

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA



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

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

) PUBLIC  
) PARTICIPATION  
) HEARING  
)  
)  
)  
) Application  
) 18-12-009  
)  
)  
)

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1 SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

2 JULY 31, 2019 1:00 p.m.

3 \* \* \* \* \*

4 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE LAU: Please  
5 come to order. On the record.

6 This is the time and place set for  
7 the public participation hearing for the  
8 general rate case application of Pacific Gas  
9 & Electric Company, PG&E, Application  
10 18-12-009.

11 Good afternoon. My name is Elaine  
12 Lau. With me is Judge Rafael Lirag. We're  
13 the assigned administrative law judges  
14 assigned to this proceeding. Before we  
15 start, I'd like to introduce what the  
16 Commission does for a little bit.

17 So the California Public Utilities  
18 Commission, CPUC, is a state agency that  
19 regulates privately-owned utilities, like  
20 PG&E, that provide essential services like  
21 natural gas and electricity. There are five  
22 commissioners at the CPUC. These five  
23 commissioners will be the people who vote and  
24 decide what amount PG&E's application.

25 Our role as assigned judges in this  
26 case is to review PG&E's application based on  
27 the evidence and testimony set forth. We  
28 write a proposed decision for the

1 commissioners to consider. The commissioners  
2 either vote to adopt our proposed decision or  
3 set forth their own alternate decision.

4 What PG&E requested in this  
5 application is authority to increase its  
6 revenues by \$1.058 billion in 2020,  
7 \$454 million in 2021, and \$486 million in  
8 2022.

9 Every three years, PG&E files a  
10 general rate case application like this one.  
11 The impact of this application, if fully  
12 granted, would increase an average  
13 residential customer's monthly bill by 6 to 7  
14 percent or \$10.57.

15 According to PG&E, the major reasons  
16 for the requested increase are to fund PG&E's  
17 wildfire safety mitigations and liability  
18 insurance. There is more information about  
19 PG&E's application on a fact sheet that you  
20 can get from the Public Advisor's Office  
21 table.

22 So currently there are many active  
23 parties in this proceeding. These include  
24 several consumer groups, community-based  
25 organizations, city and county governments,  
26 unions, and large user groups. Many of these  
27 groups oppose what PG&E is requesting. Their  
28 participation in this proceeding can affect

1 the amount of money the Commission would  
2 authorize PG&E to collect.

3 So also let me talk about what is  
4 the purpose of today's meeting. The purpose  
5 of today's meeting is for us to listen to  
6 you. We're here today to listen to your  
7 comments on PG&E's application. We want to  
8 hear about how PG&E's application affect you,  
9 your family, your friends, and your  
10 communities. Your comments will help the  
11 Commission gather information to determine  
12 whether PG&E's proposed increases are  
13 reasonable.

14 As of now Judge Lirag and I as well  
15 as the assigned commissioner have received a  
16 lot of comments that the public has sent  
17 through our Commission's Public Advisor's  
18 Office.

19 So at the back of the room is the  
20 Public Advisor's Office table. If you have  
21 any questions regarding the Commission, our  
22 processes, please do not hesitate to find  
23 them after the meeting and ask them more  
24 questions. Again, there's a fact sheet  
25 there. Also if you would like to speak  
26 today, please head towards that table and  
27 sign up to speak.

28 Also I think I believe in that

1 general area is also a table manned by PG&E.  
2 PG&E sent a couple customer service  
3 representatives that you may find after the  
4 meeting if you have any questions regarding  
5 your electric or gas bill.

6 So before we start, I'd like to go  
7 over some ground rules. We'd like to hear  
8 from everyone that wishes to speak. So as a  
9 courtesy to others, please refrain from  
10 calling out or interrupting any other  
11 speaker.

12 Please direct any comments to us and  
13 not to PG&E. We'd like to hear from you.  
14 And at this moment, I'd like to remind  
15 everyone to make sure their cell phones are  
16 on silent.

17 Also you notice in the front of the  
18 room we have some court reporters here today.  
19 They're here to document your comments into  
20 the record today. That's why it's very  
21 important when you head towards the podium,  
22 that you speak slowly and facing us so that  
23 the court reporter can fully capture your  
24 comments. They will provide a transcript of  
25 today's meeting that will capture all your  
26 comments. That transcript will be available  
27 to all five commissioners and the public on  
28 our Commission's website.

1           At this time, we'd like to have a  
2 couple presentations. One is from PG&E.

3           STATEMENT OF MR. HERNANDEZ

4           Good afternoon. Judge Lirag and  
5 Judge Lau, thank you so much for being here  
6 today. And welcome and thank you, everyone,  
7 for attending today's public participation  
8 hearing on PG&E's 2020 general rate case  
9 proposal.

10           My name is Herman G. Hernandez, and  
11 I've been an employee at PG&E for 13 months.  
12 As the team leader for this part of our  
13 service area, I'm your local public affairs  
14 representative for Lake and Sonoma Counties.  
15 This is 1 of 17 hearings being hosted by the  
16 CPUC through our 70,000 square-mile service  
17 area.

18           At each location representatives  
19 from PG&E will be available to assist  
20 customers with their questions. We have  
21 representatives here today who can help track  
22 down information you need related to the  
23 specific proceeding located here in the back.

24           For customers who are participating  
25 remotely and have a question about their  
26 service or bill, they should call PG&E's  
27 1-800 number, which is 1-800-743-5000.

28           Your feedback -- your feedback in

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

6 That's what makes these hearings  
7 very significant. It's very important to  
8 know that this process is one of many forums  
9 that the CPUC provides for customer input on  
10 the GRC and other regulatory filings.

11 I want to thank the commissioners,  
12 Judge Lirag, and Judge Lau for this  
13 opportunity to learn from our customers. And  
14 in closing I just want to introduce our  
15 executive Vice President John Simon who's  
16 going to share a few words.

17 Thank you very much.

18 STATEMENT OF MR. SIMON

19 Good afternoon, everyone. Thank  
20 you for being here today on a beautiful  
21 summer day. Thank you very much, Judge  
22 Lirag, for giving us this opportunity to  
23 contribute and learn from these public  
24 participation hearings. And to really give  
25 us a chance to hear -- as Judge Lau you  
26 emphasized -- from our customers. We look  
27 forward to doing that today.

28 My name, as Herman mentioned, is



1 John Simon. I've worked at PG&E since 2007.  
2 I've had a number of different jobs.  
3 Currently, I oversee the law and public  
4 affairs-related functions for the company.

5 Part of my job is to support PG&E's  
6 most important responsibility, which is the  
7 safety of our customers and our communities.  
8 One way we achieve that is through our  
9 general rate case proposal, which outlines  
10 our plans to upgrade technology and  
11 infrastructure to further strengthen our  
12 ability to meet our customers' needs and  
13 provide safe and reliable energy.

14 Our proposal will help further  
15 strengthen wildfire prevention, risk  
16 monitoring, and emergency response, and will  
17 also add new and enhanced safety measures,  
18 increase vegetation management, and further  
19 harden our electric system to increase  
20 resiliency to help further reduce wildfire  
21 risks among other projects.

22 Under the proposal, Judge Lau, as  
23 you mentioned, we are requesting about \$1.1  
24 billion increase over our currently adopted  
25 revenues in the first year. More than half  
26 of the proposed increase would be directly  
27 related to wildfire prevention, risk  
28 reduction, and additional safety enhancements

1 if approved by the CPUC.

2 If approved it would increase a  
3 typical residential customer's bill, as you  
4 mentioned, Judge, by about 6.4 percent or  
5 \$10.57 per month. Of the \$10.57, \$8.73 per  
6 month for electricity and \$1.84 per month for  
7 natural gas service.

8 While it is important to share with  
9 everyone where our customer money is going,  
10 it is also important for us to share where  
11 this money would not be spent.

12 While the GRC proposal will help  
13 fund a series of important safety  
14 investments, it does not request funding for  
15 PG&E corporation or utility officer  
16 compensation.

17 That means it doesn't go to my pay  
18 or any of my colleagues' pay. The proposal  
19 also does not request funding for potential  
20 wildfire claims involved in our Chapter 11  
21 bankruptcy proceeding.

22 The GRC proposal here is a  
23 significant request, and we realize it comes  
24 at a difficult time. Our commitment is to  
25 keep customer costs as low as possible while  
26 meeting our responsibility to safely serve  
27 all of our customers even as our changing  
28 climate presents significant new challenges

1 and risks.

2 This funding proposal is subject to  
3 the CPUC's thorough, open, and transparent  
4 review and approval process, which is why  
5 we're here today. We encourage our customers  
6 to provide feedback and participate in this  
7 public process that will help shape customer  
8 rates in the coming years.

9 Thank you very much for your time.

10 ALJ LAU: Are there any other parties  
11 that would like to make a presentation?

12 (No response.)

13 ALJ LAU: Hearing none.

14 Let's move on to hearing from you  
15 guys, our speakers. So I'm going to read off  
16 a couple of names at a time, three speakers  
17 at a time in the order that they will speak.

18 If you hear your name being called,  
19 please be ready to head to the podium and be  
20 ready to speak. And also please limit your  
21 comments to around five minutes.

22 The first three speakers are Paul  
23 Feinstein, Will Abrams, and Gene Dawson.

24 Mr. Feinstein, will you make your  
25 way to the podium. Thank you. And Feinstein  
26 is spelled F-e-i-n-s-t-e-i-n; is that  
27 correct?

28 MR. FEINSTEIN: Correct.

1 ALJ LAU: Thank you.

2 STATEMENT OF MR. FEINSTEIN

3 Thank you for this opportunity. My  
4 name is Paul Feinstein. I'm a retired  
5 scientist who lives locally and had been  
6 following PG&E in general sustainable energy  
7 issues for many years.

8 I understand that the context of  
9 this review is for increases in rates, but  
10 I'd like to put a slightly different  
11 perspective on that. And that is the general  
12 rate that we -- prevailing rate that we live  
13 with that has gone up enormously in the last  
14 six to eight years.

15 In addition to the well-publicized  
16 problems related to fire and gas safety, we  
17 should not lose sight of the basic unfairness  
18 of our electric utility rates. The national  
19 average for electrical rates is approximately  
20 \$0.08 a kilowatt hour.

21 Even in the east coast states that  
22 experience significant maintenance issues  
23 like ice storms in the winter, they are able  
24 to maintain diversified energy sources with a  
25 fairly steady low electric utility rate.

26 Californians are currently paying  
27 about \$0.24 a kilowatt hour. Three times the  
28 national average. Now, I have heard many

1 politicians and pundits blame this or  
2 attribute it to California's insistence on  
3 having green energy sources; however, when  
4 you look at the spread of the states that  
5 incorporate green energy, we are, as  
6 California, is only in the median of those  
7 states. ]

8 New York State, for example, that  
9 has significantly more green energy as part  
10 of its mix of utility energy still is able  
11 and has for many years charged eight cents a  
12 kilowatt hour.

13 There are many people who simply  
14 cannot afford these rates, and probably  
15 aren't even aware, when they look at their  
16 bill, what they're paying.

17 In a warming climate where air  
18 conditioning will become a necessity, this  
19 will soon be a major health issue. Anyone  
20 looking at the heat wave that went around  
21 this country and Europe last week should be  
22 well-aware of that.

23 The simple truth is the high  
24 utility rates that have increased  
25 dramatically and systematically over the last  
26 several years as a result of poor management  
27 and lack of commitment to looking out for our  
28 residents and the lack of focus on this rate.

1 There has not been, to my knowledge, zero  
2 base rationalization of electric utility  
3 rates.

4 Every time the utility requests a  
5 rate increase, it's simply on top of the  
6 existing rate.

7 In addition to the basic rate  
8 issue, over the years I've uncovered many  
9 instances of rate fraud, which I have sent to  
10 the CPUC. These complaints are simply handed  
11 over to utility with no follow-up. PG&E is  
12 both judge and jury.

13 I'd be more than happy to go over  
14 instances in detail of these. In most cases,  
15 they're small errors, perhaps not  
16 intentional, but in some cases, they are  
17 intentional, especially directed towards  
18 solar customers. When I finally, in one  
19 egregious case, was able to get to a PG&E  
20 manager, who admitted to these systematic  
21 errors, no refunds were going to be offered  
22 to the customer. They said they would simply  
23 change the rate structure, so the problem was  
24 effectively washed away.

25 I hope that in the process of  
26 evaluating the bankruptcy proceedings, that a  
27 thorough audit be made of the billing  
28 practices and rate assumptions approved by

1 the CPUC, and the CPUC reorganized  
2 fundamentally to provide better consumer  
3 protection.

4 Thank you.

5 ALJ LAU: Thank you, Mr. Feinstein.

6 Next we have Will Abrams,  
7 A-b-r-a-m-s; is that correct, Mr. Abrams?

8 MR. ABRAMS: It is. Thank you.

9 STATEMENT OF MR. ABRAMS

10 So, as was mentioned, I am a  
11 wildfire survivor. I live here locally in  
12 Santa Rosa. Myself and my family ran from  
13 the wildfires in October of 2017, and these  
14 issues are very personal to me.

15 I think there are a number of  
16 issues associated with what's being proposed.  
17 One, I think it's totally disconnected, I  
18 think, in terms of how it's been presented  
19 from the realities on the ground in terms of  
20 people struggling to rebuild their homes, in  
21 terms of how this connects to us having  
22 insurance in the state, as it relates to how  
23 we're going to be recovering in these times.

24 So I would say that there needs to  
25 be a little more connection in terms of how  
26 PG&E presents these to what the actual  
27 motions are on the ground.

28 Certainly, I understand a pragmatic

1 approach to these issues has to be taken, but  
2 I think particularly in these types of  
3 forums, I would just advise that you come  
4 with a little more compassion for the issues  
5 for the folks on the ground.

6 Second of all, as we're talking  
7 about these rates, it seems in stark contrast  
8 to how these things are positioned to  
9 investors of PG&E. So when you go into an  
10 investor meeting, there's a lot of talk about  
11 things like return on investment, and what  
12 investors can expect to see in the future and  
13 how PG&E is going to recover from bankruptcy  
14 and what's going to be on the other side.

15 Similarly for this, as we're  
16 talking to ratepayers about taking on a large  
17 portion of this burden, there needs to some  
18 expectation about return.

19 It isn't good enough to talk about  
20 these in general terms, as has been  
21 described, about generally we're going to do  
22 a bunch of activities, and we're going to  
23 trim trees, and we're going to maintain  
24 lines, and we're going to do those things.  
25 That isn't sufficient in any corporation, and  
26 why we're not being transparent with how  
27 those things are being put forward is beyond  
28 me.



1                   So I would suggest that where you  
2 look at Return on Investment, ROI, for your  
3 investors, you should be talking to the  
4 people, the ratepayers, about ROS, Return on  
5 Safety.

6                   And that isn't a general thing that  
7 should be: We're going to go out there and  
8 trim trees, and we're going to increase  
9 things by 220 percent or we're going to do a  
10 lot of activities, because at the end of the  
11 day, just like an ROI is a measure of  
12 results; this needs to be, too.

13                  So this needs to be: We're  
14 trimming these trees, and you can expect a  
15 risk reduction of 5 percent associated with  
16 these activities. Year over year, you can  
17 expect a 15 percent reduction in risk, so me  
18 and my family don't have to run from another  
19 wildfire.

20                  Those are the types of things that  
21 need to be built into every single thing that  
22 the CPUC looks at. Any time there is an ask  
23 for dollars, there needs to be a question of:  
24 What is the return on safety?

25                  We're past the point of: "Trust  
26 us. We've got this. We know what we're  
27 doing."

28                  That has been said over and over

1 again in downplaying the intelligence of  
2 consumers and your ratepayers by saying:  
3 "Oh, this is just too complicated. We can't  
4 really get into the details of what we're  
5 doing, but Trust us. All of these activities  
6 mean safety for you."

7 We're well past that. We need this  
8 to be quantified. There needs to be a  
9 scorecard that indicates how you're  
10 progressing towards safety. Not on  
11 activities. I could care less about exactly  
12 how many trees you've trimmed. I could care  
13 less how many poles you've changed from wood  
14 to metal. Those things are activities. You  
15 can runaround in circles all you want. It  
16 doesn't mean you're making any progress.

