

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA



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ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GERALD F. KELLY presiding

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

) PUBLIC  
) PARTICIPATION  
) HEARING  
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) Application  
) 18-12-009  
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27  
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I N D E X

STATEMENTS

MR. MULLEN	705
MS. KANE	706
MR. FREDERICK	709
MS. FOREMAN	712
MS. SIMCO	714
MS. CORONA	715
MS. GIBLIN	717
MR. DEIMEL	722
MS. AUGUSTSON	723
MR. LOPEZ	725
MR. MITCHELL	728
MS. SIMCO	730
MR. MULLEN	737
MS. KANE	739
MR. GOLDEN	741
MS. BARRO	742
MS. O'NEAL	746

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2  
3  
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5  
6  
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BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA  
AUGUST 13, 2019 - 1:00 P.M.  
\* \* \* \* \*  
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE KELLY: We're  
going to go on the record.  
The Commission will come to order.  
This is the time and place set for the public  
participation hearing for the general rate  
case in Application of Pacific Gas and  
Electric Company, which may also be referred  
to as PG&E, in Application A.18-12-009.  
My name is Gerald F. Kelly, and I am  
not the administrative law judge that's  
assigned to this proceeding. The assigned  
judges are Judge Lirag and Judge Lau. I have  
volunteered to conduct these hearings for  
them for several reasons, but one of the  
reasons was I like to get out and meet the  
public and hear what you guys have to say.  
So I volunteered to cover this proceeding  
today.  
The matter's assigned to  
Commissioner Picker, and he is not with us  
today. However, they do receive a copy of  
the transcript, and I will provide a summary  
to Judge Lirag and Judge Lau about today's  
hearing and will answer any questions that  
they have. Before we start, I just want to

1 take a couple of minutes to give you a brief  
2 overview of the California Public Utilities  
3 Commission, or PUC, what we are and what we  
4 actually do. The PUC is a state agency that  
5 regulates privately owned utilities like PG&E  
6 that provide essential services, such as --  
7 excuse me -- electricity and natural gas.

8 There are five Commissioners at the  
9 PUC. These five Commissioners will be the  
10 people who vote and decide on whether to  
11 approve PG&E's request or some other dollar  
12 amount in this application.

13 The roles of Judge Lirag and Judge  
14 Lau as the assigned judges in this case is to  
15 review PG&E's application. Based on the  
16 evidence that is presented, they will write a  
17 proposed decision for the Commissioners to  
18 consider. The Commission will vote to adopt  
19 their decision or vote to adopt an alternate  
20 decision put forth by the Commissioner.

21 I'm going to briefly just summarize  
22 what the application is and what PG&E is  
23 asking for. In this application, PG&E  
24 requests authority to increase its revenues  
25 by 1.058 billion in 2020, 454 million in 2021  
26 and 486 million in 2022. Every three years  
27 PG&E files a general rate case application,  
28 or GRC, like this one to request funding for

1 its gas and electric operations. The impact  
2 of this GRC application, if fully funded,  
3 would increase an average residential  
4 customer's monthly bill by 7 to 8 percent or  
5 approximately \$10.57.

6 According to PG&E, the major reasons  
7 for the requested increase are to fund PG&E's  
8 wildfire safety mitigation and liability  
9 insurance. If you want more information  
10 about the application, there is a fact sheet  
11 at the Public Advisor's table.

12 Currently there are many active  
13 parties in this proceeding including several  
14 consumer groups, community-based  
15 organizations, city and county governments,  
16 unions and large user groups. Many of these  
17 groups oppose what PG&E is requesting. Their  
18 participation in this proceeding can affect  
19 the amount of money the Commission will  
20 ultimately authorize PG&E to collect. The  
21 purpose of the PPH today is to listen to your  
22 comments on PG&E's application. We want to  
23 hear about how PG&E's application will impact  
24 you, your family or your community as a PG&E  
25 customer. Your comments will help the  
26 Commission gather information to determine  
27 whether PG&E's proposed increases are  
28 reasonable.

1                   Judge Lirag and Judge Lau already  
2     received a lot of comments that the public  
3     have sent in to the Commissioner's office and  
4     the Public Advisor's Office. PG&E has  
5     representatives here -- customer service  
6     representatives that you can ask questions or  
7     get specific responses to if you have  
8     questions about your bill.

9                   Additionally, the Commission's  
10    Public Advisor's Office has a table where you  
11    can get further information about their  
12    proceeding or you can sign up to get further  
13    additional information. If you have any  
14    questions regarding the Commission or our  
15    process, please do not hesitate to speak to  
16    somebody at the Public Advisor's Office.

17                  I'm just basically going to go over  
18    a few ground rules that we have. If you'd  
19    like to speak today, please sign up at the  
20    table back with the Public Advisor's Office.  
21    We'll listen to anybody who has anything to  
22    say. So if you would like to speak, please  
23    do sign up. As a courtesy to others, please  
24    refrain from calling out or interrupting any  
25    speaker. Please direct any comments to me  
26    and not to PG&E. And I would also just like  
27    to ask that you put your cellphones on  
28    silent.

1                   Additionally, we have two court  
2   reporters in the room who have the difficult  
3   job of transcribing everything that is said  
4   here today. So I just ask that everybody try  
5   to speak slowly and clearly because it's very  
6   difficult if you speak fast. I'm probably  
7   one of the biggest violators of that. So I  
8   always have to tell myself just to slow down.  
9   So if you could just please remember to speak  
10  slowly and clearly when you give your speech,  
11  that would be great.

12                  Also, the first time you speak, if  
13  you can just spell and state your name. And  
14  if you're from a specific organization or a  
15  group, just state what that organization is.  
16  And if you're going to be reading from a  
17  script, if you could possibly just give a  
18  copy of the script to the court reporters, it  
19  makes it easier for them when they go back  
20  and actually do the record. They can take a  
21  snapshot of it and just give you back the  
22  original.

23                  I'm not going to limit the time --  
24  we have -- right now only four people have  
25  signed up. So I'm not going to limit the  
26  time. However, if there was a large group of  
27  people, sometimes they would limit the time.

28                  We're going to go ahead and take

1 presentations from the parties in this  
2 matter, and then after that, we will go ahead  
3 and open it up to public comments. Right now  
4 I'd like to ask if PG&E would like to give  
5 some opening comments.

6 STATEMENT OF MR. MULLEN

7 Thank you, Judge Kelly. And welcome to  
8 Kern County. And also, welcome to everyone  
9 and thank you for attending today's public  
10 participation hearing on PG&E's 2020 general  
11 rate case, or GRC, proposal.

12 My name is Pat Mullen, P-A-T  
13 M-U-L-L-E-N. I've been an employee of PG&E  
14 for 25 years. As the local division manager  
15 for Kern and San Luis Obispo Counties, I'm  
16 responsible for our local service and support  
17 to the roughly 850,000 customers that PG&E  
18 serves in the communities in the Kern  
19 division.

20 This is 1 of 17 hearings being  
21 hosted by the CPUC throughout our 70,000  
22 square-mile service area. At each location,  
23 representatives from PG&E are available to  
24 assist customers with any specific questions  
25 they may have on their bill or their service.  
26 We have representatives, as you mentioned,  
27 Judge Kelly, here today in the back at a  
28 table staffed with PG&E customer service



1 representatives. Kacey's there and can also  
2 access accounts to answer any specific  
3 questions.

4 In addition to the PG&E  
5 representatives that we have here today,  
6 customers who have a question about their  
7 service or their bill can also call PG&E 24  
8 hours a day at 1-800-PGE-5000 or  
9 1-800-743-5000.

10 Our customers' feedback in this  
11 process is crucial for us to hear because the  
12 application includes a series of critical  
13 safety investments to help address the  
14 state's growing wildfire threat and further  
15 protect the 16 million customers that PG&E  
16 serves. Thank you to the Commission for this  
17 opportunity and to you, Judge Kelly, to learn  
18 from our customers here today.

19 Now we'd like to introduce Julie  
20 Kane, PG&E's senior vice president and chief  
21 ethics and compliance officer and deputy  
22 general counsel, who would like to make a few  
23 comments.

24 Julie.

25 STATEMENT OF MS. KANE

26 Thank you. Good afternoon, Everyone.  
27 Thank you for being here today. And thank  
28 you very much, ALJ Kelly, for giving us this

1 opportunity to contribute and to learn from  
2 the public participation hearings on our 2020  
3 general rate case, or GRC, proposal.

4 My name is Julie Kane. That's  
5 J-U-L-I-E K-A-N-E, and I've been senior vice  
6 president of PG&E's compliance and ethics  
7 program for the last four years. In that  
8 role, I oversee compliance and ethics  
9 activities at the company. These efforts  
10 include supporting PG&E's most important  
11 responsibility, which is the safety of our  
12 customers and the communities we serve.

13 One of the most important ways we  
14 achieve that is through our GRC proposal,  
15 which outlines our plans to upgrade  
16 technology and infrastructure to enhance our  
17 ability to provide safe and reliable gas and  
18 electric service. Our proposal will help  
19 bolster wildfire prevention, risk monitoring  
20 and emergency response. It will also add new  
21 and enhanced safety measures, increase  
22 vegetation management and harden our electric  
23 system to increase resiliency and help  
24 further reduce wildfire risks, among other  
25 projects, to safely and reliably serve our  
26 customers.

27 Under the proposal, we are  
28 requesting about a 1.1 billion dollar

1 increase over currently adopted revenues.  
2 More than half of the proposed increase would  
3 be directly related to wildfire prevention,  
4 risk reduction and additional safety  
5 enhancements. If approved by the CPUC, it  
6 would increase a typical customer's bill by  
7 about 6.4 percent or \$10.57 per month, which  
8 includes \$8.73 per month for electricity and  
9 \$1.84 a month for natural gas service.

10 While it is important to share with  
11 you where your money is going, it is also  
12 important to share where the money would not  
13 be spent. While the GRC proposal will help  
14 fund a series of important safety  
15 investments, it does not request funding for  
16 PG&E corporation or utility officer  
17 compensation. That means it does not go  
18 toward my pay or the pay of any of my  
19 colleagues. The proposal also does not  
20 request funding for potential wildfire claims  
21 involved in the Chapter 11 bankruptcy  
22 proceeding.

23 The GRC proposal is a significant  
24 request and comes at a difficult time. As  
25 always, our commitment is to keep our  
26 customer costs as low as possible while  
27 meeting our responsibilities to safely serve  
28 our customers even as our changing climate

1 presents significant new challenges and  
2 risks. This funding proposal is subject to  
3 the CPUC's thorough open and transparent  
4 review and approval process. We encourage  
5 our customers to provide feedback and  
6 participate in this important public process  
7 that will help shape customer rates in  
8 California energy future.

9 Thank you for your time today.

10 ALJ KELLY: Does anybody from the  
11 Public Advocates Office want to make a  
12 presentation?

13 (No response.)

14 ALJ KELLY: All right. I'll take that  
15 as a no.

16 Kern Taxpayer Association.

17 STATEMENT OF MR. FREDERICK

18 Thank you, Judge Kelly, for hosting  
19 this. We appreciate this opportunity to  
20 speak. This is a very important matter for  
21 us. My name is Jess Frederick. I'm a member  
22 of Kern Tax. Kern Taxpayers Association  
23 represents the tax payers of Kern Tax  
24 County -- or Kern County. I'll be brief.

25 We at Kern Tax want to see a robust  
26 utility service that is able to meet our  
27 current needs and prepare well in advance for  
28 future challenges while providing reasonable

1 costs. We want to see an outcome that  
2 supports our unique position of being an  
3 energy source in terms of non-renewable and  
4 renewable energy and our unique needs as  
5 defined by the cooling degree days required  
6 for our region. This phase of the ratemaking  
7 process is a complex process using many forms  
8 of econometrics and dispatch models too  
9 complex for the typical ratepayer to  
10 understand let alone provide input into the  
11 process. The math is heavy, and as I'm sure  
12 you're aware, the lobbying is too. We want  
13 to make sure our community members' interests  
14 are represented to the fullest possible  
15 extent.

16 We seek more regional pricing, and  
17 we're not going to make any bones about that.  
18 More regional service -- we are very happy  
19 with the service that PG&E provides to us,  
20 and we want to keep it that way. We want  
21 fewer service area-wide balancing accounts so  
22 that we, in our own area, can determine  
23 what's reasonable and just so that we can  
24 participate more actively in the process. ]  
25 And we want to see a more robust support of  
26 the critical infrastructure; as such, Kern  
27 Tax will participate on behalf of our fellow  
28 ratepayers here in San Joaquin Valley.

1                   And specifically, here's the fine  
2     print: Central Valley ratepayers, we  
3     believe, will be harmed by the current  
4     resource plans that we fear draw capital from  
5     need-based reinforcements, wire upgrades,  
6     protective relay upgrades, as well as  
7     building spinning reserve capacity, and  
8     directs those monies to more territory-wide  
9     synthetic resources relying on megawatts and  
10    other types of schemes that we don't believe  
11    builds robust infrastructure. And I know  
12    this is about an average rate, but we don't  
13    see this as a average rate game because of  
14    the disproportionate costs that we bear in  
15    the context of cooling degree days, which we  
16    can range from six cooling degree days on the  
17    coast to over a thousand here in the central  
18    valley. We will bear the largest brunt of  
19    that average when it's allocated on the  
20    households, in general. So, in short, we  
21    support, you know, transmission voltage nodal  
22    security, we want lots of that, and greater  
23    regional consideration. We want to see more  
24    use of cooling degree days as a measurement  
25    of allocation of burden and allocation of  
26    resources. We -- we need to have robust  
27    wires. We don't have trees, so don't come to  
28    us and talk about cutting trees. We just

1 want more wires and more regional generation.  
2 And we believe, I think, in our minds, that  
3 isolating loads and reserve capacity in  
4 determining reliability needs is a good  
5 thing, because we can fool ourselves into  
6 thinking that we'll just reduce loads, and  
7 that'll forego the need for additional  
8 reserve capacity built into the system. And  
9 with that, I will just say, "Thank you."

10 ALJ KELLY: Thank you, sir.

11 We're going to go ahead and start  
12 taking comments from the public. My first  
13 speaker, Sharon Foreman. And Ms. Foreman, if  
14 you could just remember to state and spell  
15 your name, that'll be perfect for the court  
16 reporters. Thank you.

17 STATEMENT OF MS. FOREMAN

18 Good afternoon. My name is Sharon  
19 Foreman, S-h-a-r-o-n Foreman, F-o-r-e-m-a-n,  
20 and I live in Taft, California.

21 I'm here regarding this rate  
22 increase from PG&E because I feel the rate  
23 increase is excessive, especially for senior  
24 citizens who are on a limited income. It  
25 seems that about every two to three months we  
26 get a notice in our bill that the rates are  
27 going to be increased for some reason or  
28 another, but this one appears to be -- it's

1     gone off. Thank you. Sorry about that.

