

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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)

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Karly Powers, CSR No. 13991

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STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

JULY 17, 2019 - 1:02 P.M.

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ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE LAU: On the  
record.

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

Good afternoon. My name is Elaine  
Lau, and with me is Judge Rafael Lirag. We  
are the administrative law judges assigned to  
this case. The assigned Commissioner to this  
case is Commissioner Liane Randolph.  
Unfortunately she cannot make it today, but  
we will share with her your comments today.  
And she will also have a copy of today's  
transcript.

Also with us today are two  
Commissioners from Commissioner Guzman  
Aceves' office. They are Adenike Adeyeye and  
Marina MacLatchie.

Would you please identify  
yourselves.

MS. ADEYEYE: (Raising hand.)

MS. MACLATCHIE: (Raising hand.)

ALJ LAU: So if you have any questions

1 for the Commissioner's office from  
2 Commissioner Guzman Aceves, please find them  
3 afterwards.

4           So before we start, allow me a few  
5 minutes to give you a brief overview of what  
6 the CPUC, the California Public Utilities  
7 Commission, is and what we do. So the CPUC  
8 is the state agency that regulates privately  
9 owned utilities, like PG&E, that provide  
10 essential services like electricity and  
11 natural gas.

12           There are five Commissioners at the  
13 CPUC. These five Commissioners will be the  
14 ones who vote and decide whether to approve  
15 PG&E's request or some other dollar amount.  
16 So our goal, as assigned judges, is to review  
17 PG&E's application. And based on the  
18 evidence and testimony put forth, we will  
19 write a proposed decision for the  
20 Commissioners to consider. The Commissioners  
21 will either vote to adopt our proposed  
22 decision or put forth an alternate decision.

23           So allow me also a few minutes to  
24 talk about PG&E's application and what they  
25 requested in this GRC, general rate case. So  
26 in this application, PG&E requests authority  
27 to increase its revenues by 1.058 billion  
28 dollars in 2020. 454 million dollars in 2021

1 and 486 million dollars in 2022. Every three  
2 years PG&E files a general rate case  
3 application like this one to request funding  
4 for its gas and electric operations. The  
5 impact of this application, if fully granted,  
6 would increase an average residential  
7 customer's monthly bill by around 7 to 8  
8 percent or \$10.57. According to PG&E, the  
9 major reasons for the requested increase are  
10 to fund PG&E's wildfire safety mitigation and  
11 their liability insurance. So if you want  
12 more information about the application, we do  
13 have a fact sheet, and it's at the Public  
14 Advisor's Office table.

15           So currently there are many active  
16 parties in the proceeding which includes  
17 several consumer groups, community-based  
18 organizations, city and county governments,  
19 unions and large user groups. Many of these  
20 groups oppose what PG&E is requesting. Their  
21 participation in this proceeding can affect  
22 the amount that the Commission ultimately  
23 authorizes PG&E to collect.

24           We're here today to listen to your  
25 comments to this application. We want to  
26 hear how PG&E's application may affect you,  
27 your family or your community. Your comments  
28 will help the Commission gather information

1 to determine whether PG&E's proposed  
2 increases are reasonable. By this time,  
3 Judge Lirag and I have received a lot of  
4 comments already from the public through our  
5 Commission's Public Advisor's Office.

6 So allow me to do a couple quick  
7 introductions too. So at the table where you  
8 signed up to speak is the Commission's Public  
9 Advisor's Office. If you have any questions  
10 regarding the Commission or our processes,  
11 please do not hesitate to find them at the  
12 end of the meeting. Also, outside is a table  
13 for -- manned by PG&E. I believe we have  
14 some PG&E customer representatives here today  
15 at the table, and they are here to answer any  
16 specific questions you may have regarding  
17 your bill.

18 So now I'm going to go over some  
19 ground rules for today. If you would like to  
20 speak today, please sign up at the Public  
21 Advisor's table. We'd like to hear from  
22 everyone that wishes to speak. So as a  
23 courtesy to others, please refrain from  
24 calling out or interrupting any speaker.  
25 Please direct any comments to us -- we'd like  
26 to hear from you -- and not to PG&E.

27 At this moment, I'd like to remind  
28 everyone to make sure that their cellphone is

1 put on silent. We also today -- at the front  
2 of the room are our court reporters. Our  
3 court reporters are here to document your  
4 comments into the record. That's why it's  
5 very important that when you come to speak  
6 you speak slowly and facing us so that the  
7 court reporters can fully capture your  
8 comments. And our court reporter will  
9 prepare a written transcript of today's  
10 hearing, and that transcript will be  
11 available to all five Commissioners as well  
12 as the public on our website.

13 So at this time, we can start with a  
14 couple presentations. We have a presentation  
15 from PG&E, and we also have a presentation  
16 from The Utility Reform Network, TURN, which  
17 is an active party in this proceeding. So  
18 why don't we start with PG&E's presentation  
19 first.

20 Introduce yourself.

21 STATEMENT OF MR. MEIER

22 Thank you. Welcome to Stockton, and  
23 thank you everyone for joining us at the  
24 public participation hearing today for PG&E's  
25 2020 general rate case proposal. My name is  
26 Dave Meier. I'm the local customer service  
27 leader for this region. An important part of  
28 my job is representing the voice of our

1 customers when we make operational decisions  
2 here locally, and the feedback we receive,  
3 like what we're going to receive today, helps  
4 us make those decisions.

5           This is 1 of 17 hearings that the  
6 CPUC is having across our service territory.  
7 As ALJ Lau mentioned, we have our customer  
8 service representatives here to answer  
9 questions or help with any information you  
10 may need to track down related to your  
11 account for PG&E service. They are out these  
12 doors and to the right at a table.

13           So feedback from our customers on  
14 this process is crucial especially because  
15 our application includes a series of  
16 important safety enhancements, improvements  
17 to help the state address the growing  
18 wildfire threat and to further protect the 16  
19 million people we serve.

20           So we thank the Commission. We  
21 thank ALJ Lirag and ALJ Lau for allowing us  
22 this opportunity to listen and to learn from  
23 our customers.

24           I'd like to introduce PG&E vice  
25 president, Roy Kuga, who has a few things  
26 he'd like to say as well.

27                       STATEMENT OF MR. KUGA

28           Thank you, Dave.



1                   And good afternoon, everyone. Thank  
2 you for joining us today. Thank you very  
3 much to Administrative Law Judges Lirag and  
4 Lau for giving PG&E the opportunity to be a  
5 part of, and more importantly, to listen and  
6 learn from today's public participation  
7 hearing for our 2020 general rate case  
8 proposal.

9                   Today's public forum allows us to hear  
10 directly from our customers through an open  
11 and transparent public process. For the  
12 record, my name is Roy Kuga, K-U-G-A. I  
13 began my career at PG&E as an engineer over  
14 35 years ago. And for the past 15 years,  
15 I've been vice president in our energy  
16 procurement and policy group building a  
17 portfolio of clean, safe and reliable energy  
18 supplies to meet our customers' needs.

19                   For PG&E, our top priority is the  
20 safety of our customers, the communities we  
21 serve and our workforce. And our general  
22 rate case proposal is an important element  
23 that helps us meet this priority. Our  
24 proposal outlines our plans for upgrading our  
25 infrastructure and technologies that will  
26 enhance our capabilities to provide safe and  
27 reliable gas and electric service.

28                   It will also help bolster wildfire

1 prevention by increasing vegetation  
2 management, wildfire risk monitoring as well  
3 as hardening of the grid for resiliency.

4 Our proposed request for 2020 is  
5 about 1.1 billion dollars over currently  
6 authorized spending levels. So for a typical  
7 residential customer, that would represent  
8 about a 6.4 percent increase to their  
9 combined gas and electric bill. Translated  
10 to specific service, that would be about  
11 \$8.73 a month for electric service and \$1.84  
12 for natural gas service.

13 While it's important to understand  
14 how we propose to spend the moneys we are  
15 requesting, I would also like to point out  
16 that there are specific areas that we are not  
17 requesting the funding for. For example, we  
18 are not requesting funding for potential  
19 wildfire claims as part of PG&E's Chapter 11  
20 bankruptcy proceeding. We are also not  
21 requesting funding for the compensation of  
22 officers of the PG&E utility and corporation.

23 And as the Commission -- California  
24 Public Utilities Commission is going through  
25 its thorough vetting of our proposal through  
26 its rate case review and approval process, it  
27 is taking into consideration input from a  
28 multitude of stakeholders. And therefore, we

1 encourage our customers to participate in and  
2 provide feedback to the potential services  
3 that we will be providing in the future as  
4 well as the associated rates and for the  
5 future of California.

6 With that, I thank you very much for  
7 the opportunity to comment.

8 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

9 ALJ LAU: Thank you.

10 Would The Utility Reform Network  
11 come and please introduce yourself and your  
12 organization and what you --

13 STATEMENT OF MS. SLIDER PIERRE

14 Good afternoon. My name is Constance  
15 Slider Pierre. I'm the organizing director  
16 for TURN, The Utility Reform Network. I'd  
17 first like to thank both Administrative Law  
18 Judge Lirag and Lau for the opportunity to  
19 say a few words to welcome members of the  
20 public.

21 Thank you for taking the time to  
22 come to today's public participation hearing.  
23 I hope you will take advantage of the  
24 opportunity to share your experiences and  
25 your concerns. We know that safety is very  
26 important, and we are all concerned about it.  
27 However, we also want to make sure that every  
28 dollar earmarked for safety improvements is

1 spent on that and nothing else.

2           Public participation hearings  
3 represent the CPUC at its best. In the  
4 hearing rooms, the judges get to hear from  
5 utility attorneys, consumer attorneys locked  
6 in battle arguing over numbers and technical  
7 issues. Today, however, the judges want to  
8 hear from you. They want to hear from  
9 consumers about how the process changes and  
10 the rate increases will affect you, your  
11 family and your community. Your voice makes  
12 a difference.

13           Today you have the chance to share  
14 your opinions before decisions have been  
15 made. Because by the time you hear about  
16 this new policy on the news or in the  
17 newspaper, it's too late to engage in the  
18 public discourse that will affect the change  
19 and have the greatest impact.

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

1 next three years.

2           Additionally, if this proposal  
3 comes -- this proposal comes on top of other  
4 ratepayer increases currently being proposed  
5 by PG&E that would authorize a 60 percent  
6 profit margin increase to shareholders while  
7 forcing ratepayers to pay billions for  
8 additional tree trimming and costs associated  
9 with wildfires caused by PG&E's negligence.  
10 To be clear, TURN opposes these rate hikes.

11           During your testimony today, I  
12 encourage you to use your time to reflect on  
13 your experience as a PG&E customer. Tell the  
14 Commission how current energy costs affect  
15 you, what trade-offs you have to be forced to  
16 make, what measures you have to take to  
17 reduce costs and conserve energy. Share with  
18 the Commission what an additional \$20  
19 increase could mean for your budget.

20           And finally, if you haven't already  
21 signed up to speak, please consider doing so.  
22 I hope our statement has provided some  
23 context and inspired you so that you can feel  
24 that you can lift your voice and be heard  
25 today.

26           Thank you.

27           ALJ LAU: Thank you. So we are about  
28 to start. As a reminder, if you'd like to

1 speak, please sign up at the Public Advisor's  
2 table. So I'm going to read the names of  
3 three speakers at a time and in the order  
4 that they will speak. If you hear your name  
5 being called, please feel free to sit at the  
6 front of the row and be ready to speak.