17 You have very well-developed risk  
18 mitigation departments within your  
19 organization. Open that up. Make it be a  
20 transparent process so myself and others can  
21 look at that and say: Okay. You know what?  
22 PG&E has made a number of mistakes. They  
23 should be held responsible in many different  
24 ways, but they're turning a corner. And it's  
25 not just on platitudes, and "Trust us. We're  
26 on the right course."

27 It needs to be measurable, and for  
28 the CPUC, there needs to be accountability.

1 It can't be accountability, we're going to  
2 come, you know, understand how many trees  
3 you've trimmed. It needs to be measurable.

4 In the Governor's Strike Force  
5 report, there was a very clear direction,  
6 which is independently and scientifically a  
7 verified risk mitigation and that's what  
8 needs to be there.

9 There needs to be: Here's what  
10 we've done. Here's the reduction of risk and  
11 justification for that.

12 I would ask the CPUC to turn to  
13 PG&E and say: Look, this is the money you're  
14 asking for. Demonstrate the amount of risk  
15 you've reduced to earn this money.

16 And if they haven't, then there  
17 should be a penalty. If they have, great.  
18 I'm willing to pay double, 20 bucks, as long  
19 as that reduces the risks. As long as that  
20 improves safety.

21 But to come to me and say \$2.00 or  
22 \$20 or \$50 increase, I want to know what my  
23 return is for my safety, for the economic  
24 future of my family, and you need to come  
25 with that information. You can't just come  
26 and say: We're going to do activities. That  
27 shouldn't be acceptable. It isn't acceptable  
28 to your investors. You couldn't walk up to

1 your investor meeting and say: "Hey, guys.  
2 We're doing a really good job. Trust us.  
3 You're going to get your money back. We got  
4 this covered for you."

5 You're going to have to quantify  
6 that. You're going to have demonstrate that,  
7 and to, on the one hand, spend a lot of money  
8 on what you're going to do for your investors  
9 and, on the other hand, spend a lot of money  
10 on public relations to warm over the public  
11 so that they don't pay attention to the data,  
12 is not the right way to proceed.

13 They need to prove it now. We're  
14 past the trust me phase. And so I would just  
15 encourage the CPUC, I would encourage PG&E to  
16 make sure that that is how they move forward.

17 Thank you very much.

18 ALJ LAU: Thank you.

19 I would like to remind everyone to  
20 make sure their cell phones are on silent.  
21 It just makes it easier for our court  
22 reporters to document the comments. Thank  
23 you.

24 Next, we have Ms. Gina Dawson,  
25 D-a-w-s-o-n.

26 MS. DAWSON: That's correct. Thank  
27 you.

28 ///

1 ALJ LAU: Thank you.

2 STATEMENT OF MS. DAWSON

3 Thanks for this opportunity to  
4 talk, and thanks -- I feel privileged to  
5 follow-up on that. Your remark about return  
6 on investment and measuring it for return on  
7 safety is well-put.

8 I've come in here with a couple of  
9 remarks. One is about a gas safety program  
10 that PG&E launched in 2013, Pipeline Pathway,  
11 and a little later, the Community Pipeline  
12 Safety Initiative, which was a \$500 million  
13 shareholder program that was -- basically the  
14 activity was to remove trees from above the  
15 gas transmission lines.

16 When it came to our town, which is  
17 Lafayette, California, initially it was  
18 thousands of trees they wanted to cut down.  
19 And our city fought back as did Contra Costa  
20 County to say: Well, why? What is the  
21 rationale?

22 A couple of years passed. They  
23 came back, and, you know, our City signed an  
24 agreement for 275 trees to be cut. My  
25 husband and I received a letter to say: Oh,  
26 some of your trees might be impacted by this.

27 So we called PG&E to find out.  
28 Said, No. No. Don't worry. None of your

1 trees are impacted.

2 And my husband asked: Well, where  
3 are these trees?

4 And we were told: We can't tell  
5 you.

6 And it kind of started this whole  
7 big thing: Why can't you tell us about these  
8 because if it's a risk to our community or a  
9 risk to our neighbors, shouldn't we know?

10 And long story short, my husband  
11 and I and a neighbor ended up starting a  
12 nonprofit called Save Lafayette Trees, and  
13 we've been working with PG&E, and lately the  
14 CPUC, to find out what are the real safety  
15 risks to our community?

16 And to this day, two years later,  
17 we have not been told. We've been told: Oh,  
18 there's six layers of safety that we apply to  
19 the pipelines in your community.

20 But we don't know what is risk. We  
21 don't know how it's prioritized. We have a  
22 lot of questions outstanding.

23 And we are working with, as I said,  
24 the Safety Enforcement Division, as well as  
25 people at PG&E, but they still cannot tell us  
26 locally what the risk is. And to me, to  
27 Will's point, that's like, what is the return  
28 on safety of these investments?

1                   \$500 million, where a community  
2                   can't know what their safety risk is? They  
3                   can't know how it's been mitigated.

4                   And in Lafayette, we have smaller  
5                   transmission lines that may not be as big as,  
6                   like say, the ones in the city or the ones  
7                   where there's more people around, but any  
8                   consequence of risk is still very major to  
9                   us, so we want to understand it.

10                  So we'd like to know -- there's  
11                  projects we've been told are going to be  
12                  taken on by PG&E, but there's asterisks by  
13                  those projects that say: This project  
14                  depends on the outcome of the rate case.

15                  So I asked: Well, how do we know  
16                  if that project is actually going to be  
17                  undertaken. And you know what? We don't.  
18                  There's no transparency.

19                  Things have been kicked down for --  
20                  I've seen some of the old rate case, you  
21                  know, project budget lines, oh, from 2017 to  
22                  2019, to 2021, now recently to 2026, and  
23                  that's concerning because some of the lines  
24                  in our town are going to be 70 years old.

25                  Half of the lines in our town are  
26                  DFF lines that have been converted to  
27                  transmission lines, and 80 percent, 85  
28                  percent of those two lines have not been

1 tested.

2 So we've been told: Well, that's  
3 because it's a new conversion.

4 And I'm like: Well, what does that  
5 mean, though? Can you push that down?

6 We don't know. We don't even know  
7 if the regulation allows for that or what the  
8 regulation is for that to even hold them  
9 accountable.

10 So the lack of transparency into  
11 the projects to how money is spent, to even  
12 the prioritization, is it our safety or is it  
13 convenience?

14 We have an exposed pipeline in  
15 Lafayette that, you know, over the last  
16 couple of years, we've had a lot of news  
17 coverage for that. And, lo and behold, that  
18 exposed pipeline was covered. It was  
19 addressed.

20 But since then, we've heard: Well,  
21 there's other exposed pipeline segments that  
22 may have been a better priority in terms of  
23 safety to address, but we're wondering, well,  
24 what took the precedence there; better PR or  
25 the community safety?

26 So as far as following up on Will's  
27 point, I think it's really important to have  
28 more transparency. What is the real risk?



1 And how is PG&E addressing it in each  
2 community? Not just as a general system  
3 overview, but maybe citywide just so people  
4 can be aware, can know, if they call up:  
5 When was this pipeline tested? They can  
6 actually get an answer specific to their  
7 community.

8 That's not really available right  
9 now. It took a long time for us to get that  
10 information. And two years later, we're  
11 still -- there's a lot of discrepancies, and  
12 we don't have particular people we can reach]  
13 out to at PG&E, nor really the CPUC, but I  
14 will -- that's not to say that people haven't  
15 been wanting to help answer our questions.  
16 Either they don't have the ability, or they  
17 just don't have the information.

18 Call a spade a spade, you know, and  
19 just try to work this out. But we do look to  
20 the PUC to help gain access for us and  
21 answers for us. Particularly if we're going  
22 to have rates increase. What is it going to  
23 pay for? Especially in towns like ours where  
24 projects get kicked down the line that  
25 haven't been budgeted for. We're not getting  
26 our money's worth so to speak, so why should  
27 we pay more?

28 The second point is that the

1 community pipeline safety initiative. The  
2 wildfire safety initiative seems modelled --  
3 at least at the beginning -- very much on  
4 that program. And it was very much divide  
5 and conquer each city. You know, here's the  
6 trees you're cutting down.

7 But it didn't really address for  
8 the people questions in particular to what  
9 does the infrastructure look like? What is  
10 the risk? What is it you have to generalize?  
11 So I think that's an important thing as a  
12 takeaway that it really needs to be more  
13 localized as far as what your money is going  
14 to be put toward and how we can actually  
15 track it, any projects.

16 Thank you.

17 ALJ LAU: Thank you.

18 The next two speakers I have are  
19 Heather Young and John Deavers.

20 Ms. Young, head towards the podium.  
21 And, Ms. Young, correct me if I'm wrong.  
22 Your last name is spelled Y-o-u-n-g?

23 MS. YOUNG: Correct.

24 ALJ LAU: Thank you.

25 STATEMENT OF MS. YOUNG

26 Thank you. I'm Heather Young, and  
27 I moved to Sonoma County in 2000 with Hewlett  
28 Packard. And for the last nine years I've

1 supported myself as a Realtor.

2 No one wants a rate increase. But  
3 I'd like to focus on why the rate increase  
4 should not be allocated to the residential  
5 ratepayers the way it seems to be designed to  
6 right now.

7 I did not lose my home in the  
8 fires. But the night of the fires I sat on  
9 the phone waking people up, and I know that  
10 there would be more fatalities if I had not  
11 been doing so. I did lose my grandmother's  
12 furniture in a storage unit, and my community  
13 has been decimated.

14 The reasons that this increase  
15 should not fall on the residential ratepayers  
16 is first as I understand it from the Press  
17 Democrat, the CPUC allowed PG&E to defer  
18 review of required safety plans for over 10  
19 years. Any savings that occurred from that,  
20 I'm sure it would have been substantial, are  
21 lost in the intricacies of utility's  
22 accounting systems. Some of that may have  
23 been shared to the ratepayers, but I'm going  
24 to believe that a large part of that would  
25 have been savings that the shareholders  
26 benefitted from.

27 And we will never know because  
28 safety plans were not done. As I understand

1 they were absolutely required and absolutely  
2 deferred. That's a travesty that we now see  
3 the result of and ratepayers -- residential  
4 ratepayers specifically should not have to  
5 bare the burden of that.

6 Second, I believe late last year  
7 some public bonds were floated by the State.  
8 As a taxpayer, I'm already subsidizing some  
9 of the fees that PG&E and investors of PG&E  
10 are going to benefit from. Those public  
11 bonds probably aren't the first that PG&E has  
12 benefitted from. They may not be the last.  
13 But I'm already paying as a taxpayer for some  
14 of these costs.

15 The shareholders in our capitalist  
16 system -- shareholders are supposed to be  
17 bearing a risk. That's what shareholders do.  
18 Ratepayers have a transaction as customers.  
19 And this risk that -- this overarching risk  
20 should not be accruing to residential  
21 ratepayers. So that's the second reason that  
22 we should not be burdened with this rate  
23 increase.

24 The third is -- I'm just a  
25 layperson. But it looks to me as if two or  
26 three bills late last year were passed by the  
27 California Legislature that essentially  
28 stripped off liability for these costs from

1 the commercial and industrial customers  
2 shoving the burden for all of these safety  
3 costs onto residential ratepayers in PG&E's  
4 territory. That's not right.

5 Residential ratepayers are the most  
6 vulnerable to fear, the least able to  
7 organize and fight back, and also the  
8 smallest -- are paying the smallest. So for  
9 us to be between \$10 and \$11 per month  
10 increase on average, is partly because these  
11 larger industrial commercial customers were  
12 purposefully stripped out of the risk pool  
13 for the payment of this.

14 As culpability for the fire  
15 increases and cost there seem to be  
16 increasing over time, we're seeing that the  
17 base for paying these costs is being focused  
18 more and more on residential ratepayers.  
19 Who, as I mentioned, are the most vulnerable  
20 and least able to organize and fight back.

21 Excuse me. If justice were to be  
22 done, shareholders would pay the entire cost  
23 of this. But we are so far past justice now.  
24 Please don't make the residential ratepayers  
25 pay this increase.

26 ALJ LAU: Thank you, Ms. Young.

27 Next we have John Deavers. And  
28 after John Deavers, it would be Duane DeWitt.

1                   Mr. Deavers, correct me if I'm wrong  
2                   by spelling your last name as D-e-a-v-e-r-s.

3                   MR. DEAVERS: Yes.

4                   ALJ LAU: Thank you.

5                   STATEMENT OF MR. DEAVERS

6                   I know participants are encouraged  
7                   to speak to the impact of a rate increase on  
8                   their lives. Particularly as it represents  
9                   perhaps additional financial hardship. And I  
10                  hope people do come out and speak to that  
11                  because it's important.

12                 From a historical perspective, I'm  
13                 a little skeptical of this persuasiveness. I  
14                 would ask those here to take a step back and  
15                 consider that these proceedings are part of a  
16                 larger picture. A terrible picture. This is  
17                 all part of a terrible repetitious cycle.  
18                 This all seems so normal and benign and  
19                 procedural taken up close and in isolation.

20                 The character of the corporate  
21                 entity must be considered. It's not  
22                 isolated. How many times have we done this?  
23                 And not just a rate increase, but the  
24                 circumstances under which it is requested.

25                 Here's a quote for you, "Hopefully  
26                 this sends a message to upper-level PG&E  
27                 management that they must do whatever is  
28                 necessary to comply with the law and protect

1 public safety."

2 Yes. We should all hope that the  
3 tragedies of the last decade would send a  
4 message.

5 But that quote isn't new. It's  
6 from the deputy DA who prosecuted the Trauner  
7 Fire trial in which PG&E was convicted on  
8 over 739 counts of negligence in 1997. What  
9 have you seen that demonstrates that they've  
10 learned anything? Anything other than the  
11 system works for them.

12 Did they learn from sitting on the  
13 information they poisoned the Hinkley  
14 groundwater for decades?

15 Did they learn from the fires of  
16 the '90s started from improper maintenance?

17 Did they learn from the Trauner  
18 trial where testimony included that PG&E  
19 diverted \$80 million from tree trimming to  
20 shareholders that they had told the CPUC it  
21 needed for wildfire prevention?

22 Did it learn after it diverted \$100  
23 million from maintenance on old pipes with  
24 defective wells to give themselves bonuses?

25 It learned so well that it's been  
26 disclosed they've been falsifying pipeline  
27 safety records since they blew up a part of  
28 San Bruno after petitioning the CPUC for more

1 money for needed safety.

2 Did they learn when before the 2015  
3 Butte Fire, they had the March to a Million  
4 Program to encourage less tree cutting  
5 telling their people to find and I quote,  
6 "Unnecessary safety margins"?

7 How many times are we going to  
8 repeat this and pretend like it's like the  
9 first? I could go on: The failed safety  
10 audits in the North Bay, the diverting of  
11 underground project funds with no oversight.

12 This is how it's always been. PG&E  
13 has always tolerated some level of  
14 destruction and death because it was more  
15 profitable. Only now when climate change has  
16 impacted the severity of the outcome of their  
17 neglect and avarice. It's not the new  
18 normal. It's the old normal with deadlier  
19 consequences.

20 Do you know what was on the cable  
21 channels the week of the October 2017  
22 wildfires happened? It was the  
23 court-mandated PG&E apology commercials in  
24 which they announced the criminal acts in San  
25 Bruno saying how sorry they were; how much  
26 they learned; how they were recommitting to  
27 prioritize safety.

28 What did they learn from this



1 cycle? SB-901 gave them permission to take  
2 wildfire victims of 2017 and charge them a  
3 fee for the privilege of burning their homes  
4 and murdering their loved ones. And no one  
5 seemed to acknowledge the perversity of it  
6 all. And PG&E took that lesson to heart and  
7 ignored old equipment with a history of  
8 deferred maintenance and murdered another 85  
9 people. And again they say, "Give us money.  
10 We need it for your safety."

11 2017 the year analysts said PG&E  
12 had a disastrous fourth quarter, which for  
13 the record is an appalling euphemism for over  
14 40 people burning to death. PG&E only  
15 managed to gather \$1.6 to \$1.8 billion in net  
16 profit. Net profit. But they couldn't find  
17 the dollars to cut a few more tree limbs.