2     Thank you.

3                 This rate increase is based on Tier  
4     1 baseline allowances.

5                 ALJ KELLY: I don't think it's still  
6     working. Test. Yeah. No, they're not  
7     working.

8                 MS. FOREMAN: My comments are going to  
9     be brief.

10                I feel that this rate increase that  
11     PG&E has proposed to meet their wildfire  
12     needs and -- and improve their  
13     infrastructure, which should have been going  
14     along all this time since they've been in  
15     business, because that's what they are is a  
16     corporation for utilities and that type of  
17     thing, and I feel that this rate increase is  
18     excessive, especially for senior citizens on  
19     a limited income. For the ones especially  
20     who don't qualify for the CARE program, we  
21     pay straight rates, just like everybody else.  
22     But, for the program to go up 7.7 percent  
23     based on the Tier 1 baseline allowance, which  
24     is only like about 500 kilowatts, and we live  
25     in an area where the temperature can go from  
26     105 to 110 degrees in the summertime, where  
27     we need to run an air conditioner, live in a  
28     900-square foot house, and have had it



1 insulated and windows added and the whole  
2 thing that's been recommended to make your  
3 house energy efficient, and still have a bill  
4 of \$263, is a little excessive. So for PG&E  
5 to come and say they want to raise their  
6 rates for the electricity and the gas rates  
7 throughout the year at this amount is  
8 excessive for we senior citizens who are on a  
9 limited income. Thank you very much for  
10 listening. I appreciate it.

11 ALJ KELLY: Thank you for your  
12 comments, Ms. Foreman.

13 In addition to having a fault of  
14 speaking really fast, I also have another  
15 fault where I tend to slaughter people's  
16 names. So if I don't say your name  
17 correctly, you'll have to forgive me.

18 Our next speaker is Jennie Simcl  
19 (sic).

20 STATEMENT OF MS. SIMCO

21 Simco. My name is Genevieve Simco,  
22 G-e-n-e-v-i-e-v-e Simco, S-i-m-c-o.

23 I would just like to reiterate what  
24 the lady just said about we live in a small  
25 house. My bill's \$335 this month. I have  
26 had windows, I've had insulation, I've had  
27 everything done to my house. I sit in a  
28 house at 82 degrees with fans. And why is my

1 bill still \$335? Thank you.

2 ALJ KELLY: Thank you, Ms. Simco. I'm  
3 not going to take the -- the fall for saying  
4 your name wrong. It was actually misspelled  
5 on my form. So thank you.

6 MS. SIMCO: Happens all the time.

7 ALJ KELLY: Next person is Lisa Corona.

8 STATEMENT OF MS. CORONA

9 Thank you, Judge Kelly, for today's  
10 proceeding.

11 ALJ KELLY: It shows that it's on, but  
12 I'm not hearing.

13 MS. CORONA: My name is Lisa, L-i-s-a,  
14 Corona, C-o-r-o-n-a.

15 I reside on Salazar Avenue, where we  
16 had PG&E put equipment that within four  
17 months failed; power went off at 6:00 p.m.,  
18 and we had a crane come in around midnight,  
19 and another truck. I tried to take some  
20 pictures while being on my property. I got  
21 some mean looks, and so I went back inside my  
22 house.

23 In this proposal, I'm not seeing  
24 strong quality control. I understand it's  
25 new technology, but we still need to keep in  
26 mind quality control. Four-month old  
27 equipment should not be failing. And I would  
28 appreciate some transparency instead of mean

1 looks.

2 I grew up in Monterey. When I was  
3 five years old, I wanted to become more  
4 familiar with how living goes as far as like  
5 costs and paying rent and stuff like that,  
6 and my parents went "Oh, yeah, rent, we just  
7 have to put it in this slot." But, when it  
8 came to the PG&E bill, there was always some  
9 negativity. And I would really like to see  
10 more of a positive attitude towards PG&E.  
11 And I think if they improved their quality  
12 control, didn't ask for rates so high, way  
13 past, for an example, the inflation rate --  
14 and what kind of future is that for our  
15 children, when we have skyrocketing rates for  
16 something that's fires, which Cal- -- the  
17 State of California has been known to have  
18 fires, north and south, for centuries. This  
19 is not anything new. This is something that  
20 should have been part of the program. And I  
21 just wish that PG&E would have that foresight  
22 and understanding that when you give out  
23 positive, you receive positive. And I'd like  
24 to thank you again, Judge Kelly, for today's  
25 proceedings.

26 ALJ KELLY: Thank you, Ms. Corona. I  
27 appreciate that.

28 Our next speaker, Tina Giblin.

1 STATEMENT OF MS. GIBLIN

2 Good afternoon. My name is Tina  
3 Giblin. It's T-i-n-a Giblin, G-i-b-l-i-n.  
4 And my husband and I have been PG&E customers  
5 since 1983. We are in a tiered rate plan E1  
6 in territory "W" here in Bakersfield.

7 Over this past week, I conducted a  
8 thorough analysis of our electrical usage and  
9 rates from 2013 to 2019. I used the month of  
10 July of each year for consistency. After  
11 reviewing the numbers, I concluded that we  
12 have seen a 69.5 increase from July 2013 to  
13 2019 in our baseline rates per kilowatt hour,  
14 while also incurring a 10.21 percent decrease  
15 in our baseline allocation. In July 2013,  
16 our baseline allocation per day was  
17 23.5 kilowatt hours at a rate of .132. In  
18 July 2019, our baseline allocation per day is  
19 21.1 kilowatt hours at a rate of .22376. As  
20 you can ascertain from these numbers, we are  
21 all paying a lot more and receiving less.

22 I also noticed that, according to  
23 PG&E's website and the internal data  
24 retrieved directly from our meter, we are  
25 being overcharged. When I addressed this  
26 issue with PG&E, they really could not  
27 provide me with an explanation, and referred  
28 me to someone in accounting who has yet to

1 return my call.

2 In the meantime, PG&E continues to  
3 not only ask for increases that go way beyond  
4 the national rate of inflation, but they  
5 continue to reward top executives for poor  
6 performance. For example, in 2010, after the  
7 San Bruno incident, they gave an executive a  
8 75,000 annual increase, even though he was  
9 being investigated for filing false safety  
10 and maintenance records. In 2017, the median  
11 board of director received an annual salary  
12 of 217,000, but that figure has increased to  
13 almost 400,000. The former CEO who resigned  
14 after PG&E filed bankruptcy received a cash  
15 severance package of \$2.5 million. Now the  
16 current CEO who took over on May 1st will get  
17 double the salary of the outgoing CEO,  
18 \$2.5 million for three years. He's also  
19 going to receive a one-time transition  
20 payment of \$3 million and an annual equity  
21 award of \$3.5 million, which has all been  
22 approved by PG&E's board of directors. This  
23 is the quote from PG&E: Quote, we believe  
24 pay should be strongly tied to performance,  
25 particularly safety performance, and our  
26 compensation programs are designed to reflect  
27 this. More than half of Mr. Johnson's  
28 incentive compensation will be directly tied

1 to safety performance and metrics which PG&E  
2 believes significantly -- significantly  
3 exceeds industry standards. PG&E added that  
4 the company sets executive compensation to be  
5 comparable with similar companies in the  
6 industry, and the customers will not pay for  
7 any compensation for any company officer.

8 I'm sorry, but does PG&E actually  
9 want us to believe that they are having  
10 trouble retaining and recruiting qualified  
11 executives with the salaries, bonuses and  
12 other incentives -- other incentives they  
13 offer? Now they are asking the state for a  
14 bailout, while they increase rates and  
15 continue to manage a 10 to 12 percent rate of  
16 return on state-regulated assets. PG&E has a  
17 track record of rewarding these executives  
18 for incompetency, when most of us would be  
19 fired.

20 In PG&E's request to the CPUC, they  
21 outline several ways in which they intend to  
22 use the increase towards improving safety and  
23 infrastructure. What has PG&E been doing  
24 over all these years with money set aside in  
25 their budgets for these expenses? That's  
26 like me asking my next door neighbor to pay  
27 for the new water heater we needed last year  
28 or for my AC maintenance because I decided to

1 spend money out of our budget on vacations or  
2 other luxury items.

3 Governor Newsom came out right  
4 after the fires and said that PG&E customers  
5 would not be paying for the damages caused by  
6 the fires, and so did PG&E. This is just  
7 like every other initiative or tax increase  
8 that our state government officials  
9 implement, like the lottery that was supposed  
10 to go towards school funding, temporary sales  
11 increase that was not temporary, gas tax  
12 increases to improve roads, DMV fee  
13 increases, the high-speed rail to nowhere; so  
14 many unkept promises, lack of transparency,  
15 and moreover, no accountability.

16 Even after downsizing to a very  
17 small energy efficient home, purchasing  
18 ENERGY STAR appliances, installing wood  
19 shutters on all windows, installing solar  
20 screens, adding extra insulation, a covered  
21 patio and never setting the thermostat below  
22 78 in the summer, we are very seldom able to  
23 stay within the Tier 1 allocation.

24 Fortunately, we are able to pay our  
25 electric bills. Please consider how this  
26 increase will impact the very people you are  
27 tasked to advocate for. Some have to decide  
28 every month whether they will try to stay

1 comfortable versus putting food on the table  
2 or fuel in their vehicles to get to work.

3 PG&E also mentions that the rate  
4 increase will impact the average customer by  
5 only \$11 per month. ]

6 Let's just be clear. This is no  
7 small amount and especially when you multiply  
8 it by 5.4 million electric customer accounts.  
9 I urge members of the CPUC to seriously  
10 consider the justification that PG&E has  
11 outlined for their rate increase and the  
12 impact it will have on customers. It is not  
13 a reasonable request.

14 Thank you for your time.

15 ALJ KELLY: Thank you, Ms. Giblin.  
16 Could you please give a copy of your  
17 statement to the court reporters for them to  
18 make a copy of. That would be great.

19 Can I get whoever's cellphone is  
20 going off to please silence that.

21 Ms. Giblin.

22 MS. GIBLIN: Yes.

23 ALJ KELLY: You might want to talk to  
24 some of the representatives from PG&E  
25 specifically that are out there about your  
26 bill, and then I'd also just like to remind  
27 everybody that we have a complaint process at  
28 the PUC. If you have an issue with any of



1 the utilities that you regulate, you can file  
2 a complaint.

3 So Ms. Giblin, if you're interested  
4 in that, I would suggest you talk to the  
5 Public Advisor's Office. They can give you  
6 the contact -- on how to contact the PUC if  
7 you have an issue with your utilities that  
8 you're not able to mediate. Thank you.

9 Wilbur Deimel.

10 STATEMENT OF MR. DEIMEL

11 Good afternoon. My name is Wilbur,  
12 W-I-L-B-U-R, Deimel, D-E-I-M-E-L. I am  
13 retired from Boeing Corporation. I have  
14 never seen such catastrophic management that  
15 PG&E has. I also blame the PCE -- PUC for  
16 not controlling excessive costs year after  
17 year given to PG&E over objections. I have  
18 written emails objecting to all of the costs,  
19 the increases. No replies. No nothing.  
20 There was never any explanation from PG&E for  
21 cost saving programs among employees, but  
22 they sure know how to give out high raises.

23 My electric bill, the 500 kilowatt  
24 hours per month I'm allowed has not changed  
25 from 2004 to the present 2019. I cannot stay  
26 in Tier 1. My attic insulation is 44. I  
27 have triple-pane windows. I have a new  
28 air-conditioning unit, and I cannot maintain

1 my electric bill in Tier 1 range. It is  
2 excessively high rate continually by PG&E.  
3 And some of the responsibility goes to the  
4 PUC, who every year allowed the raises to go  
5 on year after year after year.

6 We never had that problem at Boeing,  
7 and Boeing always did their maintenance.  
8 PG&E never did their maintenance on their  
9 lines or anywhere. I have to agree with the  
10 newspaper and all the findings that PG&E  
11 caused the fires last year. I know people in  
12 BLM, and they know that PG&E can't even keep  
13 up with the current maintenance that they are  
14 required to do.

15 Thank you very much.

16 ALJ KELLY: Thank you, sir.

17 Next speaker Stacey Augustson.

18 STATEMENT OF MS. AUGUSTSON

19 I'm Stacey, S-T-A-C-E-Y. Last name is  
20 Augustson A-U-G-U-S-T-S-O-N. I'm not  
21 prepared to speak. I came last minute. I  
22 really appreciate Ms. Giblin's comments and  
23 everybody else's as well. I agree  
24 wholeheartedly with everybody that's already  
25 spoken. I appreciate her research because  
26 that was going to be my question. I'd like  
27 to know how much the CEO's and people in  
28 charge of PG&E, what their salaries are,

1 CEO's, the bigwig's in the company.

2 Also, I was just curious. I'm old  
3 school. I still pay my bill by calling in  
4 and doing it by phone. And there's \$1.35  
5 charge every time somebody does that. And  
6 Cal Water used to do that, and they stopped  
7 charging for that feature. I was just  
8 curious as to how much money PG&E rakes in on  
9 that alone.

10 Also, the notices that come out  
11 prior to our getting our bills where it says,  
12 "You're using this much usage in comparison  
13 to homes your size," seems like everybody in  
14 my neighborhood will get the same notices,  
15 and we're always way above everybody else's.  
16 So I find that a bit peculiar. I think we're  
17 probably paying for those notices too. So I  
18 was just curious as to the cost of those  
19 notices. I'm just here in protest. I live  
20 in a tiny house too. I got a -- \$310 bill  
21 was my most recent bill. I live in a 1200  
22 square foot house. I keep my -- I don't turn  
23 my thermostat below 80, and I'm sweating it  
24 out. And I feel bad for retired folks, who  
25 I'm soon to be. And the rates just keep  
26 going up and up and up. So you know, I'm not  
27 happy with the CPUC either because you're not  
28 overseeing -- to me, it seems like you're not

1 really overseeing PG&E.

2 I also have some friends that live  
3 out of town and they are under Southern  
4 California Edison, and we talk about our  
5 bills. And they are not paying nearly as  
6 much as it seems like PG&E customers are  
7 paying. So anyway, I was just curious. I  
8 was curious about the \$1.35 charge that you  
9 charge your customers. I was wondering how  
10 much money you rake in on that -- that alone.  
11 But it seems like some of the responsibility  
12 needs to be put on the shoulders of PG&E  
13 execs. Maybe they should be taking a cut in  
14 salary. So that's all I have to say for now.

15 ALJ KELLY: Thank you. And I would  
16 suggest that you talk to the customer service  
17 reps for PG&E that are in the back, and they  
18 might be able to give you a better answer.

19 MS. AUGUSTSON: Yeah. Okay. Thank  
20 you.

21 ALJ KELLY: Thank you.  
22 Joseph Lopez.

23 STATEMENT OF MR. LOPEZ

24 I don't have a script, so I'll go here  
25 and there. So I believe that the PUC and  
26 PG&E should look at this as a county issue,  
27 because I used to live in Monterey and we did  
28 not utilize the air-conditioning -- and

1 that's probably a different electrical  
2 company over there -- and we utilized our  
3 heater. Come back home, we obviously have  
4 the heater and the AC going. And I am on  
5 Tier 1 as well. That thermostat doesn't go  
6 higher or lower than 78. And I still have  
7 trouble making our monthly bills. For  
8 instance, I'm an individual that makes \$2,000  
9 a month. Rent is \$1300, left with \$700. On  
10 top of my car, cellphone, groceries, I'm left  
11 with about \$200 left and I'm already in the  
12 middle of the month. I only get paid once a  
13 month. So I have \$200. That's not including  
14 gas. So I'm looking at \$180. I still got to  
15 provide for my little one. She wants to do a  
16 bunch of things. So that becomes an issue as  
17 well.