7               So today we have nine speakers. And  
8 I'm not very good at pronouncing people's  
9 names. So if I pronounce your name wrong,  
10 please excuse me. So the first three  
11 speakers in the order that they will speak is  
12 Luanna Villanueva. That's the first speaker.  
13 The second speaker is Thomas Jones. Third  
14 speaker is Mr. John Larrea.

15               STATEMENT OF MS. VILLANUEVA

16               My name is Luanna Villanueva. It's  
17 Spanish. And I'm a PG&E ratepayer, and I  
18 totally object to having to pay even more  
19 money for my electricity, which I think is  
20 not a good thing to do. First of all, Wall  
21 Street Journal has just published an article  
22 saying that they received internal PG&E  
23 documents revealing that PG&E had knowingly  
24 delayed maintenance on transmission lines,  
25 and the towers could start fires.

26               Meanwhile, the article also states  
27 that the regulators, that is the CPUC, have  
28 little ability to enforce that maintenance

1 plans are carried out and rely on the company  
2 to create the plan and then tell them that it  
3 has been carried out.

4           The Camp Fire is a horrific example  
5 of how the system failed with deadly  
6 consequences. We should not be giving PG&E  
7 any more money from ratepayers until it's  
8 forced to prove that it's doing the safety  
9 upgrades that it claims to be doing. This  
10 request for additional fees on our bill is  
11 only the beginning and will become  
12 unsustainable for millions of California  
13 taxpayers -- ratepayers. Sorry.

14           The current rate hike would amount  
15 to an average \$10 a month increase on most  
16 ratepayers' bills, but because there are two  
17 years of increases in the request, it would  
18 amount to \$20 a month increase by 2022 or an  
19 average increase of \$240 a year. Presumably  
20 this increase does not take into account  
21 PG&E's request to increase its rates of  
22 return to 16 percent, a 60 percent increase  
23 over the top limit right now. There will be  
24 funds to meet -- where will the funds to meet  
25 these increases come from? The ratepayers.  
26 Right?

27           Furthermore, the California  
28 legislature just approved a wildfire bailout

1 bill that directly obligates ratepayers to  
2 over 10 billion dollars and indirectly  
3 obligates them to the 10 billion dollar  
4 construction that is to come out of the IOU  
5 profit because IOU profits comes from the  
6 ratepayers. I object to giving them any more  
7 money.

8 Thank you.

9 ALJ LAU: Thank you. Come up to the  
10 mic.

11 STATEMENT OF MR. JONES

12 Good afternoon. My name is Tom Jones.  
13 I live here in Stockton, and I'm a PG&E  
14 customer and also a PG&E retiree. I worked  
15 for PG&E for 32 years. I subcontracted back  
16 after I retired doing inspections in the line  
17 construction department. I had an incident  
18 with PG&E, watching them waste their money  
19 and their safety issues and the quality of  
20 service they were giving to the customers by  
21 hiring outside contractors.

22 I was terminated by PG&E. I'm not a  
23 totally disgruntled employee, but I'm shocked  
24 and I was quite surprised to see this hearing  
25 was going on today. When I was terminated, I  
26 followed everything I could do. All I wanted  
27 to do was see upper management to show them  
28 some evidence of complaints, the amount of --



1 millions of dollars that they were wasting in  
2 poor construction and safety issues according  
3 to General Order 95, which is the  
4 construction rules, and PG&E's own  
5 construction standards.

6 I went to a PG&E employee department  
7 to see if I could see Geisha Williams, who  
8 was the president of the construction  
9 department at that time. I didn't get  
10 anywhere. I went to the Public Utilities  
11 Commission. I didn't get anywhere. I went  
12 to TURN, met with Mark Toney. I thought  
13 surely I'll get somewhere, but no. But I was  
14 told it was nothing for a company as large as  
15 PG&E to lose anywhere from 10 to 20 million  
16 dollars a year. That was quite a shock for  
17 somebody whose supposed to be fighting for  
18 rate cases and the customer. Quite shocking.

19 Finally, I went on and I had to take  
20 another route. I couldn't get any  
21 information from the Public Utilities  
22 Commission. I tried again and finally was  
23 able to meet with a couple of your  
24 inspectors. They were concerned that it took  
25 a while. I went out -- and I went out and  
26 met with him on my own time and showed him  
27 the faulty construction. I was shocked they  
28 don't even have a construction manual. They

1 have no idea what they are looking at. And  
2 these are the General Order 95 inspectors.  
3 That didn't go anywhere.

4 I asked if them if they could check  
5 on the amount of money that PG&E is losing.  
6 Didn't hear anything from them either. So I  
7 continued on and took another route, and that  
8 can't be discussed. But to come here and  
9 know that they are asking for more money when  
10 the Public Utilities Commission and TURN have  
11 no idea where the money is being spent. I  
12 can give you just one classic example. When  
13 I was working as a contractor inspecting line  
14 crews, they had a contractor working for  
15 them. Each contractor, 1 crew, has 3 trucks.  
16 Line material minimum on each truck is right  
17 around \$150,000. So we'll just call it  
18 \$100,000 worth of copper, connectors,  
19 crossarms, everything. They are working, and  
20 all of a sudden they have 3 -- let's say they  
21 have 10 crews, 3 trucks per crew. That's  
22 \$30,000, \$300,000 per crew. And then PG&E  
23 would just terminate the contractor, tell  
24 them -- because they would burn the wire down  
25 or have incidents. So they would just tell  
26 them to leave. So one day I asked them,  
27 "What do you mean you told them to leave?"  
28 "Well, they are done. You give us your work.

1 You're going off. We're firing you off our  
2 property that day." "What about the  
3 material?" "What do you mean what about the  
4 material?" That's 30 million bucks just  
5 rolls out, and it heads to Kansas or wherever  
6 these guys went. And numerous other things  
7 like that.

8 I inspected jobs for them. The work  
9 was incomplete or not even performed, and the  
10 contractor was paid. And this is what I went  
11 to talk to TURN about and the CPUC, and I  
12 never got anywhere. I don't think they  
13 should be allowed to have an increase of any  
14 form of money until they can prove and  
15 control their own expenses. It's frustrating  
16 to me, but I know it will probably go  
17 through. It always does. Because I don't  
18 know who's feeding who.

19 Thank you.

20 ALJ LAU: Thank you for your time, Mr.  
21 Jones.

22 Mr. John Larrea.

23 MR. LARREA: Larrea.

24 ALJ LAU: Larrea.

25 STATEMENT OF MR. LARREA

26 Good afternoon. John Larrea with the  
27 California League of Food Producers. I  
28 represent the large industrial food

1 processors that are located within PG&E  
2 territory. And I'm trying to collect  
3 information so that we can present that to  
4 you as well. One company was able to provide  
5 the information on a very quick basis. So I  
6 just wanted to provide that --

7           For our companies, right now they  
8 are -- just a little bit of background --  
9 they are seasonal, which means that they've  
10 just started their processes as of about a  
11 week ago. And it will run 24/7 for the next  
12 100 days and -- in order to be able to can  
13 all the harvest that's going on. For them,  
14 it's not just what PG&E is asking for. It's  
15 also what they've asked for in the past and  
16 where we are right now and what this means  
17 for them going forward.

18           So one of the things they wanted to  
19 do is to give us just a brief sampling of  
20 what they are paying right now. For natural  
21 gas, in the last gas transmission and storage  
22 rate case, they went from 4.6 cents per therm  
23 up to 20 cents per therm for entities that are  
24 subject to the cap and trade and went to 24.6  
25 cents per therm to the entities that are not  
26 covered. This particular company has both  
27 covered entities and not-covered entities and  
28 they also have a company facility in another

1 state as well.

2           On electricity, in 2009, they were  
3 saying that they had about \$10.50 on-peak per  
4 kilowatt and about \$5.50 partial peak per  
5 kilowatt and then 250 on non-peak. As of  
6 July 1st, this year, it's now \$22 on-peak per  
7 kilowatt and \$17 on partial and \$5.50 --  
8 almost \$6 on a non-peak. So you can see this  
9 is significant increases between 2009 to  
10 today. We've seen a doubling and sometimes a  
11 tripling depending upon what we're seeing  
12 now, and then we're going to see even more.

13           In terms of a comparison with other  
14 states, the one company has another  
15 facility -- a similar facility in Oregon.  
16 And right now they pay 275 percent more in  
17 electricity than they do at their Oregon  
18 facility. So in a comparison there, you're  
19 also seeing a huge amount of money being paid  
20 for energy here. And now we're going to see  
21 an additional increase associated with this.

22           So how does this impact them? Well,  
23 one, overall it makes them less competitive.  
24 They compete on an international basis and on  
25 a national basis. They are seeing more  
26 imported products coming in because energy  
27 costs are less outside the U.S. especially  
28 outside of California. There's also much

1 cheaper labor out there too. So it's really  
2 making it hard to remain competitive here.

3           The other is that they are spending  
4 a lot less on capital improvements. Now  
5 we've got a state that's right now moving  
6 into 2020. We've got additional reductions  
7 in emissions on GHGs. We've got valley  
8 issues associated with criteria pollutants.  
9 We've got all of these issues that are going  
10 on that they are now -- instead of being able  
11 to spend money on trying to do those, they  
12 are having to look at increased costs  
13 associated with just continuing production at  
14 the level that they are already at.

15           Oh. The other is that -- of course,  
16 one of the areas that they do make cutbacks,  
17 because it's just easier and faster when they  
18 have to respond to these kinds of rate  
19 increases, is in labor. They cut back in  
20 labor, and then those existing workers either  
21 receive a lot less in raises that they would  
22 normally get or they don't get any raises at  
23 all. So essentially, it's kind of  
24 maintaining their balance associated with  
25 this.

26           Finally, they just wanted me to  
27 point out that the increases that they've  
28 seen over the past decade have not resulted

1 in any better service. In fact, one of the  
2 things they notice is reliability is even  
3 worse now than it was when we had the energy  
4 crisis. Because now they are all looking at  
5 the idea of getting emergency generators,  
6 bringing those in in case there's blackouts  
7 associated with things. So they are seeing  
8 increased costs with very little return for  
9 them in terms of either service reliability  
10 or just, you know, being able to meet their  
11 monthly goals. So that's what they wanted me  
12 to tell you. So thank you. ]

13 ALJ LAU: So the next set of speakers  
14 -- the first one is M E Gladis; second one,  
15 Dianne Buettner; third one, Conner Gorman.

16 STATEMENT OF MS. GLADIS

17 Good day. I am M E Gladis. You  
18 can't tell by looking, so there's no worry.

19 PG&E is not trustworthy. They have  
20 a history of misusing taxpayer funds. Prior  
21 to the San Bruno explosion that we all  
22 remember, PG&E twice came to the CPUC asking  
23 for 5 million each time, in 2007 and early  
24 2010, specifically, to repair the pipeline  
25 that ran under San Bruno. Twice they did  
26 nothing to repair that pipeline. And in  
27 September of 2010, it exploded killing eight  
28 people and destroying 38 homes.