18 The personnel come and go. They'll  
19 present new faces all the time. But the  
20 toxic operational parodyne? Well, that's  
21 persisted longer than you and I have been on  
22 this planet.

23 The empty rhetoric given by the  
24 company, including today, is sickening. Stop  
25 listening to what they say, and pay attention  
26 to all they've done and will continue to do  
27 because that's the cycle.

28 And what have they learned? We

1 can't forget the past. We live with the  
2 memory of the flames. We remember the heat.  
3 We remember the smell. And in my case, you  
4 live with the memory of a loved one's final  
5 scream before the fire from which they could  
6 not escape took their life.

7 We know the terrible awkward  
8 silence waiting for a technician to come take  
9 a DNA swab because that's the only means of  
10 identifying a loved one's remains.

11 For the love of God, you have to  
12 have the courage to break the cycle. This  
13 time they can't just make a hollow promise.  
14 "We need it. We're making you safe."

15 An untrustworthy organization  
16 asking for an increase through the CPUC,  
17 which at this time is an untrustworthy  
18 organization. Because like it or not, the  
19 last decade has demonstrated the CPUC is an  
20 organization susceptible to manipulation and  
21 corruption by the very utilities they're  
22 supposed to oversee.

23 This time there needs to be  
24 specificity. This time PG&E has to be doing  
25 the work. And not the work that should have  
26 already been addressed. This time they need  
27 to as the saying goes, "Show some receipts."

28 And then and only then -- I know

1 it's over an simplification -- but at its  
2 core, we need proof of action and cost before  
3 we are allowed to be penalized further for  
4 their lethal stupidity.

5 If we don't break the cycle,  
6 history tells us despite the determination of  
7 some not to learn, we're going to continue  
8 stacking bodies. God help us.

9 ALJ LAU: Thank you, Mr. Deavers.

10 Next we have Mr. Duane DeWitt.

11 MR. DEWITT: I'm right here.

12 ALJ LAU: I'm going to spell your last  
13 name and correct me if I'm wrong. DeWitt is  
14 spelled D-e-W-i-t-t? ]

15 STATEMENT OF MR. DeWITT

16 That's correct. Hello, my name is  
17 Duane DeWitt. I'm just down from Roseland,  
18 just over the freeway here in Santa Rosa.

19 A moment to reflect on what that  
20 previous speaker just said. It was quite  
21 heartrending, and I'm not trying it take away  
22 from the impact of what was said and the  
23 meanings of the previous speakers, but I  
24 wanted to start by thanking the CPU for at  
25 least coming to Santa Rosa. I wanted to  
26 thank the State for the programs that we  
27 have: The California Lifeline, for the  
28 California Alternate Rates for Energy, the

1 CARE program, Energy Savings Assistance  
2 programs, and the Low Income Home Energy  
3 Assistance Program.

4 Those are all helping people in my  
5 age bracket and others here in the area who  
6 have been impacted by difficult times, even  
7 before fires came about, perhaps because of  
8 negligence.

9 I don't know exactly what caused  
10 the firestorm and the infernos to come to my  
11 area. We were protected from the fire  
12 because of the freeway, a firebreak, if you  
13 will, but our area had the smoke and the  
14 problems.

15 I grew up here. We had a fire here  
16 in 1964 called the Hanley Fire, and we knew  
17 that that area, where this most recent fire  
18 came through, was prone to fires.

19 And, unfortunately, poor planning  
20 on the part of city planners and politicians  
21 in our area helped to add fuel to this most  
22 recent fire.

23 We have to keep in mind that nature  
24 doesn't necessarily go by what humans plan.  
25 Nature does what it wants to do and if you  
26 put fuel in the pathway of a fire track, it's  
27 bound to burn, so that's what happened here a  
28 couple of times now.

1                   And some researchers have looked  
2 back, and say they believe there's actually  
3 evidence of fires having been in that general  
4 fire track in that area as far as back as the  
5 1850s, when the Europeans were coming in to  
6 steal from the land from the Indians, who  
7 lived with fire and had a lifestyle that was  
8 recognizing the dangers of fire while  
9 implementing it and furthering their  
10 lifestyle in a sustainable manner.

11                   Now, as I looked at the documents  
12 that were here today, basically it's about  
13 giving PG&E some more money, and there's  
14 people here who don't want to see that  
15 happen.

16                   I just know one basic thing that  
17 I've seen in my life, no matter where you are  
18 in California: Greed rules. Money talks.  
19 The biggest money has the strongest voice,  
20 and that will typically hold the sway in any  
21 political discussion or public policy  
22 situation.

23                   Some people before me speaking  
24 today have lost loved ones. People have  
25 died. I am a medic and a respiratory  
26 therapist that works in critical care, and  
27 I've worked in burn units when I was in the  
28 army.

1 I understand that we've got serious  
2 dilemmas with this company, but I don't think  
3 in any way, shape, or form you should let  
4 them pass any of their responsibilities to  
5 anyone else, especially not to residential  
6 ratepayers, who, basically, already feel like  
7 they're being abused in a system that is  
8 slanted towards the power of the corporate  
9 entity in this state.

10 Some people feel it's a kleptocracy  
11 of corporatocracy. It's hard to say, but the  
12 basic deal is: Those that got the money, get  
13 more; and us people just trying to get by,  
14 just pay our bills and go forward, may have  
15 to pay a higher rate. It hasn't been proven  
16 to me as to why.

17 I do my utmost to have the lowest  
18 possible power bill, but it always goes up,  
19 even if I don't change any of my power usage,  
20 except for lowering it.

21 I mean, I got it down to the bare  
22 minimums: No TV plugged in, no radio at  
23 home. None of that stuff can bother me,  
24 except every time I get a power bill, it  
25 bothers me I got to pay a little more.

26 So I'm hoping in your wisdom,  
27 you'll go back to your entity and you won't  
28 take any of this personal, as if it's an

1     affront to you, but I don't trust anybody in  
2     this system in any way, shape, or form on how  
3     it's going right now, especially after the  
4     explosions in San Bruno, especially after the  
5     fires that keep happening. We have a broken  
6     system.

7             And as previous speakers have  
8     spoken, they're asking that, perhaps, you can  
9     help us mend it without taking any more money  
10    from us, make a good use of what we've  
11    already given in a frugal and parsimonious  
12    manner. Please help those at the bottom end  
13    of the stick, and not those millionaire  
14    bureaucrats up at the top that somehow seem  
15    to keep getting bonuses even as things get  
16    burnt. It's just tragic, I know.

17            But with that in mind, a moment of  
18    silence for the casualties from our fires and  
19    all the fires that occurred in the last  
20    couple of decades here because of poor  
21    planning.

22            Thank you.

23            ALJ LAU: Thank you, Mr. DeWitt.

24            At this time we do not have any more  
25    scheduled speakers. Let's go off the record.

26            (Off the record.)

27            ALJ LAU: Back on the record.

28            There are no scheduled speakers; so

1 if you do want to speak, please make your way  
2 to the podium, and before you speak, can you  
3 please identify yourself. Give us your first  
4 and last name, and spell your last name,  
5 please.

6 MR. ONATE: Okay. Ready?

7 ALJ LAU: Ready.

8 STATEMENT OF MR. ONATE

9 All right. Joseph Anthony Onate,  
10 O-n-a-t-e.

11 So, obviously, I don't approve of  
12 this rate increase; otherwise, most of us  
13 wouldn't be here. I don't think anyone  
14 that's come to the podium has approved of a  
15 rate increase. Who would approve of a rate  
16 increase? I can think of a bunch of people  
17 that approve of a rate decrease.

18 And the reasons for the rate  
19 increase don't make any sense. The  
20 legislature rushed a bill - I think it was  
21 1054 - through the legislature. Everyone  
22 eagerly approved it for a fund to bail out  
23 entities such as PG&E out from these  
24 catastrophes that they have had a hand in.

25 And then they want also a 15  
26 percent increase on top of that; so it  
27 doesn't make any sense to me that you would  
28 even entertain the idea at the PUC. It makes



1 no sense to me as a regulator.

2 PG&E is an ex-con. I think they  
3 are in violation of their parole, and yet  
4 you're entertaining them as if they were a  
5 special guest, which in my view makes you  
6 complicit in PG&E's endeavors.

7 A little background on me, I have a  
8 degree from U.C. Davis, Environmental Policy,  
9 Analysis, and Planning with an emphasis in  
10 Energy Policy, which I used it for the first  
11 three years of my career 35 years ago when I  
12 graduated, and I quickly learned that my  
13 energy policy emphasis -- because when I got  
14 out, it was around that time in history when  
15 the energy crisis just took place, all these  
16 new technologies were coming online that were  
17 more efficient and environmentally friendly.

18 All that stuff, it was kind of like  
19 a space race thing for me, to my generation,  
20 to hop on the bandwagon and help toward that  
21 effort.

22 I quickly learned that, Sonny,  
23 you're not going to call any energy policy  
24 here. Big Oil still rules.

25 So my idealistic endeavors were  
26 shot to crap, and so I had to go do something  
27 else with my life, but I want to get back to  
28 my roots. And that's why I'm here now.

1 I'm from Butte County. So I was  
2 four miles away from being incinerated. We  
3 were packed and ready to go.

4 And we had three days of  
5 major-wind-event notices, that had they  
6 occurred, that fire would have come straight  
7 to us within an hour. And we have a bridge  
8 to our community. There's only one way in  
9 and one way out. That would have been fun.  
10 We have animals, too, like most people in the  
11 rural part of that county; so you have to  
12 worry about them as well.

13 Anyway, I just want to just go over  
14 some of just the general responsibilities I  
15 think you at the CPUC have because I really  
16 do think you're complicit with PG&E, which  
17 makes you kind of an accessory to a crime in  
18 the felony that they've been charged with.

19 I see you folks actually as a  
20 felon, even much more so than PG&E, because  
21 it's your job to regulate them. You didn't  
22 do it. All this time, you had decades to  
23 regulate these guys. You didn't do it.

24 And you waited for a crisis to  
25 develop over time, and people are paying the  
26 price that shouldn't have paid the price.

27 They paid you with their tax  
28 dollars to protect them and you didn't do it;

1     okay. And I wonder why that is. I have my  
2     ideas.

3             One of my ideas is, you guys have  
4     to accept the equivalent of 10K reports from  
5     the private utilities every year, and I  
6     looked at PG&E's payroll, which was submitted  
7     with their financial statement, and I got  
8     stuck at No. 50, the number of people making  
9     over a million dollars a year with PG&E  
10    because what's person No. 50 doing earning a  
11    million dollars a year or more to do what  
12    exactly for a utility that powers a third of  
13    the state.

14            That's the salary of two  
15    neurosurgeons that busted their butts going  
16    to medical school, and every day they take  
17    huge risks cracking someone's skull open to  
18    do some surgery. Two of those people's  
19    salaries to do exactly what?

20            And so a number of these names were  
21    redacted. They were blacked out. I wonder  
22    why. And I wonder why the CPUC allows that  
23    to happen.

24            Who could those people be?

25            Hmmm. I hope some really good  
26    investigative journalist finds that out  
27    because that could answer a lot of questions  
28    as to what's going on here.

1           Anyway, I'm also a vet and my dad  
2           was a vet. He was a fighter pilot. He was  
3           killed in the line of duty in the Vietnam  
4           era, and we didn't sign up for this. You  
5           know, this is not the kind of democracy that  
6           we signed up to protect; all right.

7           It's been made a mockery of, not  
8           just with you guys. It's happening all  
9           around this country right now, and so you got  
10          me out of my seat, and I'm going to stay out  
11          of my chair until this is settled as an  
12          individual.

13          So among some of your stated goals  
14          for energy regulation are to establish  
15          service standards and safety rules.

16          What happened? I mean, you have an  
17          unlimited amount of taxpayer dollars to staff  
18          a library with librarians with best research  
19          journals that exist with cutting-edge  
20          technologies, understanding what the state of  
21          the art stuff is at that time to do your  
22          regulating of these utilities so that they  
23          manage their operations in a safe and  
24          efficient manner to protect us and possibly  
25          keep our costs a little lower than they have  
26          been. You haven't been doing that.

27          You authorize utility rate changes.  
28          Yeah, you do, but it's not to our benefit and

1 not for the right reasons.

2 You prosecute unlawful utility  
3 marketing and billing activities. I don't  
4 think you've done a very good job of that  
5 either.

6 You govern business relationships  
7 between utilities and their affiliates and  
8 resolve complaints by customers against  
9 utilities. I'll have to tell you, I made a  
10 phone call to PG&E about five or six years  
11 ago about concerns, about getting price  
12 gouged, and some other issues.

13 We had tree trimmers coming by  
14 trimming the same tree four or five times and  
15 those were the days I was there to catch  
16 them. Okay. And they're sending the bills  
17 to PG&E. Well, then who does PG&E pass the  
18 bills down to? Us.

19 So they're not doing much oversight  
20 there and you're not doing it either. That's  
21 just one example.

22 But when I called, the person who  
23 answered the phone seemed to be a very  
24 elderly person that really couldn't hear what  
25 I was saying, couldn't understand the words  
26 that I was using, and I was speaking in plain  
27 English, and it became a very arduous  
28 conversation, where I couldn't really get

1 from point A to point B in the conversation.

2 So then I asked: Could I talk to  
3 someone above you? And I tried that several  
4 times and it never happened, and I lost the  
5 connection on the phone. And I think that  
6 you purposely put people like that at the  
7 other end of the line because you must know  
8 that's going on.

9 And you probably do a very good job  
10 of forwarding community members' complaints  
11 about whatever the complaint might be that's  
12 relevant to your jobs.

13 So you oversee the merger and  
14 restructure of utility corporations and  
15 enforce the California Environmental Quality  
16 Act.

17 And I'm just wondering, do you  
18 really enforce CEQA when it comes to PG&E's  
19 operations and maybe some other utility's  
20 operations?

21 I wonder what's going on with the  
22 logging right now up in Butte County with all  
23 those trees that got burned down?

24 Are they following CEQA regulations  
25 there? You might want to look into that  
26 because I think there's a problem. ]

27 I shouldn't have to tell you this.  
28 You know, I'm just a guy off the street. A

1 ratepayer. You know, Gavin Newsom -- I'll do  
2 a quote here when he was signing off on this  
3 emergency bill to stuff the state insurance  
4 fund to bail out PG&E and others like them if  
5 they messed up.

6 And before I get into the quote, I  
7 don't understand how you can allow a private  
8 company, who is also a monopoly, to get  
9 bailed out with public funds. If they want  
10 to operate as a private entity and as a  
11 monopoly, they better damn sure be really  
12 sure that they're doing a great job with  
13 their operations, and that they're earning  
14 every penny that they earn.

15 Because I believe in supply and  
16 demand. I believe in capitalism. But they  
17 don't. They believe in private profits and  
18 social bailouts just like the banks and  
19 that's wrong. That's not what I signed up  
20 for; okay? It's a bunch of bull.

21 But this has been going on for a  
22 long time, and you guys pretended or hoped  
23 that the public was not going to pay  
24 attention until you killed some -- yeah,  
25 killing some people and destroying their  
26 lives and livestock and their property; okay?

27 Only then does it get your  
28 attention. And even then it's still not

1 getting your attention the way it should be  
2 because you're entertaining an ex-con the way  
3 you wouldn't entertain my complaint on the  
4 telephone.

5 So, you know, the Governor's dad  
6 was a gas and oil attorney, okay. And his  
7 mom -- I think outside of being a housewife  
8 -- also sold PG&E stock as her claim to fame.  
9 This is when he was growing up as a kid. I  
10 wonder where the connection might be, okay.  
11 Is there a family connection there? Yeah,  
12 there is.

13 And so something called "regulatory  
14 capture." And I guess it happens all over  
15 the place depending on the industry to one  
16 degree or another. But for you people to  
17 allow regulatory capture to occur in the  
18 manner that it has where it's actually killed  
19 people and destroyed property in the manner  
20 that it has over time is criminal, okay.