18 The reason for your increases can be  
19 wildfire safety, liability insurance, core  
20 gas and electric operations. That should  
21 have been implemented a long time ago. And I  
22 understand that minimum wage is coming up,  
23 but here in Kern County we are barely feeling  
24 those effects. Law passed in California --  
25 take, for instance, cities, Monterey, San  
26 Francisco, San Jose, their minimum wage  
27 starts at \$15 to \$20 already. You can apply  
28 to any job here in Kern County, a regular

1 coming out of college or in high school or  
2 graduating with a bachelor's degree, looking  
3 at \$13, \$11 hourly. Okay? And this just --  
4 it's very difficult to maintain our bills.  
5 And I speak for the middle working class and  
6 lower class.

7 I travel up and down Kern County. I  
8 talk to constituents here in Arvin, Lamont,  
9 rural communities up north, Lost Hills, and  
10 they tell me the same issues. How come we're  
11 paying for somebody else's problems, the  
12 wildfires?

13 As the tax individual was talking  
14 about, we don't have trees, and we utilize  
15 both air and heat.

16 So thank you for your time.

17 ALJ KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Lopez. Is  
18 there anybody else in the room that wants to  
19 make a comment that did not sign up?

20 (No response.)

21 ALJ KELLY: So when I was in law  
22 school, the professor used to just randomly  
23 call on people. I've always wanted to  
24 actually do that, but I'm actually not that  
25 mean. So I'm going to let you off the hook.  
26 But I am kind of tempted just to randomly  
27 pick somebody out.

28 Anybody else before we conclude that

1 wishes to make a statement?

2 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, I do.

3 ALJ KELLY: Come on up, sir. Thank  
4 you. And if you could just state and spell  
5 your name for the record, sir.

6 STATEMENT OF MR. MITCHELL

7 Sure. My name is Mark Mitchell,  
8 M-A-R-K M-I-T-C-H-E-L-L. Very, very, very  
9 good comments so far. The only thing I'd  
10 like to add is the State of California has  
11 also stepped in because they have ideals down  
12 the road about eliminating petroleum  
13 products. PG&E is going to make a killing on  
14 electrical service, so will Southern Cal, San  
15 Diego, the other utility companies.

16 Gavin Newsom has a plan. He was  
17 here July 24th saying the spill or leak out  
18 of Chevron McKittrick, we got watch more  
19 drilling, watch how we do it. And talking  
20 points, of course, saying, We're going to  
21 eliminate petroleum products. So, to me,  
22 that's sounds like we're going to go to  
23 electricity or solar, you know, everything,  
24 wind power. So I don't think PG&E is really  
25 going to be hurting down the road. And  
26 everything they do we have to pay for. And  
27 anything they do to put in to enhance us we  
28 pay for the maintenance. They don't have any

1 programs. They don't have any PMs,  
2 preventive maintenance programs at all. Why  
3 haven't they done this -- you know, like  
4 everybody says, why haven't they done this  
5 years ago? So it's like crisis management.  
6 When something happens, Oh, we got to do  
7 something. Now we have to pay for it. It's  
8 ridiculous. And we pay the price. And how  
9 long we going to keep paying the price? It's  
10 just unbelievable. And if the oil business  
11 here in town -- the article in Sunday's paper  
12 Robert Price, a wonderful article 10,000  
13 jobs, 30,000 more that support the old  
14 business, it's going to be phased out, I  
15 guess, by 2025. They don't want any internal  
16 combustion engines. So I mean, if Sacramento  
17 has their way, we are going to be on  
18 electric. I don't see any power source.  
19 Hydrogen, that's still on the drawing board.  
20 I mean, you got CNG that's kind of been  
21 phasing out, LPG, I mean, diesel, they are  
22 just raising the taxes on that. Truckers got  
23 to pass it on. I mean, it's just a snowball.  
24 It just keeps getting bigger. It's crazy.  
25 Anyway. Great comments.

26 Thank you.

27 ALJ KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Mitchell.

28 Anybody else?



1 (No response.)

2 ALJ KELLY: On behalf of myself, Judge  
3 Lirag, Judge Lau and the assigned  
4 Commissioners and the other Commissioners at  
5 the PUC, I wanted to take the opportunity to  
6 thank everybody for coming out here today,  
7 taking time out of your day to come out here  
8 and speak. We will be giving another  
9 presentation this evening at 6:00 p.m., and  
10 then the next public participation hearing,  
11 which is also the last one in this  
12 proceeding, is tomorrow in Fresno. So if you  
13 know anybody in Fresno, encourage them to  
14 come to the PPH tomorrow. Again, thank you  
15 very much, and I appreciate your time. Thank  
16 you.

17 STATEMENT OF MS. SIMCO

18 I have a question. Are we going to get  
19 noticed if this is approved for PG&E to get  
20 this rate increase? I mean, are we going to  
21 know, or are we just going to get surprised  
22 with a big fat bill?

23 ALJ KELLY: You're not going to get a  
24 specific notice that tells you that it's been  
25 approved. However, the decision, when it  
26 comes out, it gets published on our website,  
27 and it will indicate what the actual decision  
28 is. And then the Commission will also vote

1 on it, and then once they vote, it becomes a  
2 formal decision. I would suggest that you  
3 talk to the Public Advisor's Office on how  
4 you could get information on being put on the  
5 information only portion of the service list  
6 so at least you'll get notified when the  
7 actual decision comes out.

8 MS. SIMCO: How long after this --  
9 tomorrow's hearing will they vote on it?

10 ALJ KELLY: So it depends on whether or  
11 not the schedule is going to require hearings  
12 or not require hearings. And unfortunately,  
13 I have not looked that up to determine. But  
14 typically, if something goes to a hearing,  
15 then the parties submit briefs, and then 90  
16 days after the briefs, the ALJ comes out with  
17 a decision. And then another 30 days after  
18 that, the Commission usually rolls out a  
19 final decision. ]

20 But, I -- so I'm not exactly sure  
21 what the -- the actual schedule is for this  
22 proceeding, and I can look that up and give  
23 it to you after we're concluded today, an  
24 estimate. But, I would say, if I had to  
25 guess, it would probably be about six months.

26 MS. SIMCO: Probably about the end of  
27 the year, then?

28 ALJ KELLY: Correct.

1                   So at this point, then, we'll go  
2 ahead and we'll adjourn the 1:00 p.m.  
3 hearing. Thank you very much. Have a good  
4 day.

5                   (Whereupon, at the hour of 1:45  
6 p.m., this matter having been continued  
7 to 6:00 p.m., August 13, 2019 at  
Bakersfield, California, the Commission  
then adjourned.) ]

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1                                   EVENING SESSION - 6:00 P.M.

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3                                   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*

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5                   ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE KELLY:   Hi.  
6   Good evening, everyone.   The Commission will  
7   come to order.   We are currently on the  
8   record.   This is the time and place set for  
9   the Public Participation Hearing for the  
10   General Rate Case application of Pacific Gas  
11   & Electric Company, or PG&E, for Application  
12   18-12-009.   My name is Gerald F. Kelly, and I  
13   am not the administrative law judge that is  
14   assigned to this proceeding.   I volunteered  
15   to come out and cover a couple of the  
16   hearings for Judge Lirag and Judge Lau  
17   because I like to interact with the public  
18   and hear what you guys have to say.   The  
19   commissioner assigned to this matter is  
20   Commissioner Randolph in this case; however,  
21   unfortunately, she is not with us today.  
22   But, we will coordinate with her throughout  
23   the proceeding, and she will also have a copy  
24   of the transcript for today's meeting.  
25   Before we start, I just want to give  
26   everybody a brief overview of what happens  
27   here at a PPH and what we do here at the PUC.  
28                   The CPUC is a state agency that

1 regulates privately-owned utilities like PG&E  
2 that provide essential services such as  
3 electricity and natural gas. There are five  
4 commissioners at the CPUC. These five  
5 commissioners will be the people who vote on  
6 and decide whether to approve PG&E's request  
7 or some other dollar amount in the  
8 application.

9           The role of Judge Lirag and Judge  
10 Lau in this case will be to review PG&E's  
11 application, review the evidence that is  
12 presented, and they will write a proposed  
13 decision for the commissioners to consider.  
14 The commissioners will vote to adopt either  
15 their proposed decision or an alternate  
16 decision put forth by a commissioner.

17           Right now, I'd like to just provide  
18 a brief overview of what the application is  
19 seeking. In this application, PG&E requests  
20 authority to increase its revenues by  
21 1.058 billion in 2020, 454 million in 2021,  
22 and 486 million in 2022. Every three years,  
23 PG&E files a General Rate Case application,  
24 or GRC, like this one to request funding for  
25 its gas and electric operations. The impact  
26 of this GRC application, if fully granted,  
27 would increase an average residential  
28 customer's monthly bill by seven to

1 eight percent, or approximately \$10.57.  
2 According to PG&E, the major reasons for the  
3 requested increase are to fund PG&E's  
4 wildfire safety mitigations and liability  
5 insurance. If you want more information  
6 about the application, there is a fact sheet  
7 at the Public Advisor's Office table at the  
8 back of the room.

9 Currently, there are many active  
10 parties in this proceeding, including several  
11 consumer groups, community-based  
12 organizations, cities and county governments,  
13 unions and large user groups. Many of these  
14 groups oppose what PG&E's requesting. Their  
15 participation in this proceeding can impact  
16 the amount of money the Commission ultimately  
17 authorizes PG&E to collect.

18 The purpose of the PPH here today is  
19 to listen to your comments on PG&E's  
20 application. We want to hear about how the  
21 application will impact you, your family and  
22 your community as a PG&E customer. Your  
23 comments will help the Commission gather  
24 information to determine whether PG&E's  
25 proposed increases are reasonable. Judge  
26 Lirag and Judge Lau have already received  
27 lots of comments from the public, and they --  
28 that have been sent to the Commission's

1 Public Advisor's Office. At the back of the  
2 room, there is a table where you can find the  
3 Commission's Public Advisor's Office. If you  
4 have any questions regarding the Commission  
5 or our process, please feel free to stop by  
6 the table after the meeting. Also at the  
7 back of the room are several customer service  
8 representatives from PG&E. They are here to  
9 help you if you have any general questions  
10 about the application or if you have specific  
11 questions about your gas or electric service.

12 I'm going to go over some basic  
13 ground rules. If you'd like to speak today,  
14 please sign up at the table back at the  
15 Public Advisor's Office. We really like to  
16 hear from everybody, so if you would like to  
17 speak, please sign up. I would just like to  
18 remind everybody that when you do speak to  
19 please state and spell your name and try to  
20 speak slowly and clearly, because the court  
21 reporters have the difficult job of taking  
22 down everything which is being said here  
23 today. Additionally, I just ask that only  
24 one person speak at a time because, that way,  
25 the court reporters can take down the -- the  
26 transcript. If multiple people are speaking,  
27 they're not able to adequately record the  
28 proceeding.

1           At the conclusion of tonight's,  
2       excuse me, hearing, the court reporters will  
3       prepare a transcript of today's hearing. The  
4       transcript will be provided to both Judge  
5       Lirag and Judge Lau, and it'll also be  
6       provided to the commissioner.

7           At this time, I'm going to allow the  
8       parties to make a brief presentation. PG&E?

9           STATEMENT OF MR. MULLEN

10          Thank you, Judge Kelly, and welcome  
11       again to Kern County, and thank you to  
12       everyone for attending today's Public  
13       Participation Hearing on PG&E's 2020 General  
14       Rate Case, or GRC, proposal.

15          My name is Pat Mullen, and I've  
16       been an employee at PG&E for 25 years. As  
17       the local division manager for Kern and San  
18       Luis Obispo Counties, I'm responsible for our  
19       local service and support to the roughly  
20       850,000 customers that PG&E serves in the  
21       communities in Kern division. This is one of  
22       17 hearings being hosted by the CPUC  
23       throughout our 70,000 square-mile service  
24       area. At each location, representatives from  
25       PG&E are available to assist customers with  
26       their questions. We have representatives  
27       here today seated in the back of the room at  
28       the PG&E table, Kacey and Mindy from our



1 local Kern County offices, and they can help  
2 any customers that may have specific  
3 questions about their bill or specific  
4 billing questions or inquiries.

5 Our customers' feedback in this  
6 process is crucial for us to hear, because  
7 the application includes a series of critical  
8 safety investments to help address the  
9 state's growing wildfire threat and further  
10 protect the 16 million people that we serve.  
11 Thank you to the Commission and to you, Judge  
12 Kelly, for the opportunity for us to learn  
13 from our customers today.

14 Now I'd like to introduce Julie  
15 Kane, PG&E's senior vice president and chief  
16 ethics and compliance officer and deputy  
17 general counsel who would also like to make a  
18 few comments. Julie.

19 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Put the  
20 chair on the other side so you are facing us.  
21 It's kind of -- so you're speaking to --

22 ALJ KELLY: Actually, I can respond to  
23 that.

24 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: They're  
25 facing the judge.

26 ALJ KELLY: They're actually -- they're  
27 presenting to -- to me, the ALJ.

28 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay.

1           ALJ KELLY: That's why they're actually  
2 facing me. And the same thing as when you  
3 come up and read your comments, you're making  
4 your comments to me, so you'll be also facing  
5 me. So I should have pointed that out.  
6 Thank you.

7                         STATEMENT OF MS. KANE

8           Good evening, everyone. Thank you  
9 for being here today. Thank you very much,  
10 ALJ Kelly, for giving us the opportunity to  
11 contribute to and learn from the Public  
12 Participation Hearings on our 2020 General  
13 Rate Case proposal.

14           My name is Julie Kane, J-u-l-i-e  
15 K-a-n-e, and I'm -- I've been the senior vice  
16 president of PG&E's compliance and ethics  
17 function for the last four years. In that  
18 role, I oversee PG&E's compliance and ethics  
19 activities throughout the company. These  
20 efforts include supporting PG&E's most  
21 important responsibility, which is the safety  
22 of our customers and the communities we  
23 serve. One of the most important ways we  
24 achieve that is through our GRC proposal,  
25 which outlines our plans to upgrade  
26 technology and infrastructure to enhance our  
27 ability to provide safe and reliable gas and  
28 electric service. Our proposal will help

1 bolster wildfire prevention, risk monitoring  
2 and emergency response. It will also add new  
3 and enhanced safety measures, increase  
4 vegetation management, and harden our  
5 electric system to increase resiliency and  
6 help further -- further reduce wildfire risk,  
7 among other projects, to safely and reliably  
8 serve our customers.

9 Under the proposal, we are  
10 requesting about a 1.1 billion-dollar  
11 increase over currently adopted revenues.  
12 More than half of the proposed increase would  
13 be directly related to wildfire prevention,  
14 risk reduction and additional safety  
15 enhancements. If approved by the CPUC, it  
16 would increase a typical residential  
17 customer's bill by 6.4 percent, or \$10.57 per  
18 month, which includes \$8.73 per month for  
19 electricity and \$1.84 a month for natural gas  
20 service.