1           An independent state audit in 2012  
2 found that PG&E had funneled a hundred  
3 million from gas pipeline safety into  
4 executive bonuses, like the Vice President  
5 who just spoke, and shareholder profits. As  
6 a result of criminal investigation into the  
7 San Bruno explosion in 2016, PG&E was found  
8 guilty of five felony counts of criminal  
9 negligence and one count of obstruction of  
10 justice for falsifying safety records. They  
11 falsified safety records. They are still on  
12 probation for those crimes today, when you  
13 are asking us to pay them even more money.  
14 It's unconscionable.

15           Thank you.

16           (Crosstalk.)

17           STATEMENT OF MS. BUETTNER

18           Good afternoon. My name is Diana  
19 Buettner. That's okay. It happens all the  
20 time.

21           You know, what I want to tell you  
22 is I'm not a prepared speech person because I  
23 have visual impairments. I have spoken at  
24 the CPUC before. And one of the things that  
25 I see is, you know, like what was just  
26 mentioned the San Bruno affair. They had a  
27 fund. And they didn't use it properly.

28           What I see here is a repeat. And



1 the increases that will affect this community  
2 with our housing crisis being so terribly  
3 high, we'll just call it that -- you know our  
4 cost of living here is insane. And we have  
5 very little in way of community support for  
6 the lower income. And the majority of this  
7 community is on the lower side. \$20 more a  
8 month can devastate people.

9           You know, I work with some  
10 organizations that are dealing with the  
11 homeless. That is enough to make you crazy.  
12 And if you turn around and take away the  
13 heating and eating factor, because if you  
14 can't afford electricity, you get thrown out  
15 of your house. That's not good. I'm  
16 actually on the CARE program because of my  
17 disabilities and other issues.

18           The idea that we want to give these  
19 guys more money is maddening. I just can't  
20 believe this. I could, because I've seen --  
21 I'm going to say. It I've seen fascism. I  
22 used to teach it. I used to teach about how  
23 that works. And; it's corporate greed that  
24 is our issue here. And it's not okay for the  
25 people to have to pay for this mess that they  
26 have created with their own greed.

27           (Crosstalk.)

28           ALJ LAU: Conner Gorman.

1                   STATEMENT OF MR. GORMAN

2                   I'm Conner Gorman. I'm a grad  
3 student at Davis and a ratepayer. And, yeah,  
4 so I also oppose these rate increases. So  
5 it's important to create safety improvements.  
6 But we have seen that PG&E is not responsible  
7 enough to do that under the current way that  
8 they are run.

9                   And we've heard previous speakers  
10 give a lot of examples of this. And this is  
11 something that has been going on for a while.  
12 And I don't see a way that it's likely to  
13 change in the future.

14                  Also, we know that even though the  
15 representatives claim that their main  
16 obligation is to the customers; their real  
17 obligation is to the shareholders and, to  
18 some degree, the executives. And even if  
19 these funds would purely go to safety  
20 improvements -- which, again, is in no way  
21 guaranteed -- but even if that were true,  
22 they are also going to increase rates for  
23 other reasons that will just increase the  
24 profits and the bonuses for the executives.

25                  So, really, it's like claiming that  
26 these increases wouldn't go to those things  
27 is just a technicality when you're arguing  
28 for other increases as well. So even if that

1 was somehow guaranteed, it's still -- this is  
2 still a larger question. And there is still  
3 a larger issue of the fact that the main  
4 obligation is not to everyday people, it's to  
5 the few people who have the primary control  
6 of this company, which is why we really  
7 shouldn't allow these utilities to be  
8 controlled in a private manner.

9           Public utilities should be  
10 controlled by the Public. The workers and  
11 the consumers should be the ones who  
12 democratically run these companies, and do so  
13 in a way that benefits the community rather  
14 than the few shareholders.

15           ALJ LAU: The next set of speakers are  
16 -- the first one is David Salkoff, Nancy  
17 Erickson, and Eugene Fuss. Please make your  
18 way down to the front row.

19           STATEMENT OF MR. SALKOFF

20           Hello, I'm David Salkoff. I'm a  
21 resident in Davis and a ratepayer, a recent  
22 graduate from Yale with a PhD in  
23 neuroscience. And I've been living in Davis  
24 for about nine months now.

25           And I've spent the past couple  
26 months catching up on all of this stuff  
27 that's gone on with PG&E, and all of the  
28 disasters that have happened in California,

1 all of the criminal, literally criminal,  
2 negligence, state violations of code, and  
3 kind of the talks and discussion about what's  
4 going to happen in the future.

5           And, first of all, I should  
6 probably state that it's lucky that I could  
7 be here today. I think that the rate  
8 increases are going to hurt mostly the people  
9 who aren't going to -- aren't able to attend  
10 this meeting because of work. Even, you  
11 know, at 6:00 people got to go home, make  
12 dinner, you know, be with their families. So  
13 the rate increases are going to hurt a lot of  
14 people. And there's going to be a lot of  
15 shutoffs, electricity shutoffs.

16           And I think that spending a few  
17 million in preventative maintenance and  
18 safety upgrades would have saved PG&E  
19 billions, literally. I mean, PG&E has spent  
20 money on multiple legislation campaigns.  
21 They donated hundreds of thousands to  
22 Governor Newsom. There was a measure in 2006  
23 for -- over in Davis and Woodland and West  
24 Sacramento. There was measure for SMUD to  
25 take over the infrastructure there. And PG&E  
26 spend bill -- sorry -- they spent millions in  
27 a campaign against that measure.

28           Davis was overwhelmingly in favor

1 of that measure. I think -- someone told me  
2 73 percent of people living in Davis were in  
3 favor of having a public utility. And, yet,  
4 even despite that enormous support, they  
5 couldn't keep up with the amount of spending  
6 that PG&E was doing on the campaign. And the  
7 measure was lost.

8 We've seen a lot of money go to  
9 shareholders. We've seen a lot of money go  
10 to executive bonuses. So, you know, PG&E  
11 claims that they will only use this money for  
12 safety upgrades. They should have been doing  
13 the safety upgrades all along. They have --  
14 in my mind, I think it's clear they have lost  
15 the right to any new rate hikes.

16 And I think this is an  
17 unsustainable system. We've seen it's going  
18 to be \$20 per a month, you know, increase  
19 within two years. My understanding is that  
20 only covers the fire liabilities for 2017 and  
21 -- for 2017 and not the fire liabilities for  
22 Paradise.

23 Is that true?

24 ALJ LAU: So, PG&E is not requesting  
25 any wildfire claims for Paradise in this  
26 proceeding.

27 MR. GORMAN: Okay. Well, we've seen  
28 the increase the -- they are trying to

1 increase the rate of return to become a more  
2 profitable company. We've seen this with  
3 this new bailout legislation AB10 -- I think  
4 it's 1056. We're going as to see increased  
5 rate hikes. This is only, you know, part of  
6 many rate hikes.

7           There is an expert from Berkeley  
8 that says rates will double within a couple  
9 years and then continue rising with the  
10 current rates of PG&E linked wildfires. So  
11 this is a totally unsustainable system.

12           And I want to call into question the  
13 function of the CPUC. Because it seems like  
14 they are at the mercy of PG&E. They are  
15 holding our electricity hostage. So they  
16 seem to be overly concerned with the  
17 financial stability of PG&E.

18           And my question to you is, while  
19 I've seen that almost everyone here has  
20 opposed rate hikes, and if they are not, they  
21 have been extremely critical of them. There  
22 was -- I read an article about the CPUC  
23 meeting in San Francisco where almost  
24 everyone -- most people opposed the rate  
25 hikes. So, hypothetically, if everyone  
26 opposes the rate hikes, what will you do?

27           ALJ LAU: So our roles as the ALJ, the  
28 judges in this proceeding, is to review the

1 evidence. And based on the evidence and the  
2 facts put forth by all the parties, including  
3 TURN, who is here today, and PG&E, we will  
4 set a proposed decision setting the  
5 reasonable amount of increases, or not, and  
6 reasonable amount of revenues that PG&E can  
7 collect.

8 ALJ LIRAG: Also, the main purpose of  
9 the public hearing is to hear from you. I  
10 understand that hearing from you means you  
11 might have some questions. But we're going  
12 to be here a couple minutes after the public  
13 hearing. And if you have pointed questions,  
14 you can ask us, you can ask representatives  
15 from Commissioner Guzman Aceves' office.  
16 There are two of them right there, Nike and  
17 Marina.

18 And there's also folks from the  
19 Public Advisors Office. They can tell you  
20 how to send comments directly to the  
21 Commissioners, comments to the Commission, or  
22 there's also helpful website links to link  
23 you to, like, CAB for consumer complaints.  
24 And there's also links to the Safety and  
25 Enforcement Division. So there's things like  
26 that.

27 But, for the most part, we're not  
28 going to be able to questions when you talk.

1 We'll listen to what you have to say. And  
2 you can leave the questions hanging and speak  
3 with us or -- and, also, Commissioner Guzman  
4 Aceves' advisors, and we'll try to answer  
5 your questions.

6 Thank you.

7 Oh, also, we're going to try not to  
8 express our own personal opinion on this one.  
9 We're going to give you factual answers. But  
10 if you ask for our opinions, we're going to  
11 politely decline. I hope you understand.

12 Thank you.

13 ALJ LIRAG: Okay. Judging by that  
14 response, it sounds like the CPUC is not able  
15 to just decline the rate hikes. And so,  
16 again, I think this is a completely  
17 unsustainable system where basically PG&E is  
18 allowed to increase the rates as much as they  
19 want. And I think that the core of the  
20 problem is that they are an investor-owned  
21 utility and a monopoly that can't be  
22 regulated because of regulatory control. And  
23 the utility should be made public.

24 That's all.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's right.

26 ALJ LAU: Thank you.

27 The next set of speakers we have --  
28 sorry -- Nancy Erickson.



1 STATEMENT OF MS. ERICKSON

2 Yeah. Hello, my name is Nancy  
3 Erickson. And I am a ratepayer, also. And I  
4 am a retired person on Social Security fixed  
5 income. Yes, \$20 matters, and maybe a little  
6 less to me. I'm a resident of Davis.

7 It might matter a little less to me  
8 than some of the other folks that I hang  
9 around with. For some of them, it will be a  
10 disaster. And it brings me to -- what is the  
11 definition of insanity? You do something,  
12 and the result is terrible. And then you do  
13 it over again. And this is the pattern, over  
14 and over. These improvements, or rather,  
15 these rate hikes are more money that is not  
16 used for the improvements.

17 I have deep concerns about power  
18 shutoffs for some of my friends and my  
19 family. Shutoffs in California already  
20 number in the hundreds of thousands. What  
21 will all the additional fees do to that  
22 number? How many people in California will  
23 no longer be able to afford utilities for  
24 God's sakes?

25 Investor-owned utility model is not  
26 sustainable. I'm agreeing with Doug (sic).  
27 PG&E and other IOUs have a fiduciary  
28 responsibility to maximize profit. That's

1 the nature of this. If not forced to spend  
2 the money that we give them on safety, they  
3 will continue to skimp on critical  
4 maintenance in favor of maximizing profit.  
5 That's how it works.