21 You guys should be in PG&E's camp.  
22 I said this before. I think the senior  
23 management staff of PG&E should be in jail  
24 right now, okay. I don't think there should  
25 be -- they shouldn't have the opportunity to  
26 say anything, okay. They should lose their  
27 rights just like a convict in the California  
28 State Prison System does, okay. But they



1 don't. They have unbridled privilege, which  
2 does not make any sense to me.

3 So Newsom said after he signed off  
4 on this and making it law giving these guys  
5 even more money for not taking responsibility  
6 for their actions, but we pay the price:

7 The rise in catastrophic  
8 wildfires fuelled by the  
9 climate change is a direct  
10 threat to Californians.

11 Well, no duh. Okay. You people and  
12 PG&E and others had all the resources in the  
13 world just like big oil companies. Endless  
14 amounts of money to purchase the best -- like  
15 I said -- research people, scientists,  
16 engineers, and everybody else that would have  
17 prevented all of this from happening and  
18 actually mitigated climate change to a large  
19 degree. But it didn't happen.

20 It's almost like a little six-year  
21 old girl on her bicycle in a neighborhood  
22 where there's an intersection that's kind of  
23 dangerous. She gets killed. She gets hit by  
24 a car. And people have been going to City  
25 Council meetings in that town screaming about  
26 this area that's so dangerous. She gets hit,  
27 and she gets killed. Well, they finally put  
28 up a stop sign after all that. They didn't

1 pay attention to what everybody else was  
2 saying, because they were living it, okay.  
3 The administrative government didn't pay  
4 attention or care for whatever reason. They  
5 weren't listening to their people until this  
6 kid got killed.

7 In this case, it's not just one  
8 little six-year-old girl getting killed.  
9 It's a bunch of people getting killed, and  
10 you're still not listening, okay. So in my  
11 view, you have blood on your hands just like  
12 PG&E. You don't deserve to be there.

13 I think the federal government  
14 should take over all of your positions until  
15 they investigate how you folks operate and  
16 clear this whole mess up. Because you've  
17 done an extremely poor job protecting  
18 California citizens.

19 I'm done.

20 ALJ LAU: Thank you for your service to  
21 this country.

22 Is there anyone who would like to  
23 speak? Please make your way to the podium.  
24 Give us your first and last name. And spell  
25 your last name. Thank you.

26 STATEMENT OF MR. DAWSON

27 Hi. My name is Michael Dawson,  
28 D-a-w-s-o-n. I came here from La Fayette,

1 California. My wife spoke earlier today.

2 I just want first underscore that  
3 every person speaking today is an individual,  
4 but they're speaking for thousands of people  
5 behind them that don't have the ability to  
6 come today to speak these comments or aren't  
7 able to put their thoughts together the way  
8 that makes them comfortable to come in front  
9 of you. So I hope you take it to heart every  
10 single person that said something today that  
11 I would like to say as well.

12 But in the interest of time, I want  
13 to just say that whether there's a rate  
14 increase or not, I think two major things  
15 that happened that were missing from PG&E.  
16 And from what I can see even though we're in  
17 a unique time with the bankruptcy still  
18 hasn't changed yet. Those two things are  
19 PG&E is lacking in accountability, and  
20 they're lacking in transparency.

21 And this is coming from several  
22 years of working very closely with PG&E and  
23 the CPUC regarding the Community Pipeline  
24 Safety Initiative. That is a misnomer. It  
25 is a tree removal program on top of the  
26 pipeline -- transmission pipelines throughout  
27 the State of California from Eureka down to  
28 Bakersfield.

1 PG&E has not disclosed how many  
2 trees they have removed from the pipeline.  
3 They have not followed CEQA in any state or  
4 any city that we've seen.

5 They paid \$500 million to cities  
6 that have accepted money. Tens of thousands  
7 of dollars per tree. Cash-strapped cities  
8 accepting money quietly without public input.

9 I think there is no safety reason  
10 that they have given that we can verify for  
11 taking out these trees. So \$500 million of  
12 shareholder money has been wasted on this  
13 program that could have been used for  
14 automated shutoff valves. They're  
15 implementing that slowly, but we don't have  
16 any in our town.

17 They can use that for inline  
18 inspection. We have 11 miles of transmission  
19 pipeline. Zero miles have been inspected  
20 internally. The majority have not been  
21 strength tested.

22 In fact the thing that worries me  
23 the most about this program is that PG&E has  
24 spent \$500 million for an unknown benefit.  
25 Yet their own internal studies that they've  
26 given us a copy of has demonstrated that  
27 environment created where there is a cracking  
28 on the coating, and there is a tree root that

1 has wrapped itself around the pipe. When you  
2 cut that tree down at the base, that tree  
3 root decomposes. They are leaving the trees  
4 there. They've done this throughout the  
5 State of California.

6 The issue is their own studies have  
7 determined that that creates a potent, stress  
8 corrosion cracking -- stress cracking --  
9 corrosion-cracking environment that will  
10 potentially cause problems further down the  
11 line.

12 So I wonder in six years are we  
13 going to have a request from PG&E to do a  
14 program to fix the cracks that they've  
15 introduced voluntarily in their line with  
16 this Community Pipeline Safety Initiative? I  
17 think it's something the CPUC should take a  
18 look at. I am very concerned about the risk  
19 that PG&E's identified, but they've not  
20 quantified.

21 The other issue that I want to  
22 bring up is transparency. PG&E does give all  
23 these assurances. They give the gloss  
24 brochures. But as another speaker said  
25 before, they don't have any quantifiable  
26 information. What is that return on safety  
27 that we are looking for?

28 I mean, I think you've heard it

1 from everybody here today. We're missing  
2 that element. We can no longer trust PG&E.  
3 They are a convicted felon who violated the  
4 terms of their parole. They've proven they  
5 prioritize profit over safety. And we don't  
6 even have basic information.

7 I bet you most people here today  
8 couldn't tell you how many miles of  
9 transmission pipeline are in their state --  
10 or in their city. I'm sorry. And then more  
11 information about what are the age of the  
12 pipelines. What are the risks of the  
13 pipelines?

14 We're trying to find that out in  
15 our own community, and it's a very slow  
16 process. And this should be something easily  
17 available. Anybody should be able to go  
18 online and type up their city and say, "I  
19 would like more information about my  
20 transmission pipeline."

21 And PG&E would say, "Here are the  
22 projects that are being worked on. Here are  
23 the risks that we have. Here's how we  
24 prioritize these projects. Here's what we  
25 can't get to because of the rate case.  
26 Here's what we can't get to. And why are we  
27 working on it."

28 Right now we have projects going on

1 in our city, and we have no idea why they're  
2 being prioritized the way they are. And when  
3 we ask, we're not given sufficient  
4 information. So I think that is a problem.

5 PG&E, you know, has not proven  
6 themselves. I think there is an opportunity  
7 here with the rate case to hold them  
8 accountable and to be more transparent. I  
9 hope there's some creative thinking going in.  
10 It's a unique time for this company and for  
11 the state. And I hope we just don't simply  
12 go on as business as usual.

13 Thank you.

14 ALJ LAU: Thank you. Are there any  
15 speakers? Is there anyone who wants to  
16 speak?

17 (No response.)

18 ALJ LAU: All right. Hearing none,  
19 then we will conclude the meeting.

20 Thank you for taking the time to  
21 come and giving us -- or sharing with us your  
22 concerns. If you have any further remarks,  
23 or if you have any family or friends who  
24 would like to share remarks but couldn't make  
25 it up here to speak today, you may tell them  
26 to e-mail the Public Advisor's e-mail. It's  
27 public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov. It's also listed  
28 in the agenda on your way out on the Public

1 Advisor's table.

2 So with no speakers, we will  
3 conclude the meeting.

4 Judge Lirag, do you have any  
5 comments?

6 ALJ LIRAG: For the public meeting  
7 later at 6:00, I just wanted to note that  
8 several of the commissioners will be here to  
9 join us at that time.

10 Thank you.

11 ALJ LAU: So, yes. We will have  
12 another public participation meeting this  
13 evening at 6 o'clock if you'd like to come  
14 again and share your concerns.

15 So we are now adjourned.

16 Off the record.

17 (Whereupon, at the hour of 2:11 p.m.  
18 a recess was taken until 6:00 p.m.)

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SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA  
JULY 31, 2019 - 6:00 P.M.  
\* \* \* \* \*

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE LAU: Please come to order. We're on the record. This is the time and place set for the Public Participation Hearing for the General Rate Case Application, GRC Application, of Pacific Gas & Electric Company, PG&E, Application A.18-12-009.

Good evening. My name is Elaine Lau. With me is Judge Rafael Lirag. We're the assigned administrative law judges in this proceeding. So there's five commissioners at the California Public Utilities Commission, CPUC. These five commissioners will be the people who vote and decide whether to approve PG&E's request or some other dollar amount in this application.

With us today, we have Commissioner Liane Randolph, Commissioner Clifford Rechtschaffen, and Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves. Commissioner Randolph is the assigned commissioner in this proceeding.

Commissioner Randolph, would you

1 like to have some opening remarks?

2 ALJ LAU: Yes. Thank you, everyone,  
3 for coming out this evening to hear  
4 information and share your thoughts with us.  
5 It's really important to hear from the  
6 customers of the utility. I'll just take a  
7 moment. The judges are going to spend a  
8 little more time talking about the process,  
9 but I'll kind of give a brief summary myself.

10 As Judge Lau mentioned, the five  
11 commissioners ultimately will decide on this  
12 case. I'm the assigned commissioner, which  
13 means I'll work closely with the judges to  
14 manage the proceeding and gather information  
15 and help form the initial decision that the  
16 commissioners will then need to vote on.

17 This is a general rate case. These  
18 happen every three years or so, and,  
19 basically, it's a proceeding that decides the  
20 budget for the utility for a period of time.  
21 It will decide how much money the utility is  
22 allowed to collect from ratepayers, and it  
23 will decide what they are allowed to spend  
24 the money on.

25 It's a fairly extensive process. It  
26 usually takes over a year for us to go all  
27 the way through. There are about 15 parties  
28 to proceeding. There's the applicants

1 themselves. There are various organizations  
2 that represent different types of ratepayers;  
3 so residential ratepayers, industrial  
4 customers, renewable energy providers, you  
5 know, there's a lot of different entities  
6 that have interests in the outcome of this  
7 proceeding and they're all going to  
8 participate and they're going to submit  
9 evidence, and the judges will be holding  
10 evidentiary hearings.

11 And we'll be basically picking apart  
12 the application and trying to understand the  
13 utility's request and maybe arguing for or  
14 against various aspects of the utility's  
15 request. The judges will manage all that  
16 process and they'll get all that testimony  
17 and create a record, and that's the record on  
18 which they'll base their decision.

19 So it's not an automatic process by  
20 any means, and there's going to be a lot of  
21 back and forth and give and take.

22 So the public participation hearing  
23 process is an important part of that where we  
24 have the opportunity to go out into the  
25 communities throughout PG&E's territory and  
26 hear from customers.

27 So we're really happy that you came  
28 and took the time to be here tonight.

1                   So, thank you very much.

2                   ALJ LAU: Thank you, Commissioner  
3                   Randolph.

4                   Commissioner Rechtschaffen.

5                   COMMISSIONER RECHTSCHAFFEN: Thank you  
6                   very much, Judge.

7                   I just want to echo our thanks for  
8                   being here and taking time out of your day to  
9                   come to this hearing. Many of you have been  
10                  deeply affected by the activities of PG&E and  
11                  are very concerned about their activities and  
12                  their rate increases. We do want to hear  
13                  about that.

14                 As Commissioner Randolph indicated,  
15                 we have a formal process in which 15 or so  
16                 parties are participating. That is a  
17                 legalistic process, quite formal, but this is  
18                 an opportunity for us to hear from people who  
19                 are not the traditional parties and what your  
20                 thoughts are and your input.

21                 We do consider public comment in all  
22                 of our decisions; so your comment will be  
23                 factored into the decision. It will be  
24                 considered by the three of us, the judges,  
25                 the other commissioners and staff. So be  
26                 assured that will be part of the process.

27                 I would also encourage folks if  
28                 you're interested in other activities or

1 things that the PUC does, see the folks at  
2 the head of the room because they can give  
3 you more information about how to follow some  
4 of the work we do in energy  
5 telecommunications, transportation, and other  
6 areas.

7 So thank you very much and I look  
8 forward to the discussion tonight.

9 ALJ LAU: Thank you.

10 Commissioner Guzman Aceves.

11 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: Thank you.  
12 Good evening. Buenas tardes.

13 I'm just really glad to be here, to  
14 have the opportunity to listen to folks for  
15 your input and your concerns, and I hope we  
16 can really delve into some of your key issues  
17 as we move along, and I know we'll talk at  
18 the end again, but this not the end of your  
19 opportunity to provide this input.

20 Thank you.

21 ALJ LAU: So before we begin, I'd like  
22 to have a quick safety message. In the event  
23 of an emergency, we have our CHP officers in  
24 the back, and they will coordinate and lead  
25 our evacuation services and other emergency  
26 services if needed.

27 The purpose of today's hearing is  
28 for us to come listen to you. We are here

1 today to listen to your comments on PG&E's  
2 application. We want to hear about how  
3 PG&E's application affects you, your family,  
4 your friends, and your community. Your  
5 comment will help the Commission gather  
6 information to determine whether PG&E's  
7 proposed increases are reasonable.

8 So for those who are tuned in at  
9 home today, either through the telephone or  
10 via webcast, you can send us comments by  
11 e-mailing Public Advisor's Office. Their  
12 e-mail is [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov).

13 Judge Lirag and I have already  
14 received a lot of comments from the public  
15 through the Public Advisor's Office.

16 So the Public Advisor's Office is at  
17 a table at the back of room, and they have a  
18 fact sheet about the application that has a  
19 lot of details regarding what PG&E requested  
20 in the application.

21 If you have any questions regarding  
22 the Commission or our processes, please do  
23 not hesitate to go find them after the  
24 meeting in the back. Also, there is a table  
25 manned by PG&E customer service  
26 representatives. If you have any questions  
27 regarding your gas or electric bill, please  
28 also do not hesitate to find them after the

1 meeting.

2           So now I would like to go over some  
3 ground rules. If you would like to speak  
4 today, please sign up at the Public Advisor's  
5 table in the back. We'd like to hear from  
6 everyone that wishes to speak. So as a  
7 courtesy to others, please refrain from  
8 calling out or interrupting any speaker;  
9 please direct any comments to us. We'd like  
10 to hear from you, and not to PG&E. Please  
11 also keep your comments to about five  
12 minutes.

13           At this moment, I'd like to remind  
14 everyone to check their cell phone to make  
15 sure they're put on silent.

16           With us today are some court  
17 reporters. They have the very important job  
18 of documenting your comments into the record.  
19 So when you come speak at the podium above,  
20 please speak slowly, speak facing us so that  
21 the court reporter can fully capture your  
22 comments. Our court reporter will prepare a  
23 written transcript of today's hearing, and  
24 that transcript will be available to all five  
25 commissioners and also to the public on our  
26 website.

27 ///

28 ///

1           At this time we would like to invite  
2 PG&E who will give a brief presentation.

3           STATEMENT OF MR. HERNANDEZ

4           Good evening, Judge Lirag, Judge  
5 Lau, Commissioners, and community members.  
6 Thank you for attending tonight's Public  
7 Participation Hearing on PG&E's 2020 General  
8 Rate Case Proposal. My name is Herman G.  
9 Hernandez, and I've been working for PG&E now  
10 for 13 months, and as one of the team leaders  
11 here for our service area, I have the  
12 privilege of serving Lake and Sonoma counties  
13 as their local public affairs representative.

14           I feel it's important to note that  
15 this is one of 17 hearings being hosted by  
16 the CPUC throughout our 70,000-square-mile  
17 service area.

18           At each location, representatives  
19 from PG&E are here to assist customers. We  
20 actually have a couple of our team members  
21 here in the back, and for customers who are  
22 participating remotely and have questions  
23 about their service or bill, they can  
24 actually call our 1-800 number, which is  
25 1-800-743-5000.