21 While it is important to share with  
22 you where our money is going, it is also  
23 important to share where this money would not  
24 be spent. While the GRC proposal will help  
25 fund a series of important safety  
26 investments, it does not request funding for  
27 PG&E corporation or utility officer  
28 compensation. That means it does not go

1 toward my pay or the pay of any of my  
2 colleagues. The proposal does not request  
3 funding for potential wildfire claims  
4 involved in the Chapter 11 bankruptcy  
5 proceeding.

6 The GRC is a significant request,  
7 and comes at a difficult time. As always,  
8 our commitment is to keep customer costs as  
9 low as possible while meeting our  
10 responsibilities to safely serve our  
11 customers, even as our changing climate  
12 presents significant new challenges and  
13 risks. This funding proposal is subject to  
14 the CPUC's thorough, open and transparent  
15 review and approval process. We encourage  
16 our customers to provide feedback and  
17 participate in this important public process  
18 that will help shape customer rates in  
19 California's energy future. Thank you for  
20 your time today.

21 ALJ KELLY: And do we have a  
22 representative from the Public Advocates  
23 Office that would like to make a statement?

24 (No response.)

25 ALJ KELLY: All right. At this time,  
26 we'll go on to our individuals who have  
27 signed up. James Golden.

28 STATEMENT OF MR. GOLDEN

1           My name is James Golden, J-a-m-e-s  
2   G-o-l-d-e-n. I just want to speak briefly  
3   and state that I believe the proposal  
4   disproportionately impacts low-income  
5   residents in the valley, particularly for the  
6   assistance concerned with wildfire -- fire  
7   protection, and many of our valley residents  
8   are not in that high tier risk for that  
9   specific group. I believe it would be more  
10   equitable to establish an at-risk service  
11   tier rather than an across-the-board  
12   increase, so it's spared to those residents  
13   who choose to live in areas where services  
14   are more easily provided. Thank you. Thank  
15   you.

16           ALJ KELLY: Thank you, sir.

17           Mary Helen Barro.

18           STATEMENT OF MS. BARRO

19           Thank you. My name is Mary Helen  
20   Barro. Mary Helen is my first name, two  
21   words, and my last name is B-a-r-r-o. And  
22   I'm 81 years young.

23           UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: That's  
24   right.

25           MS. BARRO: And I'm here to speak for  
26   seniors, especially seniors in the Central  
27   Valley who are not usually in high fire risk  
28   areas. I also happen to be an insurance

1 agent, and I know that certain of our  
2 customers that live in high-risk areas,  
3 flood, fire, they have special fees. They  
4 don't apply across-the-board. I don't think  
5 in this case that all of PG&E's customers  
6 should be victimized by such a high fee.  
7 Seniors and a lot of low-income customers on  
8 a fixed income -- I mean you can almost time  
9 PG&E's rate hike requests on a regular basis.  
10 I think it is outrageous. They have  
11 stockholders. They're a profit-making  
12 company. And back in my aerospace days when  
13 I worked on the Apollo 11 and Apollo 13, I  
14 can remember when the corporations used to  
15 have to bear the cost of research and  
16 development and improvements. I think PG&E's  
17 shareholders should bear a bigger share. And  
18 a lot of the improvements that they're  
19 talking about making they should have been  
20 making all along. They're making this huge  
21 request now, okay, but they should have been  
22 doing this all along, especially in those  
23 high-risk areas. I'd also like to see PUC to  
24 consider something else. Any private  
25 company, corporation that is providing a  
26 service that is considered a public utility  
27 should be restructured along the lines of a  
28 nonprofit. ]

1           Customers don't have a choice who  
2     their providers are usually. And these  
3     utility companies buy up areas, and the  
4     customers are stuck. They can't shop around.  
5     So we need a little help on the other side.  
6     Maybe you can phase that in. But I used to  
7     live up in Sacramento. It's just as hot up  
8     there. Okay? Now, I know they have extra,  
9     you know, nuclear plants and things like that  
10    now. But back when I was living in  
11    Sacramento -- and it's just as hot up  
12    there -- their utilities are half what we pay  
13    here in Kern County and in other parts of the  
14    Valley.

15           And I know that there are particular  
16    rates -- the terminology escapes me now  
17    because I haven't researched this part of it.  
18    But I remember now. For areas that have  
19    extreme temperatures, they usually are  
20    supposed to be on a different rate structure.  
21    And we here in the Central Valley have  
22    extreme temperatures. And we have petitioned  
23    over the years that we be afforded those  
24    particular rate incentives, and they have  
25    denied it consistently. You know, we're on  
26    the same thing as they are over on the coast  
27    where they have pretty even temperatures. So  
28    the Central Valley here is a unique

1 situation. So I think that we really need to  
2 have rates here structured.

3 But the bottom line is, you know,  
4 enough already. You know? They ask for so  
5 much money and relatively provide modest  
6 compensation in return when you look at the  
7 scale. People shouldn't be making that much  
8 profit off of something that is as vital as  
9 food.

10 And I'll give you another example of  
11 how they've been cutting corners. The  
12 post -- the PG&E post right at the corner of  
13 my lot -- a lot of the posts in my  
14 neighborhood -- because I live in an old  
15 neighborhood and -- in East Bakersfield --  
16 and we maintain our homes nice -- but the  
17 pole is rotten underneath. Okay? It's  
18 rotten. I looked at it because I saw them  
19 digging. The pole is rotten. So instead of  
20 replacing the pole and having to restring the  
21 wires and stuff, you know what they did?  
22 They put these metal braces and anchored it.  
23 They did a cheapola. Okay?

24 So what I think the CPUC should  
25 check on just -- not what PG&E is doing but  
26 how they are doing it. Okay? They say they  
27 are going to do this, but then they go the  
28 cheapola route. And I think that needs to be



1 investigated. Bottom line, I don't think  
2 they deserve this rate hike, at least not all  
3 of it, maybe 20 percent of it, at the most.  
4 And it should not be applied across the  
5 board.

6 Thank you very much.

7 ALJ KELLY: Thank you.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good job.

9 ALJ KELLY: Thank you.

10 Kari O'Neal.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Awesome job.

12 Thank you.

13 STATEMENT OF MS. O'NEAL

14 I'm Kari O'Neal, K-A-R-I O'N-E-A-L.

15 I would have to second a lot of what  
16 she said.

17 ALJ KELLY: Can you use the mic.

18 Sorry.

19 MS. O'NEAL: I would second just about  
20 everything that she said. I would agree with  
21 the rate changes across the board. Because  
22 between -- if I'm not -- if I remember  
23 correctly, since 2001, there has been  
24 increases and increases and increases. And I  
25 know that within California -- within  
26 California, I know that it goes -- my  
27 kilowatts per hour and that we -- it started  
28 off at -- okay. So I know that New York and

1 across the states pay 8 cents per kilowatt  
2 and that California pays 24 right now, if I'm  
3 not mistaken. So we're always constantly  
4 paying more. But in increases -- I feel like  
5 that they are doing the increases to help  
6 with the bankruptcy that they are doing.  
7 Because I know also that with Governor Brown  
8 signing the SB 901 that he addresses the  
9 wildfire costs and recovery but he ignores  
10 the inverse condemnation of liability.

11 And with the condemnation liability,  
12 what that means is during the ratemaking  
13 proceedings, California Public Utilities  
14 Commission can establish rates that allow the  
15 investor-owned utility to recover certain  
16 costs of the -- from ratepayers. So -- and  
17 as I keep researching, I'm seeing that  
18 it's -- can be passed down to the ratepayers.  
19 And I don't think that the ratepayers should  
20 have to compensate for negligence on the  
21 wildfires when 17 out of 21 of the fires that  
22 have happened that's forward -- we're  
23 starting with PG&E. So I do see them working  
24 on the lines. So I do want to give them that  
25 credit. Like I've seen the construction  
26 because I walk to work, so I can say I  
27 witness them -- they are doing -- they are  
28 making changes.

1           But I mean, like she has said, why  
2 hasn't this happened all along? Why is it  
3 happening now? And I know this -- you can  
4 see it. It's like a rush. Like all of a  
5 sudden they want to start doing that. I  
6 just -- I personally have a family member who  
7 lives in Paradise, and I know that -- looking  
8 at everything, that necessarily -- even if  
9 they take this from -- like they make the  
10 ratepayers help with that bankruptcy and --  
11 help with the bankruptcy fees like with what  
12 they are going to be owing, that they also  
13 have stockholders too, and that they have --  
14 let me -- they have -- it's called return on  
15 equity for their stockholders. And what that  
16 means it's negligible profitability that  
17 calculates how many dollars of profit a  
18 company generates within each dollar of  
19 shareholder's equity. The formula for return  
20 on equity equals net income shareholders  
21 equity, and then it's sometimes called return  
22 on net worth. And I think that they should  
23 be more worried about their customers and not  
24 so much the stockholders.

25           And I just -- I also read where with  
26 the Paradise that they'll be in a lump sum of  
27 what they'll be paid back the money and --  
28 that it's going to be in a lump sum so

1 necessarily they don't have to pay them back  
2 everything. I'm not sure. Don't quote me on  
3 that. I don't have that page with me  
4 exactly, but that's what I read.

5           So the bankruptcy -- okay. So  
6 being -- okay. So it says, "When  
7 wildfires" -- "When wildfire survivors get  
8 paid in full." It says, "Will they?" The  
9 bankruptcy could reduce the amount of money  
10 available for paying survivors who sued PG&E  
11 over the Camp Fire and the 2017 fires.  
12 "Survivors will be declared unsecured  
13 creditors and will be lumped in other such  
14 creditors; namely, the investors who hold  
15 roughly 18 billion dollars in long-term debt  
16 owed by the utility in corrupt parent --  
17 corporate parent PG&E corps. Wildfire victim  
18 seeking recovery could be in deep trouble if  
19 this bankruptcy law expert" -- and then  
20 that's the UC Hastings -- Hastings,  
21 H-A-S-T-I-N-G, College of Law in San  
22 Francisco.

23           So I just -- just having family and  
24 knowing about that fire and then that PG&E  
25 was -- it was their equipment malfunction,  
26 which was -- happens a lot in the fires that  
27 have started. They haven't made any  
28 progress. All these fires have happened, and

1 it seems like nobody really did anything  
2 about it. And so when you have family  
3 members who have lost their homes and they  
4 had to move out-of-state, possibility won't  
5 even be compensated for that, not only for  
6 their homes but like the memories -- you just  
7 really have to put yourself in their  
8 position.

9 And I really think that even with  
10 this increase that they are putting it on the  
11 rate holders. And you know? The money that  
12 they get from us now, where is it all going  
13 to? I don't see very much of -- I see a lot  
14 of promises from PG&E, but I don't see a lot  
15 of results. And I -- yeah. I -- I just  
16 pretty much -- I just don't think that it's  
17 fair to do it -- to -- you know -- to do this  
18 increase on everyone. And I just sure hope  
19 that, you know, the people in Paradise that  
20 they get justice on that or that they, you  
21 know, get some kind of closure to injustice,  
22 I would say.

23 And that's pretty much all that I  
24 have to say. So please to be empathetic to  
25 the people and not so much, you know, the  
26 corporation and profit.

27 Thank you.

28 ALJ KELLY: Thank you very much.

1                   Is there anybody else that would  
2     like to speak that has not signed up?

3                   (No response.)

4                   ALJ KELLY: No.

5                   MS. BURCIAGA: I have a question.

6                   ALJ KELLY: Go ahead.

7                   MS. BURCIAGA: You asked if the  
8     advocates group was here, a representative.

9                   ALJ KELLY: Correct.

10                  MS. BURCIAGA: Can you tell us why they  
11     are not here and what is their role?

12                  ALJ KELLY: So the Public Advocates  
13     Office was one of the parties to this  
14     proceeding. They represent the ratepayers.  
15     I'm not privy to -- as to why they are not  
16     here. I know they have been in other  
17     meetings. I'm not privy -- nobody told me  
18     why they did not show up.

19                  MS. BURCIAGA: It would be kind of nice  
20     if they would let you know. Because this is  
21     not the only one that they have not attended.  
22     Are they just not coming to Bakersfield?

23                  ALJ KELLY: Honestly, ma'am, I don't  
24     know. I don't know -- it's not my  
25     proceeding. So I don't know the answer. I  
26     can reach out, and I'll make sure that it's  
27     known that there was some dissatisfaction  
28     that they did not show up. I'll make sure

1 that -- I'm covering today. I'm also  
2 covering tomorrow. After each PPH, I draft  
3 up a quick summary to the judges, and I'll  
4 make sure I put that in their -- that you  
5 raised that issue.

6 I also just wanted to say that we  
7 also were supposed to have one of the  
8 Commissioners here tonight, but -- however,  
9 there was an issue. She was coming in from  
10 out-of-state. There was an issue with her  
11 flight being late. So unfortunately, she was  
12 not able to make it for the start of the  
13 proceeding. But she is actually -- she's a  
14 really good Commissioner, Guzman Aceves, and  
15 she takes a lot of interest into what the  
16 public has to say also.

17 So I will make sure that everybody  
18 gets notified of your concerns and the issues  
19 that were raised. If we don't have anybody  
20 else that wishes to make a comment or a  
21 presentation, I would then like to just thank  
22 everybody for taking your time coming out  
23 here. I do appreciate it. I know you have  
24 lives and things to do. So I personally  
25 appreciate it. And on behalf of myself and  
26 Judge Lirag and Judge Lau and the  
27 Commissioners at the PUC, I just would like  
28 to thank everybody. And I suspect that a

1 decision in this proceeding will be sometime  
2 in the first quarter of next year, so  
3 sometime between January and April for the  
4 proceeding.

5 And if you'd like more information  
6 on how to like follow the proceeding, please  
7 stop at the Public Advisor's Office table and  
8 ask for information on that. And if you have  
9 any specific questions about your bill or the  
10 application, please see the customer service  
11 reps for PG&E.

12 With that, I'll go ahead and  
13 adjourn, and we'll go off the record.

14 (Whereupon, at the hour of 6:28  
15 p.m., this matter having been continued  
16 to 1:00 p.m., August 14, 2019 at  
Fresno, California, the Commission then  
adjourned.)

