down significantly. 22 We're ratepayers and still haven't 2.3 received a notice that we could do public 24 comment today. So I'm hoping that you will 25 consider providing a larger window for 26 invitation and an additional public comment 27 period in the next one to two months. 28

Thank you so much.

1	ALJ TOY: Ms. Lavelle, could you please
2	spell your name for the court reporter?
3	MS. LAVELLE: L-a-v, as in "Victor,"
4	e-l-l-e.
5	Thank you.
6	ALJ TOY: Operator, could you please
7	call on the next caller?
8	THE OPERATOR: Yes. Our next speaker
9	is Matthew Affolder. Your line is open.
10	STATEMENT OF SPEAKER AFFOLDER
11	Hi. My name is Matthew Affolder.
12	And I'm a small business owner in Avalon. My
13	last name is spelled A-f-f-o-l-d-e-r.
14	I wanted to thank everyone that's
15	come to the table. I don't have a slide
16	show, but I do have firsthand experience on
17	how the water rates affect myself, my
18	employees, and my family. I'd like to say
19	three simple things, though, before I tell my
20	story.
21	No. 1, we already pay some of the
22	highest, if not the highest, water rates in
23	the state. An additional rate increase will
24	destroy my company and the jobs that I
25	provide. This rate increase will deprive the
26	residents and visitors of the island from
27	essential services.
28	I run Cottonwood Laundromat. As a

laundromat, we use more water than almost any 1 2. other company. This makes our profit margins tied to the water rates. We really only have 3 two laundromats left on the island. And our population cannot go anywhere else to do 5 their laundry. It must be done here. 6 7 If this rate increase passes, it will kill small business and deprive 8 residents and visitors of essential services. 9 Let me mix no words. This new rate increase 10 11 will destroy my company and my livelihood. This will deprive me of my investment, my 12 hard work, and the good will I've fostered in 13 14 the community providing these types of 15 services. 16 We survived COVID through hard work 17 while keeping the same levels going. 18 worked with the drought to reduce when we had 19 to. We worked hard to survive the latest 2.0 rate increase. We had to raise our prices 21 15 percent even though our water rate has almost doubled recently. 22 The last rate increase we did so 2.3 2.4 that on some months I'd lose money. I used 25 to make profit every month. Now I only make profit about half the month. This increase 26 27 could reduce my actual net profits by around

50 percent. This means I cannot buy new

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equipment, I cannot put money back in the
 1
 2
     company, I cannot hire local help, I cannot
     do what I need to do to keep the company
 3
     running on such small profits. The recent
 5
     rate increases have already put us in this
 6
     difficult position.
 7
               So I can tell without a doubt that I
     nor my customers can afford the new rate
 8
 9
     increase.
                It's not the difficulty of paying
10
     the bill.
                The difficulty comes from having
11
     my profit and livelihood destroyed.
12
               If the Commission approves this rate
13
     increase, I want them to be painfully aware
14
     that they are signing the death warrant for
15
     my and many other companies on Catalina.
16
     This is jobs, this is essential services,
17
     these are small businesses.
18
               And the last thing I would like to
19
     say is there is nothing reasonable or logical
2.0
     about destroying jobs and regulating small
21
     businesses out of business.
22
               I thank everyone here for their time
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     here today.
24
                     Thank you, Mr. Affolder.
           ALJ TOY:
25
               Operator, could you please call the
     next caller?
26
27
     ///
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THE OPERATOR: Kyle Frievalt, your line 1 2. is open. STATEMENT OF SPEAKER FRIEVALT 3 Good afternoon, everybody. My name 4 is Kyle Frievalt. Last name is, F-r-i-e-v, 5 like "Victor," a-l-t. I'm here to voice my 6 7 comment as no I do not support this move by SCE. And here are some of the reasons why. 8 9 California is already among the most expensive electrical utilities in the entire 10 11 country according to the studies done in 2020. SCE during the year 2020 made \$13.6 12 13 billion in revenue and a net profit income 14 \$942 -- sorry. \$942 million in 2020. And 15 the year prior to that was \$12.4 billion in 16 revenue. 17 Right now -- I'm sorry. I lost 18 myself. I believe that the rate increase is 19 far too much to ask as an already impossibly 2.0 high rate especially with the rate inflation 21 today and the rate inflation sprouting from a 22 global pandemic. Especially asking this in 2.3 the midst of a global pandemic. 24 Having to request government aid, 25 which is the SEC's CARE Program just to make 26 an affordable utility bill I think is 27 completely out of line. I would like to conclude that SCE is 28

1	in fact a monopoly industry operating in the
2	Southern California area that no other
3	utility company touches. Instead of asking
4	struggling customers especially during a
5	pandemic for a 153 percent rate increase with
6	inaccurate \$78 a month for summer rates,
7	which is the normal rate of about \$130.
8	I believe that the rate increase is
9	not by any means reasonable and you will run
10	people out of Southern California especially
11	in businesses and small-owned businesses.
12	And I thank everybody for their time
13	today and especially the counselor and the
14	previous person before me.
15	Have a wonderful day.
16	Have a wonderful day.  ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Frievalt.
	*
16	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Frievalt.
16 17	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Frievalt.  Operator, could you please call the
16 17 18	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Frievalt.  Operator, could you please call the next caller?
16 17 18 19	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Frievalt.  Operator, could you please call the next caller?  THE OPERATOR: That is Diana Lee
16 17 18 19 20	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Frievalt.  Operator, could you please call the next caller?  THE OPERATOR: That is Diana Lee Luxenberg. Your line is open.
16 17 18 19 20 21	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Frievalt.  Operator, could you please call the next caller?  THE OPERATOR: That is Diana Lee Luxenberg. Your line is open.  STATEMENT OF SPEAKER LUXENBERG
16 17 18 19 20 21	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Frievalt.  Operator, could you please call the next caller?  THE OPERATOR: That is Diana Lee Luxenberg. Your line is open.  STATEMENT OF SPEAKER LUXENBERG  Thank you. My last my full name
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Frievalt.  Operator, could you please call the next caller?  THE OPERATOR: That is Diana Lee Luxenberg. Your line is open.  STATEMENT OF SPEAKER LUXENBERG  Thank you. My last my full name is Diana Lee Luxenberg. Last name is
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Frievalt.  Operator, could you please call the next caller?  THE OPERATOR: That is Diana Lee Luxenberg. Your line is open.  STATEMENT OF SPEAKER LUXENBERG  Thank you. My last my full name is Diana Lee Luxenberg. Last name is spelled, L-u-x-e-n, like "Nancy," b, like
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Frievalt.  Operator, could you please call the next caller?  THE OPERATOR: That is Diana Lee Luxenberg. Your line is open.  STATEMENT OF SPEAKER LUXENBERG  Thank you. My last my full name is Diana Lee Luxenberg. Last name is spelled, L-u-x-e-n, like "Nancy," b, like "boy," e-r-g.

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unprecedented, in my mind, benefits without providing an increase in service.

I've seen no improvement over the

I've seen no improvement over the years in Three Rivers where I live. We are also a small water district, and I would say that in contrast to what Catalina Island people are saying, small water districts are usually more expensive and should be because they're not being efficient with their funds. And they remain small because they don't think about combining with other water districts, which would decrease their rates and allow them to invest in better equipment.

So to a certain extent, Catalina over the years by not requiring Edison to invest more to a certain extent have shot themselves in the foot.

On the other hand, Edison is constantly asking for more money and constantly not doing the jobs that they should be doing for drought management such as cutting down trees so that there's less trees drying on the reduced water and other things that help mitigate some of the disasters that we've had.

I'd also like to ask why they're not considering bonds over 10 or 20 years when rates are at a historic low for some of these

billing improvements which should 1 2. dramatically decrease the rates they would have to ask customers to pay. 3 Edison could also decrease their 4 dividend god forbid. They could also put a 5 tax on hotels, ships, and planes, in order to 6 7 recuperate some of the investment that they should be making on infrastructure. 8 9 And, again, I fault both Catalina 10 and Edison for not looking at reality and 11 improving the infrastructure that people have 12 known about for years. It's decrepit and not 13 sustainable. 14 And I'd like Catalina to ask 15 themselves are they going to become like one 16 of the islands off of the State of 17 Washington. I think it was Enby Island or 18 something, which actually lost all of their 19 water finally. Because even though you're 2.0 decreasing your water usage, you may not be in a situation where it's sustainable. 21 22 So having reasonable rates Catalina needs to look themselves in the mirror and 2.3 say, "If we've got multiple families living 24 25 in apartments or houses that normally would 26 only have three or four people and now we've

got six or eight because they're all working

at low minimum wage jobs on the island to

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keep the hotel business going." 1 2 Is that really a sustainable environment? You have to look at what 3 Catalina provides. Are people willing to pay 4 \$300 a night for a hotel? And perhaps 5 6 they're not. And then perhaps the viability 7 of Catalina Island with water and electricity is not as viable as small businesses think. 8 I would also like to ask why they're 9 10 not opening up the water district to 11 competitive quotes from out-of-state 12 companies. Perhaps Edison is not the best 13 entity to come up with solutions. 14 I'd also like to comment, again, 15 that Edison has failed over the years in this 16 area that I live in to not mitigate against 17 the extraordinary drought that we've seen 18 over the years nor do they put money into the 19 environmental cost. 2.0 And so, again, Edison has to look 21 themselves in the mirror and more importantly 22 the California Public Utilities Commission needs to look themselves in the mirror and 2.3 2.4 ask who is really quiding this ship. Because 25 over the years we've seen less and less 26 investment, gooder (sic) and stupider 27 decisions so that everyone's clamoring after 2.8 more money. And more money will not solve

1	the situation that's not sustainable to begin
2	with.
3	Thank you very much.
4	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Ms. Luxenberg.
5	Operator, can I have the next
6	caller?
7	THE OPERATOR: The next is Annie
8	Marshall. Your line is open.
9	STATEMENT OF SPEAKER MARSHALL
10	Hello. I'm Annie Marshall, mayor of
11	the City of Avalon on Catalina. Judge,
12	Madame President, and honorable CPUC
13	Commission members, as mayor of the City of
14	Avalon, I implore you to take into
15	consideration the detrimental impact of the
16	rates that Southern California Edison is
17	proposing. As you may know, the City of
18	Avalon has been deemed a disadvantaged
19	community by federal head guidelines in the
20	LA County Development Authority.
21	The residents of Avalon household
22	incomes is 40 percent less than households
23	throughout the State of California, which was
24	stated earlier.
25	The island being a destination for
26	vacationers employs the majority of residents
27	in the service industry. The majority of
28	these positions are paid minimum wage and in

1	many cases our residents pay in excess of
2	70 percent of their income toward their rent.
3	Any rate increases will be tacked on to the
4	tenants only exacerbating their finances in
5	an already fragile housing situation.
6	I can only hope you as commissioners
7	will do the right thing in determining that
8	future water rates are fair, equitable, and
9	insist they maintain the highest quality of
10	life for our residents.
11	Thank you very much for your time.
12	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Ms. Marshall. I'm
13	not sure if you spelled your last name, but
14	it sounds like she may have dropped off
15	already.
16	Operator, can you please call the
17	next caller.
18	THE OPERATOR: Up next is Annie
19	Manahall Varralina is anan
	Marshall. Your line is open.
20	ALJ TOY: Annie Marshall.
	<del>-</del>
	ALJ TOY: Annie Marshall.
21	ALJ TOY: Annie Marshall.  STATEMENT OF ANNIE MARSHALL
21 22	ALJ TOY: Annie Marshall.  STATEMENT OF ANNIE MARSHALL  Hello. I'm Annie Marshall, Mayor of
23	ALJ TOY: Annie Marshall.  STATEMENT OF ANNIE MARSHALL  Hello. I'm Annie Marshall, Mayor of  the City of Avalon on Catalina. Judge, Madam
21 22 23 24	ALJ TOY: Annie Marshall.  STATEMENT OF ANNIE MARSHALL  Hello. I'm Annie Marshall, Mayor of  the City of Avalon on Catalina. Judge, Madam  President, and Honorable CPUC Commission
21 22 23 24 25	ALJ TOY: Annie Marshall.  STATEMENT OF ANNIE MARSHALL  Hello. I'm Annie Marshall, Mayor of  the City of Avalon on Catalina. Judge, Madam  President, and Honorable CPUC Commission  members, as Mayor of the City of Avalon, I

1	As you may know, the City of Avalon
2	has been deemed a disadvantaged community by
3	Federal HUD guidelines and the LA County
4	Development Authority. The residents of
5	Avalon household income is 40 percent less
6	than the households throughout the state of
7	California, which was stated earlier.
8	The island being (inaudible)
9	vacationers, employs the majority of its
10	residents in the service industry. The
11	majority are paid at minimum wage and in many
12	cases our residents pay an excess of 70
13	percent of their income towards their rent.
14	Any rate increases will be passed on to the
15	tenant, only exacerbating their finances in
16	an already fragile housing situation.
17	I can only hope you, as
18	Commissioners, will do the right thing in
19	determining that future water rates are fair,
20	equitable, and assist in maintaining the
21	highest quality of life for our residents.
22	Thank you very much for your time.
23	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Ms. Marshall.
24	I'm not sure if she spelled her last
25	name, but it sounds like she may have dropped
26	off already.
27	Operator, could you please call the
28	next caller.

1	THE OPERATOR: Next is Olena Wibroe on
2	behalf of Senator Ben Allen. Your line is
3	open.
4	STATEMENT OF OLENA WIBROE
5	Hello. My name is Olena Wibroe. I'm
6	the District Representative for State Senator
7	Ben Allen.
8	Senator Allen wants to express his
9	deep concerns about the proposed rate
10	increase and the impact it will have on
11	residents and their businesses, which have
12	already been significantly impacted by the
13	COVID-19 crisis. A rate increase of this
14	magnitude will increase the already very high
15	cost-of-living burden that impacts those
16	living on the island.
17	Thank you.
18	ALJ TOY: Thank you. Ms. Wibroe, can
19	you please spell your last name.
20	SPEAKER WIBROE: W-i-b-r-o-e.
21	ALJ TOY: Thank you.
22	Can I please have the next caller,
23	Operator.
24	THE OPERATOR: That is Lee Harrison.
25	Your line is open.
26	STATEMENT OF LEE HARRISON
27	Hello. My name is Lee Harrison,
28	H-a-r-r-i-s-o-n. I'm the CEO for the Western

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Los Angeles County Council Boy Scouts of American operating Camp Emerald Bay on the west end of Catalina Island.

A little bit about who we are, we serve approximately 13,000 families a year, or youth a year, occupying about 60,000 camper nights in that same (inaudible). The history of our water usage: Beginning in 2006, we were using about three-and-a-half million gallons of water a year. By 2019, we had reduced that consumption to almost as low as 800,000 a year while maintaining the same occupancy level as we have through that entire time. Essentially, that's a reduction of about 60 gallons per person, down to about 14 gallons per person.

During that time the Council and the Boy Scouts have invested tens of thousands of dollars in water-saving projects in order to be able to reduce that number of water usage. This year alone we anticipate investing about \$20,000 of additional work.

Unfortunately, we are not able to pass along that investment to our customers primarily because we serve mostly middle class families with a large minority of those being low income participants. We serve a large population of the southern California

1	area of a diverse population. So we are not
2	able to pass along that just in that
3	investment alone.
4	And any additional increases in the
5	water rates on that significant level will
6	make it really hard for us to operate the
7	programs in the capacity that we do now.
8	Thank you very much for your time
9	and energy on this issue.
10	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Harrison.
11	Operator, next caller, please.
12	THE OPERATOR: Next speaker is Howard
13	Morrison. Your line is open.
14	STATEMENT OF HOWARD MORRISON
15	Hi. Thank you for having me. My
16	name is Howard Morrison, M-o-r-r-i-s-o-n.
17	I am a resident of Temecula,
18	California and I got on this call because of
19	the concern, the ongoing concern with Edison,
20	and the continual rate increases and this was
21	yet another one, which I thought was quite
22	frivolous, and I've over the years been left
23	with the feeling that there's no
24	accountability. Somehow the rates always go
25	up. They always need more, and yet nothing
26	is improving.
27	The goal of the company should be
28	how can we at the worst maintain cost, but

how in the future can we reduce costs? 1 2. The world is going to electric. They don't seem to want to embrace solar 3 panels. Quite the opposite. They want to 4 They're not going to the 5 run away from it. 6 future. They're not investing, it seems 7 like, in how could we get costs down? So what I looked at quickly was my 8 9 electric bill just in a quick sense. If I go 10 to kilowatts per hour, there's been a rate 11 increase since 2021 (sic). One year later, 12 my bill has gone up per kilowatt hour 31.8 13 percent. 14 So in this year just going from 15 January to March, it went up 13.3 percent. 16 wasn't aware they had that kind of funding 17 capability where they can just change the 18 bill. So when I saw that they wanted another 19 increase, and it was water-related and so 2.0 forth -- it's out of control. So that's my 21 position. 22 I wonder what can we do about 23 getting accountability? What can we do about having this company look to the future and 24 25 get our thoughts. At the very worst, it 26 remains the same. And at the best, let's 27 start getting them down. 28 So we seem to be an ATM for these

quys. And I bet if we examined what's going 1 2 on, there's a reason: Somebody is taking money off the top; no one is managing the 3 project; there's no accountability. 4 5 So that's my comment. Thank you for 6 listening. 7 ALJ TOY: Thank you for your comment. Operator, next caller, please. 8 9 THE OPERATOR: Next speaker is Wayne 10 Esen (sic). Your line is open. 11 STATEMENT OF WAYNE PAYSEN 12 My name is Wayne Paysen, 13 P-a-y-s-e-n. I want to, first of all, 14 applaud the insights from the previous customers who called in. 15 16 I am an electrical customer out of Perris, California. And my concern is that 17 18 the element of the proposal, it seeks to 19 recover cost, operational cost, and capital 2.0 investments, from the systemwide electrical 21 customers. 22 You're asking for a rate increase 2.3 for people who are on limited income, either 24 they're retired or disabled and asking them 25 to pay for these investments in an isolated, 26 low-residency, you know, vacation community, 27 which they may never even visit. It costs 2.8 money just to get to the island.

1	So for people who are on a limited
2	income, who would never visit the island
3	anyway, are being asked to pay for the
4	capital and operational cost for the water
5	usage for the island. I think that's an
6	unconscionable position.
7	I can appreciate the position of the
8	long-term residents of the island, but,
9	perhaps, if the infrastructure is so heavily
10	damaged there, so dysfunctional, that,
11	perhaps, we need to seek an entirely new
12	model.
13	Thank you for your time.
14	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Paysen.
15	Next caller, please.
16	THE OPERATOR: The next speaker is Mark
17	Coleson (sic). Your line is open.
18	STATEMENT OF MARK COLTRIN
19	Thank you. Thank you, Judge, and
20	members of the board. I believe my last name
21	was mispronounced. My name is Mark Coltrin,
22	C-o-l-t-r-i-n. I'm a resident of Mission
23	Viejo and am a Certified Public Accountant,
24	held in good standing with the State of
25	California, Certificate No.: 133612, held
26	with clear status and acting.
27	Judge, members, this is a financial
28	discussion pure and simple, and I would ask

1	the judge and those who are considering this
2	rate increase to consider the financial
3	position of Southern California Edison and
4	whether this rate increase is really
5	necessary given its financial position.
6	When reviewing their financial
7	statements filed with Securities and Exchange
8	Commission on February 25th, 2021, and
9	looking at their consolidated financial
10	statements, you will notice in the fiscal
11	year 2020 Southern California Edison had
12	revenues in excess of \$13,578,000,000.
13	When compared to 2019, which
14	reflects an income of \$12,347,000,000, that's
15	an approximate 10 percent increase in
16	revenues year over year.
17	Now, that's not the only metric. I
18	would like to highlight a couple other
19	financial metrics for the board's
20	consideration here. When looking at net
21	income, their net income is slightly down
22	this year from last year. Last near they
23	made a net of \$1.4 billion compared to 2020,
24	making only \$871 million net income.
25	That decrease is due really only to
26	the \$1.3 billion wildfire claim expense
27	reflected on their financial statement.
28	Despite that, they are still profitable in

multiples of millions of dollars. 1 Further, I would ask the board to 2. 3 reflect on the company's statement of (inaudible) quotes, where you will notice that the company reflects a net cash provided 5 6 by operating activities at \$1.2 billion, positive inflow from operations. 7 Their assets increased by about \$5 8 9 billion dollars, and they are sitting on 10 about \$50 billion of equity. That's net of 11 any liability that the company holds. 12 In the grand scheme of things to 13 consider over these rate increases, the board 14 has to ask: Is this really necessary? 15 When you look at the water rate 16 increases proposed by Southern California 17 Edison of anywhere between 64 percent to 37 18 percent increase. That seems, if I'm looking 19 at this as a state, that's seem quite 2.0 expensive given Southern California's financial position. They're highly 21 22 profitable. If you were to look at them in 2.3 terms of an S&P 500 company, they wouldn't quite be on the S&P's 500. They wouldn't be 24 25 the top 500 companies, but they would be 26 pretty darn close. 27 I would argue that this rate 2.8 increase is unnecessary and Southern

1	California Edison should go back and sharpen
2	their pencils a little bit more and think
3	about the assets and the management style
4	that they have on hand and consider whether
5	this rate increase is really necessary.
6	Rate increases have been in the news
7	quite a bit lately and looking at these
8	financial statements that they just filed
9	with the Securities and Exchange Commission,
10	I find it unnecessary and frivolous as was
11	previously cited by other members before me.
12	With that, I yield the rest of my
13	time, and thank you for allowing me to call
14	in today.
15	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Coltrin.
16	Next speaker, Operator.
17	THE OPERATOR: The next speaker is
18	Nancy Hill. Your line is open.
19	STATEMENT OF NANCY HILL
20	Hello, and thank you for this time
21	with this. I'm a resident of Irvine. My
22	last name is spelled H-i-l-l. I've been in
23	Southern California for 55 years and I am a
24	homeowner.
25	I looked at my SCE bill yesterday
26	for March, and not only is the kilowatt hours
27	listed here at 0.13095, there's also a
28	generation charge, which is the first 245

1	kilowatt hours for 0.09545, which is like
2	almost well, maybe, like 70 percent of the
3	regular Tier 1 cost, and that's not even
4	factored into what everybody's been talking
5	about.
6	And I totally agree with the last
7	few people saying Southern California Edison
8	is making billions of dollars. They have
9	been for years. They aren't upgrading. They
10	aren't helping with the problems that have
11	caused all the wildfires, which they've been
12	fined for, and I believe the billions and
13	billions of dollars they're bringing in could
14	substantially take care of the people in
15	Catalina. And so I'm hoping they will become
16	more not that they need to be a charity,
17	but they could be more charitable to
18	communities that are in such dire need.
19	Thank you for your time.
20	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Ms. Hill.
21	Operator, next caller, please.
22	THE OPERATOR: The next speaker Jim
23	Luttjohann. Your line is open.
24	STATEMENT OF JIM LUTTJOHANN
25	Thank you. My name is Jim
26	Luttjohann, L-u-t-t-j-o-h-a-n-n. I am
27	President and CEO of the Catalina Island
28	Chamber of Commence and Visitors Bureau. We

1 do business also as the Catalina Island 2 Tourism Authority. Before me, you've heard from Council 3 Member Lisa Lavelle, Ann Marshall, and our 4 representative Norris Bishton, who has been 5 6 very eloquent in stating our specific case. 7 I'd just like to add a couple of details. Whether it is the Plan A or Plan B 8 9 proposal, it is not at all sustainable for our small number of households to absorb the 10 11 rate increases that are proposed, especially 12 under Plan B. 13 The small businesses that are on 14 Catalina Island do not have the bandwidth to 15 increase their expenses. You heard that from 16 Mr. Affolder very clearly. 17 Regarding one of the comments made 18 by another caller, Ms. Luxenberg, I 19 just wanted to assure everyone on the call 2.0 that her idea that we should look at 21 assessing a fee on planes, boats, and hotels 22 has been looked at many times over. 2.3 been done for some competing interests where 24 it was within the legal parameters of those 25 different oversight agencies, but it's not as straightforward as it might seem to simply do 26 27 that. 2.8 And during the drought periods, the

businesses of Catalina Island spent tens of 1 thousands of dollars for drought mitigation, 2. including buying bottled water, shipping 3 laundry off the island, paying penalties for 4 5 going over usage allocations. And from the businesses I've heard 6 7 from, most of whom are not able to be on the call because of spring break in their places 8 9 of business right now, but from those I've 10 heard from, they think it's absurd to be 11 asked to pay back the revenue not earned by 12 Southern California Edison after they already 13 undertook the extra expense of finding ways 14 to reduce their usage. Thank you very much. 15 Thank you. ALJ TOY: Regarding your 16 comments about spring break on Catalina 17 Island and possibly holding additional public participation hearings made by counsel member 18 19 Lavelle, we will certainly take it under 2.0 consideration, but I'd also like to remind 21 people that comments can be made, as well, online, written comments, but I would like to 22 2.3 work with Edison possibly to find optimal 24 places to post notices as such so that island 25 residents can certainly make their voices

Operator, next speaker, please. ]

28 ///

heard.

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27

1	THE OPERATOR: Your line is open.
2	STATEMENT OF SPEAKER FERTIG
3	My name is Bruce Fertig. That's
4	F-e-r-t-i-g. I have been a water ratepayer
5	here on the island since 1971, which means I
6	have gone through every drought Edison has
7	experienced over that period of time, which
8	is every drought they've ever experienced.
9	One of the very predictable things
10	is: We have a drought, we're asked to
11	conserve, we're mandated to conserve, we
12	conserve, and then their revenues are down,
13	and that gets rolled into the next argument
14	that they need another rate increase.
15	So what I would like to see, and I
16	don't know if my fellow members of the
17	community will be real happy with this. But
18	I would rather see some dedication while
19	we're in mandatory reduction. And that would
20	be if we're asked to if we're mandated to
21	conserve 25 percent, maybe we look at a
22	surcharge of around 25 percent, which
23	theoretically should level out the rates for
24	the customers and Edison.
25	But it has I don't know how many
26	of these we've had at least half a dozen
27	times where we've gone into rationing, and I
28	think it would just be a better plan to

1	mitigate for it as a temporary measure along
2	with the temporary measures where we're
3	mandated to reduce our water consumption.
4	Thank you very much.
5	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Fertig.
6	Operator, next speaker.
7	THE OPERATOR: The next speaker is Jose
8	Banda. Your line is open.
9	STATEMENT OF SPEAKER BANDA
10	Thank you for taking my call. My
11	name is Jose Banda. The spelling of the last
12	name is B, as in "Bob," a-n-d-a. I am a
13	customer of Southern California Edison, and I
14	am calling because I'm concerned about the
15	rate increases that Southern California
16	Edison has been making every year.
17	This year is the water for Catalina
18	Island. Last year it was to help Southern
19	California Gas Company to increase their
20	rates then.
21	Also I'm concerned about the bond
22	that was already paid for. I believe it's
23	called "DWR." That bond was already met.
24	And according to the documentation that I
25	received from Southern California Edison,
26	that bond is now has been transferred to
27	the wildfires to pay for the wildfires.
28	My question to Southern California

1	is: Haven't you been aware of the fact that
2	they are suffering losses every year because
3	they start fires?
4	They're not considering that
5	possibly they should consider reinsuring
6	their losses as opposed to having the
7	ratepayers repaying every year for whatever
8	wildfire they start and they end up paying.
9	So those are my questions and
10	comments. Thank you for listening.
11	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Banda.
12	Operator, are there any additional
13	callers?
14	THE OPERATOR: There are no speakers at
15	this time.
16	ALJ TOY: Okay. Let's go off the
17	record for a second.
18	(Off the record.)
19	ALJ TOY: Back on the record.
20	Go ahead when you're ready,
21	Mr. Finkelstein.
22	MR. FINKELSTEIN: Thank you, Judge Toy.
23	My name is Robert Finkelstein. I am
24	an attorney who works on the staff of The
25	Utility Reform Network, which goes by the
26	acronym "TURN." TURN is a nonprofit consumer
27	advocacy organization that focuses on utility
28	issues. We represent the interests of

residential and small business customers of 1 the state's major energy utilities. And in this proceeding, we want to 3 see the Commission adopt fair and reasonable 4 rates for Edison's Catalina water service but 5 without assigning costs of the water utility 6 7 service to Edison's electric utility customers. 8 9 We're hopeful this can be achieved 10 by limiting Edison's authorized recovery to 11 amounts that are just and reasonable and 12 collecting from Catalina Island customers amounts that don't jeopardize affordability 13 14 of the utility service. And perhaps most 15 importantly developing alternative sources of 16 cost recovery such as fees charged to 17 Catalina Island visitors that might help 18 offset the impact on Catalina Island 19 residents and businesses. 2.0 Thank you very much. 21 ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Finkelstein. 22 I just wanted to cut in and -- I wish I would have done this earlier. 2.3 this meeting is being recorded. Going 24 25 forward with any comments, please be advised

Operator, are there any additional

that your comments are being electronically

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recorded.

callers? 1 THE OPERATOR: Yes. I do have a 2. 3 speaker. Next is Wayne Shishido. Your line 4 is open. STATEMENT OF SPEAKER SHISHIDO 5 6 Good afternoon. My name is Wayne 7 Shishido. Last name's spelled, S-h-i-s-h-i-d-o. I'm a ratepayer with Edison 9 and Westminster, California. I'm really 10 concerned about the rates. I'm also on a 11 fixed income. Even when I was working, I 12 never actually got raises every year 13 consistently. And, I mean, the rate 14 increases are way above what I used to get in 15 raises. 16 And I also wanted to comment that, 17 you know, all the large corporations 18 basically got a really good tax cut for the 19 last four years of 14 percent of all major 2.0 corporations. So I really have a hard time 21 seeing them asking for even more money when 22 they've saved 14 percent in tax cuts the last 2.3 four years and why the rest of us are hurting 24 for funds for just paying for things like 25 electricity. 26 So I don't think it's necessary. 27 There are -- it's hard enough to make a 2.8 living and to survive.