6 The for-profit utility model puts  
7 regulator focus on continued -- the continued  
8 financial health of the corporations,  
9 responsible for delivering energy to the  
10 people of California. Therefore, it becomes  
11 reasonable for regulators, like the CPUC, to  
12 equate customer harm with lack of profit and  
13 downgrading credit worthiness. Somehow,  
14 that's where customer harm comes from, not  
15 from having your entire community burned  
16 down. And rather than focusing on preventing  
17 the direct harm of increasing fees on  
18 customer bills, for the death and destruction  
19 that is the result of corporate malfeasance.  
20 We need public power.

21 Thank you.

22 ALJ LAU: Thank you.

23 STATEMENT OF MR. FUSS

24 Good afternoon. My name is Eugene  
25 Fuss. I'm a PG&E ratepayer and a past  
26 high-tech engineering manager and business  
27 risk analyst.

28 PG&E used business financial risk

1 decisions to minimize their power life safety  
2 and equipment maintenance budgets, thereby  
3 maximizing their shareholder profits and  
4 executive bonuses. It worked in their favor  
5 for many years. But in the last few years,  
6 the business decisions backfired on them. In  
7 2018, it backfired big time.

8 I'm amused that PG&E came up with  
9 their current plan so quickly, suggesting  
10 that they had considerable time beforehand to  
11 do the planning. You don't come up with this  
12 kind of a detailed plan in under six months.  
13 It was only through our efforts to force PG&E  
14 into bankruptcy that made PG&E get off the  
15 pot to implement long overdue power line  
16 safety enhancements and equipment  
17 improvements.

18 PG&E bond holders and shareholders  
19 should absorb the cost of these long overdue  
20 deferred improvements, not pass these costs  
21 on to the ratepayers. PG&E must pay for its  
22 past bad business decisions, minimizing line  
23 and equipment safety enhancements and  
24 improvements. The climate change fire risk  
25 has been elevated for years. This is not a  
26 recent change, it was gradual.

27 PG&E gambled with their business  
28 financial risk decisions. This time, they

1 lost the gamble. No increase to ratepayers  
2 to cover the long overdue needed safety  
3 enhancements and improvements.

4 Thank you.

5 ALJ LAU: Thank you.

6 The next set of speakers I have is  
7 Lynne Robustelli, followed by Ruth Davis, and  
8 Timothy Beam. And our last speaker for the  
9 day is Joe -- oh, no. So, yes, can you --  
10 all three of you please come to the first  
11 row.

12 STATEMENT OF MS. ROBUSTELLI

13 Hello thank you for this  
14 opportunity. Ms. Buettner stole my line  
15 about the best definition of insanity is to  
16 keep doing the same behavior expecting a  
17 different outcome. And I think it's about  
18 time that all the public servants of  
19 California step up to the plate and do their  
20 jobs instead of just trying to keep passing  
21 on the responsibility and the accountability  
22 and the cost to the California taxpayer and  
23 ratepayer. This is egregious that this keeps  
24 occurring.

25 A lot of us are talking about the  
26 fires in South San Francisco, Santa Rosa,  
27 Napa, the Camp Fire, the Foothill fires.  
28 Does anybody remember the Oakland Fire Storm

1 from 1991? This has been going on for three  
2 decades, at least, of the egregious failure  
3 of the Public Utility Commission to do its  
4 job and regulate and control and hold  
5 accountable PG&E. Now, if they can't do it,  
6 forgive me if I'm wrong, but we still live in  
7 the United States of America, which is ruled  
8 by the rule of law. So you both need to do  
9 your jobs.

10 When the Executive Branch of  
11 Government fails and the Legislative Branch  
12 of Government fails, which our California  
13 legislature has, by this ridiculous and  
14 insane idea of passing on the cost by the  
15 failure of PG&E and the CPUC to reform their  
16 operations to the California ratepayer again,  
17 this is ridiculous. So the judicial arm  
18 needs to do its job and hold them to the rule  
19 of law.

20 What has occurred with PG&E and the  
21 PUC is an egregious breach of trust.  
22 Executive bonuses should not be paid. This  
23 is a public utility, all right? No political  
24 donations. I think we were all horrified to  
25 hear that on the news and in the media.

26 We teach our children that with  
27 their behavior if it doesn't meet normal,  
28 acceptable standards, there will be

1 consequences and repercussions. Where are  
2 the consequences and repercussions for the  
3 egregious, criminal behavior that has been  
4 executed by the miscreants at the PUC and  
5 PG&E? They keep doing the same thing and  
6 never have to be held accountable for it, let  
7 alone reform their behavior and exercise some  
8 critical thinking and try to do something  
9 different. No, let's pass it on to the  
10 ratepayer.

11           Someone came up here and spoke  
12 about the fact that for that segment of  
13 society that is on very limited income, and I  
14 work a lot with them through the Medicare  
15 program, here in Stockton, specifically,  
16 speaking, half of the population is lower  
17 income. There are a lot of people here in  
18 this community that are surviving, believe it  
19 or not, on 970 dollars a month.

20           So when you talk about a \$20-per  
21 month increase, that is devastating. That  
22 means now they are out on the streets adding  
23 to our homeless problem.

24           Corporate greed, let's talk about  
25 that a little bit with regard to PG&E and  
26 their lapdogs, the PUC -- which is supposed  
27 to be doing regulatory control and holding  
28 them an accountable. Oversight, God forbid

1 we mention the word "oversight." Where is  
2 the oversight on PG&E?

3 That's supposed to be executed by  
4 PUC. They don't do it. They are political  
5 appointees. They need to be elected by the  
6 People of the State of California, not given  
7 lapdog positions by their political flunkies  
8 who they pay for their elections.

9 So here's my recommendations. PG&E  
10 needs to be audited, you know, and done so by  
11 outside auditors not by the PUC or their  
12 people that they are on their payroll.

13 Number two, fire the entire  
14 executive management team for its breach of  
15 trust and it's failure to live up the strict  
16 liability that they are held to as the public  
17 utility that manages an inherently dangerous  
18 facility, which is the electrical utility in  
19 this state.

20 And, number three, the California  
21 legislature should be conducting an extensive  
22 investigation to into PG&E, the PUC, and the  
23 extent of their malfeasance towards the  
24 California ratepayers by their failure to  
25 reform the operations of this company,  
26 instead of proposing bailout legislation.

27 Thank you.

28 (Crosstalk.)

1 STATEMENT OF MS. DAVIS

2 I'm Ruth Davis. And I've been a  
3 ratepayer for PG&E for over 50 years. I  
4 reside in Stockton. And I receive, at least  
5 once a year, a little flyer in my mail that  
6 PG&E is requesting CPUSC -- CPUC -- anyway  
7 they are requesting another increase in our  
8 rates. And it happens on a yearly basis.  
9 And I'm tired of it.

10 I am also a resident of the City of  
11 Stockton. And you may well know that the  
12 City of Stockton just came through  
13 bankruptcy. And they came out the other end  
14 solvent. They had to cut a lot of things to  
15 do that.

16 They cut our park system. They  
17 weren't trimming our trees. They cut retiree  
18 benefits. What is PG&E going to do to become  
19 solvent when they come out of their  
20 bankruptcy?

21 Are they cutting salaries for the  
22 people that get six figures and above? Will  
23 they cut retiree benefits? Will they cut the  
24 bonuses and the stock that their employees  
25 get? What are they going to do to come out  
26 of bankruptcy other than to put it on the  
27 backs of the ratepayer?

28 And I noticed on this little paper,



1 the handout we were given, it said one of the  
2 main reasons for needing to increase the  
3 revenue is liability insurance. To me, that  
4 is an insult. I have a home, I pay  
5 homeowners' insurance. Why should I as a  
6 ratepayer pay their insurance for them? It  
7 should be up to the PG&E to pay the liability  
8 insurance, not the ratepayers.

9 Thank you.

10 ALJ LAU: Next we have Timothy Beam.

11 STATEMENT OF MR. BEAM

12 Hello. Thank you for the  
13 opportunity to speak today. My name is Tim  
14 Beam.

15 I'm just moving back to California  
16 after a long time away. I've been in the DC  
17 area. And in the DC area, you find rates  
18 about half to a third of what they are in  
19 this area for electricity and gas rates.  
20 What I would like to talk about is what a lot  
21 of people have sort of hit on, but  
22 transparency and accountability.

23 Accountability, I want to know sort  
24 of where the dollars went -- the tree  
25 trimming was a known issue. And clearing the  
26 trees and branches away from power lines was  
27 a known issue. Was previous rate increases  
28 intended to cover that? And why wasn't it

1 done? So I question what previous rate  
2 increases were used for to increase our  
3 safety.

4           Also, the goals that are stated  
5 with the dollars requested -- \$2 billion  
6 requested. The goals stated are very vague.  
7 One of the things I read about in tree  
8 trimming was stepping up ongoing work to keep  
9 power lines clear of branches. That's not  
10 very specific. If they didn't trim clear any  
11 trees last year, is stepping up ongoing work  
12 trimming one three this year of the 120  
13 million that need to be trimmed? So I would  
14 like those goals to be more specific.

15           It seems like when they create  
16 their own plan to spend these dollars, that  
17 plan needs to be a little more outlined. You  
18 know, really specific measurable, attainable,  
19 relevant, time-stamped goals. We're going to  
20 trim this, maybe, trees by this time. And  
21 what is that going to do as far as improving  
22 the safety for -- of the residents?           ]

23           So being more specific -- and then with  
24 regard -- one of the things also that's  
25 mentioned is spending dollars on SmartMeter  
26 technology. There are stated goals to  
27 identify and respond more quickly to falling  
28 power lines. Are they also going to be

1 transparent and letting ratepayers know that  
2 this technology put on their homes will also  
3 allow them to basically day park or use  
4 time-of-use rates?

5           The same SmartMeter technology they  
6 are asking this rate increase for -- to pay  
7 for would also allow different things --  
8 different rates being charged at different  
9 times of day when there's more stress or  
10 pressure on the grid. Is that being told to  
11 residents? "Oh, no. We're giving you this  
12 new '19 SmartMeter so people don't have to  
13 come out and read the meters" when actually  
14 it gives them other functionality too, like  
15 different rate schemes that can be applied.  
16 So those kinds of things are really important  
17 to me.

18           And then, um, the -- on this sheet  
19 here, it mentions an average residential  
20 customer using 500 kilowatt hours. In the  
21 course of the business that I'm in, I see a  
22 lot of utility bills, and there's going to be  
23 very few customers that are an average  
24 rate of -- or an average usage of 500  
25 kilowatt hours right now. So these stated  
26 increases of \$10 a month, that's probably  
27 double. Because in the summertime, you're  
28 going to see 1,000 kilowatt and more for an

1 average customer, not 500. So these stated  
2 rate increases are being minimized. And then  
3 over several years you could double that too.  
4 So some people said \$20 over 3 years. Maybe  
5 that's \$40. Maybe it's \$50. What's real as  
6 far as that rate increase?

7 And then the other point I would  
8 like to make is rotating outages that are  
9 planned. That's pretty scary. My mom is in  
10 her 80s (speaker crying), and my grandmother,  
11 who is 101, lives with her. What am I going  
12 to do if their power is shut off? I'm sorry.  
13 That's it.

14 ALJ LAU: Thank you. And another group  
15 of speakers. Actually, this time I'm going  
16 to read four names. If you're called, please  
17 come forward to the first row. The first  
18 speaker we have is Mr. Joe (sic) Lovell  
19 followed by William Maxwell followed by  
20 Kimberly Warm sleeve. And the last speaker to  
21 have signed up is Bruce -- at this point --  
22 is Bruce Womack.