17 \* \* \* \* \*

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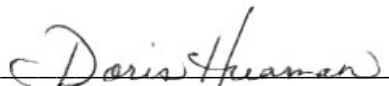
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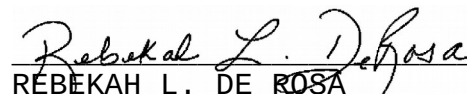
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<b>\$</b>	<b>12</b> 719:15	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>1200</b> 724:21		
<b>\$1.35</b> 724:4 725:8	<b>13</b> 700:2 732:6 743:13	<b>30</b> 731:17	<b>90</b> 731:15
<b>\$1.84</b> 708:9 740:19	<b>132</b> 717:17	<b>30,000</b> 729:13	<b>900-square</b> 713:28
<b>\$10.57</b> 702:5 708:7 735:1 740:17	<b>16</b> 706:15 738:10		<b>901</b> 747:8
<b>\$11</b> 721:5 727:3	<b>17</b> 705:20 737:22 747:21	<b>4</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>\$13</b> 727:3	<b>18</b> 749:15	<b>400,000</b> 718:13	
<b>\$1300</b> 726:9	<b>18-12-009</b> 733:12	<b>44</b> 722:26	<b>A-U-G-U-S-T-S-O-N</b> 723:20
<b>\$15</b> 726:27	<b>1983</b> 717:5	<b>454</b> 701:25 734:21	<b>A.18-12-009.</b> 700:11
<b>\$180</b> 726:14	<b>1:00</b> 700:2 732:2	<b>486</b> 701:26 734:22	<b>ability</b> 707:17 739:27
<b>\$2,000</b> 726:8	<b>1:45</b> 732:5	<b>5</b>	<b>AC</b> 719:28 726:4
<b>\$2.5</b> 718:15,18	<b>1st</b> 718:16		<b>access</b> 706:2
<b>\$20</b> 726:27	<b>2</b>	<b>5.4</b> 721:8	<b>accountability</b> 720:15
<b>\$200</b> 726:11,13		<b>500</b> 713:24 722:23	<b>accounting</b> 717:28
<b>\$263</b> 714:4	<b>20</b> 746:3	<b>6</b>	<b>accounts</b> 706:2 710:21 721:8
<b>\$3</b> 718:20	<b>2001</b> 746:23		<b>achieve</b> 707:14 739:24
<b>\$3.5</b> 718:21	<b>2004</b> 722:25	<b>6.4</b> 708:7 740:17	<b>across-the-board</b> 742:11 743:4
<b>\$310</b> 724:20	<b>2010</b> 718:6	<b>69.5</b> 717:12	<b>active</b> 702:12 735:9
<b>\$335</b> 714:25 715:1	<b>2013</b> 717:9,12,15	<b>6:00</b> 715:17 730:9 732:6 733:1	<b>actively</b> 710:24
<b>\$700</b> 726:9	<b>2017</b> 718:10 749:11	<b>7</b>	<b>activities</b> 707:9 739:19
<b>\$8.73</b> 708:8 740:18	<b>2019</b> 700:2 717:9,13,18 722:25 732:6	<b>7</b> 702:4	<b>actual</b> 730:27 731:7,21
<b>1</b>	<b>2020</b> 701:25 705:10 707:2 734:21 737:13 739:12	<b>7.7</b> 713:22	<b>add</b> 707:20 728:10 740:2
<b>1</b> 705:20 713:4,23 720:23 722:26 723:1 726:5	<b>2021</b> 701:25 734:21	<b>70,000</b> 705:21 737:23	<b>added</b> 714:1 719:3
<b>1-800-743-5000</b> 706:9	<b>2022</b> 701:26 734:22	<b>75,000</b> 718:8	<b>adding</b> 720:20
<b>1-800-PGE-5000</b> 706:8	<b>2025</b> 729:15	<b>78</b> 720:22 726:6	<b>addition</b> 706:4 714:13
<b>1.058</b> 701:25 734:21	<b>21</b> 747:21	<b>8</b>	<b>additional</b> 703:13 708:4 712:7 740:14
<b>1.1</b> 707:28 740:10	<b>21.1</b> 717:19	<b>8</b> 702:4 747:1	<b>Additionally</b> 703:9 704:1 736:23
<b>10</b> 719:15	<b>217,000</b> 718:12	<b>80</b> 724:23	<b>address</b> 706:13 738:8
<b>10,000</b> 729:12	<b>22376</b> 717:19	<b>81</b> 742:22	<b>addressed</b> 717:25
<b>10.21</b> 717:14	<b>23.5</b> 717:17	<b>82</b> 714:28	<b>addresses</b> 747:8
<b>105</b> 713:26	<b>24</b> 706:7 747:2	<b>850,000</b> 705:17 737:20	<b>adequately</b> 736:27
<b>11</b> 708:21 741:4 743:13	<b>24th</b> 728:17		<b>adjourn</b> 732:2
<b>110</b> 713:26	<b>25</b> 705:14 737:16		<b>adjourned</b> 732:7

<b>administrative</b> 700:4, 13 733:5,13	735:16 749:9	<b>attitude</b> 716:10	<b>basis</b> 743:9
<b>adopt</b> 701:18,19 734:14	<b>analysis</b> 717:8	<b>AUDIENCE</b> 738:19,24, 28 742:23	<b>bear</b> 711:14,18 743:15, 17
<b>adopted</b> 708:1 740:11	<b>anchored</b> 745:22	<b>August</b> 700:2 732:6	<b>behalf</b> 710:27 730:2
<b>advance</b> 709:27	<b>annual</b> 718:8,11,20	<b>Augustson</b> 723:17,18, 20 725:19	<b>believes</b> 719:2
<b>Advisor's</b> 702:11 703:4,10,16,20 722:5 731:3 735:7 736:1,3,15	<b>Apollo</b> 743:13	<b>authority</b> 701:24 734:20	<b>big</b> 730:22
<b>advocate</b> 720:27	<b>appears</b> 712:28	<b>authorize</b> 702:20	<b>bigger</b> 729:24 743:17
<b>advocates</b> 709:11 741:22 751:8,12	<b>appliances</b> 720:18	<b>authorizes</b> 735:17	<b>biggest</b> 704:7
<b>aerospace</b> 743:12	<b>application</b> 700:9,11 701:12,15,22,23,27 702:2,10,22,23 706:12 733:10,11 734:8,11,18, 19,23,26 735:6,20,21 736:10 738:7	<b>Avenue</b> 715:15	<b>bigwig's</b> 724:1
<b>affect</b> 702:18	<b>applied</b> 746:4	<b>average</b> 702:3 711:12, 13,19 721:4 734:27	<b>bill</b> 702:4 703:8 705:25 706:7 708:6 712:26 714:3 715:1 716:8 721:26 722:23 723:1 724:3,20,21 730:22 734:28 738:3 740:17
<b>afforded</b> 744:23	<b>apply</b> 726:27 743:4	<b>award</b> 718:21	<b>bill's</b> 714:25
<b>afternoon</b> 706:26 712:18 717:2 722:11	<b>approval</b> 709:4 741:15	<b>aware</b> 710:12	<b>billing</b> 738:4
<b>agency</b> 701:4 733:28	<b>approve</b> 701:11 734:6	<b>Awesome</b> 746:11	<b>billion</b> 701:25 707:28 734:21 749:15
<b>agent</b> 743:1	<b>approved</b> 708:5 718:22 730:19,25 740:15	<hr/> <b>B</b> <hr/>	<b>billion-dollar</b> 740:10
<b>agree</b> 723:9,23 746:20	<b>approximately</b> 702:5 735:1	<b>B-A-R-R-O</b> 742:21	<b>bills</b> 720:25 724:11 725:5 726:7 727:4
<b>ahead</b> 704:28 705:2 712:11 732:2 751:6	<b>area</b> 705:22 710:22 713:25 737:24	<b>back</b> 703:20 704:19,21 705:27 715:21 725:17 726:3 735:8 736:1,7,14 737:27 743:12 744:10 748:27 749:1	<b>bit</b> 724:16
<b>air</b> 713:27 727:15	<b>area-wide</b> 710:21	<b>bad</b> 724:24	<b>blame</b> 722:15
<b>air-conditioning</b> 722:28 725:28	<b>areas</b> 742:13,28 743:2, 23 744:3,18	<b>bailout</b> 719:14	<b>BLM</b> 723:12
<b>ALJ</b> 706:28 709:10,14 712:10 713:5 714:11 715:2,7,11 716:26 721:15,23 723:16 725:15,21 727:17,21 728:3 729:27 730:2,23 731:10,16,28 738:22, 26,27 739:1,10 741:21, 25 742:16 746:7,9,17 750:28 751:4,6,9,12,23	<b>article</b> 729:11,12	<b>Bakersfield</b> 700:1 717:6 732:6 745:15 751:22	<b>board</b> 718:11,22 729:19 746:5,21
<b>allocated</b> 711:19	<b>Arvin</b> 727:8	<b>balancing</b> 710:21	<b>Boeing</b> 722:13 723:6,7
<b>allocation</b> 711:25 717:15,16,18 720:23	<b>ascertain</b> 717:20	<b>bankruptcy</b> 708:21 718:14 741:4 747:6 748:10,11 749:5,9,19	<b>bolster</b> 707:19 740:1
<b>allowance</b> 713:23	<b>assets</b> 719:16	<b>based</b> 701:15 713:3,23	<b>bones</b> 710:17
<b>allowances</b> 713:4	<b>assigned</b> 700:14,22 701:14 730:3 733:14,19	<b>baseline</b> 713:4,23 717:13,15,16,18	<b>bonuses</b> 719:11
<b>allowed</b> 722:24 723:4	<b>assist</b> 705:24 737:25	<b>basic</b> 736:12	<b>bottom</b> 745:3 746:1
<b>alternate</b> 701:19 734:15	<b>assistance</b> 742:6	<b>basically</b> 703:17	<b>braces</b> 745:22
<b>amount</b> 701:12 702:19 714:7 721:7 734:7	<b>Association</b> 709:16,22		<b>briefly</b> 701:21 742:2
	<b>at-risk</b> 742:10		<b>briefs</b> 731:15,16
	<b>attended</b> 751:21		<b>Brown</b> 747:7
	<b>attending</b> 705:9 737:12		<b>Bruno</b> 718:7
	<b>attic</b> 722:26		<b>brunt</b> 711:18
			<b>budget</b> 720:1
			<b>budgets</b> 719:25

<b>building</b> 711:7	<b>central</b> 711:2,17 742:26 744:21,28	<b>comfortable</b> 721:1	<b>complaint</b> 721:27 722:2
<b>builds</b> 711:11	<b>cents</b> 747:1	<b>comment</b> 727:19	<b>complex</b> 710:7,9
<b>built</b> 712:8	<b>centuries</b> 716:18	<b>comments</b> 702:22,25 703:2,25 705:3,5 706:23 712:12 713:8 714:12 723:22 728:9 729:25 735:19,23,27 738:18 739:3,4	<b>compliance</b> 706:21 707:6,8 738:16 739:16, 18
<b>bunch</b> 726:16	<b>CEO</b> 718:13,16,17	<b>Commission</b> 700:6 701:3,18 702:19,26 703:14 706:16 730:28 731:18 732:6 733:6 735:16,23 736:4 738:11 747:14	<b>concerned</b> 742:6
<b>BURCIAGA</b> 751:5,7, 10,19	<b>CEO's</b> 723:27 724:1	<b>Commission's</b> 703:9 735:28 736:3	<b>conclude</b> 727:28
<b>burden</b> 711:25	<b>chair</b> 738:20	<b>commissioner</b> 700:23 701:20 733:19,20 734:16 737:6	<b>concluded</b> 717:11 731:23
<b>business</b> 713:15 729:10,14	<b>challenges</b> 709:1,28 741:12	<b>Commissioner's</b> 703:3	<b>conclusion</b> 737:1
<b>buy</b> 744:3	<b>changed</b> 722:24	<b>commitment</b> 708:25 741:8	<b>condemnation</b> 747:10,11
<hr/>	<b>changing</b> 708:28 741:11	<b>communities</b> 705:18 707:12 727:9 737:21 739:22	<b>conditioner</b> 713:27
<b>C</b>	<b>Chapter</b> 708:21 741:4	<b>community</b> 702:24 710:13 735:22	<b>conduct</b> 700:16
<b>C-O-R-O-N-A</b> 715:14	<b>charge</b> 723:28 724:5 725:8,9	<b>community-based</b> 702:14 735:11	<b>conducted</b> 717:7
<b>Cal</b> 724:6 728:14	<b>charging</b> 724:7	<b>companies</b> 719:5 728:15 744:3	<b>consideration</b> 711:23
<b>Cal-</b> 716:16	<b>cheapola</b> 745:23,28	<b>company</b> 700:10 707:9 719:4,7 724:1 726:2 733:11 739:19 743:12, 25 748:18	<b>considered</b> 743:26
<b>calculates</b> 748:17	<b>check</b> 745:25	<b>comparable</b> 719:5	<b>consistency</b> 717:10
<b>California</b> 700:1 701:2 709:8 712:20 716:17 725:4 726:24 728:10 732:6 746:25,26 747:2, 13	<b>Chevron</b> 728:18	<b>comparison</b> 724:12	<b>consistently</b> 744:25
<b>California's</b> 741:19	<b>chief</b> 706:20 738:15	<b>compensate</b> 747:20	<b>constantly</b> 747:3
<b>call</b> 706:7 718:1 727:23	<b>children</b> 716:15	<b>compensated</b> 750:5	<b>constituents</b> 727:8
<b>called</b> 748:14,21	<b>choice</b> 744:1	<b>compensation</b> 708:17 718:26,28 719:4,7 740:28 745:6	<b>construction</b> 747:25
<b>calling</b> 703:24 724:3	<b>choose</b> 742:13		<b>consumer</b> 702:14 735:11
<b>Camp</b> 749:11	<b>cities</b> 726:25 735:12		<b>contact</b> 722:6
<b>capacity</b> 711:7 712:3,8	<b>citizens</b> 712:24 713:18 714:8		<b>context</b> 711:15
<b>capital</b> 711:4	<b>city</b> 702:15		<b>continually</b> 723:2
<b>car</b> 726:10	<b>claims</b> 708:20 741:3		<b>continue</b> 718:5 719:15
<b>CARE</b> 713:20	<b>class</b> 727:5,6		<b>continued</b> 732:5
<b>case</b> 700:9 701:14,27 705:11 707:3 733:10,20 734:10,23 737:14 739:13 743:5	<b>clear</b> 721:6		<b>continues</b> 718:2
<b>cash</b> 718:14	<b>climate</b> 708:28 741:11		<b>contribute</b> 707:1 739:11
<b>catastrophic</b> 722:14	<b>closure</b> 750:21		<b>control</b> 715:24,26 716:12
<b>caused</b> 720:5 723:11	<b>CNG</b> 729:20		<b>controlling</b> 722:16
<b>cellphone</b> 721:19 726:10	<b>coast</b> 711:17 744:26		<b>cooling</b> 710:5 711:15, 16,24
<b>cellphones</b> 703:27	<b>colleagues</b> 708:19 741:2		<b>coordinate</b> 733:22
	<b>collect</b> 702:20 735:17		<b>copy</b> 700:24 704:18
	<b>college</b> 727:1 749:21		
	<b>combustion</b> 729:16		