1	And that's it.
2	ALJ TOY: Thank you for your comments,
3	Mr. Shishido.
4	Operator, any more callers?
5	THE OPERATOR: Yes. Next speaker is
6	Daisha Woods. Your line is open.
7	STATEMENT OF SPEAKER WOODS
8	Hello, everyone. My name is Daisha
9	Woods. Last name, W-o-o-d-s. I'm calling on
10	this line because I think it's important for
11	all California citizens, not just our
12	brothers and sisters on Catalina Island, to
13	respond to SoCal Edison to be aware of what's
14	happening with our local utility.
15	I'm young first-time homeowner here
15 16	I'm young first-time homeowner here in California. I've lived in California all
16	in California. I've lived in California all
16 17	in California. I've lived in California all my life. As we know, rates have just gone up
16 17 18	in California. I've lived in California all my life. As we know, rates have just gone up and up and up and up. They continue to go up
16 17 18 19	in California. I've lived in California all my life. As we know, rates have just gone up and up and up and up. They continue to go up at really bizarre levels.
16 17 18 19 20	in California. I've lived in California all my life. As we know, rates have just gone up and up and up and up. They continue to go up at really bizarre levels.  Sometimes I could get a bill for
16 17 18 19 20 21	in California. I've lived in California all my life. As we know, rates have just gone up and up and up and up. They continue to go up at really bizarre levels.  Sometimes I could get a bill for \$75. Other months it's double that. And I
16 17 18 19 20 21	in California. I've lived in California all my life. As we know, rates have just gone up and up and up and up. They continue to go up at really bizarre levels.  Sometimes I could get a bill for \$75. Other months it's double that. And I know that changes with the seasons.
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	in California. I've lived in California all my life. As we know, rates have just gone up and up and up and up. They continue to go up at really bizarre levels.  Sometimes I could get a bill for \$75. Other months it's double that. And I know that changes with the seasons.  I'm just here to lend my voice to
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	in California. I've lived in California all my life. As we know, rates have just gone up and up and up and up. They continue to go up at really bizarre levels.  Sometimes I could get a bill for \$75. Other months it's double that. And I know that changes with the seasons.  I'm just here to lend my voice to say I'm completely opposed to these rates.
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	in California. I've lived in California all my life. As we know, rates have just gone up and up and up and up. They continue to go up at really bizarre levels.  Sometimes I could get a bill for \$75. Other months it's double that. And I know that changes with the seasons.  I'm just here to lend my voice to say I'm completely opposed to these rates.  The gentleman representative from SoCal

with no action behind it. 1 2. They say they're sensitive, but still they're going to ask for increases. 3 And going back and charging people for 4 services they've already used and then going 5 back and charging them a higher rate is 6 7 unconscionable. I personally do feel that the 8 9 utility is going a good job. I mean, there's 10 so many lights everywhere. And I will 11 usually say that in my area in Ventura 12 County, shortages or outages are quickly 13 fixed. 14 But people cannot afford this. 15 You're talking about hundreds of thousands of 16 dollars over the next five years. I like the 17 woman who spoke about possibly doing bonds or 18 If we all have to shoulder the 19 responsibility, not just our brothers and 2.0 sisters in Catalina Island, I find that to be 21 more fair with interest rates being so low. 22 And at least giving the voters an option be 2.3 heard and to voice their opinion. 24 Unfortunately this phone call is 25 happening at 1:30 on a Tuesday when I think a 26 lot of people are not paying attention. 27 That's why there's maybe little awareness about these rate hikes. 2.8

1	I just want to put the energy out
2	there. Please no more rate hikes this year.
3	We cannot afford it. I mean, the citizens
4	simply cannot afford it. We this is the
5	last thing we need. We need to maintain. We
6	need to be conservative. We need to be
7	conservative with our resources and money and
8	this is not the time to ask citizens for a
9	rate increase.
10	And I thank everybody so much for
11	their time and energy toward this. And I
12	hope everybody has a blessed day.
13	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Ms. Woods.
14	Operator, are there any additional
15	callers?
16	THE OPERATOR: The next speaker is
17	Karen McKay. Your line is open.
18	STATEMENT OF SPEAKER MCKAY
19	Thank you. My name is Karen McKay,
20	M-c-K-a-y. I'm a long-term resident of
21	Catalina Island. And one of the things we
22	have here is a lot of salt water. We do have
23	a desalination plant. However, I think the
24	technology exists that Edison could invest a
25	bit of profits to provide us with desalinated
26	water.
27	That would solve the problem over
28	the long run. It would be a more forward

1	thinking solution. Smart companies make
2	capital investments that will resolve
3	long-term problems. And I feel Edison
4	Company could look into this at least and
5	provide an answer to the residents of
6	Catalina.
7	Another thing we have a lot of is
8	sun, and our electric rates are due to be
9	increased. We have the technology, again, to
10	probably invest in solar energy and, again,
11	resolve this problem long-term and prevent
12	Catalina from facing rate increase after rate
13	increase after rate increase.
14	Thank you.
15	ALJ TOY: Operator, are there any
16	additional callers?
17	THE OPERATOR: There are no callers at
18	this time.
19	ALJ TOY: Okay. I think we will end
20	the hearing here then.
21	Thank you to everyone who
22	participated today. If you would like to
23	provide additional comment, you may submit
24	written comments on the docket card for this
25	proceeding, which can be found on the
26	Commission's website at
27	cpuc.ca.gov/a2010018comment.

1	that there's an additional public
2	participation hearing occurring today at
3	6:00 p.m.
4	For assistance for providing
5	additional comments, please contact the
6	Commission's Public Advisors Office at
7	public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov.
8	This concludes this afternoon's
9	public participation hearing. We will now be
10	off the record.
11	(Off the record.)
12	(Whereupon, at the hour of 3:03 p.m.
13	this matter having been continued to 6:00 p.m. March 30, 2021. The Commission then adjourned.)
14	Commission then adjourned.)
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25	VIRTUAL PROCEEDING
26	MARCH 30, 2021 - 6:02 P.M.
27	* * * *
28	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE TOY: We will

1	now be on the record. The Commission will
2	come to order.
3	It is Tuesday March 30th, 2021. And
4	this is the remote public participation
5	hearing for Southern California Edison Santa
6	Catalina Water Utility General Rate Case
7	Application. The Application No. is
8	20-10-018.
9	Before we begin, I'd like to inform
10	everyone that this meeting is being
11	transcribed as well as electronically
12	recorded. If you do not wish to be recorded,
13	please remove yourself from the speaker
14	queue.
15	My name is Garrett Toy, and I am the
15 16	My name is Garrett Toy, and I am the assigned administrative law judge on this
16	assigned administrative law judge on this
16 17	assigned administrative law judge on this proceeding.
16 17 18	assigned administrative law judge on this proceeding.  Martha Guzman Aceves is the assigned
16 17 18 19	assigned administrative law judge on this proceeding.  Martha Guzman Aceves is the assigned Commissioner. Advisor, Justin Fong, is here
16 17 18 19 20	assigned administrative law judge on this proceeding.  Martha Guzman Aceves is the assigned Commissioner. Advisor, Justin Fong, is here on her behalf.
16 17 18 19 20 21	assigned administrative law judge on this proceeding.  Martha Guzman Aceves is the assigned Commissioner. Advisor, Justin Fong, is here on her behalf.  Mr. Fong, would you like to make any
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	assigned administrative law judge on this proceeding.  Martha Guzman Aceves is the assigned Commissioner. Advisor, Justin Fong, is here on her behalf.  Mr. Fong, would you like to make any opening remarks?
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	assigned administrative law judge on this proceeding.  Martha Guzman Aceves is the assigned Commissioner. Advisor, Justin Fong, is here on her behalf.  Mr. Fong, would you like to make any opening remarks?  MR. FONG: Yes, I would. Thank you,
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	assigned administrative law judge on this proceeding.  Martha Guzman Aceves is the assigned Commissioner. Advisor, Justin Fong, is here on her behalf.  Mr. Fong, would you like to make any opening remarks?  MR. FONG: Yes, I would. Thank you, Judge Toy.
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	assigned administrative law judge on this proceeding.  Martha Guzman Aceves is the assigned Commissioner. Advisor, Justin Fong, is here on her behalf.  Mr. Fong, would you like to make any opening remarks?  MR. FONG: Yes, I would. Thank you, Judge Toy.  I just want to echo from our

1	during this PPH as well as listening to what
2	parties have to say regarding possible
3	increases with this proceeding.
4	Thank you.
5	ALJ TOY: Thank you.
6	The purpose of today's hearing is
7	for the Commission to hear from Santa
8	Catalina Water Utility customers and members
9	of the public about Southern California
10	Edison's application to increase rates
11	related to the Santa Catalina Water Utility.
12	If you have customer-specific
13	questions such as a question about your bill
14	or service, we encourage you to please
15	contact SCE at the following phone number for
16	help (909)824-4547.
17	I'll begin by providing some
18	background on the California Public Utilities
19	Commission and the general rate case
20	application and then turn it over to
21	Ms. Juanita Hill from the Commission's Public
22	Advisor's Office.
23	We will then hear brief statements
24	from Southern California Edison, the Public
25	Advocate's Office, The Utility Reform
26	Network, and the Joint Catalina Parties
27	before we begin the public comment.
28	If you are participating today and

would like to provide public comments, you 1 2 may do so by calling (800)857-1917 entering pass code 518-0519 and pressing star one on 3 your phone. This will alert the operator who 4 will begin to queue public speakers. 5 6 provide your name and location. 7 If you are a public official, please provide the operator of your title and 8 position in addition to your name. 9 Please refer to the slide on the 10 11 screen. We will not be answering questions 12 about the application at today's hearing. 13 Now some background on the 14 California Public Utilities Commission. 15 Public Utilities Commission is a state agency 16 that decides how much money the Santa 17 Catalina Water Utility may earn in the rates 18 that will be included on your bills for water 19 The Commission is comprised with service. 2.0 five commissioners who are appointed by the 21 governor and confirmed by the California 22 State Senate. 2.3 As the judge in this proceeding, I 24 manage the day-to-day activities of the case. 25 The five commissioners are the ones who will decide with a vote on whether to approve 26 27 Southern California Edison's request. 2.8 My role as the judge is to evaluate

1	the evidence in this proceeding and write a
2	proposed decision based on that evidence.
3	This proposed decision will then be
4	considered by the five commissioners who will
5	decide whether to adopt the proposed decision
6	from the judge or to adopt their own
7	alternate decision based on the evidence in
8	the proceeding.
9	The current schedule for this
10	proceeding indicates that the Commission will
11	vote on the decision in the first quarter of
12	2022.
13	Now I will provide a summary of
14	Southern California Edison's application.
15	This past October, Southern California Edison
16	submitted its general rate case application
17	for the Santa Catalina Water Utility seeking
18	Commission approval for their expected costs
19	for owning and operating the companies
20	through the years 2022 through 2026.
21	The expenses included in Edison's
22	rate case application cover increased costs,
23	capital expenditures, as well as
24	drought-related expenses. The
25	(Phone interruption.)
26	(Reporter clarification.)
27	ALJ TOY: Off the record.
28	(Off the record.)

ALJ TOY: Back on the record. 1 The expenses included in Edison's 3 rate case application cover increased costs of capital expenditures and drought-related 4 5 expenses. We are here today to receive 6 7 comments from the public on SCE's request to increase rates and revenue for costs related 8 9 to the Santa Catalina Water Utility. SCE has 10 currently proposed to increase rates for 11 Santa Catalina Water Utility customers as 12 well as electric utility customers. 13 The proposal would increase rates 14 for Santa Catalina Water Utility customers \$1.04 million each year from 2022 to 2026 15 16 amounting to increases of 25 percent above 17 present revenues in 2022; 20 percent in 2023 18 over proposed 2022 revenues; 17 percent in 19 2024 over proposed 2023 revenues; 14 percent 2.0 in 2025 over proposed 2024 revenue; and 13 21 percent in 2026 over 2025 revenues. 22 The proposal also asks for approval to increase SCE's electrical customer 2.3 24 surcharge revenue by \$5.80 million annually 25 for the years 2022 to 2026. This proposal would see average summer bills rise from 26 27 \$78.51 in 2019 to \$222.84 in 2027. 2.8 SCE has also put forth a proposal in

which the proposed revenue requirement is 1 2 supplied completely by Catalina Island water 3 customers resulting in a rise in revenue collections of 39.7 percent each year in 2022 4 5 through 2026 with a 50 percent drop in 2027. This proposal would see an average summer 6 7 bill increase from \$78.51 in 2019 to \$474.46 in 2026. 8 Please see the Water Division's fact 9 sheet for additional information about these 10 11 proposals. Although we would typically receive 12 13 comments in person, current conditions have 14 precluded that option. Your participation 15 today is nonetheless greatly appreciated. 16 Comments from the public help the Public 17 Utilities Commission to reach an informed decision. You may also leave written 18 19 comments on the Commission's online docket 2.0 card. 21 The commissioners and I will pay 22 close attention to the opinions expressed 2.3 during today's public hearing. The court 24 reporter will be transcribing everything that 25 is said today. If you speak, I ask that you 26 speak slowly and clearly so the court 27 reporter is able to capture everything that is said. 2.8

The written transcript of today's 1 hearing will be posted publicly on the docket 2 card for this proceeding. And the recording 3 of the audio and video will also be posted on 4 the Commission's website. 5 Written comments may be submitted at 6 7 cpuc.ca.gov/a2010018comment. As of today, we have received 243 written public comments. 8 I will now invite Ms. Juanita Hill 9 of the Commission's Public Advisor's Office 10 11 to provide guidance on participation in this 12 proceeding. 13 Ms. Hill, please proceed. 14 MS. HILL: Thank you, Judge. 15 Welcome, everyone. My name is 16 Juanita Hill, and I am a supervisor in the CPUC's Public Advisor's Office. The Public 17 18 Advisor's Office assists in advising the 19 public with participation in Commission 2.0 proceedings. 21 First I want to thank all of you for 22 participating today. As the judge and the commissioner's advisor stated, public 2.3 24 participation and input are essential to the 25 Commission's decision-making process. 26 is your opportunity to be heard to share your 27 thoughts on the application with the 2.8 administrative law judge and the

1	commissioners. If you have specific
2	questions about the application or your
3	service, please reach out to the Public
4	Advisor's Office at
5	public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov or visit the CPUC
6	or the utility's website for more
7	(Phone disruption.)
8	MS. HILL: Second, if you or anyone you
9	know is not able to make a comment today,
10	there are several other ways to become
11	involved. If you wish to find more
12	information on becoming a party, subscribing
13	to this proceeding, or submitting comments
14	via e-mail or the phone, please go to our
15	website, cpuc@ca I'm sorry. Cpuc.ca.gov
16	or e-mail the Public Advisor at
17	public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov.
18	All of this information is also on
19	the notice you received for this public
20	participation hearing. So we look forward to
21	your comments today.
22	Thank you.
23	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Ms. Hill.
24	We will now hear from some of the
25	parties in this proceeding beginning with the
26	representative from Southern California
27	
	Edison followed by the Public Advocate's

1	Mr. Douglas Snow on behalf of SCE,
2	please proceed.
3	MR. SNOW: Good evening. And thank
4	you, Judge Toy.
5	And thank you, everyone, for taking
6	time out of your busy schedule and
7	participating in this very important public
8	participation hearing.
9	My name is Doug Snow, and I'm the
10	director of the general rate case for
11	Southern California Edison Catalina Water
12	Utility.
13	It is a privilege to be here to
14	learn from you and listen to your input and
15	concerns you may have regarding the 2022
16	Catalina Water General Rate Case.
17	Edison recognizes this proceeding is
18	taking place during unprecedented times. We
19	understand that our customers and the
20	communities we serve including Catalina
21	Island are facing hardships during the
22	continuing COVID-19 pandemic and may need
23	help with their bill.
24	SCE is sensitive to rate increases
25	during this time and we're working hard to
26	continue providing safe and reliable service
27	while mitigating rate increases as much as
28	possible.

1	SCE has also put into place
2	important customer protections to help
3	customers with difficulty paying their bill.
4	If you need more information on those
5	customer protections, please go to
6	sce.com/billhelp. Or call (800)367-8851 for
7	information on money-saving programs and
8	tools.
9	Additionally Mr. Jaime Gaitan from
10	our customer service organization is in
11	attendance today to provide a contact to help
12	resolve any customer issues or questions you
13	may have.
14	Now, turning back to the general
15	rate case. We are currently in the middle of
16	what's called "discovery period" where
17	parties to the proceeding are learning more
18	about our application and cost recovery
19	proposal.
20	Next in the proceeding, other
21	interested parties including consumer
22	advocates will submit their testimony to
23	present their analysis of our application and
24	recommended adjustments to our proposal.
25	In September there will be an
26	evidentiary hearing so that the Commission
27	can continue to build its official record of
2.8	our proposal

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Now, it's easy to get caught up in the process. But at the end of the day, the general rate case is about funding projects, programs, and people, to provide you safe and reliable service and improve this service continually.

The focus of our request in this general rate case mostly includes funding to approve three things: safety, reliability, and drought resiliency.

Our request for funding covers both historical and future costs for the Catalina Water Utility including capital projects completed since our last general rate case; costs related to the recent historic drought that impacted the island; and operating expenses updating since our last general rate case as well, which we filed back in 2010; and finally forecast capital improvements.

We recognize that SCE has not submitted a general rate case for the Catalina Water Utility in several years and that we are requesting a substantial increase in revenue. But we believe our cost recovery proposal strikes a reasonable balance for recovering costs for retaining system operations and management and unplanned costs due to exceptional events.

Our GRC seeks to provide adequate 1 2 funding to continue to providing the approximately 4,000 residents and the roughly 3 1 million annual visitors to the island with 4 safe and reliable water service. 5 Ultimately the CPUC will decide the 6 7 appropriate level of funding after a thorough and rigorous legal process that includes all 8 stakeholders with different viewpoints 9 10 including consideration of the comments you 11 share today. So that brings us to paying for the 12 13 work, your bill. We are very mindful of the 14 impact these costs on your bill and have 15 developed a cost recovery proposal that 16 recognizes this. 17 Our GRC proposed to recover revenues 18 from Catalina Water customers cover the 19 normal operations, maintenance, and capital 2.0 improvements made by the utility. SCE is 21 also proposing to save through their revenue 22 increase over a five-year period to spread 2.3 out the increase and reduce the rate impact 24 in year one. 25 We proposed to recover the balance 26 of the utility cost including exceptional 27 drought and environmental costs and deferred

revenue resulting from our -- resulting from

the five-year phase in proposal from SCE's 1 2 systemwide electric customers. If SCE's cost recovery proposal is 3 approved, it will increase an average 4 residential bill by about \$32 for non-income 5 6 qualified customers; \$19 for income-qualified customers; and \$32 for commercial customers 7 in 2022. 8 The increase would be additional \$23 9 10 for non-income qualified residential 11 customers; \$24 for income-qualified customers; and \$45 for commercial customers 12 13 for each year for the years 2023 14 through 2026. 15 Alternative -- alternatively if all 16 costs were to be recovered just from Catalina 17 Water customers, again, based over the five 18 years, it would increase an average monthly 19 bill by about \$41 for non-income qualified 2.0 residential customers; \$40 for enrolled 21 income qualified customers; and \$88 for 22 commercial customers in '22. With additional 2.3 increases growing to \$123, \$108, and \$239 in 24 2026 respectively. 25 I realize the GRC is impactful for 26 many of you and the timing is not ideal. 27 the GRC is necessary to recover aging costs of historical projects and events while 2.8

1	generating the necessary revenues to continue
2	providing safe and reliable water service to
3	the island.
4	We believe our proposal strikes a
5	prudent balance between essential services we
6	provide to you and what it costs to provide
7	those services.
8	We realize any increase in bills can
9	be challenging and we have several programs,
10	tips, and tools to help reduce bill impacts
11	that may come in handy.
12	So, again, as I mentioned earlier,
13	please visit sce.com/bill help. Or call
14	(800)367-8851 for information on these
15	resources.
15 16	resources.  Again, thank you for spending some
16	Again, thank you for spending some
16 17	Again, thank you for spending some time this evening. I look forward to hearing
16 17 18	Again, thank you for spending some time this evening. I look forward to hearing your comments and your feedback.
16 17 18 19	Again, thank you for spending some time this evening. I look forward to hearing your comments and your feedback.  ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Snow.
16 17 18 19 20	Again, thank you for spending some time this evening. I look forward to hearing your comments and your feedback.  ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Snow.  We will now hear from the Public
16 17 18 19 20 21	Again, thank you for spending some time this evening. I look forward to hearing your comments and your feedback.  ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Snow.  We will now hear from the Public Advocate's Office's Mehboob Aslam.
16 17 18 19 20 21	Again, thank you for spending some time this evening. I look forward to hearing your comments and your feedback.  ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Snow.  We will now hear from the Public Advocate's Office's Mehboob Aslam.  Going off the record for a second.
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Again, thank you for spending some time this evening. I look forward to hearing your comments and your feedback.  ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Snow.  We will now hear from the Public Advocate's Office's Mehboob Aslam.  Going off the record for a second.  (Off the record.)
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Again, thank you for spending some time this evening. I look forward to hearing your comments and your feedback.  ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Snow.  We will now hear from the Public  Advocate's Office's Mehboob Aslam.  Going off the record for a second.  (Off the record.)  ALJ TOY: We'll go back on the record.
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	Again, thank you for spending some time this evening. I look forward to hearing your comments and your feedback.  ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Snow.  We will now hear from the Public  Advocate's Office's Mehboob Aslam.  Going off the record for a second.  (Off the record.)  ALJ TOY: We'll go back on the record.  Now that the presentation is ready,

1	(Phone disruption.)
2	ALJ TOY: I'm sorry. Going off the
3	record for a second.
4	(Off the record.)
5	ALJ TOY: Back on the record.
6	Please continue.
7	MR. ASLAM: Good afternoon, folks. My
8	name is Mehboob Aslam. I'm a project lead
9	for the California Public Utilities
10	Commission. We are an office called the
11	Public Advocate's Office. And today I would
12	like introduce who we are as the Public
13	Advocate's Office and what our
14	responsibilities in the application.
15	Next slide please.
16	We're also known as Cal Advocates.
17	We are indeed in an office within the CPUC
18	that represents the interests of ratepayers.
19	We are a multidisciplinary staff with
20	expertise in engineering, economics,
21	accounting, and finance.
22	Cal Advocate's Office views do not
23	necessarily reflect the Commission's views.
24	This is because we are an independent
25	function to perform in the California Public
26	Commission, and we are (indecipherable).
27	Next slide, please.
28	Our mission is to obtain the lowest

possible rate for service consistent with 1 reliable and safe service levels. As you can 3 imagine, it's a pretty tight rope to walk. We have to make sure that the utility is and reliable and they deliver reliable and safe 5 6 water. And in the meantime, we have to keep 7 the rates as low as possible. Next slide, please. 8 1 9 For this particular GRC, 10 Cal Advocates will be presenting our analysis 11 in the form of a report, and should the rate 12 increase, we will in all honesty -- should the rate increase across -- and make 13 14 recommendation on issues considered in all 15 general rate cases, including issues such as 16 capital investment, sales and rate design, 17 conservation and operating expenses, low 18 income rate assistance and tax expenses. 19 Next slide, please. At the end of 2.0 our analysis, we will be issuing a report that will be available on our website after 21 22 July 9, 2021. And our address, online 2.3 address, is www.publicadvocates.cpuc.ca.gov. 24 I will repeat that address again: 25 www.publicadvocates.cpuc.ca.gov. We are 26 looking forward to this opportunity. We are 27 looking forward to hear from our ratepayers 2.8 at this particular proceeding and appreciate

1	that.
2	ALJ TOY: Thank you.
3	We will now hear from
4	Mr. Finkelstein from TURN. Mr. Finkelstein,
5	are you ready?
6	MR. FINKELSTEIN: I am, your Honor.
7	Thank you.
8	ALJ TOY: Great.
9	MR. FINKELSTEIN: Good evening. My
10	name is Robert Finkelstein, and I'm one of
11	the attorneys for The Utility Reform Network,
12	which goes by the acronym of TURN, T-U-R-N.
13	TURN is a nonprofit consumer
14	advocacy organization that focuses on utility
15	issues. We represent the interests of
16	residential and small business customers with
17	the state's major energy utilities.
18	ALJ TOY: Hang on, Mr. Finkelstein.
19	Off the record.
20	(Off the record.)
21	ALJ TOY: Back on the record. Go
22	ahead.
23	MR. FINKELSTEIN: I'll continue. Thank
24	you, your Honor.
25	In this proceeding, we want to see
26	the Commission adopt fair and reasonable
27	rates for Edison's Catalina Water service,
28	but without assigning cost of water utility

1	service to Edison's Electric Utility
2	customers.
3	We think this can be achieved
4	through setting Edison's authorized cost
5	recovery at just and reasonable levels for
6	its water service in collecting amounts from
7	Catalina Island Water customers consistent
8	with maintaining the affordability of water
9	service. We also think that alternative
10	sources of cost recovery such as fees
11	collected from Catalina Island visitors would
12	help offset the impact on Catalina Island's
13	residents and businesses.
14	Thank you very much and we look
15	forward to hearing your comments.
16	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Finkelstein.
17	We will now hear from Joint Catalina
18	Parties. Going off the record for a second.
19	(Off the record.)
20	ALJ TOY: Back on the record.
21	Go ahead whenever you're ready, and
22	remember to give the instructions to change
23	the slides.
24	MR. BISHTON: Good evening. My name is
25	Norris Bishton. I represent the Catalina
26	Parties whose names are there on the screen:
27	The city of Avalon, where 95 percent of the
28	water ratepayers are located; Catalina Island

Chamber of Commerce, which represents almost 1 all of the 220 businesses on Catalina Island; the Santa Catalina Island Conservancy, which 3 owns 88 percent of the island and is the source of all of the nondesal water that is 5 sold by Edison; Guided Discoveries, which 6 runs three of the eight camps and represents all of the campgrounds. I forgot to add one. 9 Santa Catalina Island Company, which owns the 10 other 11 percent of the island and it has 11 many businesses on the island. 12 And, lastly, the Hamilton Cove 13 Homeowners Association, which has 13 percent 14 of the residential users on the island and 15 some-30 commercial accounts, which is about 6 16 percent of the commercial. I am not new to Catalina Island. 17 18 I've owned condos there since 1988. I'm 19 president of the Hamilton Cove Homeowners 2.0 Association since 1998. I've represented 21 various business as an attorney on the island 22 and I was for 18 years on the board of the 2.3 Santa Catalina Island Conservancy. 24 Next slide, please. Catalina 25 Parties are not representing the interest of 26 any particular member of the group. 27 not advocating one group against another. We

are solely representing the interests of all

1 the water ratepayers. 2 The Catalina Parties participated in 3 the last four-year long general rate case, and we meet on a regular basis to 4 discuss/speak with one voice concerning the 5 6 water issues on Catalina. 7 Catalina Parties are assisted by Brian Brady, a professional engineer who has 8 9 35 years of engineering and management 10 experience in both the public and private 11 sectors of Western Electric and water utilities, and early in his career was an 12 13 employee of Edison. 14 Next slide, please. Our goal is 15 what is stated by all people who ever talk 16 about what is the goal of rate regulation: 17 Adequate service and reasonable rates without 18 discrimination. According to the California 19 Supreme Court: Clean, safe, and reliable 2.0 water at reasonable rates, is what the CPUC 21 stands for. The key word there is 22 "reasonable." 2.3 Next slide, please. How does Santa 24 Catalina Water Company compare to other water 25 companies? There's over 100 water companies 26 regulated by the PUC. One way to compare 27 water companies is to divide the revenue 2.8 received by the number of customers.