23 STATEMENT OF MS. LOVELL

24 Hello. It's Ms. Jo Lovell. I'm the  
25 internet developer for iPhone, Android and  
26 Chrome. I got robbed when I hit the stand  
27 electronically through Xfinity. We're going  
28 to move forward.

1           THE REPORTER: I'm sorry. Can you  
2 speak a little slower and start over again.  
3 Thank you.

4           MS. LOVELL: I come from San Diego Gas  
5 & Electric. I was the ambassador. And it's  
6 really difficult when a bill goes up a nickel  
7 sometimes. I've experienced that. But I did  
8 recognize also that there was some issues  
9 with the utility. But I did find out one  
10 thing on the bus. That on that bus there's a  
11 beautiful sign from the human service agency  
12 that even gives away stoves and  
13 refrigerators. So you have to take into  
14 consideration that there's a lot of things  
15 out there including the Catholic Charities  
16 and a lot of other programs.

17                   And I made a lot of money along the  
18 way, but there was a lot things that we did  
19 too. So we want to be fair. But when a bill  
20 goes up, it's really complex. But you have  
21 to think about the fact that there's millions  
22 of people. And once you bill this service,  
23 there are a lot people that are responsible.  
24 The reason why the lines don't change much  
25 and you see the same poles is because the  
26 poles don't come from the power company.  
27 They come from the telephone company. You  
28 have to think about the fact that when you

1 look at the power line the telephone is up  
2 above. So a lot of the responsibility also  
3 relies -- belongs to the telephone. Okay?  
4 So a lot things are there. We pay for a lot  
5 of railways. You have to understand that  
6 that's electricity too. Okay? That's how  
7 the telegrams and Western Union was created.

8           So right now we have this big issue  
9 with fiber optics because they want to keep  
10 things the same. And the reason why they do  
11 that is because space has gotten together  
12 with AT&T and decided to use our lighting  
13 instead of allowing us to change the power.  
14 So you have to remember now we are into a  
15 fiber stage in our life.

16           I was explaining I came through here  
17 with a computer system on my car with Xfinity  
18 and got robbed. That's why I look like this.  
19 So you must understand at this point we live  
20 in a world where people can communicate  
21 through lights. So they want money.

22           ALJ LAU: Mr. Lovell.

23           MS. LOVELL: So you have to think about  
24 that. So that's it.

25           ALJ LAU: Thank you.

26           MS. LOVELL: And it's Ms. Lovell. It's  
27 San Diego Gas & Electric, Sempra.

28           ALJ LAU: Mr. Maxwell.

1 MS. LOVELL: Somebody just want my  
2 money.

3 STATEMENT OF MR. MAXWELL

4 Good afternoon. I hadn't expected to  
5 speak today. My name is William Maxwell. I  
6 hadn't expected to speak today. But my son  
7 Samuel Maxwell asked me to, and I'm not going  
8 to be quite as emphatic as he would be if he  
9 were able to speak to you. He is a victim of  
10 the Ghost Ship Fire, and it is suspected that  
11 that fire was caused by an electrical fire  
12 possibly through the negligence of PG&E.

13 But that aside, the whole idea of a  
14 rate increase to the ratepayers by PG&E when  
15 the executives, the bondholders, the  
16 shareholders are guaranteed an income through  
17 a state-sanctioned monopoly is just  
18 ridiculous. And until the ratepayers -- or  
19 until the bondholders and the shareholders  
20 and the executives take a significant haircut  
21 in order to cover the maintenance costs and  
22 the upgrades for their -- to cover their  
23 dismal safety record, the ratepayers should  
24 not bear the burden of that at all.

25 Actually, the ratepayers should be  
26 demanding a decrease for -- in their rates  
27 because they are not getting the service that  
28 they are paying for or that they are supposed

1 to be provided. 1. billion dollars that  
2 you're talking about here total is almost  
3 chump change to a corporation the size of  
4 PG&E whose estimated value is upwards of 80  
5 billion dollars. So let the shareholders,  
6 the bondholders, the executives -- let them  
7 bear the burden, and don't put it on the  
8 ratepayers.

9 Thank you.

10 ALJ LAU: Kimberly Warmsleeve.

11 STATEMENT OF MS. WARMSLEEVE

12 Good afternoon. My name is Kimberly  
13 Warmsleeve. I'm a licensed clinical  
14 therapist, social worker and leader in the  
15 community. You know, when I was walking over  
16 here for probably the third time to speak  
17 before this Commission in regards to  
18 increases, I thought to myself, Why do we  
19 continue to have these conversations during  
20 the week when people work? And even if there  
21 is an evening conversation, people are tired,  
22 and we need to be transparent and not  
23 disenfranchise the voice.

24 I'm deeply saddened, disturbed,  
25 uncomfortable and alarmed in what I'm hearing  
26 and reading today. As an organizer, a mother  
27 and a leader, I am extremely upset about this  
28 continuum of conversations in regards to rate



1 increases, period. Time after time after  
2 time we are told about the need of increases  
3 for repair, prevention and intervention.

4 However, time after time after time we see  
5 the negligence and blatant disrespect and  
6 disregard for constituents of PG&E.

7           Now, here today, we're talking about  
8 another \$20. But mind you, as a social  
9 worker and a mother, \$20 is 20 items from the  
10 dollar store. \$20 is \$20 worth of gas. I  
11 live in a community where a family of 5  
12 sometimes gets anywhere as near as -- or less  
13 than -- I'm sorry -- \$27- to \$30,000 a year.  
14 So \$20 is a lot. That's \$240 a year. What  
15 about them? What about the voices who don't  
16 have the ability to come to this community  
17 meeting today to talk about how they are  
18 feeling? The disparities, the trauma, the  
19 hurt, the despair? What happens when that  
20 happens in a community? There's no trust  
21 anymore with PG&E. I'm done. And I'm sure  
22 that many others feel the same way. And as  
23 the Commission, I hope today that you will  
24 hold the truths of the people that spoke  
25 today about how we feel about how these rates  
26 will affect our lives not only as  
27 constituents but as mothers and families. I  
28 say enough is enough. And there needs to be

1 some accountability because clearly there  
2 isn't any.

3 Thank you.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

5 ALJ LAU: Bruce Womack.

6 STATEMENT OF MR. WOMACK

7 I'm not really prepared for this, but I  
8 am. Okay.

9 ALJ LAU: Can you use the microphone.  
10 Thank you.

11 MR. WOMACK: Yes. In hearing and  
12 listening to everything that they've been  
13 saying, their comments before, I was just  
14 about out of gas this morning -- this  
15 afternoon coming here. Okay? I pulled into  
16 the (unintelligible) station. Why? Because  
17 I don't want to run out of gas. There was a  
18 poor lady that came up to me, and she wanted  
19 gas in her car -- her vehicle. And guess  
20 what? I had \$11 on me in cash. I gave her  
21 \$10 because I asked her, "You're not doing  
22 well, are you?" And she goes, "No, I'm not."  
23 And I gave her \$10, and she was thoroughly  
24 grateful. Okay?

25 That's not why I'm here. Why I'm  
26 here is a very simple thing. Do you know how  
27 much the 6.59 dollars to every citizen in  
28 Stockton, every police department, every

1 District Attorney could help them out? Every  
2 fireman, who's (unintelligible) -- police  
3 officer? PG&E is a private company. PG&E is  
4 also owned by a mother company that you guys  
5 don't mention. Somebody owns them outright,  
6 and that's where their money goes to. Most  
7 people don't know that. I do because a long  
8 time ago I used to have stock, not anymore,  
9 in PG&E.

10 Okay. My wife and I -- her name is  
11 Judy. We are very fortunate that we have  
12 enough money that we can live. We have solar  
13 panels up on top of our roof thank you to a  
14 company called Sunnova, and they charge a  
15 fee -- a lease fee to us and our PG&E fee  
16 is down. But some of our neighbors and  
17 particularly one on the corner, who's a very  
18 charming, nice woman -- guess what? Their  
19 PG&E bill is \$600 a month, and they can't  
20 even afford to have their house -- have their  
21 lawn landscaped, and they are going out there  
22 and sweating their butts off in 90-degree  
23 weather.

24 Now, get this. There was a  
25 gentleman over here who was talking about a  
26 tree service. I cannot afford the liability  
27 myself. I own a professional tree service  
28 that's out -- that's -- my name is registered

1 with the ISA. That's International Society  
2 of Agriculture. I cannot afford the  
3 insurance myself to be in business. I am in  
4 the business by name only. And that's, by  
5 them, Bruce's Green Gardener. Okay?

6 I'm also a member of the California  
7 Landscapers Association. Guess what? They  
8 would love to come out here and help out this  
9 community, but there is no money. There  
10 is -- people can't afford it. There are a  
11 bunch of little homes out in this area. Why  
12 do I know? For one thing, I go down the  
13 street wondering where I can get business at  
14 so I can pay my bills. But for another thing  
15 is -- you know what? There are -- oh.  
16 Another thing I forgot to tell you. Now, I'm  
17 not tooting my own horn, but I gave back  
18 volunteer service. I'm retired from a  
19 company called Raleys (phonetic).

20 ALJ LAU: Mr. Womack, can you center  
21 your comments regarding this application.

22 MR. WOMACK: Okay. Getting around to  
23 it. Okay? All right. Poor PG&E. They've  
24 been in business, and they make trillions of  
25 dollars making money what they do. Not  
26 billions. Trillions over the years. So  
27 let's put it in a very simple way. If they  
28 took that extra \$20 a month and gave it to

1 all the police services, all the people  
2 taking care of the community in the State of  
3 California, to the people that either work  
4 for them in the department, guess what? This  
5 city would be better. The people would be  
6 better. That's a private company you're  
7 talking about. And you're not -- and also  
8 they have a mother company that's right on  
9 top of them that costs them money that you're  
10 not talking about. Guess what? I'm just a  
11 citizen here trying to be a nice guy, trying  
12 to talk. And you're telling me, "Keep it  
13 specific." Okay. There you go. I'm done  
14 talking.

15           Okay. To me, my easiest result on  
16 your side is should I hire a lawyer? Oh,  
17 yeah. I've got a bad lawyer. Oh, yeah. If  
18 you want me to do that, I can get on the  
19 phone as soon as I leave here. His name is  
20 Patrick Coleman in San Jose, California. He  
21 hears I'm in trouble? Oh, good luck. Have a  
22 good day.

23           Okay. I want to thank you. I want  
24 to thank all the other speakers that were  
25 involved today. I want to tell you I am very  
26 proud of the City of Stockton for what they  
27 do. I am very proud of the State of  
28 California for what they attempt to do, but

1 PG&E -- you're not even mentioning the mother  
2 company that takes all the money away from  
3 them. You are not even mentioning the fire  
4 that they had -- the Pallet Fire that all  
5 10,000 customers went out of business for  
6 hours. Because why? Because the power was  
7 gone and the fire. Every available -- a  
8 six-alarm fire in this area. They were out  
9 there trying to do their job.

10           Everybody is always stressed around  
11 this area including me. And you know why?  
12 Money. And these people are asking for more  
13 money, more money. It's a private company.  
14 They have a mother company that you guys are  
15 not even mentioning. So you know what? I do  
16 have to sit here and say one thing. I do  
17 severely appreciate you guys giving me the  
18 chance to talk.