721:16,18 733:23	<b>creditors</b> 749:13,14	<b>declared</b> 749:12	<b>dollars</b> 748:17 749:15
<b>core</b> 726:19	<b>crisis</b> 729:5	<b>decrease</b> 717:14	<b>door</b> 719:26
<b>corner</b> 745:12	<b>critical</b> 706:12 710:26 738:7	<b>deep</b> 749:18	<b>double</b> 718:17
<b>corners</b> 745:11	<b>crucial</b> 706:11 738:6	<b>defined</b> 710:5	<b>downsizing</b> 720:16
<b>Corona</b> 715:7,8,13,14 716:26	<b>curious</b> 724:2,8,18 725:7,8	<b>degree</b> 710:5 711:15, 16,24 727:2	<b>draw</b> 711:4
<b>corporate</b> 749:17	<b>current</b> 709:27 711:3 718:16 723:13	<b>degrees</b> 713:26 714:28	<b>drawing</b> 729:19
<b>corporation</b> 708:16 713:16 722:13 740:27 743:25 750:26	<b>customer</b> 702:25 703:5 705:28 708:26 709:7 721:4,8 725:16 735:22 736:7 741:8,18	<b>Deimel</b> 722:9,10,12	<b>drilling</b> 728:19
<b>corporations</b> 743:14	<b>customer's</b> 702:4 708:6 734:28 740:17	<b>denied</b> 744:25	<hr/>
<b>corps</b> 749:17	<b>customers</b> 705:17,24 706:6,15,18 707:12,26 708:28 709:5 717:4 719:6 720:4 721:12 725:6,9 737:20,25 738:2,13 739:22 740:8 741:11,16 743:2,5,7 744:1,4 748:23	<b>depends</b> 731:10	<b>E</b>
<b>Correct</b> 731:28 751:9	<b>customers'</b> 706:10 738:5	<b>deserve</b> 746:2	<b>E1</b> 717:5
<b>correctly</b> 714:17 746:23	<b>cut</b> 725:13	<b>designed</b> 718:26	<b>easier</b> 704:19
<b>corrupt</b> 749:16	<b>cutting</b> 711:28 745:11	<b>determine</b> 702:26 710:22 731:13 735:24	<b>easily</b> 742:14
<b>cost</b> 722:21 724:18 743:15	<hr/>	<b>determining</b> 712:4	<b>East</b> 745:15
<b>costs</b> 708:26 710:1 711:14 716:5 722:16,18 741:8 747:9,16	<b>D</b>	<b>development</b> 743:16	<b>econometrics</b> 710:8
<b>counsel</b> 706:22 738:17	<b>D-E-I-M-E-L</b> 722:12	<b>Diego</b> 728:15	<b>Edison</b> 725:4
<b>Counties</b> 705:15 737:18	<b>damages</b> 720:5	<b>diesel</b> 729:21	<b>effects</b> 726:24
<b>county</b> 702:15 705:8 709:24 725:26 726:23, 28 727:7 735:12 737:11 738:1 744:13	<b>data</b> 717:23	<b>difficult</b> 704:2,6 708:24 727:4 736:21 741:7	<b>efficient</b> 714:3 720:17
<b>couple</b> 701:1 733:15	<b>day</b> 706:8 717:16,18 730:7 732:4	<b>digging</b> 745:19	<b>efforts</b> 707:9 739:20
<b>court</b> 704:1,18 712:15 721:17 736:20,25 737:2	<b>days</b> 710:5 711:15,16, 24 731:16,17 743:12	<b>direct</b> 703:25	<b>electric</b> 700:10 702:1 707:18,22 720:25 721:8 722:23 723:1 726:20 729:18 733:11 734:25 736:11 739:28 740:5
<b>courtesy</b> 703:23	<b>debt</b> 749:15	<b>directly</b> 708:3 717:24 718:28 740:13	<b>electrical</b> 717:8 726:1 728:14
<b>cover</b> 700:20 733:15	<b>decide</b> 701:10 720:27 734:6	<b>director</b> 718:11	<b>electricity</b> 701:7 708:8 714:6 728:23 734:3 740:19
<b>covered</b> 720:20	<b>decided</b> 719:28	<b>directors</b> 718:22	<b>eliminate</b> 728:21
<b>CPUC</b> 705:21 708:5 719:20 721:9 724:27 733:28 734:4 737:22 740:15 745:24	<b>decision</b> 701:17,19,20 730:25,27 731:2,7,17, 19 734:13,15,16	<b>directs</b> 711:8	<b>eliminating</b> 728:12
<b>CPUC's</b> 709:3 741:14		<b>dispatch</b> 710:8	<b>else's</b> 723:23 724:15 727:11
<b>crane</b> 715:18		<b>disproportionate</b> 711:14	<b>emails</b> 722:18
<b>crazy</b> 729:24		<b>disproportionately</b> 742:4	<b>emergency</b> 707:20 740:2
<b>credit</b> 747:25		<b>dissatisfaction</b> 751:27	<b>empathetic</b> 750:24
		<b>division</b> 705:14,19 737:17,21	<b>employee</b> 705:13 737:16
		<b>DMV</b> 720:12	<b>employees</b> 722:21
		<b>dollar</b> 701:11 707:28 734:7 748:18	<b>encourage</b> 709:4 730:13 741:15

<b>end</b> 731:26	<b>extra</b> 720:20 744:8	<b>find</b> 724:16 736:2	<b>fund</b> 702:7 708:14 735:3 740:25
<b>energy</b> 709:8 710:3,4 714:3 720:17,18 741:19	<b>extreme</b> 744:19,22	<b>findings</b> 723:10	<b>funded</b> 702:2
<b>engines</b> 729:16	<hr/> <b>F</b> <hr/>	<b>fine</b> 711:1	<b>funding</b> 701:28 708:15, 20 709:2 720:10 734:24 740:26 741:3,13
<b>enhance</b> 707:16 728:27 739:26	<b>F-O-R-E-M-A-N</b> 712:19	<b>fire</b> 742:6,27 743:3 749:11,24	<b>future</b> 709:8,28 716:14 741:19
<b>enhanced</b> 707:21 740:3	<b>facing</b> 738:20,25 739:2, 4	<b>fired</b> 719:19	<hr/> <b>G</b> <hr/>
<b>enhancements</b> 708:5 740:15	<b>fact</b> 702:10 735:6	<b>fires</b> 716:16,18 720:4,6 723:11 747:21 749:11, 26,28	
<b>equals</b> 748:20	<b>failed</b> 715:17	<b>fixed</b> 743:8	
<b>equipment</b> 715:16,27 749:25	<b>failing</b> 715:27	<b>flood</b> 743:3	<b>G-E-N-E-V-I-E-V-E</b> 714:22
<b>equitable</b> 742:10	<b>fair</b> 750:17	<b>folks</b> 724:24	<b>G-I-B-L-I-N</b> 717:3
<b>equity</b> 718:20 748:15, 19,20,21	<b>fall</b> 715:3	<b>food</b> 721:1 745:9	<b>G-O-L-D-E-N</b> 742:2
<b>escapes</b> 744:16	<b>false</b> 718:9	<b>fool</b> 712:5	<b>game</b> 711:13
<b>essential</b> 701:6 734:2	<b>familiar</b> 716:4	<b>foot</b> 713:28 724:22	<b>gas</b> 700:9 701:7 702:1 707:17 708:9 714:6 720:11 726:14,20 733:10 734:3,25 736:11 739:27 740:19
<b>establish</b> 742:10 747:14	<b>family</b> 702:24 735:21 748:6 749:23 750:2	<b>forego</b> 712:7	<b>gather</b> 702:26 735:23
<b>estimate</b> 731:24	<b>fans</b> 714:28	<b>Foreman</b> 712:13,17,19 713:8 714:12	<b>gave</b> 718:7
<b>ethics</b> 706:21 707:6,8 738:16 739:16,18	<b>fast</b> 704:6 714:14	<b>foresight</b> 716:21	<b>Gavin</b> 728:16
<b>evening</b> 730:9 733:1,6 739:8	<b>fat</b> 730:22	<b>forgive</b> 714:17	<b>general</b> 700:8 701:27 705:10 706:22 707:3 711:20 733:10 734:23 736:9 737:13 738:17 739:12
<b>evidence</b> 701:16 734:11	<b>fault</b> 714:13,15	<b>form</b> 715:5	<b>generates</b> 748:18
<b>exceeds</b> 719:3	<b>feature</b> 724:7	<b>formal</b> 731:2	<b>generation</b> 712:1
<b>excessive</b> 712:23 713:18 714:4,8 722:16	<b>fear</b> 711:4	<b>forms</b> 710:7	<b>Genevieve</b> 714:21
<b>excessively</b> 723:2	<b>fee</b> 720:12 743:6	<b>formula</b> 748:19	<b>Gerald</b> 700:12 733:12
<b>excuse</b> 701:7 737:2	<b>feedback</b> 706:10 709:5 738:5 741:16	<b>Fortunately</b> 720:24	<b>Giblin</b> 716:28 717:1,3 721:15,21,22 722:3
<b>execs</b> 725:13	<b>feel</b> 712:22 713:10,17 724:24 736:5 747:4	<b>forward</b> 747:22	<b>Giblin's</b> 723:22
<b>executive</b> 718:7 719:4	<b>feeling</b> 726:23	<b>Four-month</b> 715:26	<b>give</b> 701:1 704:10,17, 21 705:4 716:22 721:16 722:5,22 725:18 731:22 733:25 745:10 747:24
<b>executives</b> 718:5 719:11,17	<b>fees</b> 743:3 748:11	<b>Francisco</b> 726:26 749:22	<b>giving</b> 706:28 730:8 739:10
<b>expenses</b> 719:25	<b>fellow</b> 710:27	<b>Frederick</b> 709:17,21	<b>Golden</b> 741:27,28 742:1
<b>expert</b> 749:19	<b>fewer</b> 710:21	<b>free</b> 736:5	
<b>explanation</b> 717:27 722:20	<b>figure</b> 718:12	<b>Fresno</b> 730:12,13	
<b>extent</b> 710:15	<b>file</b> 722:1	<b>friends</b> 725:2	
	<b>filed</b> 718:14	<b>fuel</b> 721:2	
	<b>files</b> 701:27 734:23	<b>full</b> 749:8	
	<b>filing</b> 718:9	<b>fullest</b> 710:14	
	<b>final</b> 731:19	<b>fully</b> 702:2 734:26	
		<b>function</b> 739:17	

<b>good</b> 706:26 712:4,18 717:2 722:11 728:9 732:3 733:6 739:8 746:8	<b>hear</b> 700:19 702:23 706:11 733:18 735:20 736:16 738:6	<b>households</b> 711:20 740:3,5,11,12,16 742:12 750:10,18	
<b>government</b> 720:8	<b>hearing</b> 700:8,27 705:10 715:12 730:10 731:9,14 732:3 733:9 737:2,3,13	<b>huge</b> 743:20	<b>increased</b> 712:27 718:12
<b>governments</b> 702:15 735:12	<b>hearings</b> 700:16 705:20 707:2 731:11,12 733:16 737:22 739:12	<b>hurting</b> 728:25	<b>increases</b> 702:27 718:3 720:12,13 722:19 726:18 735:25 746:24 747:4,5
<b>Governor</b> 720:3 747:7		<b>husband</b> 717:4	
<b>graduating</b> 727:2		<b>Hydrogen</b> 729:19	
<b>granted</b> 734:26		<hr/> <b>I</b> <hr/>	
<b>GRC</b> 701:28 702:2 705:11 707:3,14 708:13,23 734:24,26 737:14 739:24 740:24 741:6	<b>heat</b> 727:15	<b>ideals</b> 728:11	<b>incurring</b> 717:14
<b>great</b> 704:11 721:18 729:25	<b>heater</b> 719:27 726:3,4	<b>ignores</b> 747:9	<b>individual</b> 726:8 727:13
<b>greater</b> 711:22	<b>heavy</b> 710:11	<b>impact</b> 702:1,23 720:26 721:4,12 734:25 735:15,21	<b>individuals</b> 741:26
<b>grew</b> 716:2	<b>Helen</b> 742:17,19,20	<b>impacts</b> 742:4	<b>industry</b> 719:3,6
<b>groceries</b> 726:10	<b>hesitate</b> 703:15	<b>implement</b> 720:9	<b>inflation</b> 716:13 718:4
<b>ground</b> 703:18 736:13	<b>high</b> 716:12 722:22 723:2 727:1 742:8,27 743:6	<b>implemented</b> 726:21	<b>information</b> 702:9,26 703:11,13 731:4,5 735:5,24
<b>group</b> 704:15,26 742:9 751:8	<b>high-risk</b> 743:2,23	<b>important</b> 707:10,13 708:10,12,14 709:6,20 739:21,23 740:21,23,25 741:17	<b>infrastructure</b> 707:16 710:26 711:11 713:13 719:23 739:26
<b>groups</b> 702:14,16,17 735:11,13,14	<b>high-speed</b> 720:13	<b>improve</b> 713:12 720:12	<b>initiative</b> 720:7
<b>growing</b> 706:14 738:9	<b>higher</b> 726:6	<b>improved</b> 716:11	<b>injustice</b> 750:21
<b>guess</b> 729:15 731:25	<b>hike</b> 743:9 746:2	<b>improvements</b> 743:16,18	<b>input</b> 710:10
<b>guys</b> 700:19 733:18	<b>Hills</b> 727:9	<b>improving</b> 719:22	<b>inquiries</b> 738:4
	<b>hold</b> 749:14	<b>incentive</b> 718:28	<b>inside</b> 715:21
	<b>holders</b> 750:11	<b>incentives</b> 719:12 744:24	<b>installing</b> 720:18,19
	<b>home</b> 720:17 726:3	<b>incident</b> 718:7	<b>instance</b> 726:8,25
	<b>homes</b> 724:13 745:16 750:3,6	<b>include</b> 707:10 739:20	<b>insulated</b> 714:1
	<b>Honestly</b> 751:23	<b>includes</b> 706:12 708:8 738:7 740:18	<b>insulation</b> 714:26 720:20 722:26
<hr/> <b>H</b> <hr/>	<b>hook</b> 727:25	<b>including</b> 702:13 726:13 735:10	<b>insurance</b> 702:9 726:19 735:5 742:28
<b>H-A-S-T-I-N-G</b> 749:21	<b>hope</b> 750:18	<b>income</b> 712:24 713:19 714:9 743:8 748:20	<b>intend</b> 719:21
<b>half</b> 708:2 718:27 740:12 744:12	<b>hosted</b> 705:21 737:22	<b>incompetency</b> 719:18	<b>interact</b> 733:17
<b>happen</b> 742:28	<b>hosting</b> 709:18	<b>increase</b> 701:24 702:3, 7 707:21,23 708:1,2,6 712:22,23 713:3,10,17 717:12 718:8 719:14,22 720:7,11,26 721:4,11 730:20 734:20,27 735:3	<b>interested</b> 722:3
<b>happened</b> 747:22 748:2 749:28	<b>hot</b> 744:7,11		<b>interests</b> 710:13
<b>happening</b> 748:3	<b>hour</b> 717:13 732:5 746:27		<b>internal</b> 717:23 729:15
<b>happy</b> 710:18 724:27	<b>hourly</b> 727:3		<b>interrupting</b> 703:24
<b>harden</b> 707:22 740:4	<b>hours</b> 706:8 717:17,19 722:24		<b>introduce</b> 706:19 738:14
<b>harmed</b> 711:3	<b>house</b> 713:28 714:3,25, 27,28 715:22 724:20,22		<b>inverse</b> 747:10
<b>Hastings</b> 749:20			