Water companies report this 1 2 information to the PUC every year in an annual report. Edison is a Class C water 3 company. The following chart compares 4 5 Edison's 2019 revenue per customer with other 6 Class C water companies. 7 Next slide. This is the largest 10 of the 19 Class C water companies. 8 9 largest with 3,629,000 in revenue is Edison. 10 Edison's per-customer rate is 1,822. It is 11 184 percent higher than the average of the 12 other remaining Class C. 13 It is -- by far the island -- the 14 island ratepayers have the highest rates in 15 California, including higher rates than 16 all -- of any of the Class A or Class B water 17 utilities. They pay the highest possible 18 rates that exist in California. 19 Next slide. As the judge indicated, 2.0 there are two separate plans: The first plan 21 is to pass \$30 million in past cost to the 22 electric ratepayers. Nothing from the 2.3 This is for the past. This would future. 24 result in a year one revenue requirement of 25 \$5,314,000, which would grow by year five to 26 10 million. That would be in year one it 27 would be 269 percent higher than the average 2.8 Class C ratepayer pays now for customer --

1 percentage of customer revenue. 2. By the time of year five, it will be 3 500 percent higher than what is the average revenue per customer. Now, that's if Plan A 4 5 were to go ahead. Plan A is the passing of 30,000 -- \$30 million of cost to electric 6 7 ratepayers and is being opposed by both Cal Advocates and by TURN. 8 9 Next slide, please. Plan B, the 10 entire \$30 million would be passed on to 11 Catalina Ratepayers. The revenue requirement 12 would jump from 5,771 in year one to \$22 13 million in year five. It would result in --14 compared to other water -- Class A water 15 companies to almost a 300 percent increase in 16 the first year and 1,113 percent increase in 17 the second year -- fifth year. Pardon me. 18 In terms of rates, currently the 19 typical rate would be -- average rate would 2.0 be about \$75.84 for someone who uses just 21 2,000 gallons a month, which is not much. 22 Year one it would jump to \$110, and 2.3 by year five the monthly bill for a resident 24 using just 2,000 gallons of water would be as 25 That's astronomical. \$456. In the words of 26 TURN, "eye-popping amount of revenue." 27 You have to carefully study the --2.8 the notice that was sent out by Edison does

not reflect in any way the impact. 1 2. other things they use is an average use of 1,466 gallons per month. That's 47 gallons a 3 4 day. The capacity of a standard bathtub 5 6 is only 42 gallons, which means a four-person 7 household would use 12 gallons per person per The average residential water use in 8 9 California 85 gallons per person per day, but 10 that includes flushing toilets. 11 It's just an astronomical amount of 12 money that's totally unpayable. It would 13 destroy the entire population and businesses 14 on Catalina Island at \$456 a month for 2,000 gallons of water. 15 16 Next slide please. All right. Next slide. 17 I'm sorry. I skipped one. 18 drought affected everybody. During the 19 drought, the Catalina Water ratepayers were 2.0 urged to reduce water usage by 25 percent by 21 the governor. That was the goal. 22 reduced it by 40 percent. As a result, Edison did not receive the revenue for the 2.3 24 water they did not use. 25 Plan B requires Catalina ratepayers 26 to pay \$6 million plus 500,000 in interest 27 for water they did not use, plus an additional \$5 million in drought-related 2.8

1 expenses. 2. It is totally unreasonable and unfair to first cause people to not use 3 water, but then ask them to pay for it in the 5 future. The Catalina Parties totally oppose 6 that. 7 Next slide. The issue is water How much burden can people handle 8 9 for water. The average household income in 10 California, according to the U.S. census 11 bureau, is \$106,000. The average household 12 income on Catalina Island, according to Edison in their application, is \$61,000. 13 14 The issue is how much water burden 15 can Catalina ratepayers bear, and are there 16 other sources? All of these sources have 17 been tapped over the years. 18 Catalina Parties have been trying 19 for 10 years to try to find alternative 2.0 There are no identifiable sources. alternative services. 21 This is an 22 Investor-Owned Utility. The government 2.3 doesn't provide money normally to an 24 Investor-Owned Utility. We've had some help 25 from the -- for desal from government 26 entities, but ongoing expenses will not be 27 paid by other resources, including a fee on 2.8 the ferry service that comes here.

I appreciate everybody's attention. 1 2. This is a major, major problem for the water ratepayers on Catalina Island. Thank you for 3 your attendance. Thank you. 4 ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Bishton. 5 We will now hear from members of the 6 7 public. For those who wish to speak and have not already done so, please press star one 8 9 and the operator will add to the queue. 10 will remind you that if you participate as a 11 speaker, you will be recorded. 12 If you are not currently queued at 13 anytime during this session and you later 14 decide you would like to speak, the line will 15 remain open for you to join. Please provide 16 the operator with your name and location. Ιf 17 you are a public official, please notify the 18 operator of your title and position in 19 addition to your name. 2.0 Off the record for a second. 21 (Off the record.) 22 ALJ TOY: Back on the record. 2.3 reminder to those waiting on the phone. 24 Please speak slowly and clearly so that our 25 court reporter may accurately transcribe your 26 comments. When the operator lets you know 27 it's your turn to speak, please start your comments by providing your full name, 28

1	spelling your last name, and also providing
2	your location.
3	We will be able to hear you best if
4	you speak directly into your phone or
5	headsets. Please avoid having the phone on
6	speaker when you are providing comments.
7	Keep comments brief and concise to ensure
8	that we can hear everyone.
9	Operator, are there any public
10	officials on the line?
11	THE OPERATOR: Not at this time.
12	ALJ TOY: Thank you. Can you please
13	call the first person in the queue then.
14	THE OPERATOR: Ms. Miller.
15	STATEMENT OF SPEAKER MILLER
16	It's Susan Louise Miller,
17	M-i-l-l-e-r; Victorville.
18	I don't believe at this time we can
19	afford any increase. So, no, on the
20	increase. Thank you.
21	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Ms. Miller.
22	May we have the next caller, please,
23	Operator.
24	THE OPERATOR: The next speaker is
25	Mr. Whitehead. Your line is open.
26	STATEMENT OF SPEAKER WHITEHEAD
27	Hello. I'm Mr. Whitehead;
28	Bellflower, California.

1	And I'm calling because I don't
2	appreciate being told to save on power when
3	I from Ms. Jill C. Anderson, Senior
4	Vice-President of Customer Service,
5	occasionally sends me e-mails when there's
6	going to be power issues, and I don't
7	appreciate that because I get charged extra
8	on my bill because I don't use enough
9	electricity.
10	So, hopefully, in time more
11	infrastructure can be built because it sounds
12	like the state's transitioning to electric
13	cars. So I understand the need for a rate
14	increase, but as far as that one goes,
15	hopefully, in time we'll have sufficient
16	infrastructure for the population we've
17	already got and is possibly growing. Thank
18	you, and good day.
19	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Whitehead.
20	Can you please spell your name again for the
21	transcriber.
22	THE OPERATOR: One moment, your Honor,
23	while I open up his line.
24	Your line is open for spelling.
25	SPEAKER WHITEHEAD: W-h-i-t-e-h-e-a-d.
26	ALJ TOY: Thank you.
27	Operator, are there any other
28	callers on the line?

1	THE OPERATOR: There are no other
2	callers at this time.
3	ALJ TOY: Okay. Given that there are
4	no other callers, but we have not yet run too
5	long and people may still be coming home from
6	work, we're going to take a short break until
7	7:00 p.m., and we will come back at 7:00 to
8	see if anybody else wants to provide comments
9	off the record.
10	(Off the record.)
11	ALJ TOY: We are back on the record.
12	We just took a short break to allow
13	other people to queue in to provide public
14	comment.
15	Operator, could you please call the
16	first caller?
17	THE OPERATOR: One moment, please.
18	Thank you. Our first caller is
19	Wayne Paysen. Your line is open.
20	STATEMENT OF SPEAKER PAYSEN
21	Hi. My name is Wayne Paysen. The
22	last name is spelled, P-a-y-s-e-n. I was in
23	the afternoon session. I feel compelled to
24	underscore for all the stakeholders the
25	practical consequences of these proposals.
26	You have in Southern California
27	Edison Company with a de facto monopoly on a
28	

annual revenue. Attempting to transfer the 1 2 cost for capital investment, the operational cost, for an isolated community with little 3 long-term residents and essentially a big 4 5 (indecipherable) community. 6 Take their operational costs for 7 water utilities for that isolated region and transfer it to users throughout Southern 8 9 California including unfortunately those electrical users who can least afford the 10 11 extra burden. 12 We're talking about people who are 13 on fixed incomes because of disability or 14 because of retirement status or people on 15 very low income with no real expectation for 16 any wage increases anytime in the future. 17 These are the very same people who couldn't 18 even begin to afford to take a trip over to 19 Catalina. And yet they're being expected to 2.0 cover the utility cost for water for the 21 I think that sort of policy is not 22 only unjust, it's really unconscionable. 2.3 And, again, if the infrastructure on 2.4

And, again, if the infrastructure on the island is so unmanageable that the only alternatives are either to increase the electrical utility rates for the poorest among us throughout the Southern California Edison's region or an astronomical increase

25

26

27

1	for what few residents there are on Catalina
2	itself, then I think an entirely new model
3	needs to be considered.
4	Thank you, your Honor, for the
5	opportunity to speak today.
6	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Paysen.
7	Before we get to the next call, I'd
8	like to remind people on the line if you'd
9	like to make comments, please press star one.
10	Operator, could you please call on
11	the next speaker?
12	THE OPERATOR: The next speaker is
13	James Turner. Your line is open.
14	STATEMENT OF SPEAKER TURNER
15	Hello, your Honor. I'm bored. My
15 16	Hello, your Honor. I'm bored. My name is James Turner, T-u-r-n-e-r. I live in
16	name is James Turner, T-u-r-n-e-r. I live in
16 17	name is James Turner, T-u-r-n-e-r. I live in La Habra. It has been my experience as a
16 17 18	name is James Turner, T-u-r-n-e-r. I live in La Habra. It has been my experience as a Southern California Edison customer for
16 17 18 19	name is James Turner, T-u-r-n-e-r. I live in La Habra. It has been my experience as a Southern California Edison customer for 50 years there are continual petitions
16 17 18 19 20	name is James Turner, T-u-r-n-e-r. I live in La Habra. It has been my experience as a Southern California Edison customer for 50 years there are continual petitions regardless of the economic climate in
16 17 18 19 20 21	name is James Turner, T-u-r-n-e-r. I live in La Habra. It has been my experience as a Southern California Edison customer for 50 years there are continual petitions regardless of the economic climate in particular several recessions recently.
16 17 18 19 20 21	name is James Turner, T-u-r-n-e-r. I live in La Habra. It has been my experience as a Southern California Edison customer for 50 years there are continual petitions regardless of the economic climate in particular several recessions recently.  The company has eliminated little
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	name is James Turner, T-u-r-n-e-r. I live in La Habra. It has been my experience as a Southern California Edison customer for 50 years there are continual petitions regardless of the economic climate in particular several recessions recently.  The company has eliminated little tiers of their rates years ago. So customers
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	name is James Turner, T-u-r-n-e-r. I live in La Habra. It has been my experience as a Southern California Edison customer for 50 years there are continual petitions regardless of the economic climate in particular several recessions recently.  The company has eliminated little tiers of their rates years ago. So customers leaving the bottom tier, which is equivalent
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	name is James Turner, T-u-r-n-e-r. I live in La Habra. It has been my experience as a Southern California Edison customer for 50 years there are continual petitions regardless of the economic climate in particular several recessions recently.  The company has eliminated little tiers of their rates years ago. So customers leaving the bottom tier, which is equivalent to about running a refrigerator on a light

1 six or seven years ago. I am still charged 2. by Southern California Edison for generation and delivery fees. Even though there's power 3 coming off my roof, I'm still a victim if there's a blackout or brown out. 5 That still 6 affects me. 7 Southern California Edison has been shown to be and admitted to be at fault for 8 9 several recent California fires, which belies 10 their safety and reliability claims. 11 As long as the reparations don't 12 affect the company's bottom line, they just 13 pass those costs on to consumers. Which top 14 company officer or stockholders actually felt 15 any of those impacts? Their current dividend 16 is 5 percent. I'm sure the CFO and CEO 17 haven't taken any cuts in salary. 18 One of your speaks, Mr. Bishton, 19 noted that Catalina customers were encouraged 2.0 to reduce consumption by 25 percent. 21 fact did it by 40 percent. And the result is 22 they're going to be -- they're going to be 2.3 rewarded with the highest rates in 2.4 California. 25 We found the same thing to be true in Orange County. We were asked to cut 26 27 consumption several years ago. We did it.

And sure enough we got a rate hike for doing

1	exactly what we were asked to do.
2	Now, my last comment is why would I
3	pay for Catalina water? I visited maybe two
4	or three times. One of the proposals was to
5	have visitors pick up some of the slack, and
6	I think that's a good idea. I think if
7	Edison can't make the infrastructure work
8	there, it should be given to another company
9	that doesn't start forest fires and then
10	expect their consumers to pay for the
11	penalties. Thank you for listening. Good
12	night.
13	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Turner.
14	Operator, can we please have the
15	next speaker?
16	THE OPERATOR: The next speaker is
17	Brenton Nielson. Your line is open.
18	STATEMENT OF SPEAKER NIELSON
19	Good evening. My name is Brenton
20	Nielson, N-i-e-l-s-o-n. And I'm the site
21	manger at Camp Cherry Valley on Catalina
22	Island. I'd like to thank you all for the
23	opportunity to speak. I was able to attend
24	the public hearing earlier this morning.
25	And a little bit about us. We run a
26	camp on the west end of Catalina Island. Our
27	property sees youth groups from February
28	until November every year. Like other camps,

we have made extreme efforts to conserve 1 water over the last 10 years. We've replaced 2 our faucets, shower heads. We've put metered 3 valves in our sinks, in our showers. We've put new meters in locations so we can locate 5 6 excess usage. Through these efforts, we were able 7 to dramatically reduce our annual water 8 9 This price increase will be usage. 10 detrimental to our business in offering 11 programs for the future youth. We've not been able to have business 12 13 on our property in over a year due to 14 COVID-19. And that has put extreme financial 15 strain on our business. One thing I want to 16 talk about is that earlier in our property, 17 we purchased our own water tank to supply 18 pressure to our fire system in our camp. 19 In 2014 our well on the west end of 2.0 our island, which was located in another 21 camp, called Helen's Landing, had salt water 22 intrusion. And for weeks we had to serve our 2.3 campers bottled water. Over the next year, 24 we would continue to pump this water through 25 our water tank. So we bought our fire 26 system, our showers, sinks, toilets, sewer 27 systems, water heaters, and there's been irreversible damage to a lot of our faucets 2.8

1 and appliances. 2. On Edison's own line into our camp, I've received several calls every year from 3 hikers and boaters that the galvanized pipe 4 coming into our property is leaking. And at 5 6 this point, it is more clamps than it is 7 pipe. I understand this is not a meeting 8 to discuss these details. But I want to echo 9 10 some of the things I've heard about paying for continued safe and reliable water. 11 not aware of safe and reliable water. 12 personally had to install filters on every 13 14 building off of Edison's meter before it hits our tank because of the debris in the line. 15 16 With the other price increases to 17 the island, it did little to repair our water 18 situation. I'm concerned that adding more 19 money will do little to fix the situation we 2.0 have and what's happened in the past. Thank 21 you. 22 ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Nielson. 2.3 Operator, can you please call the 2.4 next caller? 25 THE OPERATOR: The speaker is Nadine 26 Newman. Your line is open. 27 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER NEWMAN 2.8 Hi. My name is Nadine Newman,

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N-e-w-m-a-n. I live in San Dimas,
 1
 2.
     California.
                  This is my first time listening
     to one of these meetings, and I'm just
 3
     appalled actually. I'm in 100 percent
 4
     agreement with the last three callers.
 5
 6
     what I wanted to say for myself personally is
 7
     having gone through a pandemic that the whole
     world has gone through and many of us are out
 8
 9
     of work or we've lost one or more incomes in
10
     our household and now our children are home,
11
     which is increasing utility costs and we're
12
     struggling even more to pay our bills.
13
     now we're expected to cover the cost of a
14
     Edison problem that is not our own, and I'm
15
     just appalled because we get rate increases
16
     every single year practically and we just
17
     can't afford to do it anymore with the lack
18
     of income we have right now because of the
19
     pandemic.
2.0
               And I just want to say I am not for
21
     this increase. I think that it's something
22
     that Edison needs to work on with Catalina.
2.3
     Southern California -- well, all of
     California shouldn't have to pay for the
24
25
     problems that you have with your
26
     infrastructure.
27
               Thank you very much.
2.8
                     Thank you for calling in.
           ALJ TOY:
```

1	Operator, is there any additional
2	speakers?
3	THE OPERATOR: There is a speaker. It
4	is Tania Joy Rincott. Your line is open.
5	STATEMENT OF SPEAKER RINCOTT
6	Hi. Can everybody hear me well?
7	ALJ TOY: Yes.
8	SPEAKER RINCOTT: To be honest with
9	you, the raising of the rates is totally
10	unacceptable. I have been suffering
11	ALJ TOY: I am sorry. Hang on.
12	(Crosstalk.)
13	ALJ TOY: There's a I'm not sure if
14	it's you or something else.
15	Off the record.
16	(Off the record.)
17	ALJ TOY: Back on the record.
18	Please continue.
19	SPEAKER RINCOTT: Hi. I'm Tania
20	Rincott. And live in Monrovia, California.
21	I'm this is really unacceptable. I have
22	been struggling to pay the electric bill for
23	since since February of 2019. Recently
24	I was supposedly on your CARE Act. And for
25	some reason they kept taking me off without
26	notification. And on top of that, most of us
27	are disabled in our house especially my
28	mother who needs the energy in order to use

her machine in order to keep her breathing. 1 2 And I've had moments where they shut off the power. And I have tried to cover and 3 just take money from my rent in order to 4 cover the electric bill. And it's amazing 5 6 because I keep -- the last time you guys had 7 this type of conference, I called in. And I know it's on the record for that previous 8 9 one. And they told me to speak with Mr. Aguilar. I called him since that 10 11 conference. I called him for three months straight. He didn't call me back once. 12 13 once. And that was back when my bill was 14 \$1,000. My current electric bill is almost 15 \$4,000. That is more than my rent. And 16 nobody has tried to help me. 17 I have exhausted all of the, you 18 know, so-called programs and the outside help 19 that was supposedly supposed to be offered to 2.0 And I stated that in a previous conference for this. And it started the 21 22 pandemic when you guys wanted to try to raise 2.3 the rates. 24 It's amazing to me that they're 25 still trying to raise the rates. 26 pandemic is not even over. There is people 27 that lost their jobs. I have suffered extensive pay cuts. My husband lost his job. 2.8

```
We are struggling way more than we were
 1
 2.
     before.
               And I know you guys have to agree.
 3
     $4,000 -- almost $4,000 for an electric bill
 4
     that should have been resolved -- the problem
 5
     should have been resolved a long time ago. I
 6
     kept making payments for some reason. I live
     in a -- it's under 1,100 square feet house.
 9
     And my monthly bill is almost $500 a month.
10
     And we don't have -- we only have two TVs and
11
     one AC and a refrigerator and that's it. We
12
     barely -- we keep -- programs
     (indecipherable) in order to track our
13
14
     electricity. And we have, like, a water
15
     system as well. We've done all of that to
16
     monitor our electricity.
               I've called and asked several times
17
18
     for somebody to come out and check our meter.
19
     And they kept saying it's electric and that
2.0
     they can see it. But there has to be some
21
     kind of cross wiring that would turn our
22
     electric bill into $500 -- almost $500 a
     month.
             It's ridiculous.
2.3
24
               My townhouse could not possibly put
25
     out that much electricity. It is a small
26
     itty-bitty house. And I just -- I -- I --
27
     it's -- to be honest with you, this is
     absolutely ridiculous to sit in the space
2.8
```

```
where they still try to raise the rates
 1
 2.
     especially during a pandemic.
               I am sorry. It's not -- it's not --
 3
     I apologize for my anger. I'm just really
 4
 5
     upset that nothing was resolved.
                                        I know
 6
     there's a problem with the electricity and
 7
     nobody's tried to help me.
               And last time I spoke on a
 8
 9
     conference, they said to speak to the
10
     representative, and Mr. Aquilar was supposed
11
     to be there to help us resolve this problem.
     And he just -- he didn't call me back at all.
12
13
     Nothing. I called him for three months
14
     straight. No call back. I e-mailed him too.
15
     No write back. I called his office, I've
16
     called people that were supposedly working
17
     under him saying they would reference the
18
     message.
               Nothing.
19
               So I honestly feel like Edison does
2.0
     not care about any of their customers.
21
     only care about profits and getting as much
22
     money out people that can barely pay as
2.3
     possible. And for you to raise the rates is
24
     appalling.
25
               I'm done.
26
           ALJ TOY: Ms. Tania Wilson, did I
27
     pronounce that right?
28
           MS. WILSON:
                        Tania, yes.
```

```
ALJ TOY: Please contact our Public
 1
     Advisor's Office. I don't know if you have
 2
     the Webex up.
 3
               Off the record for a second.
 4
               (Off the record.)
 5
 6
           ALJ TOY: Back on the record.
 7
     Apologies.
           THE OPERATOR:
                          The next caller is
 8
     Nicole Hohenstein.
 9
             STATEMENT OF SPEAKER HOHENSTEIN
10
11
               Hi.
                    My name is Nicole Hohenstein,
12
     H-o-h-e-n-s-t-e-i-n, and I am the general
     manager of the Holiday Inn Resort on Catalina
13
14
     Island and also the Catalina Island Inn, and
     I've been a resident on the island for the
15
16
     last six years.
17
               If we go ahead with these prices
18
     with the water, I don't know how our business
19
     will survive. We pay anywhere from eight- to
2.0
     $15,000 a month as it is right now with the
21
     water, and with the increases, I don't know
22
     how we could keep going with our water.
2.3
               I would hate to have this go back --
24
     our prices are already high enough because
25
     the cost is so high to come to the island,
26
     and now we're going to have to put the cost
27
     of the water prices on our quests who are
     already paying a good dollar amount to come
2.8
```