26           Your feedback in this process is  
27 incredibly important because the application  
28 outlines a series of critical safety



1 investments to help address the state's  
2 growing wildfire threat and further protect  
3 people and communities that we serve.

4 It's also important to note that  
5 this process is one of many forums that the  
6 CPUC provides for our customers to give input  
7 on the GRC and other regulatory filings.

8 Again, thank you to everyone for  
9 being here this evening. We truly appreciate  
10 the opportunity to learn and hear from our  
11 customers.

12 And now I would like to introduce  
13 John Simon, PG&E's Executive Vice-President,  
14 who'd like to share a few words.

15 STATEMENT OF MR. SIMON

16 Good evening. Thank you, Judges  
17 Lirag and Lau for giving us this opportunity  
18 to participate in today's hearing. Thank you  
19 also to Commissioners Rechtschaffen,  
20 Randolph, and Guzman Aceves for being here.  
21 It underscores the importance of hearing from  
22 our customers, something we're here for  
23 today. We recognize where we are tonight.  
24 We know wildfires have impacted this  
25 community and people's lives, people in this  
26 room tonight.

27 At our earlier meeting today, we  
28 heard poignant feedback about PG&E, even

1     anger. We shouldn't turn from it. We can't.  
2     We have to accept it. Personally speaking,  
3     it motivates me and many of my colleagues to  
4     work even harder to try to make our system  
5     safer with a sense of urgency.

6             We also know, many have said, it's  
7     our actions that matter, not our words. You  
8     will and should judge us by our actions.  
9     That's our responsibility. We acknowledge  
10    there's a deficit of faith and trust in our  
11    company right now. It's going to take time  
12    to change that. I wish I could change it  
13    faster.

14            Every day at PG&E, we are at it,  
15    dedicated to show our customers through our  
16    actions we can be different.

17            My name is John Simon. I've been  
18    at PG&E since 2007. I've had a number of  
19    different jobs. Today, I oversee our law and  
20    public affairs related functions.

21            Part of my job is supporting PG&E's  
22    most important responsibility, which is the  
23    safety of our customers and our communities.  
24    One way we do this is through our GRC  
25    proposal, which outlines our plan to upgrade  
26    our technology and infrastructure when it  
27    comes to safety, especially our safety  
28    operations.

1           Our proposal is designed to further  
2 strengthen wildfire prevention, risk  
3 monitoring, and emergency response. It will  
4 add new safety measures, increase vegetation  
5 management, and harden our electric system to  
6 help further reduce wildfires.

7           This includes installing more fire  
8 resilient poles and covered power lines,  
9 increasing the rate and breadth of line  
10 clearance amidst an ecosystem of 100 million  
11 trees and expanding our network of weather  
12 stations and high definition cameras so we  
13 can then make available to first responders.

14           As Judge Lau indicated, under our  
15 proposal, we are requesting about \$1.1  
16 billion increase over our currently adopted  
17 revenues in the first year.

18           More than half of the proposed  
19 increase would be directly related to  
20 wildfire prevention, risk reduction, and  
21 additional safety enhancements.

22           If approved by the CPUC - and  
23 there's a process - it would increase the  
24 typical residential customer bill by about  
25 6.4 percent or about \$10.57 per month, much  
26 of which is for electricity-related work.

27           While we are requesting funding on  
28 important safety measures, we are not

1 requesting any funding for PG&E executive  
2 pay. We are not requesting any funding for  
3 wildfire claims involved in our Chapter 11  
4 proceeding.

5 We recognize this is a difficult  
6 time and our GRC proposal is a significant  
7 request. Our commitment is to keep customer  
8 cost as low as we can while meeting our  
9 responsibilities to safely serve, even as  
10 changing climate presents significant new  
11 challenges.

12 Our funding proposal is subject to  
13 the CPUC's thorough transparent review in its  
14 process inviting feedback from a wide range  
15 of people and groups. We welcome it. And we  
16 thank everyone, too, for being here to  
17 provide that feedback. ]

18 ALJ LAU: Thank you. We are ready to  
19 invite people to come up and speak. I'm  
20 going to read the names of three speakers at  
21 a time in the order that they will speak. If  
22 you hear your name being called, please come  
23 towards the podium and be ready to speak.

24 So the first speakers for this  
25 evening are Wayne Gibb, Bill Beall, Thomas  
26 Ells.

27 Mr. Gibb, can you please make your  
28 way to the podium, and please correct me if

1 I'm wrong. Your last name is spelled  
2 G-i-b-b?

3 MR. GIBB: That's correct.

4 ALJ LAU: Thank you.

5 STATEMENT OF MR. GIBB

6 Hi there. I want to thank you  
7 again or add to the thanks for coming here  
8 and holding this hearing for hearing us. I  
9 wanted to very much to be the first speaker  
10 to provide a bit of history around PG&E to  
11 provide some context to its request for over  
12 \$2 billion in additional ratepayer income.

13 Beginning in 1952, PG&E dumped 370  
14 millions gallons of waste water laced with  
15 chromium-6 in unlined waste ponds near  
16 several Central Valley towns including  
17 Hinkley and Kettleman City. PG&E lied to  
18 residents and failed to inform the local  
19 water board of the contamination until  
20 December 7th, 1987. That's 35 years later.

21 The chromium-6 caused cancer and  
22 birth defects and other health problems for  
23 the residents of these small towns. PG&E  
24 blamed everything but its own behavior for  
25 the poisoning and its health consequences.

26 In 1996 after years of expensive  
27 litigation, PG&E finally agreed to pay  
28 \$333 million to 665 people it had harmed by

1 this malfeasance.

2 In 1994, while still fighting the  
3 Hinkley and Kettleman City victims, PG&E  
4 sparked a devastating wildfire in the sierra.  
5 On June 19th, 1997, a Nevada County jury  
6 found PG&E guilty of 789 counts of criminal  
7 negligence for failing to trim its trees near  
8 the power lines.

9 At Christmas in 2008, a PG&E gas  
10 line exploded in Rancho Cordova in Sacramento  
11 County leaving one dead and five injured.  
12 PG&E paid a \$38 million fine for this  
13 explosion. But this fine was not sufficient  
14 to prevent further explosions because in June  
15 of 2009 a PG&E vault exploded in downtown San  
16 Francisco leaving thousands without power.

17 The following year in 2010, a PG&E  
18 gas line exploded in San Bruno killing eight  
19 and destroying 38 homes. The pipeline was at  
20 least 54 years old. PG&E paid a \$1.6 billion  
21 fine. It was convicted of -- the company,  
22 PG&E, was convicted of six felony counts of  
23 felony offenses for violating federal law;  
24 lying to regulators; and obstructing justice  
25 after causing a gas explosion that killed  
26 eight people, as I said, and destroyed a San  
27 Bruno neighborhood.

28 It's also interesting to note that

1 PG&E had requested from the PUC and granted  
2 money to evaluate this exact pipeline. But  
3 did not spend the money in that way. And  
4 spent it instead in executive bonuses. That  
5 is what the PUC President -- I think his name  
6 was Michael Peevey -- at the time reported.

7 It also appears to me in light of  
8 this that the PUC lacks a formal method of  
9 following up when they grant a rate increase  
10 to ensure that the money is in fact spent as  
11 it was said to be for. So I'm not sure  
12 whether that's still the case. I suspect it  
13 is.

14 Okay. Let's see. In December,  
15 2011, the non-partisan organization public  
16 campaign criticized PG&E for spending  
17 \$79 million on lobbying, and not paying any  
18 taxes during 2008 to 2010 despite making a  
19 profit of \$4.8 billion and increasing  
20 executive pay by 94 percent to \$8.5 million  
21 in 2010 for its top five executives. PG&E  
22 received \$1 billion in tax rebates.

23 In 2014 PG&E power lines burned  
24 down much of Butte County.

25 In 2015 a California Public  
26 Utilities Commission audit showed PG&E was  
27 years behind in its vegetation management on  
28 the north coast. PG&E appears to have done

1 little to change its behavior even in more  
2 recent history.

3 In October of 2017 while PG&E was  
4 serving criminal probation for its  
5 convictions arising out of the San Bruno  
6 explosion, PG&E power lines and other  
7 equipment ignited numerous fires throughout  
8 much of Northern California.

9 The California Forestry -- the  
10 Department of Forestry and fire protection --  
11 prevention rather, has found PG&E responsible  
12 for 16 of these fires.

13 I think that's probably all I have  
14 to say. So I hope you'll keep this in mind.

15 And if you could look into the  
16 ability or the willingness of the PUC to  
17 follow up to make certain that PG&E in fact  
18 spends the money as it claimed it would.  
19 Maybe we can avoid another San Bruno.

20 Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER RECHTSCHAFFEN: Judge, can  
22 I just respond to Mr. Gibb on the question  
23 you just raised.

24 The PUC has adopted rules that  
25 require PG&E and other utilities to document  
26 how much they are spending on risk mitigation  
27 and safety mitigation measures. And the  
28 extent to which they vary from the amount



1 that they said they were going to spend the  
2 money on. And they have to report that to us  
3 now. So we do have a system.

4 MR. GIBB: For those items. How about  
5 other rate increases?

6 COMMISSIONER RECHTSCHAFFEN: I can't  
7 speak to what we've done more generally. But  
8 for safety-related expenditures, we now have  
9 a process for tracking those and comparing  
10 that to what the utility has proposed  
11 approval for.

12 MR. GIBB: And that was done when?

13 COMMISSIONER RECHTSCHAFFEN: That's  
14 been done over the past few years. And the  
15 most direct requirements were proposed at the  
16 end of last year.

17 MR. GIBB: I see. Okay.

18 ALJ LAU: Any other comments or  
19 questions?

20 Thank you.

21 ALJ LAU: Thank you, Mr. Gibb.

22 And if you want more information  
23 regarding the proceeding, you can find the  
24 Public Advisor's Office.

25 Mr. Beall, correct me if I'm wrong.  
26 Your last name is spelled B-e-a-l?

27 MR. BEALL: Two L's.

28 ALJ LAU: B-e-a-l-l?

1 MR. BEALL: Correct.

2 ALJ LAU: Thank you.

3 STATEMENT OF MR. BEALL

4 As you just mentioned, my name is  
5 Bill Beall. And I was born and raised in  
6 Northern California. Just to mention that in  
7 1964 I actually fought the Hinkley fires as a  
8 volunteer while I was in college. Same  
9 footprint of the Tubbs fire that destroyed a  
10 major portion of Santa Rosa.

11 I'm not here to condemn PG&E's  
12 actions. I'm here to try to say whether I'm  
13 for this increase or against the increase and  
14 the reason why.

15 Since the firestorms of  
16 October 2017, I've read every available  
17 article there was about California's  
18 wildfires. And the almost daily articles  
19 chronologically tracking PG&E's fight to  
20 survive. I've read most, if not all, of the  
21 so-called experts' solutions to California  
22 wildfire. I found most extremely  
23 disappointing. So much that I wrote a book  
24 that was published last month.

25 I'd just like to say that I'll  
26 mention it right up front. I'm against this  
27 increase. And I'm against it not for the  
28 reason that I actually think that it deters

1 -- it's a deterrent to wildfire prevention in  
2 the State of California.

3 The reason being is that where the  
4 money is going to be spent. I am for  
5 hardening their system, their grid. And I  
6 think that's all that money.

7 On January 9th, Judge William Alsop  
8 -- the federal judge that's actually  
9 supervising the probation of PG&E from the  
10 San Bruno fiasco -- proposed a wildfire  
11 prevention plan that would impose more  
12 deliberate blackouts.

13 A few days later, actually five  
14 days later -- well, actually a little longer.  
15 On January 23rd, PG&E blasted the judge plan  
16 -- the judge's plan. And he said -- and said  
17 that:

18 De-energizing power lines  
19 is a tool of last resort.

20 Last resort. Because it represents  
21 significant public safety risks. Also  
22 because PG&E's transmission lines are part of  
23 a multistate grid. The judge's plan could  
24 lead to blackouts in large parts of the  
25 western United States and Canada. So they  
26 blasted this.

27 Now, on February 6th, PG&E filed its  
28 wildfire safety plan with California Public

1 Utilities Commission to comply with state law  
2 enacted in response of the wildfires of the  
3 2017. The proposal, as submitted, the No. 1  
4 prevention was:

5 Could temporary shutoff of  
6 power to more than 5  
7 million customers as part  
8 of the plan?

9 They turned around and blasted it.  
10 A month later, they more or less adopted it.  
11 And now we're getting all this public safety,  
12 power shutoffs, all of this.

13 Well, that's not only economically  
14 -- it's very unsafe. It is economically  
15 disastrous. It totally reduces our standard  
16 of living in California.

17 I think the solution is being missed  
18 totally. Harden the system. Improve the  
19 lines. Spend the money there. But you can't  
20 control, you know, broken equipment or this  
21 or that. The problem is we need to remove  
22 the fuel that sparked by those lines.

23 We've got easements on the  
24 transmission lines. There's usually a  
25 150-foot easement. They could totally clear  
26 those trees. Clear the dried-up vegetation  
27 the brush, and keep it clear to the ground.

28 Now, you might think an 150-foot

1     easement is ugly. I'll show you ugly. Take  
2     a look at Coffey Park. Take a look at  
3     Paradise. Take a look at portions of Malibu  
4     after the fires. This is a wildfire epidemic  
5     and this is an emergency.

6             So using those easements, we can  
7     over a period of time -- it's not going to be  
8     in a year or so. And the areas just outside  
9     of the easements can be forest management.  
10    The money's there. There's capital and trade  
11    money available that's being used for the  
12    high-speed rail, which more could be  
13    allocated. It doesn't have to be taxpayers'  
14    money. There's trade money. California's  
15    rainy day fund right now is fat. We can get  
16    people out to start on the most hazardous  
17    areas. And I think this is where we're  
18    missing the point.

19            There's not going to be any  
20    miracles. We've got to address the actual  
21    cause of the fire. Now, if we have the spark  
22    and the spark has nothing to burn, we have no  
23    fire. All of this money is going into the  
24    warning systems, the cameras, the weather  
25    stations, to all of that. But very little is  
26    going to -- and tree trimming, tree trimming  
27    is a joke.

28            It hasn't worked even if it was kept

1 as trimming. In those areas, we have to get  
2 rid of the fuel.

3 That's all I have. Thank you.

4 ALJ LAU: Thank you, Mr. Beall.

5 Next we have Mr. Thomas Ells.]

6 Mr. Ells, please correct me if my  
7 spelling is incorrect; E-l-l-s?

8 MR. ELLS: Yes, correct.

9 ALJ LAU: Thank you.

10 STATEMENT OF MR. ELLS

11 Well, thank you for coming here,  
12 and thank you for the opportunity to speak.  
13 This is a very important issue. As Mr. Beal  
14 mentioned, it's a wildfire crisis, period.

15 My background is I'm a civil and  
16 environmental engineer for many years and  
17 geographer, anthropology geographer; as well  
18 as I have - just as a background - if you'll  
19 forgive me - a Master's of Science in Tax Law  
20 and Master's in Finance and Accounting.

21 So when I look here at the  
22 information that is provided, we see that one  
23 of the expenses is a 29 percent depreciation  
24 based on projection of the quarterly income  
25 that was reported recently, that it seems  
26 like there's \$2.2 billion a year in profit  
27 and \$17.6 billion dollars a year if in  
28 revenue.

1           So of the revenue, 29 percent is  
2     \$5.1 billion in depreciation. That's a  
3     capital cost recovery factor. It's not an  
4     expense.

5           When you spent -- the other factor  
6     here is capital cost, 24 percent per year.  
7     So they spend 24 percent on capital, and they  
8     also recover an additional 29 percent per  
9     year on top of that to recover their expense;  
10    two separate things, they're categorized here  
11    as a total, dividing the pie of the revenue.

12           But the reality is the 24 percent  
13    is the capital expense. And if you expend 24  
14    percent of your revenue, that's \$4.2 billion.

15           You have \$68 billion of total  
16    assets. That would include goodwill and many  
17    other things. So you should be able to  
18    recover all of that asset, that entire asset  
19    value of PG&E, in 15 years separate from all  
20    the profit. The profit is 12.5 percent per  
21    year.