<b>investigated</b> 718:9 746:1		<b>Lau</b> 700:15,26 701:14 703:1 730:3 733:16 734:10 735:26 737:5	<b>lost</b> 727:9 750:3
<b>investments</b> 706:13 708:15 738:8 740:26	<b>K</b>		<b>lot</b> 703:2 717:21 743:7, 18 745:13 746:15 749:26 750:13,14
<b>investor-owned</b> 747:15	<b>K-A-N-E</b> 707:5 739:15	<b>law</b> 700:4,13 726:24 727:21 733:5,13 749:19,21	<b>lots</b> 711:22 735:27
<b>investors</b> 749:14	<b>K-A-R-I</b> 746:14	<b>leak</b> 728:17	<b>lottery</b> 720:9
<b>involved</b> 708:21 741:4	<b>Kacey</b> 737:28	<b>learn</b> 706:17 707:1 738:12 739:11	<b>low</b> 708:26 741:9
<b>isolating</b> 712:3	<b>Kacey's</b> 706:1	<b>left</b> 726:9,10,11	<b>low-income</b> 742:4 743:7
<b>issue</b> 717:26 721:28 722:7 725:26 726:16	<b>Kane</b> 706:20,25 707:4 738:15 739:7,14	<b>let alone</b> 710:10	<b>lower</b> 726:6 727:6
<b>issues</b> 727:10	<b>Kari</b> 746:10,14	<b>liability</b> 702:8 726:19 735:4 747:10,11	<b>LPG</b> 729:21
<b>items</b> 720:2	<b>Kelly</b> 700:4,12 705:7,27 706:17,28 709:10,14,18 712:10 713:5 714:11 715:2,7,9,11 716:24,26 721:15,23 723:16 725:15,21 727:17,21 728:3 729:27 730:2,23 731:10,28 733:5,12 737:10 738:12,22,26 739:1,10 741:21,25 742:16 746:7,9,17 750:28 751:4,6,9,12,23	<b>limit</b> 704:23,25,27	<b>Luis</b> 705:15 737:18
<b>J</b>		<b>limited</b> 712:24 713:19 714:9	<b>lump</b> 748:26,28
<b>J-A-M-E-S</b> 742:1	<b>Kern</b> 705:8,15,18 709:16,22,23,24,25 710:26 726:23,28 727:7 737:11,17,21 738:1 744:13	<b>lines</b> 723:9 743:27 747:24	<b>lumped</b> 749:13
<b>J-U-L-I-E</b> 707:5 739:14		<b>Lirag</b> 700:15,26 701:13 703:1 730:3 733:16 734:9 735:26 737:5	<b>luxury</b> 720:2
<b>James</b> 741:27 742:1	<b>Killing</b> 728:13	<b>Lisa</b> 715:7,13	<b>M</b>
<b>Jennie</b> 714:18	<b>kilowatt</b> 717:13,17,19 722:23 747:1	<b>list</b> 731:5	<b>M-A-R-K</b> 728:8
<b>Jess</b> 709:21	<b>kilowatts</b> 713:24 746:27	<b>listen</b> 702:21 703:21 735:19	<b>M-I-T-C-H-E-L-L</b> 728:8
<b>Joaquin</b> 710:28	<b>kind</b> 716:14 727:26 729:20 738:21 750:21 751:19	<b>listening</b> 714:10	<b>M-U-L-L-E-N</b> 705:13
<b>job</b> 704:3 726:28 736:21 746:8,11	<b>knowing</b> 749:24	<b>live</b> 712:20 713:24,27 714:24 724:19,21 725:2,27 742:13 743:2 744:7 745:14	<b>made</b> 749:27
<b>jobs</b> 729:13	<b>L</b>	<b>lives</b> 748:7	<b>maintain</b> 722:28 727:4 745:16
<b>Johnson's</b> 718:27	<b>L-I-S-A</b> 715:13	<b>living</b> 716:4 744:10	<b>maintenance</b> 718:10 719:28 723:7,8,13 728:28 729:2
<b>Jose</b> 726:26	<b>lack</b> 720:14	<b>loads</b> 712:3,6	<b>major</b> 702:6 735:2
<b>Joseph</b> 725:22	<b>lady</b> 714:24	<b>lobbying</b> 710:12	<b>make</b> 706:22 709:11 710:13,17 714:2 721:18 727:19 728:1,13 737:8 738:17 741:23 748:9 751:26,28
<b>judge</b> 700:4,13,15,26 701:13 703:1 705:7,27 706:17 709:18 715:9 716:24 730:2,3 733:5, 13,16 734:9 735:25,26 737:4,5,10 738:11,25	<b>Lamont</b> 727:8	<b>local</b> 705:14,16 737:17, 19 738:1	<b>makes</b> 704:19 726:8
<b>judges</b> 700:15 701:14	<b>large</b> 702:16 704:26 735:13	<b>location</b> 705:22 737:24	<b>making</b> 726:7 739:3 743:19,20 745:7 747:28
<b>Julie</b> 706:19,24 707:4 738:14,18 739:14	<b>largest</b> 711:18	<b>long</b> 726:21 729:9 731:8	<b>malfunction</b> 749:25
<b>July</b> 717:10,12,15,18 728:17		<b>long-term</b> 749:15	<b>manage</b> 719:15
<b>justice</b> 750:20		<b>looked</b> 731:13 745:18	<b>management</b> 707:22 722:14 729:5 740:4
<b>justification</b> 721:10		<b>Lopez</b> 725:22,23 727:17	<b>manager</b> 705:14 737:17

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

<b>Pacific</b> 700:9 733:10	<b>people's</b> 714:15	739:25	<b>print</b> 711:2
<b>package</b> 718:15	<b>percent</b> 702:4 708:7 713:22 717:14 719:15 735:1 740:17 746:3	<b>plants</b> 744:9	<b>prior</b> 724:11
<b>paid</b> 726:12 748:27 749:8	<b>perfect</b> 712:15	<b>PMS</b> 729:1	<b>private</b> 743:24
<b>paper</b> 729:11	<b>performance</b> 718:6, 24,25 719:1	<b>point</b> 732:1	<b>privately</b> 701:5
<b>Paradise</b> 748:7,26 750:19	<b>person</b> 715:7 736:24	<b>pointed</b> 739:5	<b>privately-owned</b> 734:1
<b>parent</b> 749:16,17	<b>personally</b> 748:6	<b>points</b> 728:20	<b>privy</b> 751:15,17
<b>parents</b> 716:6	<b>petitioned</b> 744:22	<b>pole</b> 745:17,19,20	<b>problem</b> 723:6
<b>part</b> 716:20 744:17	<b>petroleum</b> 728:12,21	<b>poor</b> 718:5	<b>problems</b> 727:11
<b>participate</b> 709:6 710:24,27 741:17	<b>PG&amp;E</b> 700:11 701:5,22, 23,27 702:6,17,20,24 703:4,26 705:4,13,17, 23,28 706:4,7,15 708:16 710:19 712:22 713:11 714:4 715:16 716:8,10,21 717:4,26 718:2,14,23 719:1,3,8, 16,23 720:4,6 721:3,10, 24 722:15,17,20 723:2, 8,10,12,28 724:8 725:1, 6,12,17,26 728:13,24 730:19 733:11 734:1, 19,23 735:2,17,22 736:8 737:8,16,20,25, 28 740:27 745:12,25 747:23 749:10,17,24 750:14	<b>portion</b> 731:5	<b>proceeding</b> 700:14,20 702:13,18 703:12 708:22 715:10 730:12 731:22 733:14,23 735:10,15 736:28 741:5 751:14,25
<b>participation</b> 700:8 702:18 705:10 707:2 730:10 733:9 735:15 737:13 739:12	<b>PG&amp;E's</b> 701:11,15 702:7,22,23,27 705:10 706:20 707:6,10 717:23 718:22 719:20 734:6,10 735:3,14,19,24 737:13 738:15 739:16,18,20 743:5,9,16	<b>position</b> 710:2 750:8	<b>proceedings</b> 716:25 747:13
<b>parties</b> 702:13 705:1 731:15 735:10 737:8 751:13	<b>phase</b> 710:6 744:6	<b>positive</b> 716:10,23	<b>process</b> 703:15 706:11 709:4,6 710:7,11,24 721:27 736:5 738:6 741:15,17
<b>parts</b> 744:13	<b>phased</b> 729:14	<b>possibility</b> 750:4	<b>products</b> 728:13,21
<b>pass</b> 729:23	<b>phasing</b> 729:21	<b>possibly</b> 704:17	<b>professor</b> 727:22
<b>passed</b> 726:24 747:18	<b>phone</b> 724:4	<b>post</b> 745:12	<b>profit</b> 745:8 748:17 750:26
<b>past</b> 716:13 717:7	<b>pick</b> 727:27	<b>posts</b> 745:13	<b>profit-making</b> 743:11
<b>Pat</b> 705:12 737:15	<b>Picker</b> 700:23	<b>potential</b> 708:20 741:3	<b>profitability</b> 748:16
<b>patio</b> 720:21	<b>pictures</b> 715:20	<b>power</b> 715:17 728:24 729:18	<b>program</b> 707:7 713:20, 22 716:20
<b>pay</b> 708:18 713:21 718:24 719:6,26 720:24 724:3 728:26,28 729:7, 8 741:1 744:12 747:1 749:1	<b>place</b> 700:7 733:8	<b>PPH</b> 702:21 730:14 733:27 735:18	<b>programs</b> 718:26 722:21 729:1,2
<b>payers</b> 709:23	<b>plan</b> 717:5 728:16	<b>prepare</b> 709:27 737:3	<b>progress</b> 749:28
<b>paying</b> 716:5 717:21 720:5 724:17 725:5,7 727:11 729:9 747:4 749:10	<b>plans</b> 707:15 711:4	<b>prepared</b> 723:21	<b>projects</b> 707:25 740:7
<b>payment</b> 718:20		<b>present</b> 722:25	<b>promises</b> 720:14 750:14
<b>pays</b> 747:2		<b>presentation</b> 709:12 730:9 737:8	<b>property</b> 715:20
<b>PCE</b> 722:15		<b>presentations</b> 705:1	<b>proposal</b> 705:11 707:3, 14,18,27 708:13,19,23 709:2 715:23 737:14 739:13,24,28 740:9,24 741:2,13 742:3
<b>peculiar</b> 724:16		<b>presented</b> 701:16 734:12	<b>proposed</b> 701:17 702:27 708:2 713:11 734:12,15 735:25
<b>people</b> 701:10 704:24, 27 720:26 723:11,27 727:23 734:5 736:26 738:10 745:7 750:19,25		<b>presenting</b> 738:27	
		<b>presents</b> 709:1 741:12	
		<b>president</b> 706:20 707:6 738:15 739:16	
		<b>pretty</b> 744:27 750:16, 23	
		<b>prevention</b> 707:19 708:3 740:1,13	
		<b>preventive</b> 729:2	
		<b>price</b> 729:8,9,12	
		<b>pricing</b> 710:16	

Public Participation Hearing  
August 13, 2019

Index: protect..resources

<b>740:12</b>	<b>737:26 738:3,4</b>	<b>receive</b> 700:24 716:23 718:19	<b>rent</b> 716:5,6 726:9
<b>protect</b> 706:15 738:10	<b>quote</b> 718:23 749:2	<b>received</b> 703:2 718:11, 14 735:26	<b>replacing</b> 745:20
<b>protection</b> 742:7		<b>receiving</b> 717:21	<b>replies</b> 722:19
<b>protective</b> 711:6	<b>R</b>	<b>recent</b> 724:21	<b>reporters</b> 704:2,18 712:16 721:17 736:21, 25 737:2
<b>protest</b> 724:19	<b>rail</b> 720:13	<b>recommended</b> 714:2	<b>represent</b> 751:14
<b>provide</b> 700:25 701:6 707:17 709:5 710:10 717:27 726:15 734:2,17 739:27 741:16 745:5	<b>raise</b> 714:5	<b>record</b> 700:5 704:20 719:17 728:5 733:8 736:27	<b>representative</b> 741:22 751:8
<b>provided</b> 737:4,6 742:14	<b>raises</b> 722:22 723:4	<b>records</b> 718:10	<b>representatives</b> 703:5,6 705:23,26 706:1,5 721:24 736:8 737:24,26
<b>providers</b> 744:2	<b>raising</b> 729:22	<b>recover</b> 747:15	<b>represented</b> 710:14
<b>providing</b> 709:28 743:25	<b>rake</b> 725:10	<b>recovery</b> 747:9 749:18	<b>represents</b> 709:23
<b>public</b> 700:7,19 701:2 702:11 703:2,4,10,16, 20 705:3,9 707:2 709:6, 11 712:12 722:5 730:10 731:3 733:9,17 735:7, 27 736:1,3,15 737:12 739:11 741:17,22 743:26 747:13 751:12	<b>rakes</b> 724:8	<b>recruiting</b> 719:10	<b>reps</b> 725:17
<b>published</b> 730:26	<b>Randolph</b> 733:20	<b>reduce</b> 707:24 712:6 740:6 749:9	<b>request</b> 701:11,28 708:15,20,24 719:20 721:13 734:6,24 740:26 741:2,6 743:21
<b>PUC</b> 701:3,4,9 721:28 722:6,15 723:4 725:25 730:5 733:27 743:23	<b>randomly</b> 727:22,26	<b>reduction</b> 708:4 740:14	<b>requested</b> 702:7 735:3
<b>purchasing</b> 720:17	<b>range</b> 711:16 723:1	<b>referred</b> 700:10 717:27	<b>requesting</b> 702:17 707:28 735:14 740:10
<b>purpose</b> 702:21 735:18	<b>rate</b> 700:8 701:27 705:11 707:3 711:12,13 712:21,22 713:3,10,17 716:13 717:5,17,19 718:4 719:15 721:3,11 723:2 730:20 733:10 734:23 737:14 739:13 743:9 744:20,24 746:2, 21 750:11	<b>reflect</b> 718:26	<b>requests</b> 701:24 734:19 743:9
<b>put</b> 701:20 703:27 715:16 716:7 725:12 728:27 731:4 734:16 738:19 745:22 750:7	<b>ratemaking</b> 710:6 747:12	<b>refrain</b> 703:24	<b>require</b> 731:11,12
<b>putting</b> 721:1 750:10	<b>ratepayer</b> 710:9	<b>region</b> 710:6	<b>required</b> 710:5 723:14
	<b>ratepayers</b> 710:28 711:2 747:16,18,19 748:10 751:14	<b>regional</b> 710:16,18 711:23 712:1	<b>research</b> 723:25 743:15
	<b>rates</b> 709:7 712:26 713:21 714:6 716:12,15 717:9,13 719:14 724:25 741:18 744:16 745:2 747:14	<b>regular</b> 726:28 743:9	<b>researched</b> 744:17
	<b>reach</b> 751:26	<b>regulate</b> 722:1	<b>researching</b> 747:17
	<b>read</b> 739:3 748:25 749:4	<b>regulates</b> 701:5 734:1	<b>reserve</b> 711:7 712:3,8
	<b>reading</b> 704:16	<b>reinforcements</b> 711:5	<b>reside</b> 715:15
	<b>reason</b> 712:27 726:18	<b>reiterate</b> 714:23	<b>residential</b> 702:3 734:27 740:16
	<b>reasonable</b> 702:28 709:28 710:23 721:13 735:25	<b>related</b> 708:3 740:13	<b>residents</b> 742:5,7,12
	<b>reasons</b> 700:17,18 702:6 735:2	<b>relay</b> 711:6	<b>resigned</b> 718:13
		<b>reliability</b> 712:4	<b>resiliency</b> 707:23 740:5
		<b>reliable</b> 707:17 739:27	<b>resource</b> 711:4
		<b>reliably</b> 707:25 740:7	<b>resources</b> 711:9,26
		<b>relying</b> 711:9	
		<b>remember</b> 704:9 712:14 743:14 744:18 746:22	
		<b>remind</b> 721:26 736:18	
		<b>renewable</b> 710:4	