```
to the island. So I don't think this is
 1
 2.
     something we should be doing.
               There's bonding. There's other ways
 3
     we can look at doing this.
                                  I understand that
 4
     Edison wants to get -- make up the money that
 5
     they've lost, but they asked us to cut back
 6
 7
     and we cut back big time at the businesses,
     and now they're going to come back and hurt
 8
 9
     us.
10
               And I really think there needs to be
11
     other options or ways to do this; so it
     doesn't come out of the businesses and for
12
     the poor residential because the residents
13
14
     who are averaging $74, going to $224, I don't
15
     know how they can do that a month.
16
     going to be really hard, and I really think
17
     Edison needs to rethink this. Thank you,
18
     that's it.
19
           ALJ TOY:
                     Thank you.
2.0
               Operator, is there any additional
21
     speakers?
22
           THE OPERATOR: I show no other
2.3
     speakers.
24
           ALJ TOY: If anyone is on the line,
25
     please press star one now if you would like
26
     to make a comment.
27
               Let's go off the record for a
2.8
     second.
```

(Off the record.) 1 ALJ TOY: We will go back on the record 3 now. Operator, will you call the next 4 5 speaker. Thank you. THE OPERATOR: The next speaker is 6 7 Laura Vandezande. STATEMENT OF SPEAKER VANDEZANDE 8 9 Hello. My name is Laura Vandezande, 10 V-a-n-d-e-z-a-n-d-e. 11 Hello, your Honor, and board. you for taking my call. I'm a teacher in 12 Many of the residents here are low-13 14 to middle-income families. Some people have 15 am image of Catalina as a resort down filled 16 with fancy homes and people with money. 17 reality is many people here are working two 18 to three jobs, and they live with extended 19 families in one small apartment. 2.0 Avalon's water rates are already disproportionately high. During the drought, 21 22 we as a community came together and reduced 2.3 our water usage significantly as we were 24 asked to. It was wasn't easy. Now, we are 25 being punished so Edison can recoup their 26 cost, their lost income during that time, and 27 this is just not acceptable. 2.8 Edison, which has a monopoly on the

1	utilities on the island is proposing these
2	astronomical rate increases and individuals
3	cannot afford these increases as proposed.
4	Here in Avalon, we are a small
5	community of less than 4,000 people. We're
6	literally isolated on an island by ourselves.
7	Unlike any other community in Southern
8	California, we have no other options for our
9	water resources. Our small community simply
10	cannot bear the burden of these costs alone.
11	And I'd just appreciate you
12	considering the individuals in Avalon as make
13	a decision about this rate increase. Thank
14	you very much for your time.
15	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Ms. Vandezande.
16	Operator, please call the next
17	speaker.
18	THE OPERATOR: The next speaker is
19	Shawn Laws O'Neil. Your line is open.
20	STATEMENT OF SPEAKER LAWS O'NEIL
21	Hello, your Honor and everyone. My
22	name is Shawn Laws O'Neil, L-a-w-s
23	O-'-N-e-i-l. This is my first time attending
24	one of these meetings, and I'm appalled that
25	SCE is even proposing these increases.
26	My senior citizen mother already has
27	a bill that comes in and there's astronomical
28	increases when nothing has changed in her

2.

2.0

2.3

2.8

activity and nothing has changed in our activity. And so now to try and get even more increases from everybody just in itself is -- it's appalling to be honest with you. That on top of the fact that we are already in an economic crisis and potentially going into a recession when you have so many people out of work.

It seems to me that there should be way for SCE, just like everybody else has done, to cut into their bottom line. It might be that their -- unfortunately, their executives might not be able to get bonuses, their shareholders might have to cut back on some things to incur these costs because it's not fair to pass it on to SCE -- you know, people that have SCE in general at large across Southern California, where we are having to take on this burden that's not ours.

And also as a granddaughter and a great granddaughter of Portuguese decendents who used to work and live on Catalina Island years ago, I also understand and appreciate the previous caller that the people that actually live on that island and work on that island are not rich by my means and cannot afford to incur this burden as well.

So I don't know what the solution 1 2. Maybe as someone earlier suggested, maybe it's, you know, for people that are 3 going to the islands, maybe there's a simple, 4 some sort of tax almost like hotels have a 5 6 tax some places. So if you are buying a 7 ticket, if you're going over, then you're incurring that cost because the reality is 9 that not all of us go over to Catalina; so 10 why are we having to take on that burden. 11 Although I do appreciate wanting to 12 make sure that everybody over there, that's living over there, as well as quests over 13 14 there, have the proper electricity, proper 15 drinking water, and, obviously, clean 16 drinking water because we know that can be a 17 problem as we've seen in Flint town, Flint, 18 Michigan, and several other places. 19 But I think that having this burden 2.0 go onto the community at large and even onto 21 the individuals that live in Catalina, that's 22 unacceptable. And that SCE needs to figure 2.3 out a different plan. And in my opinion, they need to --24 25 need to take on some of these costs as their 26 own and cut into their profit margin. 27 thank you for your time. 28 ALJ TOY: Thank you, Ms. Laws O'Neil.

Operate, would you please call the 1 2. next speaker. 3 THE OPERATOR: The next speaker is Steven Miller. Your line is open. 4 5 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER MILLER 6 Hi. It's Steven Miller, 7 M-i-l-l-e-r. I live this in Victorville, California. I attended Camp Cherry Valley as 8 9 a Boy Scout 40 years ago. It's the only time 10 I've ever been to the island. It's a 11 beautiful place. I reciprocate everything 12 all the previous callers had to say. An increase at this point, especially at this 13 14 point in our economy and time, the pandemic 15 is just really out of control. 16 I'm also a solar customer. I put 17 solar on my house 12 years ago. I paid fat 18 Edison bills at the end of every year. Ι 19 economize my electricity use big time. 2.0 turn off lights. I burn candles. I don't even use my air conditioner. I put a swamp 21 cooler in, and still pay big fat checks to 22 2.3 Edison every single year, even with solar on 24 my house. 25 And, yeah, they increase rates 26 during a pandemic. Come on, man. It's out 27 of control. It's really just out of control. Edison needs to get a grip and then take some 2.8

of the losses, especially the losses that is 1 their fault for the fires and stuff like that. 3 For everybody to just have to pay for their mistakes is just wrong. 5 It's just wrong in every sense of the word. So, yeah, 6 7 I big time vote no for this increase. thank you for your time. Appreciate it. 9 ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Miller. 10 Operator, can we have next speaker. 11 THE OPERATOR: The next speaker is 12 Laurie Givens. STATEMENT OF SPEAKER GIVENS 13 14 Hi. This is Laurie Givens, 15 G-i-v-e-n-s. First, thank you for allowing 16 me to comment. It is my first time as well. I've listened to a lot of comments, and 17 18 overwhelmingly agree that, you know, these 19 proposed rate increases are beyond egregious. 2.0 I am incredibly just baffled that there is a school of thought that it would 21 even be remotely appropriate to pass this 22 financial burden on to the customers. 2.3 24 I know my family, you know, 25 ourselves, have taken great strides to, you 26 know, to be very conscientious and to reduce 27 our water consumption in particular, and to think proposing these rates, you know, is 2.8

1	something that would be acceptable is just				
2	beyond the wildest of imaginations.				
3	So I would say 100 percent adamantly				
4	that, you know, I am absolutely against this,				
5	and I do believe that SCE needs to go back				
6	and rethink this.				
7	And I think I heard earlier, you				
8	know, some of comments were, you know, it				
9	isn't just about maintaining profit margins.				
10	Sometimes you do have to take one for the				
11	team as we the customers have, and maybe it's				
12	time for SCE to consider that as well.				
13	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Ms. Givens.				
14	Operator, next speaker.				
15	THE OPERATOR: Next speaker is Bart				
16	Glass. Your line is open.				
17	STATEMENT OF SPEAKER GLASS				
18	Hi. Bart Glass. I've lived on the				
19	island about 35 years. We've all gone				
20	through the same things here: Drought,				
21	drought, drought.				
22	I know when Hamilton first started,				
23	they donated a desal plant to Edison. They				
24	gave them a million-seven-fifty to run that				
25	plant, which they never did. They let sit				
26	and rot.				
27	And then the city dumped in more				
28	money into the desal, which, finally, we're				

making desal water, but, again, we are have 1 2. no place to store it. It doesn't seem like anyone has looked ahead. 3 We were told for years to save 4 Any customers we had to the islands 5 water. 6 were told to save water. And you simply didn't have the commodity to sell it, but since you didn't have the commodity to sell 9 it, now you, supposedly, can raise the rates 10 on it because you didn't make enough money 11 during that time. My business, personally, has been 12 closed about five and a half months out of 13 14 the last year. I can't tell you how much 15 we've lost in things we've had to sell just 16 to try to stay alive. 17 Raising water rates on all of us 18 will be one of the final nails in the coffin 19 of Avalon. The amounts of money that you're 2.0 talking about here are raising two- and 21 three- and 400 percent over the years is 22 insane. 2.3 I think like anyone else if you didn't have something to sell us, we sure as 24 25 heck shouldn't be responsible for paying you 26 for something you didn't have.

think it will do to our economy and all of

I just can't tell you how much I

27

2.8

1	our businesses and our livelihoods, and those
2	that don't live here and come out and use the
3	island, will have a hard time holding on to
4	what they have. I think it all needs to be
5	reconsidered.
6	And, you know, like the last gal
7	said, Hey, you can got to take one once in a
8	while as well because we've all taken one.
9	Our businesses are all shot to hell, and we
10	can't just raise the rates on everyone.
11	That's all I've got to say. Have a nice day.
12	Thanks for listening.
13	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Glass. Would
14	you please spell your last name.
15	SPEAKER GLASS: G-l-a-s-s.
16	ALJ TOY: Thank you.
17	SPEAKER GLASS: Thank you.
18	ALJ TOY: A reminder if anyone is on
19	the line and wishes to speak, press star one.
20	Operator, would you please call up
21	the next speaker.
22	THE OPERATOR: The next speaker is
23	Brenda Claros. Your line is open.
24	STATEMENT OF SPEAKER CLAROS
25	Hi. My name is Brenda Claros. And
26	I would just like to say, just like everyone
27	has mentioned earlier, you know, voting no on
28	this, you know, increase of SoCal Edison is

just something that a lot of, your know, 1 2 residents throughout California are dealing with right now. 3 And especially during the pandemic, 4 it's not something that, you know, is useful 5 for our communities, and especially like if 6 7 there's people working from home, and also like if you have little ones at home, and, 8 9 you know, just so many things going on right 10 The utilities are already a monopoly 11 right now. And right now it's kind of hard 12 to get the residents any options. 13 As it is, we've been assigned SoCal 14 Edison to certain areas in California and 15 whatever rates they choose to bring is, you 16 know, what we end up having to pay up front. 17 And so it's hard on our community 18 and our families during the pandemic that's 19 still ongoing, and the rates are constantly 2.0 increasing, and, you know, there's no accountability or proof of those improvements 21 or what that money is being used for. 22 You know, Catalina Island is an 2.3 24 Maybe there's another way that we can 25 see how that can be resolved. And also the residents there as well 26 27 should have like a system where something

should be in place and also talking about how

2.8

```
SoCal Edison having to now, you know, go
 1
 2.
     through that and foot the bill for that
     expenses is something that is, you know, just
 3
     right now not a great timing, especially
 4
     during the pandemic.
 5
 6
               And it gets people, I know, worried
 7
     about, you know, their income, and, you know,
     right now with businesses closing and things
 8
 9
     like that, the water is our necessity for our
10
     communities.
11
               And it's just kind of getting --
12
     it's getting harder for folks to be able to
     provide that, you know, if there's
13
14
     uncertainty within their income or their
     families.
15
16
               So that's another thing that
17
     would -- just having the utility companies
18
     thinking a little bit closer about how they
19
     can use that infrastructure to fix some of
20
     those problems that can be, you know, changed
21
     within their company without having customers
22
     having to get an increase in their monthly
2.3
     bill. So that's one way that I would say,
24
     you know, something to think about. And I
25
     vote no on this rate increase.
26
               Thank you.
                                             1
27
     ///
     ///
28
```

The next speaker is Gail 1 THE OPERATOR: Fornasiere. Your line is open. STATEMENT OF SPEAKER FORNASIERE 3 Hi, thank you. My name is Gail 4 Fornasiere. I work for a nonprofit on the 5 island. And, of course, like many everyone 6 7 has suffered. I work for a museum that's been closed for almost a whole year. 8 9 And for the museum side of things, there is no way we can afford to have these 10 11 kinds of increases. We're trying to do great 12 things for the community and offer services when others -- when people can't afford to do 13 14 that especially after this pandemic and kind 15 to, kind of, raise these rates is really 16 devastating. 17 But also for me personally I've 18 lived on the island for 14 years and it's 19 always been honed in to all people who live here to conserve water and be conscious and 2.0 all that. And it's amazing what islanders 21 22 have done to do so. And then to -- it 2.3 doesn't really matter because in the end, you 24 either get punished because you've used too 25 much water, or you get punished because you 26 haven't used enough water. And so it can't 27 be both ways. It seems like on the island Edison 28

intends to make improvements and stuff, which 1 2 is great. But they tend to do it in the wrong way where they do it first and then ask 3 for these rate increases afterwards. And I -- it's just -- it's not the right way to do 5 6 things. 7 I mean, there's so much suffering especially now after the pandemic. Where I 8 9 agree with Bart Glass's comments where, you 10 know, there are businesses that have closed. 11 But if these rate increases are to be 12 imposed, then there's certainly more dire 13 things that are going to happen to some 14 businesses here on the island. And, you 15 know, we should be also looked at as a 16 benefit for the State of California and its 17 residents and all of the things we offer as 18 well. 19 So it's super unfair and they really 2.0 need to think about their business model. 21 Obviously they wanted to sell the water. But 22 since that didn't happen, now we're just 2.3 going to continue to get punished? It just 24 doesn't seem right. 25 I really hope you'll consider the 26 people who live here and provide a great 27 getaway for people all over the country and

the world.

2.8

Thanks. 1 2. ALJ TOY: Just could you please spell 3 your last name for the court reporter? SPEAKER FORNASIERE: Yes. F, as in 4 "Frank," o-r-n, as in "Nancy," a-s, as in 5 6 "Sam," i-e-r-e. 7 ALJ TOY: Great. Thank you for your 8 comments. 9 SPEAKER FORNASIERE: Thanks. 10 ALJ TOY: Operator, please call on the 11 next speaker. 12 THE OPERATOR: The next speaker is City of Avalon Council Member Lisa Lavelle. Your 13 14 line is open. 15 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER LAVELLE 16 Thank you. And thank you, Judge, 17 again for being here this evening and hearing 18 the comments both from ratepayers throughout 19 Southern California and the City of Avalon. 2.0 I did speak earlier today. I just 21 want to bring up the fact in terms of funding 22 and looking at ways that the City of Avalon 2.3 is trying to partner with Edison, we were 24 able to gain disadvantage community status. 25 And because of that, Prop 1 funded a large 26 number of projects that did not have to come 27 out of Edison's pocket. I think that that's 2.8 something that is being massively overlooked

when it comes to some of these requests for 1 rate increases in that we have tried and are 2 continuing to try and will continue to do so 3 to partner with Edison to ensure that what we're doing is making sense for everyone and 5 6 going after grant funds that we, as a city, 7 are able to access to help improve the water system on the island. 8 9 There was a \$10 million grant fund 10 from the Prop 1 moneys that just took place a 11 couple of years ago. And, again, once COVID 12 stops happening, that project will commence. 13 But there are things that I think 14 are not being addressed here and an 15 overburden on the public being put in place 16 for, again, as Ms. Fornasiere just mentioned 17 the amount of things that are being completed 18 and being paid for after the fact or you've 19 over performed at saving water and now we're 2.0 asking you to pay more again. 21 So I'll keep my comments brief this 22 time. And I thank you for your time once 23 And also just had one quick question. again.

time. And I thank you for your time once again. And also just had one quick question. I know you had mentioned that public comments can still be made on the website. I wondered how long those public comments were being accepted?

24

25

26

27

28

And also if people wanted to provide

```
public comment in writing or over the phone
 1
 2
     in Spanish, how they might do that.
               Thank you so much. And my last name
 3
     is L-a-v, as in "Victor," e-l-l-e.
 4
 5
               Thank you.
           ALJ TOY: Thank you, Council Member
 6
 7
     Lavelle.
               Off the record.
 8
 9
               (Off the record.)
10
           ALJ TOY: We'll go back on the record.
11
               Off the record we discussed with
     Council Member Lavelle various ways that the
12
13
     public can continue to provide comment on
14
     this proceeding whether it be online through
     our docket card at
15
16
     cpuc.ca.gov/a2010018comment or by contacting
17
     the Public Advocate's Offices in any language
18
     at public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov or by calling
19
     (866)849-8390.
2.0
               We also discussed that an earlier
21
     comment made by the council member about the
22
     possibility of holding public participation
2.3
     hearings and saying we were considering other
24
     methods for increasing notice of this
25
     proceeding on the island.
26
               Operator, are there any additional
27
     callers on the line?
           THE OPERATOR: I do have another
2.8
```