22           Back at the time before the  
23    collapse of, you know, with the -- with the  
24    dot-coms and at the same time we have power  
25    crisis, if you remember, annual profits were  
26    capped at 6 percent per year.

27           It's doubled since then. Along  
28    with the actual revenues then, in fact, you

1 have four times, a factor of four times, the  
2 actual profits, around 400 percent.

3 So you can -- you have the  
4 receiving of the depreciation as a cost  
5 recovery and the expenditure of capital costs  
6 total 53 percent of the actual revenues are  
7 assigned already to those things.

8 It doesn't behoove them to ask for  
9 more, the \$6 billion of a plan. That I might  
10 add asked for 600 cameras. That's  
11 \$10 million a camera. I can get a camera  
12 real cheap: Perfect cameras, wonderful  
13 cameras, fantastic cameras, digital cameras,  
14 incredible cameras. They look for miles.  
15 Great focus. They don't cost \$10 million a  
16 camera.

17 Weather stations: 1,300 weather  
18 stations; that's \$500,000 a weather station.  
19 Completely unrealistic expenditures. It's  
20 true. They need to do -- they need to add  
21 cameras. They need to add weather stations.  
22 It doesn't amount to \$6 billion. They  
23 already have a 12 percent profit. This is  
24 last year's profit after the legal expenses  
25 and the other things have been deducted.

26 Not all of the corrective aspects  
27 of the lawsuits have been incorporated, but  
28 they have made provisions for those lawsuits



1 and still have a 12 and a half percent.

2 These are exorbitant profits in a  
3 time when interest rates are 1.5 percent or  
4 2.5 percent. Even in a 10-year treasury  
5 bond, it's like 2 percent. They have 600  
6 percent times that profit, profitability  
7 above, and it's a difference that you look at  
8 between, say, a bond that's for a corporate  
9 bond and a bond that's a treasury bond, and  
10 you look at that difference.

11 Here's what their return on  
12 investment is, that is bond investment -- it  
13 could be compared to bond investment or risk  
14 investment or capital stock investment, but  
15 either way, this is just an enormous gap,  
16 12.5 percent.

17 I remember the time when treasury  
18 bonds were 15 percent a year. If you think  
19 about that, that's what this is. This is  
20 that kind of a return. This is a massive  
21 return on investment. And to think that they  
22 need to ask for more money from people who  
23 cannot pay or who have been damaged by these  
24 fires, or who are at risk of these fires,  
25 it's unconscionable.

26 ALJ LAU: Thank you, Mr. Ells.

27 The next speaker we have is  
28 Ms. Shelby Marvell, followed by Benjamin

1 Vogel, and Gail Outlaw.

2 And, Ms. Marvell, if I spelled your  
3 last name incorrectly, please correct me.

4 It's M-a-r-v-e-l-l.

5 STATEMENT OF MS. MARVELL

6 Thanks. My name is Shelby Marvell.  
7 I'm a PG&E ratepayer, and a long-time Sonoma  
8 County resident.

9 I'm here as a representative of the  
10 Sonoma County Worker's Benefit Council to  
11 demand the California Public Utilities  
12 Commission fills your mandate to protect  
13 ratepayers, deny the entirety of Pacific Gas  
14 & Electric Company's 2020 General Rate Case  
15 Application, and impose moratorium on  
16 disconnection of utility service to customers  
17 with income below 300 percent of the federal  
18 poverty level.

19 We are a membership delegate body  
20 of over 6,000 families in Sonoma, Lake and  
21 Napa counties. I speak for thousands of  
22 local residents and hundreds of local  
23 businesses in this region, who do not agree  
24 we should shoulder the weight of PG&E's  
25 negligence. But for domestic workers, farm  
26 workers, service workers, independent  
27 contractors, and temporary workers, along  
28 with elderly and disabled people, our

1 survival is a daily battle.

2 We do the work that is vital to the  
3 tourism, caregiving and wine industries; yet,  
4 we struggle to afford the rapidly rising  
5 costs of gas, food, utilities, and rent, plus  
6 every other basic necessity.

7 Most of us have already seen our  
8 utility bills skyrocket within the last year  
9 and many in our communities are saying: We  
10 already paid PG&E to do it right; why should  
11 we pay them more for doing it wrong?

12 Since the Tubbs Fire, 7,000  
13 residents have left Sonoma County; yet, only  
14 2,000 of those were fire victims. We don't  
15 need to speculate that most had to move away  
16 for purely economic reasons.

17 According to the data outlined in  
18 Attachment 1 of the Order Instituting  
19 Rulemaking R.18-07-005 issued 7/20/2018  
20 titled: "California Energy IOU  
21 Disconnections and Reconnections," in 2017,  
22 PG&E disconnected homes at least 213,254  
23 times as a conservative estimate. More than  
24 90,000 of those were disconnections imposed  
25 twice or more for inability to pay. That  
26 averages 17,771 per month or 592 PG&E  
27 disconnections per day.

28 The CPUC allows this; yet, it is

1 mandated to protect the customers.

2           The significance of the data is  
3 that the large majority of disconnections in  
4 all categories were of homes with customers  
5 not on the CARE program, showing that most  
6 families were working, making income above  
7 the eligibility for CARE; yet, not making  
8 enough to cover their basic costs, such as  
9 utilities.

10           2017 had a total of 886,800  
11 disconnections when combining gas,  
12 electricity, and water across the state.  
13 Living without a basic utility is the last  
14 thing you want your family to bear next to an  
15 eviction, and shutoffs kill.

16           Furthermore, PG&E profits in 2017  
17 were \$1.66 billion, double their 2013  
18 profits. Monthly, that's \$138 million or  
19 about or \$4.5 million a day in profits.

20           Meanwhile, PG&E cut off about 600  
21 homes per day. Every time PG&E is granted a  
22 rate increase, there is a proportionate spike  
23 in numbers of homes disconnected.

24           ALJ LAU: Slow down a little so that  
25 our court reporters can capture your  
26 comments. Thank you.

27           MS. MARVELL: Please note that PG&E  
28 paid no federal income tax from 2008 to 2015,

1 and for about that same period, the federal  
2 government has cut home energy assistance to  
3 the low income by a third so that only 25  
4 percent of eligible families receive  
5 assistance before funds run out each year.

6 In regards to accountability for  
7 wildfire safety, the CPUC granted PG&E's  
8 requests to delay, for nearly a decade, the  
9 production of maps designating wildfire  
10 hazards and areas at high risk for fires.

11 Two days before the Tubbs Fire  
12 struck this region in October 2017, the CPUC  
13 granted PG&E another 74-day extension for the  
14 due date for these maps.

15 These were hazards PG&E knew existed  
16 and the CPUC knew were a threat to the lives  
17 of Californians because of fires sparked by  
18 utilities in southern California 10 years  
19 before in 2007.

20 These continued extensions allowed  
21 PG&E to delay brush management, maintenance  
22 of electric lines, and the creation of  
23 fire-prevention plans, and now northern  
24 California is contending with the raging  
25 Tucker Fire. Delays kill. It should be  
26 clear in this context that if PG&E is  
27 officially declared negligent, so should be  
28 the CPUC.

1                   According to a July 17th, San  
2                   Francisco Chronicle article, a recent  
3                   inspection of the company's infrastructure  
4                   found 9,671 broken, damaged, burned, or  
5                   corroded electric parts. This was along with  
6                   structural support equipment that was no  
7                   good, out of standard, poles that had become  
8                   decayed or rotten, and various parts were  
9                   broken or damaged; 1,000 were tagged as most  
10                  urgent and most of the power-line problems  
11                  were within Sonoma, Santa Clara, and Contra  
12                  Costa counties. This all could have been  
13                  managed had the CPUC demanded it of the  
14                  company.

15                  U.S. District Judge William Alsup  
16                  has acknowledged a recent Wall Street Journal  
17                  article showing that the company knew parts  
18                  of its electric system were aging and posed a  
19                  safety risk even before the deadly Camp Fire.

20                  Neglected infrastructure, lack of  
21                  state prioritization for forest maintenance  
22                  and fire prevention, along with the impact of  
23                  climate change leading to fires breaking  
24                  records in size, intensity, and deadliness is  
25                  not just the actions of one company. It is  
26                  the decisions made by the CPUC, along with  
27                  all other governing bodies who have delayed  
28                  proper forest management.

1           Yet, it is clear that as profits for  
2 utilities have risen, so has the risk of  
3 wildfires, and now PG&E investors want  
4 ratepayers to give them more profits?

5           With the expansion and growth of  
6 wildfires caused by power lines, a solution  
7 cannot be to impoverish more working and  
8 disabled people.

9           On top of that, we now have the  
10 largest hedge funds trying to take over the  
11 majority of PG&E's shares at a cheap price to  
12 maximize profits.

13           According to a July 23rd, San  
14 Francisco Chronicle, Abrams Capital  
15 Management, Redwood Capital Management, and  
16 Knighthead Capital Management all bought  
17 millions of PG&E shares around the time the  
18 company and its subsidiary filed for  
19 bankruptcy protection.

20           Their plan is to become PG&E's new  
21 controlling owners: A \$19 billion to  
22 \$20 billion equity investment would give the  
23 bondholders an 85 to 95 percent stake in the  
24 company, according to court papers they filed  
25 last week. This is a money grab by huge  
26 financial interests.

27           In addition, ratepayers were already  
28 on the hook for a \$21 billion Wildfire

1 Response Fund per State Assembly Bill 1054  
2 where half of the \$21 billion will come from  
3 ratepayers and the other half from utilities.

4 Most of us are having a hard time  
5 figuring out how the other half will come  
6 from utilities since the utilities really get  
7 their money from ratepayers. Investors just  
8 lend money to them.

9 To close, we call upon the CPUC to  
10 acknowledge that the United States, along  
11 with 192 other member states of the United  
12 Nations, endorsed in 2015 the 2030 Agenda for  
13 Sustainable Development as the priority for  
14 governments across the world to reach full  
15 protection of people and our planet, starting  
16 with eliminating poverty in all its forms  
17 everywhere. Goal No. 7 is to ensure access  
18 to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and  
19 modern energy for all. We call upon the CPUC  
20 to heed this urgent call.

21 The CPUC's mandate is to protect  
22 ratepayers; anything other than rejecting all  
23 pressure in decision-making is a dereliction  
24 of your duty. ]

25 The CPUC must fulfill their  
26 responsibility and hold investor-owned  
27 utilities that profit at the expense of the  
28 environment, the health, and the well-being



1 of people of this state accountable.

2 Lives are lost in the immediate and  
3 long-term by all of these neglectful actions.  
4 The CPUC must stop allowing profits to rule  
5 their decisions. Do your job. Deny this  
6 rate increase. Do not allow a single  
7 disconnection.

8 Thank you.

9 ALJ LAU: Thank you, Ms. Marvell.

10 Next we have --

11 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: Shelby,  
12 could you repeat your first recommendation  
13 300 percent of poverty level?

14 MS. MARVELL: I command that the  
15 California Public Utility Commission fulfill  
16 your mandate to protect ratepayers; deny the  
17 entirety of Pacific Gas & Electric Company's  
18 2020 General Rate Case Application; and  
19 impose a moratorium on disconnection of  
20 utility service to customers with income  
21 below 300 percent of the public.

22 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: Thank you.

23 MS. MARVELL: Thank you.

24 ALJ LAU: Thank you, Ms. Marvell.

25 Next we have Benjamin Vogel. And  
26 I'm going to spell your last name as  
27 V-o-g-e-l?

28 MR. VOGEL: Yeah, that's right.

1 ALJ LAU: Thank you.

2 STATEMENT OF MR. VOGEL

3 My name is Ben Vogel. I'm a recent  
4 high school graduate, and my father is a PG&E  
5 ratepayer. I volunteer on door-to-door  
6 canvasses in low-income neighborhoods to  
7 reach in-home care workers and recipients of  
8 in-home care and other low-paid workers.

9 When you raise the rates for  
10 electricity and gas, who does that impact?  
11 How does that fit into the budget of a worker  
12 whose already working multiple jobs and still  
13 cannot afford the food, rent, and other basic  
14 necessities like school clothes and supplies  
15 for their children?

16 No one should have to live in fear  
17 of having their power disconnected or their  
18 gas turned off. Every time you allow PG&E to  
19 raise rates, the most vulnerable in our  
20 community are impacted.

21 The temperature's rising and the  
22 danger of smoke from fires -- air  
23 conditioning is no longer a luxury but  
24 essential especially for the elderly and  
25 small children.

26 When homes go cold or children do  
27 not do their homework for lack of  
28 electricity, the whole community is affected.

1 You're destroying the lives of those who  
2 labor cleaning homes, taking care of  
3 children, harvesting the fruits and  
4 vegetables that we eat, working in the  
5 tourism industry. I am here today to say no  
6 to any of PG&E's proposed rate hike.

7 We know the San Bruno incident  
8 killed eight people and destroyed 64 homes.  
9 What many of us don't know is only four years  
10 later, the CPUC rewarded PG&E with a 6  
11 percent rate increase, which quadrupled  
12 shareholder profits, and the CEO got an eight  
13 percent raise.

14 That year they cutoff the power to  
15 300,000 homes. Why? In the aftermath of the  
16 2017 wildfires sparked by PG&E's failure to  
17 maintain their equipment. Now in 2019 PG&E  
18 wants protection for 16 percent profits.  
19 That's a four percent jump from the national  
20 average for utility returns. That is  
21 unacceptable and doubly so in light of PG&E's  
22 extreme negligence.

23 Are the CPUC representatives going  
24 to reward utility profiteering with more  
25 profits from the pockets from struggling  
26 ratepayers? Or will you stop the rate hikes  
27 now?

28 Do not allow any more

1       disconnections. Do not reward negligence.

2               Thank you.

3               ALJ LAU: Thank you, Mr. Vogel.

4               Gail Outlaw. It's O-u-t-l-a-w?

5               MS. OUTLAW: Yes.

6               ALJ LAU: Thank you.

7               STATEMENT OF MS. OUTLAW

8               My name is Gail Outlaw. I live in  
9       Santa Rosa. And I'm here to address the  
10      impending rate increase for PG&E.

11              I'm here to demand that the CPUC  
12      not allow any more rate hikes. That was the  
13      opening -- that was the opening paragraph of  
14      a speech I gave in a hearing before the CPUC  
15      on July 12, 2018. So what has changed since?  
16      Well a great deal has. Mostly for the worst.  
17      And here we are again considering another  
18      rate increase for PG&E.

19              PG&E finds itself in a terrible  
20      position in having to file for bankruptcy  
21      because of another year of ruinous fires  
22      probably caused by the utility's lack of  
23      oversight of its equipment.

24              So you say, "Well, let's raise the  
25      rates again and make the ratepayer share the  
26      pain."

27              Well, I say no. Last year we made  
28      it clear the pain was too great for many

1 ratepayers. Low-income people, the disabled,  
2 the elderly were barely making it on Social  
3 Security. Many have had their gas and  
4 electricity turned off because they couldn't  
5 afford the rates. Then they had to pay a fee  
6 to have the utilities turned back on.

7 Are things better this year? Well,  
8 let's imagine that minimum wage has actually  
9 reached \$15 an hour. A 40-hour week would  
10 mean that they were making \$600 a week for  
11 \$2,400 a month before taxes. The wife  
12 probably also works, but then they have to  
13 pay child care.

14 The cheapest apartments I could  
15 find listed in Santa Rosa were the Alexander  
16 Apartments on Apple Creek Way where 1 and  
17 2-bedroom apartments were offered at \$1,795  
18 to \$2,300. The cheapest house I saw was  
19 offered in Santa Rosa at \$1,875. The next  
20 cheapest was \$2,200.

21 PG&E figures the average resident  
22 uses 500-kilowatts per month would see their  
23 bills go from \$116.34 to \$122.37. I believe  
24 that's a pretty low estimate. And then add  
25 to the cost for gas and all the taxes and  
26 other fees.

27 Sonoma County residents are  
28 struggling now. In an article in the Press

1 Democrat on July 28, 2019, "FISH," Friends In  
2 Service Here, a group that provides food for  
3 low-income people said they are feeding 6,000  
4 people a month.