19           And seriously, I don't know  
20 everybody in the city but -- oh, I forgot to  
21 tell you. I'm a master gardener too out of  
22 this area, and that builds up the community.  
23 Guess what? You know what? They never ask  
24 me for any money either. For help? Yeah.  
25 And you know what? Seriously. Before you  
26 even think about giving them money to help  
27 them out seriously think about the State of  
28 California. Think about the City of

1 Stockton. Think about all the poor people in  
2 this area.

3 And why was I mentioning Caltrans?  
4 Because I did a volunteer project for them  
5 five years in a bad end of town just for it  
6 could be prettier for them. Verifiable  
7 through Caltrans.

8 My name is Bruce Womack,  
9 W-O-M-A-C-K. Thank you very much for letting  
10 me talk.

11 ALJ LAU: Thank you, Mr. Womack.

12 So this concludes the speakers that  
13 we have already signed up. Are there -- is  
14 there anyone in the room who would like to  
15 speak but who didn't sign up?

16 (No response.)

17 ALJ LAU: Hearing none --

18 MS. ROBUSTELLI: Oh, wait. Can I just  
19 add one sentence I forgot? Thank you.

20 ALJ LAU: Please state your name on the  
21 microphone.

22 ALJ LIRAG: I think it's Lynn  
23 Robustelli.

24 MS. ROBUSTELLI: Yes. I forgot one  
25 thing to say. This is all about supposedly  
26 funding a wildfire mitigation program and  
27 liability insurance. Come on. What I --  
28 very simply, that's a normal budget line item

1 that should be addressed by their normal  
2 budget every year. They shouldn't be asking  
3 for an enhancement. That's a fundamental  
4 service they should be providing the PG&E  
5 ratepayers. So to ask for 2 billion dollars  
6 for things they should be addressing anyway  
7 makes absolutely no sense.

8 Thank you.

9 ALJ LAU: Thank you. So are there any  
10 more people who would like to speak?

11 (No response.)

12 ALJ LAU: Hearing none, we are going to  
13 conclude today's hearing. Before we  
14 conclude, Judge Lirag, do you have any  
15 comments?

16 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you to everyone for  
17 attending. We have another public hearing at  
18 6:00 p.m. Even though you've spoken today,  
19 you may think of some new things to say. So  
20 please -- you're welcome to attend the 6:00  
21 p.m. hearing. And if you have any things to  
22 say, we'd like to hear it as well.

23 ALJ LAU: If you have any further  
24 comments, you may email the Commission  
25 through the Public Advisor's Office. Their  
26 email is [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov). Again,  
27 it's [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov). Thank you  
28 for taking the time to come to speak and



1 sharing your comments with us. We are now  
2 adjourned.

3 Off the record.

4 (Off the record.)

5 ALJ LIRAG: Back on the record.

6 We just want to address a cleanup  
7 item for the transcript. We're going to  
8 strike the comments by Ms. Jo Lovell. We  
9 believe that this is not -- this does not --  
10 the comments do not have anything to do with  
11 the PG&E's application or about her  
12 experience as a PG&E customer. So we're  
13 striking the comments of Jo Lovell from the  
14 record.

15 Thank you.

16 Off the record. ]

17 (Whereupon, at the hour of 2:22  
18 p.m., a recess was taken until 6:00  
19 p.m.)

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1 EVENING SESSION - 6:00 P.M.

2  
3 \* \* \* \* \*

4 STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

5 JULY 17, 2019 - 6:00 P.M.

6 \* \* \* \* \*

7 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE LAU: So  
8 please come to order. On the record.

9 This is the time and place set for  
10 the Public Participation Hearing for the  
11 General Rate Case Application of Pacific Gas  
12 and Electric Company, PG&E, application --

13 MS. MANTEUFEL: Can you talk louder,  
14 please? Please, please.

15 Thank you.

16 ALJ LAU: Sorry -- Application  
17 A-18.12.009.

18 Good evening. My name is Elaine  
19 Lau. With me is Judge Rafael Lirag. We are  
20 the assigned Administrative Law Judges, or  
21 ALJs, in this case. The assigned  
22 Commissioner in this case is Liane Randolph.  
23 Unfortunately, she cannot make it today. But  
24 she will have a copy of the transcript of  
25 today's meeting, and we will coordinate with  
26 her throughout the meeting.

27 We have with us today is an Advisor  
28 from Commissioner Guzman Aceves' office. Her

1 name is Nike Adeyeye. Nike can you identify  
2 yourself?

3 So if you have any questions for  
4 Commissioner Guzman Aceves, please feel free  
5 to approach her after the meeting.

6 MS. PROVOST: Who -- what is she  
7 Commissioner of?

8 ALJ LAU: So I will go over the PUC.  
9 Give me a few minutes, and I will --

10 So before we start, I would like to  
11 have some safety announcements. So in the  
12 event of an emergency, we have a couple CHP  
13 officers in the back. And they will be  
14 coordinating our evacuation plans and  
15 emergency services.

16 So if we need to evacuate, we will  
17 follow the direction of the CHP officers.  
18 And I believe there are currently two exit  
19 points, one on my left and one out that way.  
20 And if there is an earthquake, just in case  
21 there's an earthquake, the standard protocol  
22 is to duck, cover, and hold on.

23 So I would like to ask, is there  
24 anyone in this room that is certified for  
25 CPR?

26 So there are several people also who  
27 are certified for CPR, and -- so, thank you.  
28 That's all for the safety announcements.

1           So allow me a couple minutes to give  
2 a brief overview of what the CPUC, California  
3 Public Utilities Commission, what we are and  
4 what we do. So the CPUC a State agency that  
5 regulates privately-owned utilities, like  
6 PG&E, that provide essential services like  
7 electricity and natural gas. There are five  
8 Commissioners at the CPUC, one of the five  
9 Commissioners is Commissioner Guzman Aceves,  
10 these five Commissioners will be the people  
11 who vote on whether to approve PG&E's request  
12 in this application or approve another  
13 amount.

14           Our role as assigned judges in this  
15 case is to review PG&E's application, and  
16 based on the evidence and testimony put  
17 forth, we will write a Proposed Decision for  
18 Commissioners to consider. The Commissioners  
19 can either vote to adopt our proposed  
20 decision or put forth an alternate decision.

21           So now, I will talk a little bit  
22 about what PG&E requested in the application.  
23 So in this application, PG&E requests  
24 authority to increase its revenues by \$1.058  
25 billion (sic) in 2020, \$454 million in 2021,  
26 and \$486 million in 2022. Every three years,  
27 PG&E files a General Rate Case application,  
28 like this one, to request funding for its gas

1 and electric operations. The impact of this  
2 application, if fully granted, would increase  
3 an average residential customer's monthly  
4 bill by 6.4 percent, or \$10.57.

5           According to PG&E, the major reasons  
6 for the requested increase are to fund PG&E's  
7 wildfire safety mitigations and PG&E's  
8 liability insurance. If you want more  
9 detailed information about the application,  
10 we have a facts sheet at the Public Advisors  
11 table.

12           Currently, there are many active  
13 parties in this proceeding; many of them  
14 include consumer groups, community-based  
15 organizations, city and county governments,  
16 unions, and large user groups. Many of these  
17 groups oppose what PG&E is requesting. Their  
18 participation in this proceeding may affect  
19 the amount that the Commission authorized for  
20 PG&E to collect.

21           So the purpose of today's meeting  
22 is, for us, we are here today listen to your  
23 comments. We want to the hear about how  
24 PG&E's application affect you, your family,  
25 and your community. Your comments will help  
26 the Commission gather information to  
27 determine whether PG&E's proposed revenues  
28 are reasonable. Judge Lirag and I have

1 received a lot of comments already from the  
2 public that have been set through the Public  
3 Advisors Office.

4           So at the back of the room, is our  
5 Public Advisors Office. If you have any  
6 questions regarding the Commission or our  
7 prophecies, please do not hesitate to find  
8 them after the meeting. And if you would  
9 like to speak today, please also proceed to  
10 sign up to speak at the Public Advisors  
11 Office table. At the outside, I believe PG&E  
12 has a table where some of their customer  
13 representatives are there to answer your  
14 specific questions regarding your bill.

15           So now, I'm going to go over some  
16 ground rules. We would like to hear from  
17 everyone that wishes to speak. As a courtesy  
18 to others, please refrain from calling out or  
19 interrupting any speaker. Please direct any  
20 comments to us, we would like to hear you  
21 speak, not to PG&E. Please keep your  
22 comments to within three to five minutes.

23           At this moment, I would like to  
24 remind people to please they check your cell  
25 phone that it's placed on silent.

26           So with us at the front of the room  
27 are our court reporters with us today. They  
28 are here to document your comments into the

1 record. That's why it's very important that  
2 when you speak, you speak slowly facing us so  
3 that the court reporters can fully capture  
4 your comments. Our court reporter will  
5 prepare a written transcript of the today's  
6 hearing capturing your comments, and that  
7 transcript will be available to all five  
8 Commissioners, as well as the public on our  
9 Commission's website. If you do have a  
10 written copy of your comments and do not mind  
11 sharing it with the court reporters, please  
12 feel free to do so after you speak.

13 So, at this time, we're going to  
14 have a couple presentations from PG&E and  
15 TURN. TURN is the Utility Reform Network.  
16 They are an active party in this proceeding.  
17 So if PG&E would like to make their  
18 presentation. And feel free to present to  
19 the public.

20 STATEMENT OF MR. MEIER

21 All right. Thank you. Welcome  
22 again. And thank you, everyone, for showing  
23 up tonight for this Public Participation  
24 Hearing for PG&E's 2020 General Rate Case  
25 proposal. My name is Dave Meier. I am the  
26 local customer service leader for this  
27 region.

28 And one of the important aspects of

1 my job is to represent the voice of our  
2 customers as we make operational decisions  
3 here locally. And the information and  
4 feedback we get, like we're going to get  
5 tonight, helps us make those decisions now  
6 and in the future.

7           So this is one of 17 hearings being  
8 held by the CPUC across our service  
9 territory. And as ALJ Lau said, we do have  
10 customer service representatives in the  
11 hallway, out this door to the right, who can  
12 help with billing questions or any other  
13 information you may need from PG&E.

14           The feedback we get in meetings  
15 such as this is crucial for us to hear. The  
16 application includes some important safety  
17 improvements to help the State address  
18 ongoing and growing wildfire concerns. In  
19 addition, it helps us to further protect the  
20 16 million people we serve.

21           So thank you to the Commission.  
22 Thank you, ALJ Lirag and ALJ Lau for allowing  
23 us to be here tonight and learn from our  
24 customers directly.

25           And with that, I would like to  
26 introduce Robert Kenney. He is our Vice  
27 President of State and Regulatory Affairs.  
28 And he has a few words he would like to say



1 as well.

2 STATEMENT OF MR. KENNEY

3 Thank you. Good afternoon -- good  
4 evening now. Thank you, Judge Lirag, and  
5 thank you, Judge Lau, for allowing us the  
6 opportunity to participate in this Public  
7 Participation Hearing. And thank you to all  
8 the members of the public who have taken time  
9 out of their busy evenings to come and  
10 participate in this process. We truly  
11 appreciate your participation and that you've  
12 taken time to be here today.