```
And that is Thomas Salinas with
 1
     speaker.
     Catalina Vacation Rentals. Your line is
 3
     open.
              STATEMENT OF SPEAKER SALINAS
 4
               Hi there.
                          This is Thomas.
 5
                                            Thank
     you for the hearing and for your work here.
 6
 7
     A little bit echoing on what Lisa had to say.
     You know, we really do as a community try to
 9
     not take advantage of any of our situations.
10
     And rather than that, we're trying to, kind
11
     of, cause everything -- like all boats to
12
     rise.
13
               And, you know, right now we have
14
     problems with water. We have a dual sewer
15
              I understand that that
     system.
16
     infrastructure bears on Lisa's plate and on
17
     SCE's plate. But seriously an interruption
18
     on the weekend in water service can cost the
19
     city thousands of dollars in tax revenue like
2.0
     per hour.
21
               So, you know, after coming out of
     this pretty crippling situation that I
22
2.3
     understand that everyone is going through and
     not just us, I just feel like it's a really
24
25
     tough time when we just got some
26
     interruptions recently to a really big
27
     project in town.
28
               I don't -- I just hope that we can
```

keep the community who actually lives there 1 2. and pays the bills to be able to make it work. Because sometimes a lot of the 3 community members are really stretched and have been, you know, very adversely affected 5 by a lack of tourism, which was kind of a, 6 7 you know, it kind of affects everybody because that's our only industry. So, you 8 9 know, for them to be hit right now, it's a 10 little bit -- it's a little bit of a tough 11 bill to sell. But the -- I mean, even businesses 12 13 can't really absorb the proposed increases on 14 top of everything that we've done with 15 drought migration, and we started that even 16 before the pandemic. And now this has 17 really, really strained our economy. 18 And I think maybe it is possible 19 that Edison could find a better system for 2.0 managing the island services. I'm sure that 21 all of the council members and city 22 representatives would be open to trying to 2.3 find a better way. 24 If we need to go back to putting 25 little -- what we used to do with -- as a 26 vacation rental company, we used to put in 27 little timers. Like little hourglass timers 2.8 in every shower. We say like, "Turn it over,

1	and that's how much time you have to shower."					
2	And, you know, we're using low flow					
3	and we're trying to figure all of that out.					
4	But I think it's kind of at this point, I					
5	would hope that it's on SCE's shoulders to,					
6	kind of, work with us to find a better system					
7	rather than increasing rates. Maybe					
8	increasing productivity or decreasing costs.					
9	Like, let's talk about that possibly.					
10	So I think all the appropriate					
11	channels are already established and					
12	understood. But that was my point and thank					
13	you for hearing me.					
14	ALJ TOY: Thank you, Mr. Salinas.					
15	Operator, are there any additional					
16	speakers?					
17	THE OPERATOR: There are no speakers at					
17 18	THE OPERATOR: There are no speakers at this time.					
	_					
18	this time.					
18 19	this time.  ALJ TOY: I think we have time for one					
18 19 20	this time.  ALJ TOY: I think we have time for one more caller. So if you would like to speak,					
18 19 20 21	this time.  ALJ TOY: I think we have time for one more caller. So if you would like to speak, please press star one now and keep your					
18 19 20 21 22	this time.  ALJ TOY: I think we have time for one more caller. So if you would like to speak, please press star one now and keep your comments brief.					
18 19 20 21 22 23	this time.  ALJ TOY: I think we have time for one more caller. So if you would like to speak, please press star one now and keep your comments brief.  Off the record for a second.					
18 19 20 21 22 23 24	this time.  ALJ TOY: I think we have time for one more caller. So if you would like to speak, please press star one now and keep your comments brief.  Off the record for a second.  (Off the record.)					
18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	this time.  ALJ TOY: I think we have time for one more caller. So if you would like to speak, please press star one now and keep your comments brief.  Off the record for a second.  (Off the record.)  ALJ TOY: Back on the record.					

1	callers.				
2	ALJ TOY: Okay. Thank you to everyone				
3	who participated today. We will be closing				
4	the public comment portion of this hearing.				
5	If you would like to provide				
6	additional comments, you may submit written				
7	comments on the docket card for this				
8	proceeding, which can be found on				
9	Commission's website at				
10	cpuc.ca.gov/a2010018comment.				
11	For providing additional comments,				
12	please contact the Commission's Public				
13	Advisor's Office at				
14	public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov.				
15	This concludes this evening's public				
16	participation hearing.				
17	We will now be off the record.				
18	(Whereupon, at the hour of 7:54 p.m. the Commission then adjourned.)				
19	the commission their adjourned.				
20	* * * *				
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					
26					
27					
28					

1	BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
2	OF THE
3	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
4	
5	
6	CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDING
7	I, JASON STACEY, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER
8	NO. 14092, IN AND FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO
9	HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE PAGES OF THIS TRANSCRIPT
10	PREPARED BY ME COMPRISE A FULL, TRUE, AND CORRECT
11	TRANSCRIPT OF THE TESTIMONY AND PROCEEDINGS HELD IN
12	THIS MATTER ON MARCH 30, 2021.
13	I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE
14	EVENTS OF THE MATTER OR THE OUTCOME OF THE PROCEEDING.
15	EXECUTED THIS MAY 25, 2021.
16	
17	
18	
19	
21	JASON A. S'ACEY
22	CSR NO. 14092
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	

1	BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
2	OF THE
3	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
4	
5	
6	CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDING
7	I, SHANNON ROSS, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER
8	NO. 8916, IN AND FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DO
9	HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE PAGES OF THIS TRANSCRIPT
10	PREPARED BY ME COMPRISE A FULL, TRUE, AND CORRECT
11	TRANSCRIPT OF THE TESTIMONY AND PROCEEDINGS HELD IN
12	THIS MATTER ON MARCH 30, 2021.
13	I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE
14	EVENTS OF THE MATTER OR THE OUTCOME OF THE PROCEEDING.
15	EXECUTED THIS MAY 25, 2021.
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	Sh-V2
21	SHAMNON ROSS CSR NO. 8916
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26	
27	
28	

	- <b>\$300</b> 31:12 41:5		<b>20-10-018</b> 3:11 67:8
\$	_ <b>\$32</b> 14:7,9 79:5,7	1	<b>2006</b> 46:9
<b>51,000</b> 103:14	<b>\$38.84</b> 23:5	<b>1</b> 34:21 54:3 78:4	<b>2010</b> 12:20,24 19:15
<b>1.04</b> 6:21 71:15	<b>\$4,000</b> 103:15 104:4	121:25 122:10	77:18
<b>51.2</b> 52:6	<b>\$40</b> 14:22 79:20	<b>1,100</b> 104:8	<b>2014</b> 19:16 21:1 99:19
<b>\$1.3</b> 51:26	<b>\$41</b> 14:20 79:19	<b>1,113</b> 23:27 88:16	<b>2018</b> 7:14
<b>51.4</b> 51:23	<b>\$425</b> 22:27	<b>1,466</b> 24:22 89:3	<b>2019</b> 7:5 21:9 46:10 51:13 71:27 72:7 87:5 102:23
<b>\$10</b> 30:27 122:9	<b>\$45</b> 14:14 79:12	<b>1,822</b> 21:28 87:10	
<b>\$10,049,000</b> 22:21	<b>\$456</b> 24:4 26:25,26 88:25 89:14	<b>10</b> 21:24,27 39:27 51:15 87:7,26 90:19 99:2	<b>2020</b> 21:9 37:12,14 51:11,23
<b>\$106,000</b> 90:11	<b>\$474.46</b> 7:15 72:7	<b>100</b> 86:25 101:4 114:3	<b>2021</b> 3:2,7 17:22 48:11
<b>\$106,916</b> 26:22	<b>\$5</b> 26:7 52:8 89:28	<b>11</b> 19:2 85:10	51:8 66:13,26 67:3
<b>\$108</b> 14:24 79:23	<b>\$5,045</b> 22:27	<b>12</b> 24:27 89:7 112:17	82:22
\$110 24:3 88:22 \$110.30 23:8	<b>\$5,314,000</b> 22:20 87:25	<b>13</b> 6:26 19:8 25:11 71:20 85:13	<b>2022</b> 5:27 6:7,21,23,24 7:3,11 10:17 14:10,23 70:12,20 71:15,17,18,
\$12,347,000,000	<b>\$5,771,000</b> 23:21	<b>13,000</b> 46:5	25 72:4 75:15 79:8
51:14	<b>\$5.8</b> 7:2	<b>13.3</b> 48:15	<b>2023</b> 6:23,25 14:15
<b>512.4</b> 37:15	<b>\$5.80</b> 71:24	<b>133612</b> 50:25	71:17,19 79:13
<b>123</b> 14:24 79:23	<b>\$50</b> 52:10	<b>14</b> 6:25 46:16 61:19,22	<b>2024</b> 6:25,26 71:19,20
\$13,578,000,000	<b>\$500</b> 26:5 104:9,22	71:19 119:18	<b>2025</b> 6:26,27 71:20,21
51:12	<b>\$6</b> 26:5 89:26	<b>147</b> 31:8	<b>2026</b> 6:7,21,27 7:3,11, 15 14:15,25 70:20
\$ <b>13.6</b> 37:12	<b>\$61,000</b> 90:13	<b>15</b> 35:21	71:15,21,25 72:5,8
<b>5130</b> 38:7	<b>\$61,655</b> 26:24	<b>153</b> 38:5	79:14,24
\$15 30:27	<b>\$74</b> 24:2 107:14	<b>17</b> 6:24 71:18	<b>2027</b> 7:5,12 71:27 72:5
<b>\$15,000</b> 106:20		<b>18</b> 19:20 33:9 85:22	<b>22</b> 23:22 79:22
<b>\$19</b> 14:8 79:6	<b>\$75</b> 62:21	<b>184</b> 22:1 87:11	<b>220</b> 18:18 85:2
<b>\$2,668</b> 22:25	<b>\$75.84</b> 88:20	<b>19</b> 21:25 87:8	<b>23rd</b> 33:19
<b>\$20,000</b> 46:22	<b>\$78</b> 38:6	<b>190</b> 19:8 25:10	<b>243</b> 8:12 73:8
<b>\$200</b> 31:12	<b>\$78.51</b> 7:5,14 71:27 72:7	<b>1971</b> 57:5	<b>245</b> 53:28
<b>\$208.67</b> 23:9	<b>\$83</b> 21:28	<b>1976</b> 28:26	<b>25</b> 6:22 26:1 57:21,22 71:16 89:20 97:20
<b>\$22</b> 88:12	<b>\$871</b> 51:24	<b>1988</b> 19:18 85:18	<b>25th</b> 51:8
<b>\$222</b> 22:25	<b>\$88</b> 14:22 79:21	<b>1998</b> 19:20 85:20	<b>269</b> 23:2 87:27
<b>\$222.84</b> 7:5 71:27	<b>\$942</b> 37:14	<b>1:30</b> 3:2 63:25	<b>292</b> 23:25
<b>5224</b> 107:14	<b>\$992</b> 21:27		<b>434</b> 23.23
<b>\$23</b> 14:12 79:9	•		3
<b>\$239</b> 14:24 79:23	0	<b>2,000</b> 23:7 24:5 88:21,	
<b>\$24</b> 14:13 79:11	<b>0.09545</b> 54:1	24 89:14	<b>3,629,000</b> 87:9
<b>\$30</b> 87:21 88:6,10	<b>0.13095</b> 53:27	<b>20</b> 6:23 25:12 39:27 71:17	<b>30</b> 3:2 22:14 23:12 25:17 66:13,26

Index: \$1,000..30

<b>30,000</b> 88:6	<b>6:00</b> 66:3,13	accepted 122:27	administrative 3:4,12 9:4 66:28 67:16 73:28
<b>300</b> 88:15	<b>6:02</b> 66:26	access 122:7	admitted 97:8
<b>30th</b> 3:6 67:3	<b></b>	accountability 47:24	
<b>31.8</b> 48:12	7	48:23 49:4 117:21 <b>Accountant</b> 50:23	<b>adopt</b> 5:21,22 60:4 70:5,6 83:26
<b>35</b> 20:9 25:17 86:9	<b>70</b> 33:4 43:2 44:12 54:2		advantage 124:9
114:19	<b>76</b> 29:25	<b>accounting</b> 16:16 81:21	adversely 125:5
<b>37</b> 52:17 <b>383</b> 28:24	<b>7:00</b> 94:7	accounts 85:15	advised 22:5 60:25
		accurately 27:26 91:25	advising 8:22 73:18
<b>39.7</b> 7:11 72:4	8	<b>Aceves</b> 3:13 67:18	advisor 3:14 8:27 9:19
<b>3:03</b> 66:12	<b>800 367-8851</b> 11:8	achieved 60:9 84:3	67:19 73:23 74:16
4	15:13 76:6 80:14	acronym 59:26 83:12	<b>Advisor's</b> 4:12 8:14,
	<b>800 857-1917</b> 4:19	Act 20:19 102:24	21,22 9:8 68:22 73:10, 17,18 74:4 106:2
<b>4,000</b> 13:5 78:3 109:5	69:2	acting 50:26	Advisors 66:6
<b>40</b> 25:28 26:3 42:22	<b>800,000</b> 46:12	•	
44:5 89:22 97:21 112:9	<b>85</b> 25:1 89:9	action 29:6 63:1	advocacy 59:27 83:14
<b>400</b> 31:8 115:21	<b>866 849-8390</b> 123:19	<b>activities</b> 5:12 52:6 69:24	advocate 16:22 32:10
<b>42</b> 24:26 89:6	<b>88</b> 18:22 85:4	activity 110:1,2	<b>Advocate's</b> 68:25 74:27 80:21,26 81:11,
<b>47</b> 24:24 89:3		actual 35:27	13,22 123:17
	9	adamantly 114:3	advocates 4:14 10:1
5	<b>9</b> 17:22 82:22	add 27:15 55:7 85:8	11:24 15:20 16:3,9,10 17:4 23:15 76:22 81:16
<b>5</b> 97:16	<b>909 824-4547</b> 4:6	91:9	82:10 88:8
<b>5,771</b> 88:12	68:16	adding 29:27 100:18	Advocates' 16:17
<b>50</b> 7:12 35:28 72:5	<b>95</b> 18:16 84:27	addition 4:25 27:23	advocating 85:27
96:19		69:9 91:19	affect 34:17 97:12
<b>500</b> 31:8 52:23,24,25 88:3	A	<b>additional</b> 7:17 14:11 26:7 32:28 33:14,26	affected 89:18 125:5
<b>500,000</b> 89:26	A-F-F-O-L-D-E-R	34:23 46:22 47:4 56:17	affects 97:6 125:7
<b>518-0519</b> 69:3	34:13	59:12 60:28 64:14	Affolder 34:9,10,11
	<b>a-l-t</b> 37:6	65:16,23 66:1,5 72:10 79:9,22 89:28 102:1	36:24 55:16
<b>518519</b> 4:20	<b>a-n-d-a</b> 58:12	107:20 123:26 126:15,	<b>afford</b> 31:12 32:25 36:8
<b>55</b> 53:23	<b>a-s</b> 121:5	26,28	63:14 64:3,4 92:19 95:10,18 101:17 109:3
<b>590</b> 23:3	absolutely 104:28 114:4	Additionally 11:11 76:9	110:28 119:10,13
6	<b>absorb</b> 55:10 125:13	address 82:22,23,24	affordability 60:13 84:8
<b>6</b> 19:9 85:15	absurd 56:10	addressed 122:14	affordable 37:26
<b>60</b> 46:15	<b>AC</b> 104:11	adequate 13:3 20:16	afternoon 15:28 37:4
<b>60,000</b> 46:6	accept 31:22	78:1 86:17	61:6 80:27 81:7 94:23
<b>600</b> 31:8	acceptable 108:27	adjourned 66:13	afternoon's 66:8
<b>64</b> 52:17	114:1	adjustments 11:26 76:24	agencies 55:25
-			

Index: 30,000..agencies

agency 5:3 69:15 aging 14:28 79:27 agree 54:6 104:3 113:18 120:9 agreement 101:5 **Aguilar** 103:10 105:10 ahead 28:17 59:20 83:22 84:21 88:5 106:17 115:3 aid 37:24 air 112:21 alert 4:21 69:4 alive 115:16 **ALJ** 3:23 9:25 10:6 15:18,23,26 18:2,8 24:8,11 26:15 27:2,11 28:10,17 30:4 34:1,6 36:24 38:16 42:4 43:12, 20 44:23 45:18,21 47:10 49:7 50:14 53:15 54:20 56:15 58:5 59:11, 16,19 60:21 62:2 64:13 65:15,19 68:5 70:27 71:1 74:23 80:19,24 81:2,5 83:2,8,18,21 84:16,20 91:5,22 92:12, 21 93:19,26 94:3,11 96:6 98:13 100:22 101:28 102:7,11,13,17 105:26 106:1,6 107:19, 24 108:2 109:15 111:28 113:9 114:13 116:13, 16,18 121:2,7,10 123:6, 10 126:14,19,25 **Allen** 45:2,7,8 allocations 56:5 allotment 29:3,4,7,10, 11,20 30:1 allowing 29:8 53:13 113:15 alternate 5:23 70:7 alternative 60:15 79:15 84:9 90:19,21 alternatively 14:16 79:15

alternatives 95:25

amazing 103:5,24 119:21 American 46:2 amount 22:18 26:19 32:14 88:26 89:11 106:28 122:17 **amounting** 6:22 71:16 amounts 60:11,13 84:6 115:19 analysis 11:25 17:10 76:23 82:10,20 analyzing 17:6 Anderson 93:3 Angeles 46:1 anger 105:4 Ann 55:4 **Annie** 42:7,10 43:18, 20,21,22 annual 13:6 21:5,6,26 78:4 87:3 95:1 99:8 annually 7:2 26:24 71:24 answering 4:27 69:11 anticipate 46:21 **anymore** 101:17 **anytime** 91:13 95:16 apartment 108:19 apartments 40:25 Apologies 106:7 apologize 105:4 appalled 101:4,15 109:24 appalling 105:24 110:4 applaud 49:14 appliances 100:1 application 3:10,28 4:10,28 6:1,3,9 9:3,7 11:20,25 17:7 67:7 68:10,20 69:12 70:14,

16.22 71:3 73:27 74:2

76:18,23 81:14 90:13

appointed 5:8 69:20 appreciated 7:22 72:15 approval 6:5,28 70:18 71:22 **approve** 5:14 29:6 69:26 77:9 approved 14:6 31:24 79:4 approves 36:12 approximate 51:15 approximately 13:5 46:5 78:3 **April** 33:11 area 38:2 41:16 47:1 63:11 areas 117:14 arque 52:27 argument 57:13 **asks** 6:28 71:22 **Aslam** 15:20,22,27,28 16:1 18:2 80:21,27,28 81:7,8 assessing 55:21 assets 52:8 53:3 **assigned** 3:12,14 67:16,18 117:13 assigning 60:6 83:28 assist 44:20 assistance 17:17 66:4 82:18 assisted 20:7 86:7 **assists** 8:22 73:18 association 19:6,7,12, 20 85:13,20 assumed 29:26 **assumes** 23:12 assuming 24:21 assure 55:19 astronomical 88:25 89:11 95:28 109:2,27

**ATM** 48:28 Attempting 95:1 attend 98:23 attendance 11:13 76:11 91:4 attended 112:8 attending 15:16 18:11 109:23 attention 7:27 27:1 63:26 72:22 91:1 attorney 59:24 85:21 attorneys 83:11 audio 73:4 **Authority** 42:20 44:4 55:2 authorized 60:10 84:4 **Avalon** 18:16 25:20 28:24 31:2,6,27 34:12 42:11,14,18,21 43:23, 25 44:1,5 84:27 108:13 109:4,12 115:19 121:13,19,22 Avalon's 108:20 average 7:4,13 14:6,20 21:24,26 23:1 24:21,28 26:20,22 30:24,28 31:1 71:26 72:6 79:4,18 87:11,27 88:3,19 89:2,8 90:9,11 **averages** 25:9,22 averaging 107:14 avoid 28:6 92:5 aware 36:13 48:16 59:1 62:13 100:12 awareness 63:27 В back 11:16 12:19 15:26 20:28 24:11 28:10 31:23 32:5 36:1 53:1

56:11 59:19 63:4,6 71:1

76:14 77:18 80:24 81:5

83:21 84:20 91:22 94:7,

11 102:17 103:12,13

Index: agency..back

105:12,14,15 106:6,23 107:6,7,8 108:2 110:14 114:5 123:10 125:24 126:25 background 4:8 5:1 68:18 69:13 **baffled** 113:20 **balance** 12:27 13:27 15:5 17:1 77:25 78:25 80:5 **Banda** 58:8,9,11 59:11 bandwidth 55:14 barely 104:12 105:22 **Bart** 114:15,18 120:9 based 5:18,23 70:2,7 79:17 basically 61:18 basis 30:21 86:4 bathroom 29:27 bathtub 24:25 89:5 battle 20:2 **Bay** 46:2 bear 90:15 109:10 bears 124:16 beautiful 112:11 **begin** 4:7,16 42:1 67:9 68:17,27 69:5 95:18 beginning 9:27 33:11 46:8 74:25 behalf 3:15 10:3 16:22 45:2 67:20 75:1 **belies** 97:9 Bellflower 92:28 **Ben** 45:2.7 **benefit** 120:16 benefits 39:1 **bet** 49:1 **bought** 99:25 **big** 95:4 107:7 112:19,

22 113:7 124:26

**bill** 4:3 7:4,14 11:5

13:15,17 14:7,24 15:10

23:4 24:2 36:10 37:26 48:9,12,18 53:25 62:20 68:13 72:7 75:23 76:3 78:13,14 79:5,19 80:10 88:23 93:8 102:22 103:5,13,14 104:4,9,22 109:27 118:2,23 125:11 billing 40:1 **billion** 6:21 37:13,15 51:23,26 52:6,9,10 billions 54:8,12,13 94:28 **bills** 5:6 10:25 15:8 69:18 71:26 80:8 101:12 112:18 125:2 **Bishton** 18:4.6.9 24:12 26:15,17 27:2 55:5 84:24,25 91:5 97:18 bit 46:4 53:2,7 64:25 98:25 118:18 124:7 125:10 bizarre 62:19 blackout 97:5 blessed 64:12 block 29:18 52:2,13 85:22 108:11

**board** 19:21 32:2 50:20 **board's** 51:19 boaters 100:4 boats 55:21 124:11 **Bob** 58:12 bond 58:21,23,26 bonding 107:3

**bonds** 39:27 63:17 **bonuses** 110:13 bored 96:15 **bottled** 56:3 99:23 **bottom** 28:27 96:24 97:12 110:11

**boy** 38:25 46:1,18 112:9

**Brady** 20:8 22:5 86:8

break 56:8,16 94:6,12 breathing 103:1 **Brenda** 116:23,25 **Brenton** 98:17,19

briefly 16:3 **bring** 117:15 121:21

**Brian** 20:8 86:8

bringing 54:13 **brings** 13:14 78:12

**brown** 97:5

brothers 62:12 63:19

build 12:1 76:27 building 100:14

**Bruce** 57:3

**built** 28:25 29:25 93:11

**bulb** 96:26

**burden** 26:19 45:15 90:8,14 95:11 109:10 110:19,28 111:10,19 113:23

bureau 26:22 54:28 90:11

burn 112:20 busiest 33:8

**business** 19:3 31:10 32:4 34:12 35:8 36:21 41:1 55:1 56:9 60:1 83:16 85:21 99:10,12, 15 106:18 115:12 120:20

businesses 18:19 19:23 32:16 36:17,21 38:11 41:8 45:11 55:13 56:1,6 60:19 84:13 85:2,11 89:13 107:7,12 116:1,9 118:8 120:10, 14 125:12

busy 10:9 75:6 **buy** 35:28

**buying** 56:3 111:6

C

Index: background..calling

C-O-L-T-R-I-N 50:22

**Cal** 16:9,17 17:4 32:10 81:16,22 82:10 88:8

California 3:8,27 4:8, 13 5:2,9,15 6:1,2 9:28 10:14 16:2,8,11,20 20:14,18 21:15 22:10 23:14 25:1 26:21 37:9 38:2,10 41:22 42:16,23 43:28 44:7 46:28 47:18 49:17 50:25 51:3,11 52:16 53:1,23 54:7 56:12 58:13,15,19,25, 28 61:9 62:11,16 67:5 68:9,18,24 69:14,21,27 70:14,15 74:26 75:11 81:9,25 86:18 87:15,18 89:9 90:10 92:28 94:26 95:9,27 96:18 97:2,7,9, 24 101:2,23,24 102:20 109:8 110:18 112:8 117:2,14 120:16 121:19

California's 52:20

call 11:8 15:13 22:11 28:18 31:5 34:7 36:25 38:17 43:16 44:27 47:18 53:13 55:19 56:8 58:10 63:24 76:6 80:13 92:13 94:15 96:7,10 100:23 103:12 105:12. 14 108:4.12 109:16 112:1 116:20 121:10

called 17:5 49:15 58:23 76:16 81:10 99:21 103:7,10,11 104:17 105:13,15,16

caller 34:7 36:26 38:18 42:6 43:17 44:28 45:22 47:11 49:8 50:15 54:21 55:18 92:22 94:16,18 100:24 106:8 110:25 126:20

**callers** 59:13 61:1 62:4 64:15 65:16,17 93:28 94:2,4 101:5 112:12 123:27 126:27

calling 4:19 21:21 58:14 62:9 69:2 93:1 101:28 123:18

<b>calls</b> 27:7 100:3
<b>camp</b> 18:27 46:2 98:21, 26 99:18,21 100:2 112:8
camper 46:7
campers 99:23
campgrounds 18:26 85:8
<b>camps</b> 85:7 98:28
candles 112:20
capability 48:17
<b>capacity</b> 24:25 47:7 89:5
<b>capital</b> 6:10 12:15,20 13:21 17:14 49:19 50:4 65:2 70:23 71:4 77:13, 19 78:19 82:16 95:2
<b>capture</b> 8:5 72:27
<b>card</b> 7:26 8:7,10 65:24 72:20 73:3 123:15
<b>care</b> 37:25 54:14 102:24 105:20,21
career 20:13 86:12
carefully 88:27
<b>cars</b> 93:13
case 3:10 4:9 5:12 6:3,9 10:13,18 11:17 12:5,10, 16,19,22 19:15,27 22:17 25:25 30:14,16 32:10 55:6 67:6 68:19 69:24 70:16,22 71:3 75:10,16 76:15 77:3,8, 14,18,21 86:3
<b>cases</b> 17:13 43:1 44:12 82:15
<b>cash</b> 52:5
<b>Catalina</b> 3:9,26 4:1,15 5:5 6:4,15,17,20 7:6,9 10:2,17,22 12:14,23 13:20 17:11 18:4,14,15,

17,21,28 19:2,14,18,21,

23,27,28 20:6 22:3

25:3,9,27 26:1,4,9,23,

26 30:15 33:20 36:15

41:4,7 42:11 43:23 46:3

39:6,14 40:9,14,22

on Hearing 2021
54:15,27 55:1,14 56:1, 16 58:17 60:5,12,17,18 62:12 63:20 64:21 65:6, 12 67:6 68:8,11,26 69:17 70:17 71:9,11,14 72:2 74:28 75:11,16,20 77:12,22 78:18 79:16 83:27 84:7,11,12,17,25, 28 85:2,3,9,17,23,24 86:2,6,7,24 88:11 89:14,19,25 90:5,12,15, 18 91:3 95:19 96:1 97:19 98:3,21,26 101:22 106:13,14 108:15 110:23 111:9,21 117:23 124:2
caught 12:3 77:1
caused 54:11
caution 32:9
census 26:22 90:10
<b>CEO</b> 45:28 54:27 97:16
Certificate 50:25
Certified 50:23
<b>CFO</b> 97:16
<b>challenging</b> 15:9 31:22 80:9
<b>Chamber</b> 18:17 54:28 85:1
chance 23:18
change 48:17 84:22
<b>changed</b> 109:28 110:1 118:20
channels 126:11
charge 32:5,25 53:28
<b>charged</b> 60:16 93:7 97:1
charging 32:11 63:4,6
charitable 54:17
charity 54:16
chart 87:4
<b>check</b> 104:18
checks 112:22
Charm, 00:21 112:0