5 They said the demand for food  
6 jumped with the firestorm of 2017 and has  
7 remained high. These days 24 percent more  
8 people are coming to the pantry that came the  
9 year before.

10 For Ming Lee, the unpaid director  
11 of the 47-year-old food dispensary for people  
12 in need, said:

13 It's an amazing uptick.

14 Many recipients can pay  
15 their rent and they can pay  
16 for utilities, but they run  
17 out of money for food.

18 PG&E had already priced out of the  
19 market for many people. Gas, lights, and  
20 water used to be something we could count on  
21 having, but this is not so true anymore.

22 If utilities keep raising rates,  
23 there will be a whole level of people who  
24 won't be able to count on light, heat,  
25 cooling, water, or a way to cook their food.  
26 We are going -- are we going to go back to  
27 the 1800s because thousands of people can't  
28 afford utilities anymore?

1                   Meanwhile, let's stand by and run  
2                   and turn off the lights and the gas as a  
3                   penalty for being poor. I think it's time  
4                   for you to come up with answers besides raise  
5                   the rates. Things are looking very dire for  
6                   many people. So please stop the rate hikes.  
7                   Stop the shutoffs. We demand a moratorium  
8                   now.

9                   Thank you.

10                  ALJ LAU: Thank you, Ms. Outlaw.

11                  The next set of speakers is Sam  
12                  Richter, Lenita Johnson, and Will Abrams.

13                  Mr. Richter, correct my spelling if  
14                  I'm wrong. R-i-c-h-t-e-r.

15                  MR. RICHTER: You're right.

16                  ALJ LAU: Thank you.

17                  STATEMENT OF MR. RICHTER

18                  Okay. I'm going to pass. Okay.

19                  ALJ LAU: Okay.

20                  Ms. Lenita Johnson. And I will  
21                  spell your last name J-o-h-n-s-o-n; is that  
22                  correct?

23                  MS. JOHNSON: Yes. It is the customary  
24                  spelling of Johnson.

25                  ALJ LAU: Thank you.

26                  STATEMENT OF MS. JOHNSON

27                  I have to say that first of all,  
28                  I'm looking at these pictures of these people

1 over here on this wall who represent the  
2 history in no small part of Sonoma County and  
3 the North Bay. And I'm mildly but not  
4 horrifically surprised that there's nobody  
5 there that looks like me. But that's not why  
6 we're here tonight.

7 I'm here because I'm a volunteer  
8 with California Homemakers Association, which  
9 PG&E may be familiar with or may not.  
10 However, I'm a native of the east coast and  
11 the oldest of nine. And education,  
12 education, education, was a big part of my  
13 growing up. I was the first to go to college  
14 in our family going to Boston University  
15 mostly on scholarships and grants and had the  
16 dream of being a reporter and broadcast  
17 journalist, which has been part of my  
18 background. And also I've worked as a  
19 volunteer almost everywhere I went on the  
20 east coast and here on the west coast and  
21 overseas and Germany where I worked for a  
22 brief time with the Associated Press. I say  
23 that just to give a little framework of who I  
24 am and why I'm here this evening.

25 I am perplexed that the CPUC has to  
26 determine whether or not to grant one more  
27 red cent to PG&E. I live on a very fixed  
28 income today because I suffer from a brain



1 tumor, and I'm on disability. I may not look  
2 like it, but I am a senior.

3 And if you had told me when I went  
4 to Boston University and had this idea of  
5 what my future would like, I would have never  
6 dreamed that I would not be able to work and  
7 be in the physical condition that I am in.  
8 It's hard being disabled some time because  
9 people look at you and they don't see it  
10 right away.

11 Nevertheless, I have a very fixed  
12 income that I live on. And even though my  
13 income is dwindling in the face of rising  
14 costs here living in the North Bay, my fixed  
15 utility rates aren't fixed at all. They keep  
16 rising. And I hear these horror stories  
17 about PG&E being granted the monies that they  
18 are that I know pays significant salaries to  
19 the people that run this joint.

20 And by the time I pay my rent,  
21 which goes up every year, my income doesn't.  
22 But my rent does. I'm barely able to --  
23 forget going to the movies or the theater or  
24 anything like that. That is a luxury that I  
25 just cannot afford. And I know many people  
26 here in this community live on a lower income  
27 than I do. And I work furiously to wage a  
28 war, if you will, against companies like PG&E

1 who have what appears to be absolutely no  
2 compassion for what we're going through.

3 Yet, I get rate increases. I don't  
4 get increases in my Social Security  
5 disability, but I get increases in my PG&E  
6 bill. And instead of having the lights on  
7 when I come home, which most times I come  
8 home and I wonder if I flicked the switch is  
9 the light going to come on? And I'm a single  
10 person. I don't have any children. I raised  
11 my eight siblings and I'm done. ]

12 I'm here this evening on behalf of  
13 the California Homemakers Association and  
14 other organizations in this community who are  
15 severely impacted by the actions of  
16 organizations like the CPUC when it comes to  
17 companies like PG&E.

18 I'm looking for a little part-time  
19 job, even though I have a disability, and  
20 it's just been unbelievable, and then I look  
21 at the executives around here who run this  
22 joint, and they're the difference between  
23 night and day.

24 I know there are a lot of people in  
25 my situation, as I say, who are retired,  
26 disabled, and who cannot afford higher  
27 utility rates, period; along with many other  
28 low income workers and elderly people who

1 can't retire because they can't afford to.

2 I urge you: Do not allow any more  
3 rate increases, and do not allow any more  
4 shutoffs of poor people who are struggling  
5 day in and day out with very limited incomes.

6 Thank you.

7 ALJ LAU: Thank you, Ms. Johnson.

8 Next, we have Mr. Will Abrams.  
9 Mr. Abrams, I'm spelling your name  
10 A-b-r-a-m-s.

11 MR. ABRAMS: That's correct. Thank  
12 you.

13 ALJ LAU: Thank you.

14 STATEMENT OF MR. ABRAMS

15 Thank you very much for coming to  
16 my home town in Santa Rosa. It's great to  
17 see the CPUC here to hear from residents. I  
18 am an intervenor in other matters, but wanted  
19 to make a trip here to talk about this rate  
20 increase.

21 I spoke earlier in the day about  
22 making sure that a Return on Safety, similar  
23 to a Return on Investment is incorporated in  
24 terms of how we monitor the funds, as was  
25 brought up in an earlier comment, to ensure  
26 that whatever these funds are, are not only  
27 going to safety, but are tracking risk  
28 reduction.

1           So the use of risk-reduction ratios  
2     in measuring how a risk has been mitigated  
3     and reporting out on that so residents can  
4     understand: Does this \$1 million get us two  
5     percent safer or 10 percent safer, and  
6     understanding what that is and tracking  
7     towards it is going to be very important.

8           Another concept I wanted to address  
9     here this evening was something called a  
10    customer harm threshold, so through the Cost  
11    Recovery proceeding that has since closed,  
12    one of the things that would help with that  
13    is something that can be applied here to this  
14    rate increase.

15           So part of the reason why this is a  
16    difficult decision, is that unlike being  
17    competitive, where you have price elasticity  
18    being determinative in terms of what that  
19    price point is, so you're -- typically, when  
20    you increase prices, you lose customers; all  
21    right.

22           And so companies are very sensitive  
23    to how much they can increase prices and  
24    still retain good customer service and the  
25    number of customers.

26           We don't have that in this case.  
27    PG&E is an actual monopoly as you know, and  
28    there are reasons for that, but as a proxy to

1 that, we really need to think about what is  
2 that customer harm threshold: How much will  
3 insurance rates go up? How much will we be  
4 able to afford the homes that we live in?  
5 How much will we be able to keep insurance in  
6 the state? Rent increases, as you've heard  
7 spoken to earlier.

8 All of those things are very  
9 measurable and should be guiding how much  
10 rate increase should be provided.

11 Without that, and without some way  
12 to measure what the impact is on residents,  
13 we have no way of determining, you know, how  
14 this is going to be implemented and the  
15 effects on residents.

16 So I would encourage everyone to  
17 think about those things as proxies so that  
18 we can understand what the impacts are on  
19 residents because, clearly, there is a lot of  
20 need out there to keep rates low, and this is  
21 not the type of thing where you can keep  
22 increasing rates, and we can keep having  
23 residents in the State of California being  
24 able to afford the rent and to be able to  
25 afford their homes, and insurance companies  
26 are certainly keeping an eye on that as well.

27 The other reason I wanted to speak  
28 this evening is, I was happy to have my son

1 Leo join me this evening here at this  
2 proceeding. You know, one of the reasons why  
3 I switched some of my career and work  
4 priorities is because of him and his sister,  
5 and the general understanding, which I know  
6 we all feel is that, you know, we all have a  
7 choice of how we deal with these issues, but,  
8 certainly, my son and his sister and our kids  
9 will not have any choices about how they're  
10 going to be addressing the impacts of climate  
11 change. They will not have any choice as to  
12 how they're going to be dealing with  
13 wildfires. This is something they'll have to  
14 deal with as a part of their lives, and we  
15 have choices.

16 One of the things that my son --  
17 after we ran from the fires in October 2017,  
18 one of the questions that he asked me was,  
19 Are we going to be rebuilding out of brick?

20 And I asked the question, Why are  
21 you asking that question?

22 And he had read a book: I Survived  
23 the Great Chicago Fire, and from that  
24 reading, he understood that after the great  
25 Chicago fire, they mandated that all homes be  
26 built out of brick.

27 He remembered that, through that  
28 reading, you had to have a certain roof, and

1 you had to increase the size of the water  
2 main in the city of Chicago.

3 And then I did some reading, based  
4 on his advice, and found out it actually was  
5 the second Chicago fire that was the Great  
6 Chicago Fire in 1871.

7 By the way, the date was October  
8 8th, the same date as the fires that ravaged  
9 our community here, and it wasn't until two  
10 years later, when the second Chicago fire  
11 hit, that these things started to move  
12 forward; all right.

13 But here we are in the state of  
14 California. It's not two fires. I've lost  
15 count. It's way too many fires, and we still  
16 haven't gotten the will to be able to move  
17 these issues forward.

18 And part of that is because we've  
19 advanced our bureaucratic processes. We've  
20 advanced our corporate processes and to get  
21 things done, to get everyone in the room to  
22 collaborate on these issues, ends up being  
23 process-oriented rather than  
24 results-oriented.

25 And I would say we are beyond that.  
26 You know, we have wildfires in the arctic  
27 right now. These are issues we need to  
28 address right now. We need to be

1 streamlining processes both at the CPUC,  
2 within our corporations, and amongst our  
3 citizens, and in the local efforts here in  
4 Santa Rosa.

5 I've just, you know -- I've been  
6 very heartened by being a part of the CPUC  
7 processes and being an intervenor, and so I  
8 would just say that I encourage everyone who  
9 is feeling passionate about these issues, as  
10 I have, to really -- to get engaged.

11 These processes are very  
12 bureaucratic, but I would encourage anyone  
13 who has contributions around these issues to  
14 go through the processes and to get engaged  
15 because, certainly, it's going to take all of  
16 us in the room to be able to move these  
17 issues forward.

18 And so, hopefully, even though  
19 we're called intervenors, that this is more  
20 of a collaboration, and that's what really  
21 I'm looking for in my engagement in these  
22 issues, and thank you very much.

23 COMMISSIONER RECHTSCHAFFEN: I want to  
24 thank you for your advocacy in many of our  
25 proceedings. I know you've done this on your  
26 own time, and it's very constructive, and I  
27 also want to let you know - I think you do  
28 know this - but we are considering some of



1 the ideas about performance-based metrics in  
2 a variety of proceedings.

3 So continue to participate in those  
4 because we are trying to grapple with those  
5 going forward.

6 ALJ LAU: Thank you, Mr. Abrams.

7 Next, we have two speakers: The  
8 first one is David Sandine, and following him  
9 is Paul Chappell.

10 Mr. Sandine, I'm going to spell your  
11 name as S-a-n-d-i-n-e.

12 MR. SANDINE: That is correct.

13 ALJ LAU: Thank you.

14 STATEMENT OF MR. SANDINE

15 I'm going to speak for the victims  
16 of PG&E's negligence. I lost my home and my  
17 next-door neighbor died in the fire, and I  
18 had 84 neighbors that lost their homes, and  
19 it's through PG&E's negligence.

20 When you have a corporation, the  
21 corporation is run by a president and the  
22 board of directors.

23 In Oakland, we have a case of the  
24 Ghost Ship Fire, and the owner and manager  
25 are on trial for manslaughter. I don't  
26 understand why the same doesn't apply to  
27 corporate officers who made the same kind of  
28 bad decisions that affects us.

1           We didn't have any say, really, in  
2 whether or not they spent money on cutting  
3 trees or not. Now, they're talking about  
4 cutting trees. They didn't follow the law.  
5 They didn't follow the rules. And many of us  
6 are suffering because of it.

7           You also, as a board, have not done  
8 your responsibility. You were put in the  
9 public trust to watch PG&E and you have  
10 proved that you aren't able to do it.

11           I think the answer to this is the  
12 corporate officers be held truly liable.  
13 That's the only way this will stop because as  
14 long as it's just a matter of going to the  
15 PUC for more money and for maybe not paying  
16 the dividends and bonuses to the greatest  
17 extent, this will continue.

18           They have to personally be  
19 responsible and know they will be personally  
20 responsible before this sort of thing will  
21 stop. That's all I have say.

22           ALJ LAU: Thank you, Mr. Sandine.

23           Next we have, Mr. Paul Chappell.

24           Mr. Chappell, is this the spelling  
25 of your last name --

26           MR. CHAPPELL: Yes. Chappell,  
27 C-h-a-p-p-e-l-l.

28           ///

1 ALJ LAU: Thank you.

2 STATEMENT OF MR. CHAPPELL

3 Thank you, ladies and gentlemen,  
4 for the privilege of being here this evening.  
5 I've been in and around this country for a  
6 long time. I started when I was a young boy.  
7 I was a coal miner since I was 17.

8 ALJ LAU: Would you mind slowing down  
9 so the court reporters can capture your  
10 comments. Slowing down.

11 MR. CHAPPELL: I was in World War II.  
12 I am a World War II veteran. Served in the  
13 57 Combat Engineers, Massachusetts.

14 For over 40 years, I've been  
15 certified treatment plant water operator, a  
16 treatment plant operator, for the Tachi  
17 Indian tribe in Stewarts Point in Sonoma  
18 county and that's over 40 years, a certified  
19 operator. And we have one of best plants in  
20 northern California. It's treatment plant  
21 filtration system.

22 And in the early days of 1960s, I  
23 was with the PEO, People or Economic  
24 Opportunity. I was an administrative liaison  
25 to start with, and then I was the area  
26 manager, and I worked in the western part of  
27 Sonoma county taking lots of surveys, and as  
28 a result of that, I was able to gather enough

1 information in those surveys and that helped  
2 the Tachi tribe to get the clinic that they  
3 have. It's over here on Sidebar Road.

4 I called the first meeting of all  
5 American Indians living in Sonoma county  
6 regardless of where they came. There's a lot  
7 of people in the building to hold a meeting  
8 in. ]

9 So I've been working with people  
10 here like that for a long time. And right  
11 now it's like there are people are interested  
12 now with the Sonoma County Homeowner's  
13 Association. I'm a member of that  
14 association.

15 And because the rates and because  
16 the terrible disasters that we've had that  
17 took out a lot of trees and the fire, you  
18 know, and all the high winds. And in the  
19 area where we're operating with fallen trees  
20 in the winter, the pine trees, fir trees up  
21 there was, you know, falling every winter at  
22 one point I think.

23 PG&E did us favor at that time in  
24 that area that we were able to operate and  
25 not ever run out of water once during that  
26 length of time.

27 But this unprecedented firestorm  
28 that we've had here, it was tremendous. And

1 the people that are low income are already  
2 getting it hard financially. And right now I  
3 would consider a huge raise in the fees would  
4 be a hardship on that. And I would  
5 appreciate more if we could do some other  
6 state or federal agencies and find funds to  
7 assist PG&E during this time -- it was  
8 uncontrollable with the high wind and fire.  
9 If we had less winds and there would have  
10 been less trees down, but the fire was in wet  
11 weather. But this one was -- everything was  
12 dry in a drought season and affected a lot of  
13 people.