13 Again, my name is Robert Kenney.  
14 And I'm PG&E's Vice President of State and  
15 Regulatory Affairs. In that role, I am  
16 responsible for all of PG&E's interactions  
17 with our State and Federal regulators, as  
18 well as our State and local governmental  
19 entities as well.

20 Before joining PG&E, I had the  
21 privilege and the opportunity of serving on  
22 the Public Utilities Commission in Missouri.  
23 And I also had the privilege of participating  
24 in similar Public Participation Hearings in  
25 that role. Those hearings then and these  
26 hearings now provide a transparent and  
27 respectful way for us to interact and  
28 communicate with our customer.

1 I do truly value -- and I speak on  
2 behalf of PG&E when I say that we value and  
3 appreciate your participation in the process.  
4 And we are here to listen and learn. So we  
5 look forward to hearing what you have to say.

6 PG&E's most important  
7 responsibility is the safety of our customers  
8 and the communities that we serve. And one  
9 of the ways in which we achieve that goal is  
10 through our GRC proposal, which outlines our  
11 plans to upgrade technology and  
12 infrastructure to enhance our ability to  
13 provide reliable, safe, gas and electric  
14 service.

15 Our proposal is intended and is  
16 designed to help bolster wildfire prevention,  
17 risk monitoring, and emergency response. It  
18 will also add and enhance new safety  
19 measures. It will increase vegetation  
20 management. And it will harden our electric  
21 system to increase resiliency and to help  
22 further reduce the risk of wildfire.

23 Under the proposal, we are  
24 requesting a \$1.1-billion increase over our  
25 current revenues. More than half of the  
26 proposed increase would be directly related  
27 to wildfire prevention, risk reduction, and  
28 safety enhancements. If the CPUC approves

1 our request, it would increase a typical  
2 residential bill by approximately 6.4  
3 percent, which translates to approximately  
4 \$10.57 per a month. And that includes \$8.73  
5 for electric and \$1.84 for natural gas.

6 And I don't say that lightly. We  
7 do understand that any rate increase is  
8 difficult to bear. And we have ways in which  
9 we can work with our customers to ensure that  
10 we are helping to make -- help you understand  
11 where the money is going and also to help you  
12 understand other ways in which you can pay  
13 your bills.

14 So it's important that we share  
15 with you where the money is going. It's  
16 equally as important that we share with you  
17 where the money is not going and what we are  
18 not spending this money on.

19 So, while I mentioned the safety  
20 investments that we're making, it's important  
21 to understand that none of the money goes to  
22 executive compensation. So none of it goes  
23 to pay my salary or any other officer of PG&E  
24 Corporation or of the utility. The proposal  
25 also will not go to fund wildfire claims  
26 involved in our Chapter 11 bankruptcy  
27 process. It's important for you to  
28 understand that.

1           So we know that this GRC request  
2 comes at a difficult time. And, as always,  
3 our commitment is to keep bills as low as  
4 possible while making sure that we meet our  
5 responsibility to ensure the safety of our  
6 system. The funding proposal is the subject  
7 of the CPUC's thorough, open, and transparent  
8 process.

9           There are 17 of these Public  
10 Participation Hearings throughout our service  
11 territory. The PUC will also have  
12 evidentiary hearings at its offices in San  
13 Francisco. And those are open to the public  
14 as well. We look forward to your  
15 participation here and through the other  
16 means that the CPUC makes available to you.

17           Thank you, again, your Honors, for  
18 your time here today. And thank you all for  
19 being here this evening.

20           ALJ LAU: Thank you.

21           Will The Utility Reform Network come  
22 up. And please state your name and introduce  
23 yourself and explain what your organization  
24 does.

25           MS. PROVOST: Speak up. Speak up,  
26 again. We can't hear you.

27           MS. MANTEUFEL: Please, please.

28           STATEMENT OF MS. SLIDER PIERRE

1                   Good evening. My name is Constance  
2 Slider Pierre. I'm the Organizing Director  
3 for TURN, The Utility Reform Network. I  
4 would like to first take a moment to thank  
5 both Administrative Law Judge Lirag, as well  
6 as Lau, for the opportunity to speak today  
7 and to welcome members of the public.

8                   Thank you for taking the time to be  
9 here to come to today's public hearing. I  
10 hope you will take advantage of this  
11 opportunity to share your experiences and  
12 your concerns. The purpose of a Public  
13 Participation Hearing -- the Public  
14 Participation Hearing represents the  
15 California Public Utilities Commission at its  
16 best.

17                   In the hearing room, the Judge gets  
18 to hear from the Utility attorney's from  
19 consumer attorneys locked in battle arguing  
20 over numbers and technical issues. Today,  
21 however, the judges want to hear from you,  
22 consumers. They want to know how this  
23 increase would affect you, your family, and  
24 your community. Your voice makes a  
25 difference.

26                   Today you have the chance to share  
27 your opinion before decisions have been made.  
28 Because by the time you read about this in

1 the paper or you hear about it on the news,  
2 it will be too late to have an impact or  
3 engage in the public discourse. Today is the  
4 day you have the greatest impact.

5 PG&E's latest proposal will  
6 increase residential customers' basic annual  
7 bills annually from 2020 to 2022. If  
8 approved, this proposal would raise your  
9 monthly rate by \$20 per month by 2022. It  
10 would grow PG&E's revenue 23 percent from --  
11 by 2022 from 2019 rates and create a  
12 \$2-billion annual increase for PG&E by 2022,  
13 resulting in a \$4.6-billion total increase  
14 for PG&E above 2019 over the next three  
15 years.

16 Additionally, this proposal comes  
17 on top of other taxpayer increases currently  
18 being proposed by PG&E that would authorize a  
19 60-percent profit margin increase to  
20 shareholders while forcing ratepayers to pay  
21 billions for additional tree trimming and  
22 costs associated with wildfires caused by  
23 PG&E's negligence. To be clear, TURN opposes  
24 this rate hike.

25 Now, during your testimony today I  
26 encourage you to use your time to reflect on  
27 your experience as a PG&E customer. Tell the  
28 Commission how current energy costs affect

1 you, what tradeoffs you have been forced to  
2 make, what tradeoffs you will be forced to  
3 make, and what measures you will have to take  
4 to reduce costs and conserve energy. Share  
5 with the Commission what an additional \$20  
6 could mean for your budget and what tradeoffs  
7 you may be forced to make in the future if  
8 this proposal were approved.

9 Finally, if you haven't already  
10 signed up to speak, please consider doing so.  
11 I hope our statement has provided some  
12 context and inspired you to take the time.  
13 You've come all the way down here. Lift up  
14 your voice today and be heard.

15 Thank you.

16 ALJ LAU: Thank you.

17 MS. MANTEUFEL: You were wonderful.

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

25 So for this evening, our first  
26 speaker today is Debra Provost. And, also,  
27 I'm not very good at pronouncing names. So  
28 if I did mispronounce your name, please

1 excuse me for that. Following Debra Provost  
2 is Silvia Manteufel. And following her is  
3 Silvia Magallon.

4 MS. PROVOST: Do I use this?

5 ALJ LAU: Yes, please.

6 STATEMENT OF MS. PROVOST

7 As a person with MS, and one of the  
8 50,000 people with MS in the State of  
9 California, we cannot take the heat. I  
10 understand PG&E has said that they want to  
11 shut down parts of the grid if this doesn't  
12 go through. Or their going to do it  
13 automatically, I'm not sure. I'm getting it  
14 both ways. Whatever way.

15 I just want to let them know that  
16 they better -- they need to think about  
17 people like us, amongst other people that  
18 have breathing problems and such like that.  
19 There's other people that just can't stand  
20 the heat; elderly people and such like that.

21 That's also what I want to speak to  
22 too tonight. There's many of us that are on  
23 disability, permanent disabilities, are over  
24 age 65 or 70 that are no limited incomes. We  
25 can't afford -- our pockets are so stretched  
26 right now as it is. We get, if we're lucky,  
27 an increase to social security one percent  
28 and one and a half percent.



1           So giving PG&E a 6-percent,  
2 6.8-percent increase -- excuse me --  
3 10.2-percent increase, it's just not fair or  
4 just to expect us to pay, especially when the  
5 shareholders are going to get an increase.  
6 We're the little people. We just can't bear  
7 issues that they want to pass onto us. It's  
8 just not fair. And it's just not right.

9           It's -- we would have -- I know I'm  
10 speaking for about seven of my neighbors  
11 tonight because they couldn't come. They are  
12 elderly. They don't go out much. So they  
13 wanted me to say that they just can't afford  
14 it. They have to pick and choose what  
15 medicines they fill because Social Security  
16 and their pensions, if they have one, don't  
17 pay enough. And that's another issue.

18           But, besides that, you know, to  
19 have to pay extra on your utilities to cover  
20 a tragedy or to cover -- share -- to impress  
21 shareholders that they're still viable, it's  
22 no just not fair. So we hope you consider  
23 that. And that's all I have.

24           ALJ LAU: Thank you.

25           And next is Ms. Silvia Manteufel.

26           STATEMENT OF MS. MANTEUFEL

27           Thank you. It was wonderful.

28           My name is Silvia Manteufel --

1           ALJ LAU: Ms. Manteufel, can you speak  
2 into the microphone?

3           MS. MANTEUFEL: Can you hear me?  
4           (Crosstalk.)

5           MS. MANTEUFEL: I've lived in Stockton  
6 all my life. I was born here. I'm very  
7 ashamed of some of the stuff that we have to  
8 do.

9                     In my neighborhood, I got up at 2:00  
10 o'clock in the morning, 3:00 o'clock in the  
11 morning, and went from house to house that  
12 were graffitied all over, picking up garbage  
13 all over, because the garbage man will empty  
14 his stuff and leave whatever else is out  
15 there. So I go through the neighborhood, I'm  
16 in my 70s, I don't have much of a pension, I  
17 do have a home, which I'm very grateful to,  
18 but if I ask somebody a question, nobody  
19 wants to walk out in Stockton and be blessed.

20                     We just want to take care of what's  
21 ours. And it doesn't seem fair when we have  
22 to give and give and give. I don't even eat  
23 out. I don't take any medication. I'm going  
24 to start, but I don't take it yet, because of  
25 the bills that we have.

26                     A lot of the people -- I give them  
27 my leftover foods, we do whatever we can.  
28 But come on. If people made better choices

1 than we did, and they were able to get  
2 retirement and everything that they had --  
3 but a lot of people in their 64s (sic), my  
4 neighbors need rides to -- and I'm able to  
5 drive. I don't ever charge them.

6 I don't ever decide that they are  
7 human beings. I know that they are human  
8 beings. I know they are important. And I  
9 know that they are important. And I never,  
10 ever -- when I came in this room, do we have  
11 people in here that look at us like we're  
12 human. We are human beings.

13 They are talking on their phone,  
14 they are not supposed to. They are doing  
15 whatever they feel like. I had a  
16 conversation; I don't get anything in the  
17 mail. I check my mail every day because I  
18 never want to be late. The people that I  
19 deal with never want to be late. We have  
20 things that we have to do.