```
children 101:10
                          combining 39:11
choose 117:15
                          commence 54:28
                            122:12
circumstances 18:13
                          commend 24:12
cited 53:11
                          comment 4:16.18 9:13
citizen 109:26
                           28:7 32:28 33:15,24,26
citizens 31:26,27 32:20
                           37:7 41:14 49:5,7 61:16
 62:11 64:3,8
                           65:23 68:27 74:9 94:14
                           98:2 107:26 113:16
city 18:16 29:1 30:10
                           123:1,13,21
 31:6 42:11,13,17 43:23,
                          commenters 27:10
 25 44:1 84:27 114:27
 121:12,19,22 122:6
                          comments 6:13 7:19,
 124:19 125:21
                           22,25 8:9,12 9:17,24
claim 51:26
                           13:13 15:17 27:27 28:1,
                           11 55:17 56:16,21,22
claims 97:10
                           59:10 60:25,26 62:2
clamoring 41:27
                           65:24 66:5 67:28 69:1
                           71:7 72:13,16,19 73:6,8
clamps 100:6
                           74:13,21 78:10 80:18
clarification 70:26
                           84:15 91:26,28 92:6,7
                           94:8 96:9 113:17 114:8
Claros 116:23,24,25
                           120:9 121:8,18 122:21,
                           24,26 126:22
class 21:16,25,27 22:2,
 6,7 23:1,26,28 46:26
                          Commerce 18:18 85:1
 87:3,6,8,12,16,28 88:14
                          commercial 14:10,14,
classes 18:15 21:11
                           23 18:18,20 19:10 20:2
                           79:7,12,22 85:15,16
clean 20:21 86:19
 111:15
                          Commission 3:5,25
                           4:9 5:2,3,7,25 6:5 7:23
clear 29:19 50:26
                           8:23 11:28 13:8 16:6,
clearing 29:7 30:1
                           12,19,21 20:20 21:8
                           36:12 41:22 42:13
climate 96:20
                           43:24 51:8 53:9 60:4
close 7:27 52:26 72:22
                           66:13 67:1 68:7,19
                           69:14,15,19 70:10,18
closed 115:13 119:8
                           72:17 73:19 76:26
 120:10
                           81:10,26 83:26
closer 118:18
                          Commission's 4:11
closing 118:8
                           7:26 8:14,28 65:26 66:6
                           68:21 72:19 73:5,10,25
code 4:20 69:3
                           81:23
coffin 115:18
                          Commissioner 3:14
Coleson 50:17
                           9:5 67:19
collect 22:18,19
                          commissioner's 8:26
                           67:27 73:23
collected 84:11
                          commissioners 5:8,
collecting 60:12 84:6
                            13,20 7:27 43:6 44:18
collections 7:10 72:4
                           69:20,25 70:4 72:21
                           74:1
Coltrin 50:18.21 53:15
```

Index: calls..commissioners

Cherry 98:21 112:8

voi i naien so,			
commodity 115:7,8	conditioner 112:21	contact 4:5 11:13 66:5	12,21 125:21
communities 10:22	<b>conditions</b> 7:20 72:13	68:15 76:11 106:1	counsel 56:18
54:18 75:20 117:6 118:10	condominium 19:7	contacting 123:16	counselor 38:13
<b>community</b> 32:18,24	condominiums 19:17	continual 47:20 96:19	<b>count</b> 27:6
35:14 42:19 44:2 49:26	<b>condos</b> 85:18	continually 77:6	<b>country</b> 37:11 120:27
57:17 95:3,5 108:22 109:5,7,9 111:20 117:17 119:12 121:24	<b>conference</b> 103:7,11, 21 105:9	continue 10:28 12:1 13:4 15:2 27:5 62:18 75:26 76:27 78:2 80:1 81:6 83:23 99:24 102:18 120:23 122:3 123:13	<b>County</b> 42:20 44:3 46:1 63:12 97:26
124:8 125:1,4	<b>confirmed</b> 5:9 69:21		<b>couple</b> 51:18 55:7
companies 21:2,7,12,	conjunction 31:19,20		122:11
14,17 36:15 41:12 52:25 65:1 70:19 86:25,	connections 19:10	continued 66:12	<b>court</b> 8:1 20:18 27:26 34:2 72:23,26 86:19 91:25 121:3
27 87:1,6,8 88:15	conscientious 113:26	100:11	
118:17	conscious 119:20	continuing 10:23	<b>Cove</b> 19:5,11,19 25:11,
<b>company</b> 6:6 19:1 21:16 34:24 35:2,11	consequences 94:25	75:22 122:3	17 85:12,19
36:2,3 38:3 47:27 48:24	Conservancy 18:21	continuously 12:8	<b>cover</b> 6:9 13:20 70:22 71:3 78:18 95:20
52:5,11,23 58:19 62:26 65:4 85:9 86:24 87:4	19:22 85:3,23	contrary 32:18	101:13 103:3,5
94:27 96:22 97:14 98:8	conservation 17:16 82:17	contrast 39:6	covers 12:13 77:11
118:21 125:26	conservative 64:6,7	<b>control</b> 48:20 112:15,	<b>COVID</b> 35:16 122:11
company's 52:3 97:12	conserve 31:28 57:11,	<b>cooler</b> 112:22	<b>COVID-19</b> 10:24 33:2
compare 21:2 86:24,26	12,21 99:1 119:20	corporations 61:17,20	45:13 75:22 99:14
<b>compared</b> 51:13,23 88:14	conserved 32:3	correctly 17:5	<b>CPUC</b> 3:20 9:9 16:11 42:12 43:24 74:5 78:6
compares 87:4	considerate 32:23	<b>cost</b> 12:14 13:28 14:1,5	81:17 86:20
comparison 23:24	consideration 13:12	22:14,15 30:19 31:20,	<b>CPUC's</b> 8:21 73:17
compelled 94:23	42:15 43:26 51:20 56:20 78:10	21 41:19 47:28 49:19 50:4 54:3 60:16 76:18 77:24 78:15,26 79:3 83:28 84:4,10 87:21 88:6 95:2,3,20 101:13	cpuc.ca.gov 9:18
competing 55:23	considered 5:20 17:12		74:15 cpuc.ca.gov/ a2010018comment
competitive 41:11	29:26 70:4 82:14 96:3		
completed 12:15 77:14 122:17	<b>consistent</b> 16:27 82:1 84:7	106:25,26 108:26 111:8 124:18	123:16
completely 7:9 37:27	consistently 61:13	cost-of-living 45:15	cpuc.ca.gov/ a2010018comment.
62:24 72:2	consolidated 51:9	cost-recovery 11:20	8:11 65:27 73:7
<b>comprised</b> 5:7 69:19	constantly 39:19,20	12:26 13:17	<b>cpuc@ca</b> 74:15
concern 47:19 49:17	117:19	costs 6:5,9,14 12:16,28 13:1,16 14:16,28 15:6 26:8 48:1,7 49:27 60:6 70:18,22 71:3,8 77:12, 15,26,27 78:14,27 79:16,27 80:6 95:6 97:13 101:11 109:10 110:15 111:25 126:8	crippling 124:22
concerned 26:18	construct 29:1 consumer 11:23 16:5 59:26 76:21 83:13 consumers 97:13 98:10		<b>crisis</b> 45:13 110:6
58:14,21 61:10 100:18			cross 104:21
<b>concerns</b> 10:16 32:11 45:9 75:15			Crosstalk 102:12
concise 28:12 92:7			<b>Cs</b> 21:25
conclude 29:23 37:28	consumption 46:11	<b>Cottonwood</b> 34:28	<b>current</b> 5:24 7:19 22:28
concludes 66:8	58:3 96:27 97:20,27 113:27	council 30:7,10 46:1,	70:9 72:13 97:15 103:14
5511514466 00.0	1 10.Z <i>1</i>	17 55:3 121:13 123:6,	

Index: customer..dysfunctional

**customer** 7:1 11:4,12, 14 21:3,18,27 22:2,6,25 23:6,25 49:16 58:13 71:23 76:2,5,10,12 87:5,28 88:1,4 93:4 96:18 112:16

customer-specific 4:2 68:12

customers 3:26 6:18, 19,20 7:6,10 10:21 11:4,6 13:20 14:4,8,9, 10,13,14,17,18,21,22, 23 16:23 21:4 23:1,26, 28 36:8 38:4 40:3 46:24 49:15,21 57:24 60:1,8, 12 68:8 71:11,12,14 72:3 75:19 76:3 78:18 79:2,6,7,11,12,17,20, 21,22 83:16 84:2,7 86:28 96:23 97:19 105:20 113:23 114:11 115:5 118:21

**cut** 32:5,6 60:22 61:18 97:26 107:6,7 110:11, 14 111:26

**cuts** 61:22 97:17 103:28

cutting 39:22

## D

dad's 30:19

Daisha 62:6,8
damage 99:28
damaged 32:2 50:10
darn 52:26
data 17:7
day 12:4 24:24,28 25:1
38:15 64:12 77:2 89:4,
8,9 93:18 116:11
day-to-day 5:12 69:24
days 25:18 33:19
de 94:27

dealing 117:2

debris 100:15

death 36:14

decendents 110:22 decide 5:14,21 13:9 27:18 69:26 70:5 78:6 91:14 decides 5:4 69:16 decision 5:18,19,21, 23,26 7:24 70:2,3,5,7, 11 72:18 109:13 decision-making 9:1 73:25 decisions 20:4 41:27 decrease 39:12 40:2.4 51:25 decreasing 40:20 126:8 decrepit 40:12 dedication 57:18 deemed 42:18 44:2 deep 45:9 deferred 14:1 78:27 deliver 82:5 delivery 97:3 depending 31:9 deprive 34:25 35:8,12 derived 7:4 desal 90:25 114:23.28 115:1 desaled 18:24 desalinated 64:25 desalination 64:23 design 17:15 82:16

desaled 18:24
desalinated 64:25
desalination 64:23
design 17:15 82:16
destination 42:25
destroy 34:24 35:11
89:13
destroyed 36:11
destroying 36:20
details 17:9 30:14 55:7
100:9
determine 21:17
determining 43:7
44:19

detrimental 42:15
43:27 99:10
devastating 119:16
developed 13:17 78:15
developing 60:15
Development 42:20
44:4
Diana 38:19,23
difficult 25:9 36:6
62:27
difficulty 11:5 36:9,10
76:3
Dimas 101:1
dire 54:18 120:12

directly 28:5 92:4 director 10:13 75:10 dirt 28:28 disability 95:13 disabled 49:24 102:27 disadvantage 121:24 disadvantaged 42:18 44:2 disasters 39:25

85:6 discovery 11:18 17:6, 20 76:16 discrimination 20:17

Discoveries 18:25

86:18
discuss 30:18 100:9
discuss/speak 86:5
discussed 123:11,20
discussion 3:21 50:28
disincentive 26:13

108:21 disruption 74:7 81:1 distorted 25:22 distressing 25:26 district 39:5 41:10 45:6

disproportionately

districts 39:7,12 diverse 47:1 divide 86:27 dividend 40:5 97:15 dividing 21:4 Division's 7:16 72:9

**docket** 7:26 8:7,10 65:24 72:19 73:2 123:15

**dollar** 106:28 **dollars** 46:19 52:1,9 54:8,13 56:2 63:16 94:28 124:19

documentation 58:24

donated 114:23 double 62:21 doubled 35:22 doubt 36:7 Doug 10:12 75:9

**Douglas** 10:3 75:1 **dozen** 57:26

dramatically 40:2 99:8 drinking 111:15,16 drop 7:12 72:5

**dropped** 43:14 44:25 **drought** 12:12,17 14:1 25:26 26:1,14 29:14 35:18 39:21 41:17 55:28 56:2 57:6,8,10 77:10,15 78:27 89:18,

drought-related 6:11 26:8 70:24 71:4 89:28

19 108:21 114:20,21

125:15

**drying** 39:23

**DWR** 58:23

dual 124:14 due 13:1 29:2 51:25 65:8 77:28 99:13 dumped 114:27

dysfunctional 50:10

## Ε **e-I-I-e** 34:4 123:4 **e-mail** 9:17,19 74:14,16 e-mailed 105:14 **e-mails** 93:5 e-r-g 38:25 earlier 42:24 44:7 60:23 80:12 98:24 99:16 111:2 114:7 116:27 121:20 123:20 early 20:13 86:12 earn 5:5 69:17 **earned** 56:11 East 28:24 easy 12:3 77:1 108:24 echo 67:25 100:9 echoing 124:7 **economic** 96:20 110:6 economics 16:15 81:20 economize 112:19 **economy** 112:14 115:28 125:17 **Edison** 3:9 4:13 6:2 9:28 10:19 20:14 21:15, 28 22:3,11,18 24:13 25:24 29:3,17 30:24 31:17 32:14 33:13,17 38:27 39:15,18 40:4,10 41:12,15,20 42:16 43:28 47:19 51:3,11 52:17 53:1 54:7 56:12, 23 57:6,24 58:13,16,25

61:8 62:13,26 64:24 65:3 67:5 68:24 70:15 74:27 75:11,17 85:6 86:13 87:3,9 88:28 89:23 90:13 94:27 96:18 97:2,7 98:7 101:14,22 105:19 107:5,17 108:25,28 112:18,23,28 114:23 116:28 117:14 118:1 119:28 121:23 122:4

125:19

,	2021
	<b>Edison's</b> 3:28 5:15 6:1, 8 10:14 60:5,7,10 68:10 69:27 70:14,21 71:2 83:27 84:1,4 87:5,10 95:28 100:2,14 121:27
	efficient 39:9
	<b>efforts</b> 99:1,7
	egregious 113:19
	eight- 106:19
	electric 6:18 14:4 20:11 22:16 23:13,17 48:2,9 60:7 65:8 71:12 79:2 84:1 86:11 87:22 88:6 93:12 102:22 103:5,14 104:4,19,22
	<b>electrical</b> 7:1 37:10 49:16,20 71:23 95:10, 26
	<b>electricity</b> 41:7 61:25 93:9 104:14,16,25 105:6 111:14 112:19
	electronically 60:26 67:11
	element 49:18
	eliminated 96:22
	eloquent 55:6
	embrace 48:3
	Emerald 46:2
	emphasize 16:17
	employed 20:14
	employee 86:13
	<b>employees</b> 34:18 38:28
	<b>employs</b> 42:26 44:9
	<b>Enby</b> 40:17
	encourage 4:4 68:14
	encouraged 97:19
	end 12:4 17:19 46:3 59:8 65:19 77:2 82:19 98:26 99:19 112:18 117:16 119:23
	<b>ended</b> 19:16
	<b>ends</b> 32:21

<b>energy</b> 47:9 60:2 64:1, 11 65:10 83:17 102:28	exacerbating 43:4 44:15		
engineer 20:8 86:8	examined 49:1		
engineering 16:15	exceeding 32:1		
20:9 81:20 86:9 enrolled 14:9,13 79:20	<b>exceptional</b> 13:28 77:28 78:26		
<b>ensure</b> 28:12 92:7 122:4	<b>excess</b> 43:1 44:12 51:12 99:6		
entering 4:19 69:2	<b>Exchange</b> 51:7 53:9		
<b>entire</b> 37:10 46:14 88:10 89:13	excited 67:27 excuse 29:18		
entities 90:26	executives 110:13		
<b>entity</b> 41:13	exhausted 103:17		
environment 41:3	<b>exist</b> 87:18		
environmental 14:1	existing 22:9		
41:19 78:27	exists 64:24		
equal 30:19 equipment 36:1 39:13	<b>expect</b> 98:10		
equitable 43:8 44:20	expectation 95:15		
equity 52:10	expectations 32:1		
equivalent 96:24	<b>expected</b> 6:5 70:18 95:19 101:13		
err 32:8	expenditures 6:10		
<b>Esen</b> 49:10	70:23 71:4		
<b>essential</b> 8:28 15:5 34:27 35:9 36:16 73:24 80:5	<b>expense</b> 12:18 51:26 56:13		
essentially 46:14 95:4 established 20:28	<b>expenses</b> 6:8,11 17:16,18 55:15 70:21, 24 71:2,5 77:17 82:17,		
126:11	18 90:1,26 118:3		
evaluate 5:17 69:28	<b>expensive</b> 37:10 39:8 52:20		
<b>evening</b> 75:3 80:17 83:9 84:24 98:19 121:17	<b>experience</b> 20:10 34:16 86:10 96:17		
events 13:2 15:1 77:28	experienced 57:7,8		
79:28	expert 20:12		
<b>everybody's</b> 54:4 91:1	<b>expertise</b> 16:15 81:20		
everyone's 41:27	explain 24:23		
<b>evidence</b> 5:17,19,23 70:1,2,7	express 45:8		
evidentiary 11:28	<b>expressed</b> 7:28 72:22		
76:26	extended 108:18		

VOI I - MAICH 50,	2021		
<b>extensive</b> 19:25 103:28	fees 60:16 84:10 97:3	<b>fixed</b> 61:11 63:13 95:13	full 25:12 28:2 38:22 91:28
<b>extent</b> 39:14,16	feet 104:8	<b>Flint</b> 111:17	function 81:25
extra 56:13 93:7 95:11	fellow 57:16	floor 28:28	fund 122:9
	felt 97:14	<b>flow</b> 126:2	
extraordinary 13:2 41:17	ferry 90:28	flush 25:4	funded 121:25
<b>extreme</b> 99:1,14	Fertig 57:2,3 58:5	flushes 29:28	<b>funding</b> 12:5,10,13 13:4,9 48:16 77:3,8,11
eye-popping 88:26	figure 111:22 126:3	flushing 89:10	78:2,7 121:21
	figuring 17:8	focus 12:9 77:7	<b>funds</b> 32:12 33:6 39:9
F	file 21:8	focuses 59:27 83:14	61:24 122:6
<b>F-E-R-T-I-G</b> 57:4	<b>filed</b> 12:19 17:7 21:10	<b>folks</b> 81:7 118:12	<b>future</b> 12:13 31:21 43:8 44:19 48:1,6,24 77:12
F-R-I-E-V 37:5	51:7 53:8 77:18	<b>Fong</b> 3:15,16,18 67:19,	87:23 90:5 95:16 99:11
facing 10:23 65:12	filled 108:15	21,23	
75:21	fills 29:13	foot 39:17 118:2	G
fact 7:16 38:1 59:1 72:9	filters 100:13	forbid 40:5	<b>G-I-V-E-N-S</b> 113:15
97:21 110:5 121:21 122:18	final 115:18	forecast 12:20 77:19	<b>G-L-A-S-S</b> 116:15
facto 94:27	<b>finally</b> 40:19 77:19 114:28	forest 98:9	<b>Gail</b> 119:1,4
factored 54:4	finance 16:16 81:21	forgot 85:8	<b>gain</b> 121:24
facts 17:9	finances 43:4 44:15	form 82:11	<b>Gaitan</b> 11:11 76:9
failed 41:15	financial 32:2 50:27	Fornasiere 119:2,3,5 121:4,9 122:16	<b>gal</b> 116:6
fair 43:8 44:19 60:4 63:21 83:26 110:16	51:2,5,6,9,19,27 52:21 53:8 99:14 113:23	forward 3:20 9:23 15:16 18:1 22:15 30:1	<b>gallons</b> 23:7 24:5,22, 24,26,27 25:1 46:10,15,
families 31:5 32:21 40:24 46:5,26 108:14,	<b>find</b> 9:15 11:8 53:10 56:23 63:20 74:11	31:18 60:25 64:28 74:20 80:17 82:26,27	16 88:21,24 89:3,6,7,9, 15
19 117:18 118:15	90:19 125:19,23 126:6	84:15	galvanized 100:4
family 24:25 25:6 31:1,	<b>finding</b> 29:18 56:13	fostered 35:13	<b>Garrett</b> 3:11 67:15
11 34:18 113:24	<b>fined</b> 54:12	<b>found</b> 25:25 65:25 97:25	<b>Gas</b> 58:19
fancy 108:16	finished 28:28	four-million-three	gather 33:6
<b>fat</b> 112:17,22	<b>Finkelstein</b> 59:21,22, 23 60:21 83:4,6,9,10,	20:28 22:23	<b>gave</b> 114:24
faucets 99:3,28	18,23 84:16	four-person 89:6	general 3:9 4:9 6:3
<b>fault</b> 31:25 40:9 97:8 113:2	fire 99:18,25	four-year 86:3	10:13,18 11:16 12:5,10, 16,19,22 17:11,13 67:6
February 51:8 98:27	fires 59:3 97:9 98:9 113:2	fragile 43:5 44:16	68:19 70:16 75:10,16 76:14 77:3,8,14,17,21
102:23		<b>Frank</b> 121:5	82:15 86:3 106:12 110:17
federal 42:19 44:3	first-time 62:15	frequently 20:6	
fee 55:21 90:27	firsthand 34:16	Frievalt 37:1,3,5 38:16	generating 15:2 80:1
feedback 15:17 80:18	<b>fiscal</b> 51:10	frivolous 47:22 53:10	generation 53:28 97:2
feel 63:8 65:3 94:23	<b>five-year</b> 13:24 14:2,19 78:22 79:1	<b>front</b> 117:16	gentleman 62:25
105:19 124:24	fix 100:19 118:19	frustrating 29:24	Geraldine 28:20,22
feeling 47:23	HA 100.19 110.19		getaway 120:27

93:17

give 18:5 84:22 guests 106:27 111:13 head 42:19 **Hill** 4:11 8:13,17,18,20 9:25 53:18,19 54:20 **Givens** 113:12,13,14 guidance 8:15 73:11 heads 99:3 68:21 73:9,13,14,16 114:13 Guided 18:25 85:6 headset 28:6 74:8,23 **giving** 63:22 hire 36:2 quidelines 42:19 44:3 headsets 92:5 **Glass** 114:16.17.18 guiding 41:24 hear 3:25 4:12 9:26 historic 12:17 39:28 116:13,15,17 77:15 10:5 15:19 17:27 18:3 guys 49:1 103:6,22 Glass's 120:9 27:11 28:4,12 68:7,23 104:3 historical 12:13 15:1 74:24 80:20,26 82:27 77:12 79:28 global 37:22,23 Guzman 3:13 67:18 83:3 84:17 91:6 92:3,8 history 46:8 goal 20:20 25:28 29:17 102:6 47:27 86:14,16 89:21 н **heard** 9:2 55:3,15 56:6, **hit** 125:9 10,26 63:23 73:26 **goals** 20:15 hits 100:14 100:10 114:7 H-A-R-R-I-S-O-N **god** 40:5 **Hohenstein** 106:9,10, 45:28 hearing 3:8,24 4:28 **good** 15:28 35:13 37:4 11 8:1,6 9:23 15:17 17:27 H-I-L-L 53:22 50:24 61:6,18 63:9 75:3 65:20 66:2,9 67:5 68:6 **hold** 29:2 80:27 81:7 83:9 84:24 H-O-H-E-N-S-T-E-I-N 69:12 72:23 73:2 74:20 **holding** 56:17 116:3 93:18 98:6,11,19 106:12 75:8 76:26 80:17 84:15 123:22 106:28 98:24 121:17 124:6 **Habra** 96:17 gooder 41:26 126:13 holds 52:11 half 35:26 57:26 115:13 hearings 10:11 11:28 government 37:24 **Holiday** 106:13 **Hamilton** 19:5,11,19 56:18 123:23 90:22.25 home 28:23 30:26 31:6, 25:11,17 85:12,19 heaters 99:27 governor 5:9 69:21 10 32:22 94:5 101:10 114:22 89:21 117:7,8 heavily 50:9 hand 39:18 53:4 homeowner 53:24 governor's 25:28 heck 115:25 handle 90:8 62:15 **grand** 52:12 height 33:1 handy 15:11 80:11 **Homeowners** 19:6,12, granddaughter held 50:24,25 19 85:13,19 Hang 28:8 83:18 110:21,22 102:11 Helen's 99:21 homes 32:17 108:16 grant 122:6,9 happen 23:19 31:19 hell 116:9 honed 119:19 **GRC** 3:21 13:3,19 120:13,22 helping 54:10 honest 102:8 104:27 14:26,28 20:13 21:1 happened 100:20 110:4 78:1,17 79:25,27 82:9 **Hey** 116:7 happening 62:14 great 83:8 110:22 honestly 105:19 high 37:20 45:14 63:25 122:12 113:25 118:4 119:11 106:24,25 108:21 honesty 82:12 120:2,26 121:7 **happy** 57:17 higher 22:1,6 63:6 Honor 27:1,8 83:6,24 greatly 7:21 33:15 **hard** 10:27 35:13,16,19 87:11,15,27 88:3 93:22 96:4,15 108:11 72:15 47:6 61:20,27 75:25 109:21 **highest** 22:4,8,9 34:22 107:16 116:3 117:11,17 grip 112:28 43:9 44:21 87:14,17 honorable 42:12 43:24 **harder** 118:12 **ground** 21:13 97:23 hope 43:6 44:17 64:12 hardship 10:23 grounds 18:27 highlight 51:18 120:25 124:28 126:5 hardships 75:21 highly 52:21 group 20:1 85:26,27 hopeful 60:9 Harrison 45:24,26,27 hike 97:28 **groups** 98:27 hoping 32:8 33:24 47:10 54:15 **hikers** 100:4 grow 87:25 hate 106:23 **hotel** 41:1,5 hikes 63:28 64:2 growing 14:24 79:23

Index: give..hotel

hotels 40:6 55:21 111:5 24:18 45:15 80:10 30:16,19 31:7 34:23,25 72:10 74:12,18 76:4,7 97:15 35:7,10,20,23,26 36:9, 80:14 87:2 hour 48:10,12 66:12 13 37:18 38:5,8 39:2 informed 7:24 24:18 124:20 **implore** 42:14 43:26 45:10,13,14 48:11,19 72:17 hourglass 125:27 49:22 51:2,4,15 52:18, **important** 10:10 11:3 16:5 20:23 62:10 75:7 28 53:5 55:15 57:14 infrastructure 40:8.11 hours 53:26 54:1 76:2 58:19 64:9 65:12,13 50:9 93:11,16 95:23 house 29:25 102:27 68:10 71:8,10,13,23 98:7 101:26 118:19 importantly 41:21 72:7 77:23 78:22,23 104:8,26 112:17,24 124:16 60:15 79:4,9,18 80:8 82:12,13 household 24:27 Inn 106:13,14 88:15,16 92:19,20 **imposed** 120:12 26:20,23 31:1 42:21 93:14 95:25,28 99:9 inordinate 32:13 44:5 89:7 90:9,11 impossibly 37:19 101:21 109:13 112:13, 101:10 input 8:28 10:16 73:24 25 113:7 116:28 **improve** 12:7,11 77:5 75:14 118:22,25 households 31:2 122:7 42:22 44:6 55:10 **insane** 115:22 increased 6:9 52:8 improvement 29:18 65:9 70:22 71:3 houses 40:25 insights 49:14 39:3 increases 6:22 10:26 housing 43:5 44:16 improvements 12:20 **insist** 43:9 11:1 14:24 29:6 31:18 40:1 77:19 78:20 Howard 47:12,14,16 install 100:13 117:21 120:1 36:5 43:3 44:14 47:4,20 **HUD** 44:3 52:13,16 53:6 55:11 instructions 84:22 **improving** 40:11 47:26 58:15 61:14 63:3 68:3 **intends** 120:1 huge 22:21 23:9 71:16 75:24,27 79:23 inaccurate 38:6 95:16 100:16 101:15 hundreds 63:15 interest 16:13 26:6.12 inappropriate 29:21 106:21 109:2,3,25,28 63:21 85:25 89:26 **hurt** 107:8 110:3 113:19 119:11 inaudible 44:8 46:7 interested 11:23 76:21 120:4,11 122:2 125:13 hurting 61:23 52:4 interests 55:23 59:28 increasing 101:11 include 31:13,14 **husband** 103:28 81:18 83:15 85:28 117:20 123:24 126:7.8 included 5:6 6:8 69:18 interruption 70:25 incredible 23:23 26:13 I 70:21 71:2 124:17 38:28 includes 12:10 13:11 interruptions 124:26 i-e-r-e 121:6 incredibly 113:20 77:8 78:8 89:10 introduce 81:12 idea 31:22 55:20 98:6 incur 110:15,28 including 10:22 11:23 12:14 13:12,28 56:3 intrusion 99:22 ideal 14:27 79:26 incurring 111:8 75:20 76:21 77:13 invest 39:13,16 64:24 identifiable 90:20 indecipherable 81:26 78:10,26 82:15 87:15 65:10 95:5 104:13 90:27 95:9 idle 25:15 invested 46:18 independent 16:10,20 income 26:21,23 37:13 image 108:15 81:24 43:2 44:5,13 46:27 investing 46:21 48:6 imaginations 114:2 49:23 50:2 51:14,21,24 individual 20:1,3 investment 17:14 61:11 79:21 82:18 90:9, imagine 16:28 82:3 35:12 40:7 41:26 46:24 individuals 19:24 12 95:15 101:18 108:26 47:3 82:16 95:2 109:2,12 111:21 immediately 96:26 118:7,14 investments 13:22 **impact** 13:16 42:15 industry 38:1 42:27 income-qualified 49:20,25 65:2 43:27 45:10 60:18 44:10 125:8 14:9,13,22 79:6,11 78:14,23 84:12 89:1 Investor-owned inflation 37:20,21 incomes 42:22 95:13 90:22,24 impacted 12:17 33:2 101:9 inflow 52:7 45:12 77:16 invitation 33:26 increase 3:28 6:14,17, **inform** 67:9 impactful 14:26 79:25 19 7:1,14 12:25 13:24, invite 8:13 73:9 **information** 7:17 9:11, 25 14:6,11,20 15:8 impacts 13:26 15:10 15,21 11:6,9 15:14 21:6 17:11 22:21 23:10,23

Index: hotels..invite

Jill 93:3

involved 9:14 19:14.17