14 So, Ladies and Gentlemen, I think  
15 that I would be opposed with this tremendous  
16 raise in fees from the people. And find ways  
17 and means that we can alleviate that by  
18 getting monies elsewhere for PG&E for the  
19 things that they may need.

20 I thank you very much, Ladies and  
21 Gentlemen. And I hope this will turn out  
22 favorable that these low-income people will  
23 not be at risk of the law, you know, in  
24 trying to have electricity in their homes.

25 Thank you.

26 ALJ LAU: Thank you, Mr. Chappell.  
27 Thank you for your service to the country.

28 At this time, I don't have any more

1 signed speakers. Is there anyone else in  
2 this room who would like to speak?

3 If you want to give further  
4 comments, please head to the podium,  
5 introduce yourself, and spell your last name,  
6 thank you.

7 STATEMENT OF MR. ELLS

8 Yes. Thank you. I spoke earlier.  
9 I wanted to clarify my words. My name is  
10 Thomas Ells. Last name spelled, E-l-l-s.

11 I wanted to mention just right here  
12 in the PG&E 2020 GRC -- I didn't mention this  
13 before -- 40 percent of the revenue is  
14 allocated for operation and maintenance.  
15 That would be \$7 billion. That would include  
16 the maintenance, which was not done which is  
17 the tree trimming.

18 So a part of that was shoved over  
19 in additional profit in addition to the  
20 12.5 percent. There's some money that  
21 becomes profit that comes out of the company  
22 when the maintenance is not done.

23 As I understand it, that PG&E  
24 essentially contracts and caps the profit at  
25 a certain amount. But in fact if the  
26 expenditures as they're saying are not spent  
27 for what their contracted for, those end up  
28 being in profits. And the point is that they

1 already had operation and maintenance costs  
2 included, which the maintenance wasn't done.  
3 Now, they want to have additional maintenance  
4 expenditures and fees charged so that they  
5 can catch up on that maintenance that they've  
6 already had built into their fee structure;  
7 right.

8 And what I didn't make clear was  
9 that the 29 percent and the 24 percent -- 29  
10 percent depreciation and the 24 percent of  
11 capital cost, those are on top of each other.  
12 Meaning that there's already expense per  
13 capital and there's an additional expense for  
14 their capital recovery; right?

15 So it's 53 percent. It's actually  
16 \$9.3 billion a year if these numbers are  
17 correct and these percentages are correct.  
18 And so the return to the assets would be far  
19 sooner and only be about seven years. And  
20 the total recovery of all the assets of PG&E  
21 include all the dams and all the power plants  
22 and all of that would be recovered in just  
23 seven years.

24 So my point is, is that there are  
25 certainly funds available with the  
26 12.5 percent of profitability to accomplish  
27 600 cameras and 1,300 weather stations, which  
28 shouldn't cost \$10 million a piece. There's

1 just absolutely no way. That's a golden  
2 hammer or, you know, that was used for the  
3 astronauts if you recall. That's not a \$600  
4 hammer; that's a \$10 million hammer. There's  
5 no need for those types of costs in any kind  
6 of plan that would involve 600 cameras and  
7 1,300 weather stations.

8 A typical vineyard has hundreds of  
9 weather stations currently on there in order  
10 to gauge the soil moisture and weather on  
11 their vineyards right now. To have 1,300  
12 weather stations is not \$6 billion.

13 ALJ LAU: Thank you.

14 Is there anyone else in the room who  
15 would like to speak?

16 Please introduce yourself and spell  
17 your last name.

18 STATEMENT OF MR. DEAVERS

19 My name is John, J-o-h-n. Deavers,  
20 "D," as in David, D-a, "V" as in Victor,  
21 e-r-s.

22 I really wasn't planning to speak  
23 again tonight. I certainly don't have it in  
24 me to go through what I told you about  
25 earlier today. I can only hope that the  
26 commissioners who are here this evening will  
27 take the time to review the transcripts. I  
28 don't have it in me to go through what we



1 went through when we lost my partner's  
2 mother, Linda, to this.

3 But something was said earlier  
4 tonight, and I felt it needed to be  
5 addressed. And that was when we were  
6 discussing the issues of oversight and how  
7 changes were being implemented with regards  
8 to how oversight is administrated to PG&E and  
9 their reporting the finances and they have to  
10 report it and compare it to what was  
11 projected et cetera.

12 I just have to get up to tell you  
13 that's not good enough. It's not going to  
14 cut it. Not now. It would have in a normal  
15 situation. If the CPUC was a normal  
16 organization and state entity, and if PG&E  
17 was a normally-operating utility. Neither of  
18 you can claim that.

19 The five people in front of me may  
20 be the noblest souls that were raised on this  
21 planet. But the reality is you represent a  
22 tarnished organization. As I stated earlier,  
23 the CPUC has demonstrated itself to be an  
24 organization that is susceptible to  
25 manipulation and corruption by the utilities  
26 they are charged with overseeing.

27 And it doesn't end. Whether it was  
28 the actions of Mr. Peevey or the actions of

1 Commissioner Florio. And if you still carry  
2 water with PG&E, I mean, last -- when they  
3 were trying to push before 901, he made a  
4 point of putting in an editorial in the paper  
5 where he said that:

6 We all need to raise to  
7 bailout PG&E with bonds  
8 that they could then pass  
9 on the cost to the  
10 customers and the  
11 ratepayers.

12 Those -- which was rolled into  
13 legislation by Assembly Member Quirk who just  
14 by coincidence his son works for PG&E.

15 Those are the types of sickening  
16 coincidences we have been continuingly facing  
17 and forced to swallow. But in the case of  
18 the CPUC, that's your reality.

19 Just two months ago, we had another  
20 one where PG&E -- and, no, PG&E does not  
21 reveal anything unless they feel they cannot  
22 come back on it where it's too late -- but  
23 two months ago they said, here was another  
24 ex-CPUC official being paid \$25,000 a month  
25 by PG&E to try and get their fines reduced or  
26 eliminated. Years after the fact, that came  
27 out.

28 Former CPUC Commissioner Kennedy was

1 engaging in ex-parte communications with the  
2 current safety head of the CPUC at the time.

3 So you see it's not good enough.  
4 You can't expect us to once again have you  
5 say, "We're on it now." You have to be more  
6 transparent than that. And this is regarding  
7 PG&E. The saying is, "When someone shows you  
8 who they are, believe them the first time."

9 We are so many countless times past  
10 that with PG&E. So when it comes to the  
11 oversight, it's what I said earlier. No.  
12 No. They have to start the work first. You  
13 can't go through this process, the cycle,  
14 again and again where they tell you how  
15 they're going to get it right this time.

16 They have to show the work. What  
17 they say has no meaning. It's what they do.  
18 And the problem is you're still their  
19 overseers, and we can't trust you. Under the  
20 circumstances, why should we?

21 So that's why -- that's our  
22 transparency. The onus is upon you to  
23 demonstrate that what you do is on the up,  
24 and demand greater accountability from the  
25 utility. Because God knows how many more  
26 infractions we're going to find. The history  
27 was that: If there was an exploit available  
28 to the utility, they will take it.

1 I'll leave you with one other point.  
2 I attended one of the 901 commission  
3 hearings. This was the one in Ventura where  
4 a representative of PG&E was nowhere to be  
5 seen, but their presence was felt.

6 A representative from another  
7 company said not as some sad acknowledgement  
8 of fate, but as a defense as if it was  
9 exculpatory. He told the Commission:

10 You're never going to get  
11 to zero percent negligence.

12 Not one member of that Commission  
13 had the decency to say what should have been  
14 said. And it is this, "Maybe not. But if  
15 that's not your goal, if that's not the  
16 vantage point on the horizon that you're  
17 fixed upon like the north star, if that is  
18 not what guides your operation, then you have  
19 failed. You have failed in the safety  
20 mandate that came with the authority to  
21 operate in the first place."

22 PG&E's history has demonstrated  
23 that's not what they done. And it's not what  
24 they're going to do unless you compel them.  
25 You have to do better. Show us that we can  
26 trust you.

27 Thank you.

28 ALJ LAU: Please introduce yourself and

1 spell your last name. ]

2 STATEMENT OF MS. GRANAHAH

3 My name is are Eva Granahan,  
4 G-r-a-n-a-h-a-n. I just have a brief  
5 comment, something that has been personally  
6 upsetting to me that I have witnessed.

7 It relates directly to many  
8 comments. I heard several people talk about  
9 the biggest issue being tree trimming and  
10 harm and risk reduction and safety issues,  
11 and, ironically, the first person to spend a  
12 significant time talking about that was PG&E  
13 itself.

14 My friend's neighbor out on Joy  
15 Road, in Occidental in the Redwoods, his  
16 occupation was walking the power lines and  
17 assessing trees that needed to be cut. And  
18 his job, this last year, was cut because the  
19 company that employed him went out of  
20 business because of PG&E's situation and  
21 their debt to this company put it entirely  
22 out of business.

23 The company's Western -- I think  
24 Western Union. That's a bank. I'm  
25 forgetting the full name of the company.

26 So this Western job that -- he  
27 surveys all around Sonoma County and even  
28 further. Their primary job was to assess the

1 power-lines safety based on the trees and  
2 their growth, and that job no longer exists.  
3 He no longer works there.

4 So I don't know who is expected to  
5 do these things or how they're rationalizing  
6 more money when they're still owing people  
7 money for doing the work that they see and we  
8 see as the most important.

9 So, basically, I'm upset about  
10 that, and I'm not sure the rationalization  
11 behind it or if I, or any one of us, can  
12 trust the future plans of this organization,  
13 and they sure need to prove themselves, and I  
14 definitely think that rate increases is not  
15 the solution. Thank you.

16 ALJ LAU: Thank you, Ms. Granahan. Do  
17 we have more speakers?

18 Ms. Johnson, can you introduce  
19 yourself again?

20 STATEMENT OF MS. JOHNSON

21 Lenita Marie Johnson.

22 I just really felt compelled to  
23 come and say what I forgot to say earlier  
24 regarding the fires that occurred here a few  
25 years ago, a couple of years ago. I was  
26 impacted by those fires.

27 My house wasn't burned down, but I  
28 know many people who suffered the loss of

1 their homes and the loss of their loved ones.

2 What did happen was, I lived in the  
3 area near Spring Lake, and I would find  
4 myself going out in the evening, when it was  
5 getting dusk, and I could see this glow  
6 because the fire was approaching, and my  
7 friends were calling me, neighbors were  
8 asking me: Where are you going to go? What  
9 are going to do?

10 And I had no idea. I was  
11 paralyzed, literally. And I still  
12 occasionally going out on my deck and looking  
13 over towards Spring Lake and wondering, is  
14 the fire going to happen again, or what's  
15 going on over there?

16 And that kind of paralysis almost  
17 never leaves you. When I was two years old,  
18 I got up out of bed, and I was just really  
19 learning how to kind of walk on my own and  
20 had to go to the bathroom, and we lived in a  
21 house and we had a fireplace in our home.

22 And when I came back from the  
23 bathroom - I had a long nightgown - and I  
24 went up to the fireplace because it was the  
25 middle of winter and it was really cold, and  
26 just put my hands to the fireplace, and this  
27 was before fire retardant clothing, which  
28 shows how old I am, and all of a sudden, I

1 turned and my father was standing at the  
2 doorway looking at me, and I just was aflame.

3 My nightgown caught on fire. And  
4 didn't really know the enormity of what was  
5 going on. I was just standing there. And he  
6 grabbed a blanket off of our sofa and came  
7 and threw it around me, and he ran me to the  
8 Children's Hospital in Massachusetts.

9 And I spent almost two years in  
10 that hospital having to learn how to walk  
11 again. I started in a wheelchair. I'll  
12 never forget those years in that hospital,  
13 and my mother never came to visit me. She  
14 was in such shock. She couldn't handle it.

15 And I think - though I believe she  
16 is in heaven right now - her and I never were  
17 really close because I don't think she could  
18 afford to get really close to me. And I'm  
19 certain that fire had a lot to do with it.

20 And I'm sharing that with you  
21 because it's not a story I talk about. It's  
22 not something I think about often.

23 But I have to tell you that I am  
24 shocked that you don't have anyone here  
25 representing you and championing your part in  
26 asking the CPUC to give you more money than  
27 you already have that looks like me.

28 And I'm certain there are people



1 that work for PG&E who look like me, but I'm  
2 almost embarrassed for you that you don't  
3 even have the dignity to do that, have one  
4 token. Almost every business does that when  
5 they go public. They have at least one token  
6 that looks like the audience they're going to  
7 be addressing. So I just say shame on you  
8 for that.

9 And I really have to implore you in  
10 making your decision: These are people who  
11 are interested in one thing and one thing  
12 only, and it begins with the letter P, and  
13 it's not the public. It's profits.

14 ALJ LAU: Thank you.

15 Commissioners, do you have any  
16 concluding remarks?

17 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: I want to  
18 thank everyone again for coming out.

19 (Speaking in Spanish.)

20 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: I did want  
21 to offer Shelby and your colleagues a little  
22 more information, perhaps after, about the  
23 proceeding that you referenced, and  
24 acknowledge some of the suggestions that  
25 you're making there.

26 I know one colleague mentioned the  
27 need to get rid of deposit fees, and  
28 certainly the affordable bills are both

1 issues that we're looking at in that  
2 disconnection and reconnection proceeding.

3 So I would really love your input as  
4 we're getting to a point to try to make a  
5 decision on that very important proceeding,  
6 so we look forward to talking to you after.

7 And I just want to really thank  
8 everybody for being here and sharing your  
9 personal stories and the stories of your  
10 community, and we will be taking this very  
11 much into consideration as we continue our  
12 deliberation. Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER RECHTSCHAFFEN: I also  
14 want to thank everyone for your time and your  
15 deeply personal thoughts, suggestions,  
16 commitment and criticism, tough and  
17 otherwise. It's very important for us to  
18 hear that. Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER RANDOLPH: And I'll just  
20 add my thanks and appreciation for hearing  
21 from all of you, and I encourage you to keep  
22 following the proceeding on the website and  
23 taking advantage of opportunities to share  
24 additional thoughts, and thank you.

25 ALJ LAU: Judge Lirag.

26 ALJ LIRAG: I just want to thank anyone  
27 that listened in remotely.

28 Again, please send us your comments

1 to public.advisor@CPUC.ca.gov. We'd love to  
2 hear from you as well, and your comments  
3 affect the proceeding, and we read each and  
4 every one of these comments that we receive  
5 on that website. Thank you.

6 ALJ LAU: So thank you for taking the  
7 time out of your evening to come and share  
8 your comments with us. If there are no  
9 additional speakers, we are now adjourned.  
10 Off the record. Thank you.

11 (Whereupon, at the hour of 7:40  
12 p.m., this matter having been continued  
13 to 1:00 & 6:00 p.m., August 13, 2019 at  
Bakersfield, California, the Commission  
then adjourned.)

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDING

I, JASON STACEY, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER  
NO. 14092, IN AND FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO  
HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE PAGES OF THIS TRANSCRIPT  
PREPARED BY ME COMPRISE A FULL, TRUE, AND CORRECT  
TRANSCRIPT OF THE TESTIMONY AND PROCEEDINGS HELD IN  
THIS MATTER ON JULY 31, 2019.

I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE  
EVENTS OF THE MATTER OR THE OUTCOME OF THE PROCEEDING.

EXECUTED THIS AUGUST 05, 2019.

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

JASON A. STACEY  
CSR NO. 14092

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDING

I, SHANNON ROSS, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER  
NO. 8916, IN AND FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DO  
HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE PAGES OF THIS TRANSCRIPT  
PREPARED BY ME COMPRISE A FULL, TRUE, AND CORRECT  
TRANSCRIPT OF THE TESTIMONY AND PROCEEDINGS HELD IN  
THIS MATTER ON JULY 31, 2019.

I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE  
EVENTS OF THE MATTER OR THE OUTCOME OF THE PROCEEDING.

EXECUTED THIS AUGUST 05, 2019.



SHANNON ROSS  
CSR NO. 8916

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