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**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

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, 2017. (U39M)

Application 15-09-001

**PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
NOTICE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATION**

Pursuant to Rule 8.4 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) hereby gives notice of the following *ex parte* communication. The applicable proceeding numbers are: A.15-09-001; A.16-10-019; A.15-09-010; A.17-07-011; and I.17-11-003.

On January 23, 2018, PG&E filed a three-day advance notice regarding the potential for an *ex parte* communication at a public hearing before the Energy, Utilities and Communications Subcommittee on Gas, Electric and Transportation Safety. The topic of the hearing was wildfire prevention and response. The hearing took place on Friday, January 26, 2018, at 10:00 AM, in the main auditorium at Santa Rosa City Hall. Pat Hogan, Senior Vice President, Electric Operations, testified on behalf of PG&E at this hearing. Although CPUC President Michael Picker also testified at the hearing, he was not present during Mr. Hogan's testimony. However, PG&E believes that President Picker's Chief of Strategy and External Affairs, Nidhi Thakar, was present when Mr. Hogan made his opening remarks. Although Mr. Hogan's opening remarks did not directly address substantive issues in the five proceedings in which the three-day advance notice was

submitted, PG&E is filing this notice out of an abundance of caution and in the interest of full transparency.

Mr. Hogan began his opening remarks expressing his heartfelt sympathies to the thousands of families affected by last year's fires, particularly those who lost loved ones and homes. Mr. Hogan stated in his opening remarks that the challenge of dealing with an evolving climate is growing. Mr. Hogan stated that wildfires are becoming more frequent and more destructive. He described some of the contributing factors to what Governor Brown has described as a "new normal." He stated that in light of this reality, it is incumbent on us all to work together, to continue to evolve our prevention and response efforts and to develop best practices and solutions for the evolving conditions of our new normal. He noted that in defining best practices, we need to keep in mind that each utility's service territory has different risks, based on environment, weather, vegetation, terrain, population density and other factors, and what may be an appropriate practice for one utility may not be for another.

Mr. Hogan described PG&E's key prevention and response programs including vegetation management, asset management, and emergency preparedness and response. Mr. Hogan stated that PG&E recognizes that wildfire risk in California is growing as the climate continues to change and evolve and PG&E's plans and programs are also evolving. Mr. Hogan closed by emphasizing that PG&E is ready to work with stakeholders on the overall challenge we face as we work to ensure the safety of our communities. Those interested in hearing Mr. Hogan's full opening comments may view the video archive (starting at 2:57) at <https://youtu.be/gfp6PjKDio>.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Meredith Allen

Meredith Allen
Senior Director, Regulatory Relations
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
P.O. Box 770000
San Francisco, CA 94177
Phone: 415-973-2868
Fax: 415-973-1448
E-mail: MEAE@pge.com

Dated: January 31, 2018