74:11 Jim 54:22,24,25 **Knatz** 28:20,21,23 30:4 leave 7:25 72:18 **ironic** 29:27 job 63:9 103:28 knowledge 19:25 leaving 96:24 irreversible 99:28 jobs 32:20 34:24 36:16, **Kyle** 37:1,5 **Lee** 38:19,23 45:24,26, Irvine 53:21 20 39:20 40:28 103:27 108:18 left 35:4 47:22 island 7:9 12:18 13:6 L 14:17,18 15:4 18:15,20, join 27:19 91:15 legal 13:10 55:24 78:8 21,22 19:1,3,4,7,18,21, L-A-V 34:3 123:4 **Joint** 4:15 18:3 68:26 lend 62:23 23 22:4 25:3,10 26:23, 74:28 84:17 **L-A-W-S** 109:22 26 32:12 33:3 34:26 lets 91:26 35:4 39:6 40:17,28 41:7 jointly 20:5 L-U-T-T-J-O-H-A-N-N 42:25 44:8 45:16 46:3 level 13:9 16:28 46:13 54:26 Jose 58:7,11 49:28 50:2,5,8 54:27 47:5 57:23 78:7 L-U-X-E-N 38:24 55:1,14 56:1,4,17,24 **Joy** 102:4 levels 35:17 62:19 82:2 57:5 58:18 60:12,17,18 **La** 42:20 44:3 96:17 84:5 **Juanita** 4:11 8:13,20 62:12 63:20 64:21 72:2 68:21 73:9,16 lack 29:20 101:17 125:6 75:21 77:16 78:4 80:3 liability 52:11 84:7,11,28 85:2,3,4,9, judge 3:4,12,19 5:11, lacks 29:11 life 43:10 44:21 62:17 10,11,14,17,21,23 16,22 8:18,26 9:4 10:7 Landing 99:21 87:13,14 89:14 90:12 18:10 24:12 30:12,17 lifelong 30:15 91:3 95:21,24 98:22,26 32:27 42:11 43:23 language 123:17 light 96:25 99:20 100:17 106:14, 50:19,27 51:1 59:22 15,25 107:1 109:1,6 large 46:26,28 61:17 66:28 67:16.24 69:23. **lights** 63:10 112:20 110:17 111:20 121:25 110:23,26,27 112:10 28 70:6 73:14,22,28 **limited** 49:23 50:1 114:19 116:3 117:23 75:4 87:19 121:16 larger 21:13 33:25 119:6,18,28 120:14 limiting 60:10 July 17:21 82:22 largest 19:6 21:16,25, 122:8 123:25 125:20 line's 30:7 27 87:7,9 jump 23:7 88:12,22 **Island's** 84:12 **Lisa** 30:7,10 55:4 **lastly** 19:5 85:12 jumping 23:22 islanders 119:21 121:13 124:7 latest 35:19 June 33:11 islands 40:16 111:4 **Lisa's** 124:16 115:5 laundromat 34:28 35:1 Justin 3:14 67:19 **list** 29:4,8 30:2 isolated 49:25 95:3,7 laundromats 35:4 listed 53:27 109:6 Κ laundry 35:6 56:4 listen 10:16 17:28 **issue** 29:11 47:9 90:7, **Laura** 108:7,9 K-N-A-T-Z 28:23 67:28 75:14 14 117:24 **Laurie** 113:12,14 listened 113:17 **Karen** 64:17,19 issues 17:12,13 59:28 76:12 82:14,15 83:15 **Lavelle** 30:7,9,11 34:1, keel 31:17 **listening** 49:6 59:10 86:6 93:6 3 55:4 56:19 121:13,15 68:1 98:11 101:2 keeping 35:17 123:7,12 116:12 issuing 17:20 82:20 key 86:21 law 3:4,12 9:4 66:28 listing 30:28 itty-bitty 104:26 67:16 73:28 kill 35:8 literally 32:15 109:6 **Laws** 109:19.20.22 kilowatt 48:12 53:26 **live** 18:17 32:12 33:20 111:28 54:1 39:4 41:16 96:16 101:1 lawyer 19:22 Jaime 11:11 76:9 102:20 104:7 108:18 kilowatts 48:10 110:23,26 111:21 112:7 **lead** 16:1 81:8 James 96:13,16 kind 25:22 32:25 48:16 116:2 119:19 120:26 104:21 117:11 118:11 leaking 100:5 January 48:15 lived 62:16 114:18 119:14,15 124:10 learn 10:15 75:14 jeopardize 60:13 119:18 125:6,7 126:4,6

kinds 119:11

Index: involved..lived

learning 11:19 76:17

livelihood 35:11 36:11 **Luxenberg** 38:20,21, management 13:1 members 3:26 20:5 23 42:4 55:18 20:9 39:21 53:3 77:27 27:12 42:13 43:25 livelihoods 116:1 50:20,27 53:11 57:16 86:9 lives 125:1 68:8 91:6 125:4,21 M manager 106:13 mentioned 12:24 living 31:4,20 32:22 managing 49:3 125:20 40:24 45:16 61:28 15:12 16:19 80:12 M-C-K-A-Y 64:20 116:27 122:16,24 111:13 **mandated** 57:11,20 M-I-L-E-R 92:17 58:3 local 36:2 62:14 **message** 105:18 112:7 mandatory 29:14 locate 99:5 met 58:23 M-O-R-R-I-S-O-N 57:19 47:16 located 19:11 84:28 meter 100:14 104:18 manger 98:21 99:20 machine 103:1 metered 99:3 March 3:2,6 33:19 location 4:22 27:20 **Madam** 43:23 **meters** 99:5 48:15 53:26 66:13.26 28:3 30:18 69:6 91:16 67:3 Madame 42:12 methods 123:24 92:2 margin 111:26 made 13:22 20:5 37:12 locations 99:5 **metric** 51:17 51:23 55:17 56:18,21 margins 35:2 114:9 logical 36:19 **metrics** 51:19 78:20 99:1 122:25 Mark 50:16,18,21 123:21 long 64:28 86:3 94:5 Michigan 111:18 97:11 104:6 122:26 Marshall 42:8,9,10 magnitude 45:14 middle 11:17 21:13 43:12,19,20,21,22 long-term 50:8 64:20 33:11 46:25 76:15 mail 33:12,20 44:23 55:4 65:3,11 95:4 middle-income main 17:26 25:20 31:9 **Martha** 3:13 67:18 108:14 looked 48:8 53:25 mains 29:26 55:22 115:3 120:15 massively 121:28 midst 37:23 maintain 43:9 47:28 Los 46:1 matter 66:12 119:23 migration 125:15 64:5 lose 35:24 **Matthew** 34:9,11 Miller 92:14,15,16,21 maintaining 44:20 losses 59:2,6 113:1 mayor 42:10,13 43:22, 112:4,5,6 113:9 46:12 84:8 114:9 25 **lost** 37:17 40:18 101:9 million 7:2 13:6 22:14 maintenance 13:21 103:27,28 107:6 108:26 Mckay 64:17,18,19 23:13,22 26:5,6,7 37:14 78:19 115:15 46:10 51:24 71:15.24 means 22:24 24:24.26 major 19:3 60:2 61:19 78:4 87:21,26 88:6,10, 35:28 38:9 57:5 89:6 **lot** 25:10,14 28:25 63:26 83:17 91:2 13 89:26,28 122:9 64:22 65:7 99:28 110:27 majority 18:19 31:2 113:17 117:1 125:3 million-seven-fifty meantime 82:6 32:19 42:26,27 44:9,11 114:24 **Louise** 92:16 measure 58:1 **make** 3:16 9:13 17:12 millions 52:1 low 39:28 40:28 46:11, 32:7,20 35:25 37:25 measures 58:2 mind 39:1 27 63:21 82:7,17 95:15 47:6 56:25 61:27 65:1 126:2 medication 30:20 67:21 74:9 82:4,13 96:9 mindful 13:16 78:13 98:7 107:5,26 109:12 low- 108:13 meet 20:6 32:21 86:4 minimum 23:6 40:28 111:12 115:10 120:1 low-income 17:17 meeting 18:11 30:17 42:28 44:11 125:2 60:24 67:10,26 100:8 low-residency 49:26 minority 46:26 **makes** 35:2 meetings 101:3 109:24 mirror 40:23 41:21,23 lowest 16:26 17:2 making 40:8 51:24 81:28 Mehboob 15:20 16:1 54:8 58:16 104:7 115:1 misleading 25:7 80:21,28 81:8 122:5 luckily 33:6 mispronounced member 19:1 30:7.10 man 112:26 **Luttjohann** 54:23,24, 50:21 55:4 56:18 85:26 26 manage 5:12 69:24 missed 18:27 121:13 123:6,12,21

Index: livelihood..missed

mission 16:24 50:22 multi-disciplinary 72:15 67:27 68:22,25 73:10, 81:28 16:14 17,18 74:4,28 80:26 nonincome-qualified 81:10,11,13,17,22 mistakes 113:5 multidisciplinary 14:8,12,21 105:15 106:2 81:19 mitigate 39:24 41:16 nonprofit 59:26 83:13 Office's 80:21 58:1 multigenerational 119:5 32:21 officer 97:14 normal 13:21 38:7 mitigating 11:1 75:27 multiple 40:24 78:19 **Offices** 123:17 mitigation 56:2 multiples 52:1 Norris 55:5 84:25 official 4:23 12:1 27:21 mix 35:10 69:7 76:27 91:17 museum 119:7,9 noted 97:19 model 50:12 96:2 officials 28:15 92:10 120:20 **notice** 9:22 24:16,20 Ν 33:17,23 51:10 52:4 offset 60:18 84:12 mom 30:23 74:19 88:28 123:24 Olena 45:1,4,5 moment 93:22 94:17 N-E-W-M-A-N 101:1 notices 56:24 ongoing 47:19 90:26 **moments** 103:2 N-I-E-L-S-O-N 98:20 notification 33:18 117:19 money 5:4 22:18 23:17 102:26 Nadine 100:25,28 online 7:26 56:22 72:19 32:14 35:24 36:1 39:19 notified 33:12 82:22 123:14 nails 115:18 41:18,28 49:3,28 61:21 64:7 69:16 89:12 90:23 **notify** 4:24 27:22 91:17 open 27:19 28:20 30:8 name's 61:7 100:19 103:4 105:22 34:9 37:2 38:20 42:8 November 98:28 names 84:26 107:5 108:16 114:28 43:19 45:3,25 47:13 115:10.19 117:22 number 3:10 19:23.24 49:10 50:17 53:18 Nancy 38:24 53:18,19 21:4 46:20 55:10 68:15 54:23 57:1 58:8 61:4 121:5 money-saving 11:9 86:28 121:26 62:6 64:17 91:15 92:25 76:7 necessarily 16:18 93:23,24 94:19 96:13 81:23 moneys 122:10 98:17 100:26 102:4 0 109:19 112:4 114:16 necessity 118:9 **monitor** 104:16 116:23 119:2 121:14 O'NEIL 109:19,20,22 negatively 33:2 124:3 125:22 monopoly 38:1 94:27 111:28 108:28 117:10 **net** 35:27 37:13 51:20, opening 3:17 41:10 21,23,24 52:5,10 **O-'-N-E-I-L** 109:23 67:22 Monrovia 102:20 o-r-n 121:5 **Network** 4:15 59:25 **operate** 47:6 112:1 month 14:7 21:28 68:26 83:11 22:26,27 23:8 24:4,23 obtain 16:26 21:6 **operating** 6:6 12:18 26:25,26 30:27 31:12 81:28 **Newman** 100:26,27,28 17:16 38:1 46:2 52:6 35:25,26 38:6 88:21 70:19 77:16 82:17 occasionally 93:5 **news** 53:6 89:3,14 104:9,23 operational 49:19 50:4 106:20 107:15 occupancy 46:13 nice 116:11 95:2,6 monthly 14:23 30:21 Nicole 106:9,11 occupied 25:12,21 79:18 88:23 104:9 operations 12:28 occupying 46:6 Nielson 98:17,18,20 118:22 13:21 52:7 77:27 78:19 100:22 occurring 66:2 **months** 25:15 33:9,27 **operator** 4:21,24 19:3 **night** 41:5 98:12 35:24 62:21 103:11 27:7.15.20.22.27 28:14. October 6:2 70:15 16,19 30:5,6 34:6,8 105:13 115:13 nights 46:7 offer 119:12 120:17 36:25 37:1 38:17,19 morning 98:24 **nobody's** 105:7 42:5,7 43:16,18 44:27 **offered** 103:19 45:1,23,24 47:11,12 Morrison 47:13,14,16 non-income 79:5,10, offering 99:10 49:8,9 50:16 53:16,17 mother 102:28 109:26 19 54:21,22 56:27 57:1 office 3:20 4:12 8:14, nondesal 85:5 58:6,7 59:12,14 60:28 **move** 30:1 37:7 21,22 9:8 10:1 15:20

Index: mission..operator

61:2 62:4,5 64:14,16

65:15,17 69:4,8 91:9,

16:3,9,10 17:5 66:6

nonetheless 7:21

moving 29:17 31:17

16,18,26 92:9,11,14,23, 24 93:22,27 94:1,15,17 96:10,12 98:14,16 100:23,25 102:1,3 106:8 107:20,22 108:4, 6 109:16,18 112:3 113:10,11 114:14,15 116:20,22 119:1 121:10,12 123:26,28 126:15,17,26,28 opinion 63:23 111:24 opinions 7:28 72:22 opportunity 9:2 17:26 32:27 73:26 82:26 96:5 98:23 oppose 90:5 opposed 59:6 62:24 88:7 opposite 48:4 optimal 56:23 option 7:20 63:22 72:14 options 107:11 109:8 117:12 **Orange** 97:26 order 3:6 28:12 40:6 46:19 67:2 102:28 103:1,4 104:13 organization 11:12 59:27 76:10 83:14 out-of-state 41:11 outages 63:12 outlined 24:16 overburden 122:15 overlooked 121:28 oversight 55:25 overwhelmingly 113:18 owned 19:17 85:18 owner 34:12 owning 6:6 70:19

owns 85:4.9

Ρ

**P-A-Y-S-E-N** 49:13 94:22

**p.m.** 3:2 66:3,12,13,26 94:7

**paid** 22:28 42:28 44:11 58:22 90:27 112:17 122:18

painfully 36:13

pandemic 10:24 37:22, 23 38:5 62:27 75:22 101:7,19 103:22,26 105:2 112:14,26 117:4, 18 118:5 119:14 120:8 125:16

panels 48:4 96:28

parameters 55:24

Pardon 88:17

part 25:20

participants 23:14 46:27

participate 91:10

participated 65:22 86:2

participating 4:17 8:25 10:9 68:28 73:22 75:7

participation 3:8 7:21 8:15,23,27 9:23 10:10 17:27 56:18 66:2,9 67:4 72:14 73:11,19,24 74:20 75:8 123:22

**parties** 4:15 9:27 10:2 11:19,23 18:4,14 19:2, 14,27,28 20:6 30:13 68:2,26 74:25,28 76:17, 21 84:18,26 85:25 86:2, 7 90:5,18

partner 121:23 122:4

party 9:16 74:12

**pass** 4:20 46:24 47:2 69:3 87:21 97:13 110:16 113:22

passed 22:16 23:13

30:22 44:14 88:10

passes 35:7

passing 23:16 88:5

**past** 6:2 22:14,15 70:15 87:21,23 100:20

pathway 29:19

pay 7:27 26:5,11,20,25 31:12,23,24 34:21 40:3 41:4 43:1 44:12 49:25 50:3 56:11 58:27 72:21 87:17 89:26 90:4 98:3, 10 101:12,24 102:22 103:28 105:22 106:19 112:22 113:4 117:16 122:20

**paying** 11:5 13:14 22:3 36:9 56:4 59:8 61:24 63:26 76:3 78:12 100:10 106:28 115:25

payments 104:7

pays 87:28 125:2

**Paysen** 49:11,12 50:14 94:19,20,21 96:6

**penalties** 56:4 98:11

pencils 53:2

people 12:6 25:16,18 26:19 29:8 30:26 31:3 32:6,12,15,19 33:12 38:10 39:7 40:11,26 41:4 49:23 50:1 54:7,14 56:21 63:4,14,26 77:4 86:15 90:3,8 94:5,13 95:12,14,17 96:8 103:26 105:16,22 108:14,16,17 109:5 110:7,17,25 111:3 117:7 118:6 119:13,19 120:26,27 122:28

per-customer 87:10

percent 6:22,23,24,25, 27 7:11,12 18:16,22 19:2,8,10 22:1 23:2,3, 26,27 25:11,17,28 26:1, 3 31:8,9 33:4 35:21,28 38:5 42:22 43:2 44:5,13 48:13,15 51:15 52:17, 18 54:2 57:21,22 61:19, 22 71:16,17,18,19,21 72:4,5 84:27 85:4,10,

13,16 87:11,27 88:3,15, 16 89:20,22 97:16,20, 21 101:4 114:3 115:21

percentage 88:1

Index: opinion..plant

perform 81:25

performed 122:19

**period** 11:18 13:24 14:19 32:28 33:27 57:7 76:16 78:22

periods 26:14 55:28

permits 29:1

**Perris** 49:17

**person** 7:19 18:12 24:26,27 25:1 28:18 38:14 46:15,16 72:13 89:7,9 92:13

personally 19:16,25 63:8 100:13 101:6 115:12 119:17

pertinent 17:8

petitions 96:19

**phase** 13:23 79:1

phase-in 14:3

phased-in 14:19

**phone** 4:5,21 9:17 27:14,25 28:5,6 63:24 68:15 69:4 70:25 74:7, 14 81:1 91:23 92:4,5 123:1

pick 98:5

pipe 100:4,7

**place** 10:20 11:3 75:18 76:1 112:11 115:2 117:28 122:10,15

**places** 25:20 56:8,24 111:6,18

**plan** 22:12,14 23:21 26:4 31:17 55:8,12 57:28 87:20 88:4,5,9 89:25 111:23

planes 40:6 55:21

plans 22:11 87:20

plant 64:23 114:23,25

plate 124:16,17

pocket 121:27 point 27:3 29:12 33:4 100:6 112:13,14 126:4, 12 **policy** 95:21 poor 107:13 poorest 95:26 population 35:5 46:28 47:1 89:13 93:16 Portuguese 110:22 **position** 4:25 27:23 36:6 48:21 50:6.7 51:3. 5 52:21 69:9 91:18 positions 23:16 42:28 positive 52:7 possibility 123:22 possibly 56:17,23 59:5 63:17 93:17 104:24 126:9 post 29:18 56:24 posted 8:7 73:2,4 potentially 31:8 32:16 110:6 power 93:2,6 97:3 103:3 **PPH** 68:1 practical 94:25 practically 101:16 precluded 7:20 72:14 predictable 57:9 preparing 18:28 present 6:23 11:25 16:5 17:10 71:17 76:23 presentation 18:5,7 80:25 presenting 16:2 30:14 82:10 **president** 19:19 42:12 43:24 54:27 85:19 press 27:14 91:8 96:9 107:25 116:19 126:21

pressing 4:20 69:3 pressure 99:18 pretty 52:26 82:3 124:22 prevent 65:11 previous 38:14 49:14 67:26 103:8,20 110:25 112:12 previously 53:11 **price** 99:9 100:16 prices 35:20 106:17,24, primarily 21:14 46:25 primary 20:18 prior 12:19 19:15,27 20:13 21:1 37:15 private 20:10 86:10 **privilege** 10:15 75:13 **problem** 19:26 64:27 65:11 91:2 101:14 104:5 105:6,11 111:17 **problems** 54:10 65:3 101:25 118:20 124:14 procedure 20:7 **proceed** 8:17 15:27 73:13 75:2 proceeding 3:1,13 5:11,17,24,25 8:8,10,16 9:16,27 10:19 11:19,22 16:4 60:3 65:25 66:25 67:17 68:3 69:23 70:1, 8,10 73:3,12 74:13,25 75:17 76:17,20 82:28 83:25 123:14,25 proceedings 8:24 73:20 process 9:1 12:4 13:10 73:25 77:2 78:8 productivity 126:8

professional 20:8 86:8

**profit** 35:2,25,26 36:11

profitable 51:28 52:22

37:13 111:26 114:9

profits 35:27 36:4 122:28 123:13 64:25 105:21 provided 52:5 Program 37:25 **providing** 4:7 13:4 programs 11:9 12:6 15:3 28:1,7 33:25 35:14 15:9 47:7 76:7 77:4 39:2 66:4 68:17 75:26 80:9 99:11 103:18 78:2 80:2 91:28 92:1,6 104:12 prudent 15:5 80:5 project 16:1 49:4 80:28 **public** 3:7,27 4:8,11,14, 81:8 122:12 124:27 16,18,23 5:2,3 6:13 projects 12:6,15 15:1 7:22,23,28 8:12,14,21, 31:21 32:15 46:19 77:3, 23,27 9:8,19,22 10:1,10 13 79:28 121:26 15:19 16:2,8,11,21 17:27,28 20:10,19 pronounce 105:27 27:10,12,21 28:14 **proof** 117:21 29:21 32:28 33:15,23, 26 41:22 50:23 56:17 **Prop** 121:25 122:10 66:1,6,9 67:4 68:9,18, proper 111:14 21,24,27 69:1,5,7,14,15 71:7 72:16,23 73:8,10, properly 33:12 17,19,23 74:3,16,19,27 75:7 80:20,26 81:9,11, property 98:27 99:13, 12,25 86:10 91:7,17 16 100:5 92:9 94:13 98:24 106:1 proposal 6:19,28 7:3,7, 122:15,24,26 123:1,13, 13 11:21,26 12:2,26 17,22 13:18 14:3,5 15:4 23:12 public's 3:21 49:18 55:9 71:13,22,25, 28 72:6 76:19,24,28 public.advisor@ 77:25 78:15 79:1,3 80:4 cpuc.ca.gov 9:9 74:5 proposals 7:18 24:13, 123:18 15 72:11 94:25 98:4 public.advisor@ propose 13:27 cpuc.ca.gov. 9:20 66:7 74:17 proposed 5:18,19,21 **publicly** 8:7 73:2 6:16,24,25,26 7:8 45:9 52:16 55:11 70:2,3,5 PUC 29:5 86:26 87:2 71:10,18,19,20 72:1 78:17,25 109:3 113:19 pump 99:24 125:13 punished 108:25 proposes 13:19 22:14 119:24,25 120:23 proposing 13:23 42:17 purchased 99:17 43:28 78:21 109:1,25 pure 50:28 113:28 **purpose** 3:24 16:22 protections 11:4,7 17:26 20:19 68:6 76:2,5 put 7:7 11:3 22:11 **provide** 4:18,22 5:28 24:14 25:9 32:15 36:1,5 8:15 10:28 11:13 12:6 40:5 41:18 64:1 71:28 13:3 15:6,7 27:19 34:25 76:1 96:28 99:3,5,14 64:25 65:5,23 69:1,6,8 104:24 106:26 112:16, 70:13 73:11 76:11 77:4 21 122:15 125:26 78:1 80:6 90:23 91:15

Index: plate..put

94:8,13 118:13 120:26

17,21 78:23 82:1,11,13,

15,16,18 86:3,16 87:10

88:19 93:13 97:28

**putting** 125:24 101:15 109:2,13 113:19 86:28 100:3 89:20 97:20 99:8 118:25 120:4,11 122:2 113:26 recent 12:17 36:4 Q ratepayer 22:16 57:4 77:15 97:9 **reduced** 25:27 26:2 61:8 87:28 39:23 46:11 89:22 recently 35:22 96:21 108:22 qualified 79:6,10,19,21 ratepayers 16:13 102:23 124:26 reduction 46:14 57:19 18:15,17,20 19:9 20:2, quality 43:9 44:21 recession 110:7 3,4 23:13,17 24:17,18 refer 4:26 11:18 69:10 quarter 5:27 70:11 25:27 26:2,5,9 33:18,22 recessions 96:21 59:7 81:18 82:27 84:28 reference 105:17 question 4:3 58:28 reciprocate 112:11 86:1 87:14,22 88:7,11 68:13 122:23 reflect 16:18 52:3 89:19,25 90:15 91:3 recognize 12:21 77:20 81:23 89:1 **auestions** 4:27 9:6 121:18 recognizes 10:19 11:14 59:9 68:13 69:11 reflected 51:27 rates 3:28 5:5 6:14,17, 13:18 75:17 78:16 74:2 76:12 19 20:16,22,27 22:4,9, reflects 51:14 52:5 recommend 11:26 queue 27:7,10,15 28:18 19,28 29:7 30:27 31:1 **Reform** 4:14 59:25 67:14 69:5 91:9 92:13 33:21 34:17,22 35:3 recommendation 68:25 83:11 94:13 38:6 39:12.28 40:2.22 82:14 42:16 43:8 44:19 47:5, refrigerator 96:25 queued 27:16 91:12 recommendations 24 57:23 58:20 60:5 104:11 17:12 quick 48:9 122:23 61:10 62:17,24 63:21 region 95:7,28 65:8 68:10 69:17 71:8, recommended 76:24 quickly 48:8 63:12 10,13 82:7 83:27 86:17, regular 31:18 54:3 86:4 reconsidered 116:5 quotes 41:11 52:4 20 87:14,15,18 88:18 regulated 21:7 86:26 95:26 96:23 97:23 record 3:5 12:1 15:23, quoting 30:24 102:9 103:23,25 105:1, regulating 36:20 25,26 24:8,10,11 28:8, 23 108:20 112:25 9,10 59:17,18,19 66:10, regulation 86:16 R 113:28 115:9,17 116:10 11 67:1 70:27,28 71:1 117:15,19 119:15 126:7 76:27 80:22,23,24 81:3, reinsuring 59:5 raise 35:20 103:22,25 4,5 83:19,20,21 84:18, rationing 57:27 related 4:1 6:14 12:16 105:1,23 115:9 116:10 19,20 91:20,21,22 94:9, 68:11 71:8 77:15 reach 7:23 9:7 72:17 119:15 10,11 102:15,16,17 74:3 103:8 106:4,5,6 107:27 relative 21:19 raises 61:12,15 108:1,2 123:8,9,10,11 ready 10:4 15:21 18:4,8 released 29:13 raising 102:9 115:17, 126:23,24,25 59:20 80:25 83:5 84:21 20 reliability 12:11 17:2 recorded 60:24,27 real 23:18 57:17 95:15 77:9 97:10 **rate** 3:9 4:9 6:3,9 10:13, 67:12 91:11 reality 40:10 108:17 18,26 11:1,17 12:5,10, reliable 10:28 12:7 recording 73:3 111:8 16,19,22 13:26 16:26 13:7 15:3 16:27 20:21 17:2,11,13,15,17 19:15, recoup 108:25 75:26 77:5 78:5 80:2 realize 14:26 15:8 27 25:25 30:16,18,24 82:2,5 86:19 100:11,12 79:25 80:8 recover 13:19,27 14:28 32:9 34:23,25 35:7,10, 49:19 78:17,25 79:27 remain 27:19 39:10 reason 25:8 49:2 20,21,23 36:5,8,12 91:15 102:25 104:7 37:18,20,21 38:5,7,8 recovered 14:17 79:16 43:3,27 44:14 45:9,13 remaining 87:12 reasonable 12:27 recovering 12:27 47:20 48:10 49:22 51:2, 20:16,22,23 36:19 38:9 77:26 remains 48:26 4 52:13,15,27 53:5,6 40:22 60:4,11 77:25 55:11 57:14 58:15 recovery 14:5 60:10,16 remarks 3:17 67:22 83:26 84:5 86:17,20,22 61:13 63:6,28 64:2,9 76:18 77:24 78:15 79:3 remember 30:16 84:22 reasons 25:8 37:8 65:12,13 67:6 68:19 84:5,10 70:16,22 71:3 75:10,16, remembering 32:23 receive 6:12 7:19 29:9 recuperate 40:7 24,27 76:15 77:3,8,14, 71:6 72:12 89:23

Index: putting..remind

remind 56:20 65:28

91:10 96:8

received 8:12 9:22

33:23 58:25 73:8 74:19

reduce 13:25 15:10

35:18,27 46:20 48:1

56:14 58:3 78:23 80:10

retaining 77:26

reminder 27:24 91:23

**remote** 3:7 67:4

remotely 113:22

rent 31:13 43:2 44:13

**remove** 67:13

103:4,15

rental 125:26

Rentals 124:2

repair 100:17

repaying 59:7

replaced 99:2

20 87:1,3

121:3

reopening 33:6

reparations 97:11

repeat 17:23 82:24

Repeatedly 31:27

report 17:20,21 82:11,

reporter 8:1,4 34:2

reporters 27:26

**reports** 21:7,9

70:26 72:24,27 91:25

represent 18:14 20:1 59:28 83:15 84:25

representative 9:28 18:26 25:6 27:4 45:6

55:5 62:25 74:26

representatives

represented 19:22,26

representing 20:4

represents 16:12 18:18 81:18 85:1,7

request 5:15 6:13 12:9, 12 17:11 29:5 37:24

69:27 71:7 77:7,11

requested 32:14

105:10

125:22

85:20

85:25,28

116:18

2021			
requests 17:8 122:1	rethink 107:17 114:6	<b>S&amp;p's</b> 52:24	
required 30:20	retired 49:24	<b>S-H-I-S-H-I-D-O</b> 61:8	
requirement 7:8 20:27 22:17 23:20 72:1 87:24 88:11	retirement 95:14 revenue 6:14 7:2,8,10 12:25 13:24 20:27 21:3,	<b>safe</b> 10:28 12:7 13:7 15:3 16:27 20:21 75:26 77:4 78:5 80:2 82:2,5 86:19 100:11,12	
requirements 29:15	5,18,26 22:1,17,24 23:20,25,26 37:13,16 56:11 71:8,20,24 72:1,3 77:24 78:21,28 86:27 87:5,9,24 88:1,4,11,26	safely 33:7	
requires 26:4 89:25		safety 12:11 17:3 77:9	
requiring 29:2 39:15		97:10	
reservoir 29:13	89:23 95:1 124:19	salary 97:17	
residences 25:12	revenues 6:23,24,25,	<b>sales</b> 17:15 82:16	
resident 30:15 47:17 50:22 53:21 64:20	26,27 13:19 14:2 15:2 51:12,16 57:12 71:17,	<b>Salinas</b> 124:1,4 126:14	
88:23 106:15	18,19,21 78:17 80:1	salt 25:3 29:28 64:22	
residential 14:7,12,21	reviewing 51:6	99:21	
19:8,9 23:5 24:1,22,28 60:1 79:5,10,20 83:16	rewarded 97:23	<b>Sam</b> 121:6	
85:14 89:8 107:13	rich 32:18 110:27	<b>San</b> 101:1	
residents 13:5 26:26	ridiculous 104:23,28	<b>Santa</b> 3:9,25 4:1 5:4 6:4,15,17,20 7:5 18:21,	
34:26 35:9 42:21,26 43:1,10 44:4,10,12,21	rigorous 13:10 78:8	28 19:21 67:5 68:7,11	
45:11 50:8 56:25 60:19	Rincott 102:4,5,8,19,20	69:16 70:17 71:9,11,14 85:3,9,23 86:23	
65:5 78:3 84:13 95:4 96:1 107:13 108:13	rise 71:26 72:3 124:12	<b>save</b> 26:13 78:21 93:2	
117:2,12,26 120:17	Rivers 39:4	115:4,6	
resiliency 12:12 77:10	Robert 27:9 59:23	<b>saved</b> 61:22	
resolve 11:14 65:2,11	83:10	<b>saving</b> 122:19	
76:12 105:11	role 5:16 16:4 69:28	<b>SCE</b> 4:5 6:16 7:7 10:3,	
<b>resolved</b> 104:5,6 105:5 117:25	rolled 57:13	26 11:3 12:21 13:23 37:8,12,28 53:25 68:15	
resort 106:13 108:15	roof 96:28 97:4	71:9,28 75:1,24 76:1	
resource 29:22	rope 17:1 82:3	77:20 78:20 109:25 110:10,16,17 111:22	
resources 15:14 64:7	rot 114:26	114:5,12	
80:15 90:27 109:9	roughly 13:5 78:3	<b>SCE's</b> 6:13 7:1 11:25	
respond 62:13	round 25:21	14:3,5 17:6,10 71:7,23 79:1,3 124:17 126:5	
responsibilities 81:14	routine 12:28	sce.com/bill 80:13	
responsibility 63:19	run 34:28 38:9 48:5 64:28 94:4 98:25	SCE.COM/BILLHELP	
responsible 115:25	114:24	11:7 15:13	
rest 53:12 61:23	running 36:4 96:25	sce.com/billhelp.	
result 87:24 88:13 89:22 97:21	runs 18:25 85:7	76:6 schedule 5:24 70:9	
resulting 7:10 14:2	S	75:6	
72:3 78:28		schedules 10:9	

**scheme** 52:12

Index: reminder..scheme

**S&p** 52:23

school 113:21	<b>services</b> 15:5,7 32:5,6	single 101:16 112:23	<b>solution</b> 65:1 111:1