<b>respond</b> 738:22	735:8 736:2,7 737:27	<b>script</b> 704:17,18 725:24	<b>show</b> 751:18,28
<b>response</b> 707:20 709:13 727:20 730:1 740:2 741:24 751:3	<b>rotten</b> 745:17,18,19	<b>seated</b> 737:27	<b>shows</b> 715:11
<b>responses</b> 703:7	<b>roughly</b> 705:17 737:19 749:15	<b>security</b> 711:22	<b>shutters</b> 720:19
<b>responsibilities</b> 708:27 741:10	<b>route</b> 745:28	<b>seek</b> 710:16	<b>sic</b> 714:19
<b>responsibility</b> 707:11 723:3 725:11 739:21	<b>rules</b> 703:18 736:13	<b>seeking</b> 734:19 749:18	<b>side</b> 738:20 744:5
<b>responsible</b> 705:16 737:18	<b>run</b> 713:27	<b>seldom</b> 720:22	<b>sign</b> 703:12,19,23 727:19 736:14,17
<b>restring</b> 745:20	<b>rural</b> 727:9	<b>senior</b> 706:20 707:5 712:23 713:18 714:8 738:15 739:15	<b>signed</b> 704:25 741:27 751:2
<b>restructured</b> 743:27	<b>rush</b> 748:4	<b>seniors</b> 742:26 743:7	<b>significant</b> 708:23 709:1 741:6,12
<b>results</b> 750:15	<hr/> <b>S</b> <hr/>	<b>series</b> 706:12 708:14 738:7 740:25	<b>significantly</b> 719:2
<b>retaining</b> 719:10	<b>S-H-A-R-O-N</b> 712:19	<b>serve</b> 707:12,25 708:27 738:10 739:23 740:8 741:10	<b>signing</b> 747:8
<b>retired</b> 722:13 724:24	<b>S-I-M-C-O</b> 714:22	<b>serves</b> 705:18 706:16 737:20	<b>silence</b> 721:20
<b>retrieved</b> 717:24	<b>S-T-A-C-E-Y</b> 723:19	<b>service</b> 703:5 705:16, 22,25,28 706:7 707:18 708:9 709:26 710:18, 19,21 725:16 728:14 731:5 736:7,11 737:19, 23 739:28 740:20 742:10 743:26	<b>silent</b> 703:28
<b>return</b> 718:1 719:16 745:6 748:14,19,21	<b>Sacramento</b> 729:16 744:7,11	<b>services</b> 701:6 734:2 742:13	<b>Simcl</b> 714:18
<b>revenues</b> 701:24 708:1 734:20 740:11	<b>safe</b> 707:17 739:27	<b>SESSION</b> 733:1	<b>Simco</b> 714:20,21,22 715:2,6 730:17 731:8, 26
<b>review</b> 701:15 709:4 734:10,11 741:15	<b>safely</b> 707:25 708:27 740:7 741:10	<b>set</b> 700:7 719:24 733:8	<b>similar</b> 719:5
<b>reviewing</b> 717:11	<b>safety</b> 702:8 706:13 707:11,21 708:4,14 718:9,25 719:1,22 726:19 735:4 738:8 739:21 740:3,14,25	<b>sets</b> 719:4	<b>sir</b> 712:10 723:16 728:3, 5 742:16
<b>reward</b> 718:5	<b>salaries</b> 719:11 723:28	<b>setting</b> 720:21	<b>sit</b> 714:27
<b>rewarding</b> 719:17	<b>salary</b> 718:11,17 725:14	<b>severance</b> 718:15	<b>situation</b> 745:1
<b>ridiculous</b> 729:8	<b>Salazar</b> 715:15	<b>shareholder's</b> 748:19	<b>size</b> 724:13
<b>risk</b> 707:19 708:4 740:1,6,14 742:8,27	<b>sales</b> 720:10	<b>shareholders</b> 743:17 748:20	<b>skyrocketing</b> 716:15
<b>risks</b> 707:24 709:2 741:13	<b>San</b> 705:15 710:28 718:7 726:25,26 728:14 737:17 749:21	<b>shape</b> 709:7 741:18	<b>slaughter</b> 714:15
<b>road</b> 728:12,25	<b>saving</b> 722:21	<b>share</b> 708:10,12 740:21,23 743:17	<b>slot</b> 716:7
<b>roads</b> 720:12	<b>SB</b> 747:8	<b>shareholder's</b> 748:19	<b>slow</b> 704:8
<b>Robert</b> 729:12	<b>scale</b> 745:7	<b>Sharon</b> 712:13,18	<b>slowly</b> 704:5,10 736:20
<b>robust</b> 709:25 710:25 711:11,26	<b>schedule</b> 731:11,21	<b>sheet</b> 702:10 735:6	<b>small</b> 714:24 720:17 721:7
<b>role</b> 707:8 734:9 739:18 751:11	<b>schemes</b> 711:10	<b>shop</b> 744:4	<b>snapshot</b> 704:21
<b>roles</b> 701:13	<b>school</b> 720:10 724:3 727:1,22	<b>short</b> 711:20	<b>snowball</b> 729:23
<b>rolls</b> 731:18	<b>screens</b> 720:20	<b>shoulders</b> 725:12	<b>solar</b> 720:19 728:23
<b>room</b> 704:2 727:18			<b>sounds</b> 728:22
			<b>source</b> 710:3 729:18
			<b>south</b> 716:18
			<b>Southern</b> 725:3 728:14

<b>spared</b> 742:12	<b>state-regulated</b> 719:16	<b>supposed</b> 720:9 744:20	<b>territory-wide</b> 711:8
<b>speak</b> 703:15,19,22 704:5,6,9,12 709:20 723:21 727:5 730:8 736:13,17,18,20,24 742:2,25 751:2	<b>statement</b> 705:6 706:25 709:17 712:17 714:20 715:8 717:1 721:17 722:10 723:18 725:23 728:1,6 730:17 737:9 739:7 741:23,28 742:18 746:13	<b>surprised</b> 730:21	<b>Test</b> 713:6
<b>speaker</b> 703:25 712:13 714:18 716:28 723:17 746:8,11	<b>states</b> 747:1	<b>survivors</b> 749:7,10,12	<b>that'll</b> 712:7,15
<b>speaking</b> 714:14 736:26 738:21	<b>stay</b> 720:23,28 722:25	<b>sweating</b> 724:23	<b>thermostat</b> 720:21 724:23 726:5
<b>special</b> 743:3	<b>stepped</b> 728:11	<b>synthetic</b> 711:9	<b>thing</b> 712:5 713:17 714:2 728:9 739:2 744:26
<b>specific</b> 703:7 704:14 705:24 706:2 730:24 736:10 738:2,3 742:9	<b>stockholders</b> 743:11 748:13,15,24	<b>system</b> 707:23 712:8 740:5	<b>things</b> 726:16 744:9
<b>specifically</b> 711:1 721:25	<b>stop</b> 736:5	<b>T</b>	<b>thinking</b> 712:6
<b>speech</b> 704:10	<b>stopped</b> 724:6	<b>T-I-N-A</b> 717:3	<b>thousand</b> 711:17
<b>spell</b> 704:13 712:14 728:4 736:19	<b>straight</b> 713:21	<b>table</b> 702:11 703:10,20 705:28 721:1 735:7 736:2,6,14 737:28	<b>threat</b> 706:14 738:9
<b>spend</b> 720:1	<b>strong</b> 715:24	<b>Taft</b> 712:20	<b>tied</b> 718:24,28
<b>spent</b> 708:13 740:24	<b>strongly</b> 718:24	<b>taking</b> 712:12 725:13 730:7 736:21	<b>tier</b> 713:3,23 720:23 722:26 723:1 726:5 742:8,11
<b>spill</b> 728:17	<b>structure</b> 744:20	<b>talk</b> 711:28 721:23 722:4 725:4,16 727:8 731:3	<b>tiered</b> 717:5
<b>spinning</b> 711:7	<b>structured</b> 745:2	<b>talking</b> 727:13 728:19 743:19	<b>time</b> 700:7 704:12,23, 26,27 708:24 709:9 713:14 715:6 721:14 724:5 726:21 727:16 730:7,15 733:8 736:24 737:7 741:7,20,25 743:8
<b>spoken</b> 723:25	<b>stuck</b> 744:4	<b>tasked</b> 720:27	<b>Tina</b> 716:28 717:2
<b>square</b> 724:22	<b>stuff</b> 716:5 745:21	<b>tax</b> 709:22,23,25 710:27 720:7,11 727:13	<b>tiny</b> 724:20
<b>square-mile</b> 705:22 737:23	<b>subject</b> 709:2 741:13	<b>taxes</b> 729:22	<b>today</b> 700:21,24 702:21 703:19 704:4 705:27 706:5,18,27 709:9 730:6 731:23 733:21 735:18 736:13,23 737:27 738:13 739:9 741:20
<b>Stacey</b> 723:17,19	<b>submit</b> 731:15	<b>Taxpayer</b> 709:16	<b>today's</b> 700:26 705:9 715:9 716:24 733:24 737:3,12
<b>staffed</b> 705:28	<b>sudden</b> 748:5	<b>Taxpayers</b> 709:22	<b>told</b> 751:17
<b>standards</b> 719:3	<b>sued</b> 749:10	<b>technology</b> 707:16 715:25 739:26	<b>tomorrow</b> 730:12,14
<b>STAR</b> 720:18	<b>suggest</b> 722:4 725:16 731:2	<b>tells</b> 730:24	<b>tomorrow's</b> 731:9
<b>start</b> 700:28 712:11 733:25 748:5	<b>sum</b> 748:26,28	<b>temperature</b> 713:25	<b>tonight's</b> 737:1
<b>started</b> 746:27 749:27	<b>summarize</b> 701:21	<b>temperatures</b> 744:19, 22,27	<b>top</b> 718:5 726:10
<b>starting</b> 747:23	<b>summary</b> 700:25	<b>temporary</b> 720:10,11	<b>town</b> 725:3 729:11
<b>starts</b> 726:27	<b>summer</b> 720:22	<b>tempted</b> 727:26	<b>track</b> 719:17
<b>state</b> 701:4 704:13,15 712:14 716:17 719:13 720:8 728:4,10 733:28 736:19 742:3	<b>summertime</b> 713:26	<b>tend</b> 714:15	
<b>state's</b> 706:14 738:9	<b>Sunday's</b> 729:11	<b>terminology</b> 744:16	
	<b>support</b> 705:16 710:25 711:21 729:13 737:19	<b>terms</b> 710:3	
	<b>supporting</b> 707:10 739:20	<b>territory</b> 717:6	
	<b>supports</b> 710:2		

<b>transcribing</b> 704:3	<b>upgrade</b> 707:15 739:25	<b>wanted</b> 716:3 727:23 730:5	<b>Y</b>
<b>transcript</b> 700:25 733:24 736:26 737:3,4	<b>upgrades</b> 711:5,6	<b>watch</b> 728:18,19	<b>year</b> 714:7 717:10 719:27 722:16,17 723:4,5,11 731:27
<b>transition</b> 718:19	<b>urge</b> 721:9	<b>water</b> 719:27 724:6	<b>years</b> 701:26 705:14 707:7 716:3 718:18 719:24 729:5 734:22 737:16 739:17 742:22 744:23
<b>transmission</b> 711:21	<b>usage</b> 717:8 724:12	<b>ways</b> 707:13 719:21 739:23	<b>York</b> 746:28
<b>transparency</b> 715:28 720:14	<b>user</b> 702:16 735:13	<b>website</b> 717:23 730:26	<b>young</b> 742:22
<b>transparent</b> 709:3 741:14	<b>utilities</b> 701:2,5 713:16 722:1,7 734:1 744:12 747:13	<b>week</b> 717:7	
<b>travel</b> 727:7	<b>utility</b> 708:16 709:26 728:15 740:27 743:26 744:3 747:15 749:16	<b>whoever's</b> 721:19	
<b>trees</b> 711:27,28 727:14	<b>utilize</b> 725:28 727:14	<b>wholeheartedly</b> 723:24	
<b>triple-pane</b> 722:27	<b>utilized</b> 726:2	<b>Wilbur</b> 722:9,11	
<b>trouble</b> 719:10 726:7 749:18	<b>V</b>	<b>wildfire</b> 702:8 706:14 707:19,24 708:3,20 713:11 726:19 735:4 738:9 740:1,6,13 741:3 742:6 747:9 749:7,17	
<b>truck</b> 715:19	<b>vacations</b> 720:1	<b>wildfires</b> 727:12 747:21 749:7	
<b>Truckers</b> 729:22	<b>valley</b> 710:28 711:2,18 742:5,7,27 744:14,21, 28	<b>wind</b> 728:24	
<b>turn</b> 724:22	<b>vegetation</b> 707:22 740:4	<b>windows</b> 714:1,26 720:19 722:27	
<b>type</b> 713:16	<b>vehicles</b> 721:2	<b>wire</b> 711:5	
<b>types</b> 711:10	<b>versus</b> 721:1	<b>wires</b> 711:27 712:1 745:21	
<b>typical</b> 708:6 710:9 740:16	<b>vice</b> 706:20 707:5 738:15 739:15	<b>wishes</b> 728:1	
<b>typically</b> 731:14	<b>victim</b> 749:17	<b>wonderful</b> 729:12	
<b>U</b>	<b>victimized</b> 743:6	<b>wondering</b> 725:9	
<b>UC</b> 749:20	<b>violators</b> 704:7	<b>wood</b> 720:18	
<b>ultimately</b> 702:20 735:16	<b>vital</b> 745:8	<b>words</b> 742:21	
<b>unbelievable</b> 729:10	<b>voltage</b> 711:21	<b>work</b> 721:2 747:26	
<b>underneath</b> 745:17	<b>volunteered</b> 700:16,20 733:14	<b>worked</b> 743:13	
<b>understand</b> 710:10 715:24 726:22	<b>vote</b> 701:10,18,19 730:28 731:1,9 734:5, 14	<b>working</b> 713:6,7 727:5 747:23	
<b>understanding</b> 716:22	<b>W</b>	<b>worried</b> 748:23	
<b>UNIDENTIFIED</b> 738:19,24,28 742:23 746:8,11	<b>W-I-L-B-U-R</b> 722:12	<b>worth</b> 748:22	
<b>unions</b> 702:16 735:13	<b>wage</b> 726:22,26	<b>write</b> 701:16 734:12	
<b>unique</b> 710:2,4 744:28	<b>walk</b> 747:26	<b>written</b> 722:18	
<b>unit</b> 722:28		<b>wrong</b> 715:4	
<b>unkept</b> 720:14			
<b>unsecured</b> 749:12			