<b>Scout</b> 112:9	34:27 35:9,15 36:16 63:5 80:5,7 90:21	sinks 99:4,26	<b>solutions</b> 41:13 67:28
<b>Scouts</b> 46:1,18	119:12 125:20	<b>sir</b> 15:22	<b>solve</b> 41:28 64:27
screen 4:26 69:11	session 27:17 33:10	<b>sisters</b> 62:12 63:20	<b>some-30</b> 85:15
84:26	91:13 94:23	sit 104:28 114:25	<b>sort</b> 95:21 111:5
season 33:1	setting 84:4	<b>site</b> 98:20	<b>sounds</b> 43:14 44:25
seasons 62:22	sewer 99:26 124:14	sitting 52:9	93:11
SEC 26:24	<b>share</b> 9:2 13:13 73:26 78:11	situation 40:21 42:1	source 85:5
SEC's 37:25	shareholders 110:14	43:5 44:16 100:18,19 124:22	<b>sources</b> 60:15 84:10 90:16,20
sectors 20:11 86:11	sharpen 53:1	situations 124:9	southern 3:8,27 4:13
<b>Securities</b> 51:7 53:9	Shawn 109:19,22	skipped 89:17	5:15 6:1,2 9:28 10:14
seek 50:11	<b>sheet</b> 7:17 72:10	slack 98:5	20:14 21:15 38:2,10 42:16 43:27 46:28 51:3,
<b>seeking</b> 6:4 29:19 70:17	<b>ship</b> 41:24	<b>slide</b> 4:26 16:7,24 17:4,	11 52:16,20,28 53:23
seeks 13:3 49:18 78:1	shipping 56:3	19 18:7,28 21:20 22:13	54:7 56:12 58:13,15,18, 25,28 67:5 68:9,24
sees 98:27	<b>ships</b> 40:6	23:11 24:6,7 25:24 26:17 34:15 69:10	69:27 70:14,15 74:26 75:11 94:26 95:8,27
segment 16:20	<b>Shishido</b> 61:3,5,7 62:3	81:15,27 82:8,19 85:24 86:14,23 87:7,19 88:9	96:18 97:2,7 101:23
<b>sell</b> 115:7,8,15,24	<b>short</b> 94:6,12	89:16,17 90:7	109:7 110:18 121:19
120:21 125:11	shortages 63:12	slides 21:21 84:23	<b>space</b> 104:28
senate 5:10 69:22	<b>shot</b> 39:16 116:9	slightly 51:21	Spanish 123:2
<b>Senator</b> 45:2,6,8	shoulder 63:18	slowed 33:21	<b>speak</b> 8:3 27:13,18,25, 28 28:5 72:25,26 91:7,
			20 20.0 72.20,20 01.7,
sends 93:5	shoulders 126:5	slowly 8:4 27:25 33:7	14,24,27 92:4 96:5
sends 93:5 senior 93:3 109:26	<b>show</b> 34:16 107:22	<b>slowly</b> 8:4 27:25 33:7 72:26 91:24	98:23 103:9 105:9
		72:26 91:24 <b>small</b> 21:14 30:26 34:12 35:8 36:4,17,20	98:23 103:9 105:9 116:19 121:20 126:20 <b>speaker</b> 28:7,19,21
senior 93:3 109:26 sense 32:7 48:9 113:6 122:5 sensitive 10:26 62:26	<b>show</b> 34:16 107:22 <b>shower</b> 99:3 125:28	72:26 91:24 <b>small</b> 21:14 30:26 34:12 35:8 36:4,17,20 39:5,7,10 41:8 55:10,13 60:1 83:16 104:25	98:23 103:9 105:9 116:19 121:20 126:20 <b>speaker</b> 28:7,19,21 30:6,9 34:8,10 37:3 38:21 42:9 45:20 47:12
senior 93:3 109:26 sense 32:7 48:9 113:6 122:5 sensitive 10:26 62:26 63:2 75:24	<b>show</b> 34:16 107:22 <b>shower</b> 99:3 125:28 126:1	72:26 91:24 <b>small</b> 21:14 30:26 34:12 35:8 36:4,17,20 39:5,7,10 41:8 55:10,13 60:1 83:16 104:25 108:19 109:4,9	98:23 103:9 105:9 116:19 121:20 126:20 <b>speaker</b> 28:7,19,21 30:6,9 34:8,10 37:3 38:21 42:9 45:20 47:12 49:9 50:16 53:16,17
senior 93:3 109:26 sense 32:7 48:9 113:6 122:5 sensitive 10:26 62:26 63:2 75:24 sensitivity 62:28	<b>show</b> 34:16 107:22 <b>shower</b> 99:3 125:28 126:1 <b>showers</b> 99:4,26	72:26 91:24  small 21:14 30:26 34:12 35:8 36:4,17,20 39:5,7,10 41:8 55:10,13 60:1 83:16 104:25 108:19 109:4,9  small-owned 38:11	98:23 103:9 105:9 116:19 121:20 126:20 <b>speaker</b> 28:7,19,21 30:6,9 34:8,10 37:3 38:21 42:9 45:20 47:12 49:9 50:16 53:16,17 54:22 56:27 57:2 58:6, 7,9 61:3,5 62:5,7 64:16,
senior 93:3 109:26 sense 32:7 48:9 113:6 122:5 sensitive 10:26 62:26 63:2 75:24 sensitivity 62:28 separate 87:20	<pre>show 34:16 107:22 shower 99:3 125:28 126:1 showers 99:4,26 shown 97:8</pre>	72:26 91:24  small 21:14 30:26 34:12 35:8 36:4,17,20 39:5,7,10 41:8 55:10,13 60:1 83:16 104:25 108:19 109:4,9  small-owned 38:11  Smart 65:1	98:23 103:9 105:9 116:19 121:20 126:20 <b>speaker</b> 28:7,19,21 30:6,9 34:8,10 37:3 38:21 42:9 45:20 47:12 49:9 50:16 53:16,17 54:22 56:27 57:2 58:6, 7,9 61:3,5 62:5,7 64:16, 18 67:13 91:11 92:6,15,
senior 93:3 109:26 sense 32:7 48:9 113:6 122:5 sensitive 10:26 62:26 63:2 75:24 sensitivity 62:28	show 34:16 107:22 shower 99:3 125:28 126:1 showers 99:4,26 shown 97:8 shut 103:2 sic 26:6 41:26 48:11 49:10 50:17	72:26 91:24  small 21:14 30:26 34:12 35:8 36:4,17,20 39:5,7,10 41:8 55:10,13 60:1 83:16 104:25 108:19 109:4,9  small-owned 38:11  Smart 65:1  Snow 10:3,5,7,12 15:18	98:23 103:9 105:9 116:19 121:20 126:20 <b>speaker</b> 28:7,19,21 30:6,9 34:8,10 37:3 38:21 42:9 45:20 47:12 49:9 50:16 53:16,17 54:22 56:27 57:2 58:6, 7,9 61:3,5 62:5,7 64:16, 18 67:13 91:11 92:6,15, 24,26 93:25 94:20 96:11,12,14 98:15,16,
senior 93:3 109:26 sense 32:7 48:9 113:6 122:5 sensitive 10:26 62:26 63:2 75:24 sensitivity 62:28 separate 87:20 September 11:27	show 34:16 107:22 shower 99:3 125:28 126:1 showers 99:4,26 shown 97:8 shut 103:2 sic 26:6 41:26 48:11	72:26 91:24  small 21:14 30:26     34:12 35:8 36:4,17,20     39:5,7,10 41:8 55:10,13     60:1 83:16 104:25     108:19 109:4,9  small-owned 38:11  Smart 65:1  Snow 10:3,5,7,12 15:18     75:1,3,9 80:19	98:23 103:9 105:9 116:19 121:20 126:20 <b>speaker</b> 28:7,19,21 30:6,9 34:8,10 37:3 38:21 42:9 45:20 47:12 49:9 50:16 53:16,17 54:22 56:27 57:2 58:6, 7,9 61:3,5 62:5,7 64:16, 18 67:13 91:11 92:6,15, 24,26 93:25 94:20 96:11,12,14 98:15,16, 18 100:25,27 102:3,5,8,
senior 93:3 109:26 sense 32:7 48:9 113:6 122:5 sensitive 10:26 62:26 63:2 75:24 sensitivity 62:28 separate 87:20 September 11:27 76:25	show 34:16 107:22 shower 99:3 125:28 126:1 showers 99:4,26 shown 97:8 shut 103:2 sic 26:6 41:26 48:11 49:10 50:17	72:26 91:24  small 21:14 30:26     34:12 35:8 36:4,17,20     39:5,7,10 41:8 55:10,13     60:1 83:16 104:25     108:19 109:4,9  small-owned 38:11  Smart 65:1  Snow 10:3,5,7,12 15:18     75:1,3,9 80:19  so-called 103:18	98:23 103:9 105:9 116:19 121:20 126:20 <b>speaker</b> 28:7,19,21 30:6,9 34:8,10 37:3 38:21 42:9 45:20 47:12 49:9 50:16 53:16,17 54:22 56:27 57:2 58:6, 7,9 61:3,5 62:5,7 64:16, 18 67:13 91:11 92:6,15, 24,26 93:25 94:20 96:11,12,14 98:15,16, 18 100:25,27 102:3,5,8, 19 106:10 108:5,6,8 109:17,18,20 112:2,3,5
senior 93:3 109:26 sense 32:7 48:9 113:6 122:5 sensitive 10:26 62:26 63:2 75:24 sensitivity 62:28 separate 87:20 September 11:27 76:25 serve 10:22 46:5,25,27 75:20 99:22 service 4:4 5:7 9:7 10:28 11:12,14 12:7,8	show 34:16 107:22 shower 99:3 125:28 126:1 showers 99:4,26 shown 97:8 shut 103:2 sic 26:6 41:26 48:11 49:10 50:17 side 32:9 119:9	72:26 91:24  small 21:14 30:26     34:12 35:8 36:4,17,20     39:5,7,10 41:8 55:10,13     60:1 83:16 104:25     108:19 109:4,9  small-owned 38:11  Smart 65:1  Snow 10:3,5,7,12 15:18     75:1,3,9 80:19  so-called 103:18  Socal 62:13,25 116:28     117:13 118:1	98:23 103:9 105:9 116:19 121:20 126:20 <b>speaker</b> 28:7,19,21 30:6,9 34:8,10 37:3 38:21 42:9 45:20 47:12 49:9 50:16 53:16,17 54:22 56:27 57:2 58:6, 7,9 61:3,5 62:5,7 64:16, 18 67:13 91:11 92:6,15, 24,26 93:25 94:20 96:11,12,14 98:15,16, 18 100:25,27 102:3,5,8, 19 106:10 108:5,6,8 109:17,18,20 112:2,3,5 113:10,11,13 114:14, 15,17 116:15,17,21,22,
senior 93:3 109:26 sense 32:7 48:9 113:6 122:5 sensitive 10:26 62:26 63:2 75:24 sensitivity 62:28 separate 87:20 September 11:27 76:25 serve 10:22 46:5,25,27 75:20 99:22 service 4:4 5:7 9:7	show 34:16 107:22 shower 99:3 125:28 126:1 showers 99:4,26 shown 97:8 shut 103:2 sic 26:6 41:26 48:11 49:10 50:17 side 32:9 119:9 significant 47:5 significantly 33:3,21	72:26 91:24  small 21:14 30:26     34:12 35:8 36:4,17,20     39:5,7,10 41:8 55:10,13     60:1 83:16 104:25     108:19 109:4,9  small-owned 38:11  Smart 65:1  Snow 10:3,5,7,12 15:18     75:1,3,9 80:19  so-called 103:18  Socal 62:13,25 116:28	98:23 103:9 105:9 116:19 121:20 126:20 <b>speaker</b> 28:7,19,21 30:6,9 34:8,10 37:3 38:21 42:9 45:20 47:12 49:9 50:16 53:16,17 54:22 56:27 57:2 58:6, 7,9 61:3,5 62:5,7 64:16, 18 67:13 91:11 92:6,15, 24,26 93:25 94:20 96:11,12,14 98:15,16, 18 100:25,27 102:3,5,8, 19 106:10 108:5,6,8 109:17,18,20 112:2,3,5 113:10,11,13 114:14,
senior 93:3 109:26 sense 32:7 48:9 113:6 122:5 sensitive 10:26 62:26 63:2 75:24 sensitivity 62:28 separate 87:20 September 11:27 76:25 serve 10:22 46:5,25,27 75:20 99:22 service 4:4 5:7 9:7 10:28 11:12,14 12:7,8 13:7 15:3 16:26,27 39:2 42:27 44:10 60:5,7,14 68:14 69:19 74:3 75:26 76:10 77:5 78:5 80:2	show 34:16 107:22 shower 99:3 125:28 126:1 showers 99:4,26 shown 97:8 shut 103:2 sic 26:6 41:26 48:11 49:10 50:17 side 32:9 119:9 significant 47:5 significantly 33:3,21 45:12 108:23	72:26 91:24  small 21:14 30:26     34:12 35:8 36:4,17,20     39:5,7,10 41:8 55:10,13     60:1 83:16 104:25     108:19 109:4,9  small-owned 38:11  Smart 65:1  Snow 10:3,5,7,12 15:18     75:1,3,9 80:19  so-called 103:18  Socal 62:13,25 116:28     117:13 118:1  solar 48:3 65:10 96:28     112:16,17,23  sold 85:6	98:23 103:9 105:9 116:19 121:20 126:20 <b>speaker</b> 28:7,19,21 30:6,9 34:8,10 37:3 38:21 42:9 45:20 47:12 49:9 50:16 53:16,17 54:22 56:27 57:2 58:6, 7,9 61:3,5 62:5,7 64:16, 18 67:13 91:11 92:6,15, 24,26 93:25 94:20 96:11,12,14 98:15,16, 18 100:25,27 102:3,5,8, 19 106:10 108:5,6,8 109:17,18,20 112:2,3,5 113:10,11,13 114:14, 15,17 116:15,17,21,22, 24 119:1,3 121:4,9,11,
senior 93:3 109:26 sense 32:7 48:9 113:6 122:5 sensitive 10:26 62:26 63:2 75:24 sensitivity 62:28 separate 87:20 September 11:27 76:25 serve 10:22 46:5,25,27 75:20 99:22 service 4:4 5:7 9:7 10:28 11:12,14 12:7,8 13:7 15:3 16:26,27 39:2 42:27 44:10 60:5,7,14 68:14 69:19 74:3 75:26 76:10 77:5 78:5 80:2 82:1,2 83:27 84:1,6,9	show 34:16 107:22 shower 99:3 125:28 126:1 showers 99:4,26 shown 97:8 shut 103:2 sic 26:6 41:26 48:11 49:10 50:17 side 32:9 119:9 significant 47:5 significantly 33:3,21 45:12 108:23 signing 36:14 simple 34:19 50:28	72:26 91:24  small 21:14 30:26     34:12 35:8 36:4,17,20     39:5,7,10 41:8 55:10,13     60:1 83:16 104:25     108:19 109:4,9  small-owned 38:11  Smart 65:1  Snow 10:3,5,7,12 15:18     75:1,3,9 80:19  so-called 103:18  Socal 62:13,25 116:28     117:13 118:1  solar 48:3 65:10 96:28     112:16,17,23  sold 85:6  sole 16:21	98:23 103:9 105:9 116:19 121:20 126:20 <b>speaker</b> 28:7,19,21 30:6,9 34:8,10 37:3 38:21 42:9 45:20 47:12 49:9 50:16 53:16,17 54:22 56:27 57:2 58:6, 7,9 61:3,5 62:5,7 64:16, 18 67:13 91:11 92:6,15, 24,26 93:25 94:20 96:11,12,14 98:15,16, 18 100:25,27 102:3,5,8, 19 106:10 108:5,6,8 109:17,18,20 112:2,3,5 113:10,11,13 114:14, 15,17 116:15,17,21,22, 24 119:1,3 121:4,9,11, 12,15 124:1,4 <b>speakers</b> 59:14 69:5
senior 93:3 109:26 sense 32:7 48:9 113:6 122:5 sensitive 10:26 62:26 63:2 75:24 sensitivity 62:28 separate 87:20 September 11:27 76:25 serve 10:22 46:5,25,27 75:20 99:22 service 4:4 5:7 9:7 10:28 11:12,14 12:7,8 13:7 15:3 16:26,27 39:2 42:27 44:10 60:5,7,14 68:14 69:19 74:3 75:26 76:10 77:5 78:5 80:2	show 34:16 107:22 shower 99:3 125:28 126:1 showers 99:4,26 shown 97:8 shut 103:2 sic 26:6 41:26 48:11 49:10 50:17 side 32:9 119:9 significant 47:5 significantly 33:3,21 45:12 108:23 signing 36:14 simple 34:19 50:28 111:4	72:26 91:24  small 21:14 30:26     34:12 35:8 36:4,17,20     39:5,7,10 41:8 55:10,13     60:1 83:16 104:25     108:19 109:4,9  small-owned 38:11  Smart 65:1  Snow 10:3,5,7,12 15:18     75:1,3,9 80:19  so-called 103:18  Socal 62:13,25 116:28     117:13 118:1  solar 48:3 65:10 96:28     112:16,17,23  sold 85:6	98:23 103:9 105:9 116:19 121:20 126:20 <b>speaker</b> 28:7,19,21 30:6,9 34:8,10 37:3 38:21 42:9 45:20 47:12 49:9 50:16 53:16,17 54:22 56:27 57:2 58:6, 7,9 61:3,5 62:5,7 64:16, 18 67:13 91:11 92:6,15, 24,26 93:25 94:20 96:11,12,14 98:15,16, 18 100:25,27 102:3,5,8, 19 106:10 108:5,6,8 109:17,18,20 112:2,3,5 113:10,11,13 114:14, 15,17 116:15,17,21,22, 24 119:1,3 121:4,9,11, 12,15 124:1,4 <b>speakers</b> 59:14 69:5 102:2 107:21,23

Index: school..speaking

speaks 97:18	103:20	submitted 6:3 8:9	systems 99:27
<b>specific</b> 9:6 55:6 74:1	<b>statement</b> 28:21 30:9 34:10 37:3 38:21 42:9 43:21 45:4,26 47:14	12:22 70:16 73:6 77:21	systemwide 14:3
specifically 31:5		<b>submitting</b> 9:17 74:13	49:20 79:2
<b>spell</b> 34:2 45:19 93:20 116:14 121:2	49:11 50:18 51:27 52:3 53:19 54:24 57:2 58:9	subscribing 9:16 74:12	Т
spelled 34:13 38:24	61:5 62:7 64:18 92:15, 26 94:20 96:14 98:18	subsequent 7:12	<b>T-U-R-N</b> 83:12
43:13 44:24 53:22 61:7 94:22	100:27 102:5 106:10 108:8 109:20 112:5	substantial 12:25 77:23	<b>T-U-R-N-E-R</b> 96:16
spelling 28:2 58:11	113:13 114:17 116:24	substantially 54:14	<b>table</b> 34:15
92:1 93:24	119:3 121:15 124:4	suffered 103:27 119:7	tacked 43:3
spending 80:16	<b>statements</b> 4:13 51:7, 10 53:8 68:23	suffering 59:2 102:10	taking 10:8,20 15:15
<b>spent</b> 19:20 56:1	stating 38:26 55:6	120:7	21:4 49:2 58:10 75:5,18 102:25 108:12
<b>spoke</b> 63:17 105:8	status 50:26 95:14	sufficient 93:15	talk 16:3,7 86:15 99:16
<b>spread</b> 13:25 78:22	121:24	suggested 111:2	126:9
<b>spring</b> 56:8,16	<b>stay</b> 115:16	<b>summary</b> 5:28 24:13	talking 54:4 63:15
sprouting 37:21	<b>Steven</b> 112:4,6	70:13	95:12 115:20 117:28
square 104:8	stockholders 97:14	<b>summer</b> 7:4,14 25:15 38:6 71:26 72:6	<b>Tania</b> 102:4,19 105:26, 28
<b>staff</b> 16:14 59:24 81:19	stood 26:2	<b>sun</b> 65:8	tank 99:17,25 100:15
stage 17:5	<b>stops</b> 122:12	<b>super</b> 120:19	tapped 90:17
<b>stakeholders</b> 13:11 78:9 94:24	<b>store</b> 115:2	<b>supervisor</b> 8:20 73:16	tax 17:17 40:6 61:18,22
stand 20:26 21:18	story 28:27 34:20	supplied 7:9 72:2	82:18 111:5,6 124:19
25:15	straight 103:12 105:14	<b>supply</b> 99:17	taxes 63:18
<b>standard</b> 24:25 89:5	straightforward 55:26	support 37:7	teacher 108:12
standing 50:24	<b>strain</b> 99:15	supposed 103:19	<b>team</b> 114:11
<b>stands</b> 86:21	strained 125:17	105:10	technology 64:24 65:9
Stanford 27:8,9	stretched 125:4	<b>supposedly</b> 102:24 103:19 105:16 115:9	Temecula 47:17
<b>star</b> 4:20 27:14 69:3	<b>strides</b> 113:25	<b>Supreme</b> 20:18 86:19	temporary 58:1,2
91:8 96:9 107:25 116:19 126:21	<b>strikes</b> 12:27 15:4	surcharge 7:2 57:22	tenant 44:15
<b>start</b> 20:25 22:8 28:1	77:25 80:4	71:24	tenants 43:4
38:26 48:27 59:3,8	strong 23:15	<b>survive</b> 35:19 61:28	tend 31:3 120:2
91:27 98:9	<b>struggling</b> 38:4 101:12 102:22 104:1	106:19	tens 46:18 56:1
started 19:15 103:21 114:22 125:15	studies 37:11	survived 35:16	<b>terms</b> 52:23 88:18 121:21
<b>state</b> 5:3,10 22:9 25:28	<b>study</b> 88:27	Susan 92:16	testimony 11:24 76:22
32:1 34:23 40:16 42:23	stuff 113:2 120:1	<b>sustainable</b> 31:11,19 40:13,21 41:2 42:1 55:9	testing 29:16
44:6 45:6 50:24 52:19 69:15,22 120:16	stupider 41:26	swamp 112:21	theoretically 57:23
state's 60:2 83:17 93:12 stated 8:27 23:15 42:24 44:7 73:23 86:15	style 53:3 submit 11:24 65:23 76:22	<b>system</b> 12:28 77:26 99:18,26 104:15 117:27 122:8 124:15 125:19 126:6	thing 36:18 43:7 44:18 64:5 65:7 97:25 99:15 118:16

Index: speaks..thing

things 12:11 24:20 91:18 96:6 98:13 100:22 U 25:8,24 31:23,25 34:19 101:28 102:7,11,13,17 today 4:17 6:12 7:21 39:24 52:12 57:9 61:24 105:26 106:1,6 107:19, 8:2,11,25 9:13,24 10:11 64:21 77:9 89:2 100:10 24 108:2 109:15 111:28 **U.S.** 26:21 90:10 11:13 13:13 15:16 16:4 110:15 114:20 115:15 113:9 114:13 116:13, 20:26 22:22 23:14,28 **Ultimately 13:8 78:6** 117:9 118:8 119:9,12 16,18 121:2,7,10 123:6, 30:12 33:24 36:23 120:6,13,17 122:13,17 10 126:14,19,25 unable 33:5 37:21 38:13 53:14 track 104:13 **thinking** 65:1 118:18 65:22 66:2 67:26 68:28 unacceptable 102:10, 71:6 72:15,25 73:7,22 21 111:22 **Thomas** 124:1,5 transcribe 27:27 91:25 74:9,21 76:11 78:11 uncertainty 118:14 81:11 96:5 121:20 transcribed 67:11 thought 47:21 113:21 unconscionable 50:6 thoughts 9:3 48:25 today's 3:24 4:28 7:28 transcriber 93:21 63:7 95:22 8:6 20:26,27 68:6 69:12 73:27 transcribing 8:2 72:24 72:23 73:1 underscore 94:24 thousands 46:18 56:2 transcript 8:6 73:1 63:15 124:19 toilets 25:4 89:10 99:26 understand 10:21 **transfer** 95:1,8 20:26 32:10,13 75:19 three- 115:21 told 29:12 93:2 103:9 93:13 100:8 107:4 115:4.6 transferred 58:26 three-and-a-half 46:9 110:24 124:15,23 **tools** 11:10 15:10 76:8 transitioning 93:12 three-story 28:25 understood 126:12 80:10 transparency 29:12, ticket 111:7 undertook 56:13 top 49:3 52:25 97:13 21 102:26 110:5 125:14 tied 35:3 unemployment 33:5 trees 39:22,23 tier 23:7 54:3 96:24 total 21:5 26:19 unfair 90:3 120:19 **trip** 95:18 totally 25:7 54:6 89:12 tiers 96:23.27 unit 28:27 true 25:19 97:25 90:2,5 102:9 tight 17:1 82:3 units 19:8 25:10 Tuesday 3:6 63:25 touches 38:3 time 10:8,27 15:15 67:3 unjust 95:22 tough 124:25 125:10 25:13 27:3,17 29:15 **turn** 4:10 10:2 23:15 **Unlike** 109:7 30:12,21 31:16 33:13 tourism 33:1 55:2 27:4,28 59:26 68:20 36:22 38:12 43:11 unmanageable 95:24 125:6 74:28 83:4,12,13 88:8, 44:22 46:14,17 47:8 26 91:27 104:21 112:20 unnecessary 52:28 town 30:18 111:17 50:13 53:13,20 54:19 125:28 53:10 57:7 59:15 61:20 64:8, 124:27 **TURN's** 32:11 11 65:18 75:6,25 80:17 unpayable 89:12 townhomes 28:25 88:2 92:11,18 93:10,15 **Turner** 96:13,14,16 unplanned 13:1 77:27 townhouse 104:24 94:2 101:2 103:6 104:6 98:13 105:8 107:7 108:26 unprecedented 10:20 **Toy** 3:4,11,19,23 9:25 109:14,23 111:27 turning 11:16 76:14 39:1 75:18 10:6,7 15:18,23,26 112:9,14,19 113:7,8,16 18:2,8,10 24:8,11,13 **TVS** 104:10 unreasonable 90:2 114:12 115:11 116:3 26:15 27:2,11 28:10,17 122:22 124:25 126:1, two- 115:20 updates 12:18 30:4 34:1,6 36:24 38:16 18,19 42:4 43:12,20 44:23 **twofold** 16:25 updating 77:17 timers 125:27 45:18,21 47:10 49:7 type 31:9 103:7 upgrading 54:9 50:14 53:15 54:20 times 10:20 55:22 56:15 58:5 59:11,16,19, types 35:14 upper 96:26 57:27 62:27 75:18 98:4 22 60:21 62:2 64:13 104:17 **typical** 88:19 65:15,19 66:28 67:15, **upset** 105:5 timing 14:27 79:26 24 68:5 70:27 71:1 **typically** 7:18 72:12 urged 89:20 118:4 74:23 75:4 80:19,24 81:2,5 83:2,8,18,21 **usage** 25:27 40:20 tips 15:10 80:10 84:16,20 91:5,22 92:12, 46:8,20 50:5 56:5,14 title 4:24 27:22 69:8 21 93:19,26 94:3,11 89:20 99:6,9 108:23

Index: things..usage

user 24:22

users 85:14 95:8,10

**utilities** 4:8 5:2,3 7:23 16:12,21 20:12,19 31:14 37:10 41:22 60:2 68:18 69:14,15 72:17 81:9 83:17 86:12 87:17 95:7 109:1 117:10

utilities' 9:10

utility 3:26 4:1,14 5:5 6:4,15,18,20 7:6 10:14 12:14,23 13:22,28 17:15 37:26 38:3 59:25, 27 60:6,7,14 62:14 63:9 67:6 68:8,11,25 69:17 70:17 71:9,11,12,14 75:12 77:13,22 78:20, 26 82:4 83:11,14,28 84:1 90:22,24 94:28 95:20,26 101:11 118:17

utility's 74:6

٧

**V-A-N-D-E-Z-A-N-D-E** 108:10

**vacation** 49:26 124:2 125:26

vacationers 42:26 44:9

Valley 98:21 112:8

valves 99:4

Vandezande 108:7,8,9 109:15

**vast** 18:19,23

Ventura 63:11

viability 41:6

viable 41:8

Vice-president 93:4

victim 97:4

Victor 34:3 37:6 123:4

**Victorville** 92:17 112:7

video 73:4

Viejo 50:23

viewpoints 13:12 78:9

**views** 16:17,18 81:22,

**VIRTUAL** 3:1 66:25

**visit** 9:9 15:13 49:27 50:2 74:5 80:13

visited 98:3

**visitors** 13:6 34:26 35:9 54:28 60:17 78:4 84:11 98:5

**voice** 16:5 37:6 62:23 63:23 86:5

voices 17:28 56:25

**volume** 30:24

**vote** 5:14,26 69:26 70:11 113:7 118:25

voters 63:22

voting 116:27

W

**W-H-I-T-E-H-E-A-D** 93:25

W-I-B-R-O-E 45:20

W-O-O-D-S 62:9

**wage** 40:28 42:28 44:11 95:16

**waiting** 27:24 29:9 91:23

walk 17:1 82:3

wanted 3:19 24:23 34:14 48:18 55:19 60:22 61:16 101:6 103:22 120:21 122:28

**wanting** 111:11

warrant 36:14

Washington 40:17

water 3:9,26 4:1 5:5,6 6:4,15,17,20 7:6,9,16 10:14,17 12:14,23 13:7, 20,28 14:18 15:3 17:2, 11 18:24 20:11,21 21:2, 7,11,14,16,17 22:2,4 23:7 24:5,28 25:4,16, 19,27 26:2,6,10,13,18, 20,27 29:2,4,6,7,9,11, 13,19,26,28 30:1,27 31:1,9,13,15,28 32:3 34:17,22 35:1,3,21 39:5,7,11,23 40:19,20 41:7,10 43:8 44:19 46:8,10,20 47:5 50:4 52:15 56:3 57:4 58:3,17 60:5,6 64:22,26 67:6 68:8,11 69:17,18 70:17 71:9,11,14 72:2,9 75:11,16 77:13,22 78:5, 18 79:17 80:2 82:6 83:27,28 84:6,7,8,28 85:5 86:1,6,11,20,24, 25,27 87:1,3,6,8,16 88:14,24 89:8,15,19,20, 24,27 90:4,7,9,14 91:2 95:7,20 98:3 99:2,8,17, 21,23,24,25,27 100:11, 12,17 104:14 106:18, 21,22,27 108:20,23 109:9 111:15,16 113:27 115:1,5,6,17 118:9

122:7,19 124:14,18 **water-related** 48:19

119:20,25,26 120:21

water-saving 46:19

**Wayne** 49:9,11,12 61:3, 6 94:19,21

**ways** 9:14 32:3 56:13 74:10 107:3,11 119:27 121:22 123:12

**web** 18:11

Webex 106:3

**website** 9:10,18 17:22 65:26 73:5 74:6,15 82:21 122:25

week 33:8

**weekend** 124:18

weeks 99:22

wells 29:16

west 46:3 98:26 99:19

**Western** 20:11 45:28 86:11

Westminster 61:9

**Whitehead** 92:25,26,

27 93:19,25

Whitley 28:24

Wibroe 45:1,4,5,18,20

Index: user..wrong

wildest 114:2

wildfire 51:26 59:8

wildfires 54:11 58:27

Wilson 105:26,28

window 33:25

wiring 104:21

wishes 116:19

woman 63:17

wondered 122:25

wonderful 38:15

**Woods** 62:6,7,9 64:13

**word** 20:23,24 86:21 113:6

**words** 23:4 26:9 35:10 62:28 88:25

work 13:15 32:20 33:5, 14 35:13,16 46:22 56:23 78:13 94:6 98:7 101:9,22 110:8,23,26 119:5,7 124:6 125:3

worked 35:18,19

workers 33:4

126:6

**working** 10:27 40:27 61:11 75:25 105:16 108:17 117:7

works 59:24

**world** 48:2 101:8 120:28

worried 118:6

worst 47:28 48:25

wrap 26:16

write 5:18 70:1 105:15

writing 123:1

written 7:25 8:6,9,12 56:22 65:24 72:18 73:1, 6.8

wrong 113:5,6 120:3

## www.

publicadvocates. cpuc.ca.gov. 17:23,24 82:23,25

## Υ

**year** 6:21 7:11 13:26 14:15 21:8,9 22:19,20, 25,26,27 23:2,3,8,9,20, 23,25 24:3,4 25:21 33:3,8 37:12,15 46:5,6, 10,12,21 48:11,14 51:11,16,22 58:16,17, 18 59:2,7 61:12 64:2 71:15 72:4 78:24 79:13 87:2,24,25,26 88:2,12, 13,16,17,22,23 98:28 99:13,23 100:3 101:16 112:18,23 115:14 119:8

**years** 6:7 7:3 12:23 14:15 19:20 20:9 29:4 38:27 39:4,15,27 40:12 41:15,18,25 47:22 53:23 54:9 61:19,23 63:16 70:20 71:25 77:22 79:13,18 85:22 86:9 90:17,19 96:19,23 97:1,27 99:2 106:16 110:24 112:9,17 114:19 115:4,21 119:18 122:11

yesterday 53:25

yield 53:12

young 62:15

youth 46:6 98:27 99:11