21 But when we, 6 point or whatever --  
22 I think one point is too much. There's so  
23 much that we have to understand. And I'm  
24 looking at other people, and I'm thankful  
25 that very few are here because we need the  
26 few people. Everybody thinks I'm crazy  
27 because I think these appointments are very  
28 important. But not to say, "Come over here,

1 we'll help you. Come over there, we'll help  
2 you." And then nothing gets done.

3           Nothing is getting done. We don't  
4 even get a mail from the PG&E saying, "Thank  
5 you so much," or coming to the house, walking  
6 our neighborhoods with people that are  
7 working for PG&E, but yet they are able to do  
8 their planning. They're able to no how much  
9 money they are having, and we're not.

10 Tomorrow we don't even know if we're going to  
11 have what we have. Things happen.

12           But come on, let's -- I could talk  
13 to people, and I'm always saying, "Thank  
14 you." I see the seniors and I thank those  
15 seniors for whatever. But they are so  
16 worried that we should not have to give them  
17 that problem. We should not have to come and  
18 just be afraid for our neighbors that they  
19 cannot afford it.

20           They cannot understand that what is  
21 being done, it's not real. It's not real.  
22 But it is real. And this is what people say,  
23 "I don't want to go. They are ripping us off  
24 anyway. Why?" And it's important that we do  
25 have a voice.

26           We have a voice. Our children have  
27 a voice. I come from grandchildren that did  
28 go to college. I barely -- I'm an

1 illiterate. I have finally got work that I  
2 was able to walk to the library and learn how  
3 to read. But people are ashamed for going  
4 where they're going.

5 And I'm more ashamed that the PG&E  
6 is asking us for this money. I'm so ashamed  
7 of so much that we have to pay and we have to  
8 pay. And we look at our phone bills. We  
9 look, and we understand.

10 And I think everybody, if they just  
11 looked at somebody to say "Thank you for  
12 being in Stockton. Thank you for coming over  
13 here," and meaning it without raising our  
14 rents. Without raising -- the rents alone in  
15 Stockton. People that I know are moving out.  
16 This is just not fair. When is it going to  
17 stop?

18 When are we going to understand we  
19 cannot keep on doing this? Enough is enough.  
20 We cannot keep on doing this. And I haven't  
21 been out to a restaurant -- I can't even  
22 remember. Because of all the illness is  
23 coming out and because of this and because of  
24 that. I will cook my meals at home.

25 I will give my food. I will invite  
26 my -- I'm still making tortillas because they  
27 are better for you than buying. And that's  
28 the type. But, please, PG&E, other people,

1 enough is enough. We have to stop.

2 And to whoever is understanding, we  
3 cannot just keep on giving and keep on giving  
4 and then we're stolen. You -- we just have  
5 no sense. We have -- I'm surprised I'm not  
6 giving up. But I'm in my 70s, and I have to.

7 And I thank you guys for being here.  
8 I thank you so much for those. But I don't  
9 think we're done. I have no idea how much  
10 longer we're going to be able to take this.

11 I know two people that killed  
12 themselves because they were just so  
13 embarrassed that they couldn't do it. And  
14 now I'm reading. Now I'm getting stronger.  
15 And I'm very happy I'm where I'm at. And my  
16 grandchildren and happy for me and my great  
17 grandchildren.

18 And they are not on welfare. They  
19 are working. They are trying their best.  
20 And I see people in here that are trying  
21 their best.

22 And thank you guys, also.

23 ALJ LAU: Thank you. And, Ms. --

24 MS. MANTEUFEL: Manteufel. A man ate  
25 too much and he's too full. ]

26 STATEMENT OF MS. MAGALLON

27 First of all, I'd like to ask.

28 President Picker was on the schedule. Why is

1 President Picker not here?

2 ALJ LAU: He couldn't make it today.

3 Yeah.

4 MS. MAGALLON: Okay. My name is Silvia  
5 Magallon. I'm a PG&E customer. I'm a member  
6 of the San Joaquin Valley Benefit Council, a  
7 membership delegate body of farm workers,  
8 seasonal and temporary workers and other  
9 low-pay workers. We do not earn enough from  
10 our labor for the current gas and electric  
11 rates. Our members' average income is \$1700  
12 per month. 48 percent of that goes to  
13 housing. When we canvass door-to-door in  
14 low-income neighborhoods here in Stockton,  
15 workers tell us the rent went up 50 percent  
16 this year. Still others have had the rent  
17 increase by \$300 and \$400 a month, yet our  
18 wages stay the same or go down. This year  
19 the cherry crop was damaged by rains and then  
20 a sudden heatwave. That meant less income  
21 for workers harvesting the cherries.

22 San Joaquin Valley farm workers feed  
23 the nation. We are a vital part of the  
24 state's 50 billion agricultural industry, but  
25 we only earn \$15,000 to \$17,000 a year. Any  
26 PG&E rate increase will hit us, the lowest  
27 paid workers, the hardest.

28 According to a 2017 study by the

1 NAACP, 24 percent of families below 150  
2 percent of the federal poverty line went  
3 without food, and 37 percent went without  
4 medical or dental care in order to pay for a  
5 utility bill.

6 Any increase guarantees that more of  
7 our members will have to choose between  
8 cooling their homes or buying medicine or  
9 buying groceries. PG&E profits in 2017 was  
10 1.6 billion, double, double --

11 ALJ LAU: Ms. Magallon, do you mind  
12 speaking slowly so our court reporters can  
13 capture your comments fully.

14 MS. MAGALLON: I'm sorry. PG&E's  
15 profit in 2017 was 1.6 billion, double their  
16 profits in 2013, and PG&E paid no federal  
17 income taxes from 2008 to 2015. Yet PG&E is  
18 seeking an increase of 1.1 billion.

19 PG&E often trumpets the availability  
20 of energy-assistance programs. Since the  
21 Federal Government cuts home energy  
22 assistance by a third from 2010 to 2015, only  
23 25 percent of eligible families receive help  
24 before the funds run out.

25 California Utility Corporations  
26 terminated electricity to 714,000 households  
27 in 2018. An increase in rates guarantees  
28 even more families will be shut off. The



1 United States adopted in 2015 as the agenda  
2 for all countries to prioritize and achieve  
3 cooperatively 17 goals to ensure that all  
4 human beings can fulfill their potential in  
5 dignity, in equally and in a healthy  
6 environment, to turn around environmental  
7 destruction and impoverishment. These 17  
8 goals are known as the 2030 agenda for  
9 sustainable development goals. Goal No. 7  
10 states: Ensure access to affordable,  
11 reliable, sustainable and modern energy for  
12 all.

13 We're calling you, your Commission,  
14 to comply with this agenda that the U.S. has  
15 adopted. The California Public Utilities  
16 Commission has its mission to protect  
17 consumers. Farm workers and other low-pay  
18 workers are consumers. Threatening a family  
19 where mother and father cobble together for  
20 jobs to survive with a PG&E shutoff notice is  
21 not protecting. Shutting off electricity for  
22 families -- for a family with low income is  
23 not protecting. Increasing PG&E rates while  
24 PG&E profits are soaring is not protecting.

25 Commissioners, I call you to deny  
26 this increase.

27 ALJ LIRAG: Let me assure you,  
28 Ms. Magallon, that even if President Picker

1 is not here -- in the first place, we try to  
2 give them the schedule so they are aware of  
3 the PPHs and when they are, but sometimes  
4 they just can't make it. But rest assured  
5 that the court reporters are taking down  
6 every word that is being said here, and we'll  
7 make sure that each Commissioner's office  
8 gets a copy of the transcript. And it's  
9 certain that, if not President Picker, then  
10 someone from his staff is definitely going to  
11 read your comments and everyone's comments.  
12 So I just wanted to assure you of that.

13 MS. MAGALLON: It just seems -- we took  
14 time to be here. This was scheduled. They  
15 knew, I'm assuming, it was scheduled. It  
16 just seems out of respect they should have  
17 been here.

18 ALJ LIRAG: Right. And we have someone  
19 from one of the Commissioner's offices here.  
20 But unfortunately, we don't fix their  
21 schedule. So we just let them know that the  
22 PPH is going to be scheduled a certain day,  
23 and then we stress the importance of being  
24 present or at least sending someone from  
25 their office to be present. But the fallback  
26 is we have the transcript, and they make sure  
27 to read every comment, not just the comments  
28 here but also comments that are sent to us

1 through the Public Advisor's website, which  
2 we'll give at the end of this session.

3           So for folks that -- if you have  
4 neighbors that are not able to attend, we'll  
5 give you a website. And hopefully they can  
6 type or someone can type for them. And we  
7 make sure to read each of those comments as  
8 well. So thank you.

9           ALJ LAU: So I only have on my list the  
10 last speaker of the day, which is -- it's  
11 going to be a challenge for me to  
12 pronounce -- Juventino Bastiva. And he will  
13 speak in Spanish, and we have a translator.

14           ALJ LIRAG: Let's go off the record for  
15 a while.

16                   (Off the record.)

17           ALJ LIRAG: Let's go back on the  
18 record.

19           We just wanted to make sure that the  
20 reporters are going to be able to take down  
21 what you're saying. Thank you.

22           ALJ LAU: And if the translator can  
23 also use the microphone when you translate.  
24 Thank you.

25                   STATEMENT OF MR. BASTIVA

26           Good afternoon. My name is Juventino  
27 Bastiva. I am here speaking on behalf of the  
28 San Joaquin Valley Workers Benefit Council.

1 And I'm just here to say some of my own words  
2 through inspiration and also my coworkers in  
3 the fields. And this is concerning the  
4 benefit that I'm -- in my point of view, is  
5 not for the benefit of the worker but the  
6 benefit of PG&E -- the benefit of PG&E.

7 I'm asking here, PG&E wants to have  
8 security for the fires, the insurances, but  
9 who is going to have security for us, the  
10 hunger that we may and are passing through?  
11 And the increase -- and I'm noting it's about  
12 10 percent, and then we retirees and other  
13 people only have an increase of 1.5 percent.  
14 And, really, do you think that this is fair?

15 And I'm speaking this of experience.  
16 My wife, she is disabled. I am retired. And  
17 do you think that it would be fair for me to  
18 go through this taking care of a person that  
19 is disabled? And these are my feelings and  
20 also the feelings of my comrades.

21 And thank you very much for  
22 listening to me.

23 ALJ LAU: Thank you. So that concludes  
24 the people who signed up to speak. Is there  
25 anyone else in the room who would like to  
26 speak?

27 (No response.)

28 ALJ LAU: If you do, please come

1 forward. And when you take the microphone,  
2 please state your name, spelling your last  
3 name so that our court reporter can capture  
4 your name.

5 Is there anyone who would like to  
6 speak.

7 STATEMENT OF MS. BUETTNER

8 Yeah, I'm coming. Okay. So my name is  
9 Diana Buettner, and I have been here before.

10 ALJ LIRAG: Could you spell your last  
11 name for the court reporter.

12 MS. BUETTNER: Sure. It's  
13 B-U-E-T-T-N-E-R. I spoke to you earlier  
14 about some of the issues that I touched on  
15 with my friends here. I'm also disabled.  
16 And though it looks like it's just a mobility  
17 issue, I'm a kidney transplant patient, and  
18 without sufficient air-conditioning, I risk  
19 dehydration, which could destroy my kidney.

20 Now, there are a lot people in this  
21 city and in the county, I'm sure, that have  
22 had transplants. Some people are on  
23 dialysis. These rolling blackouts that PG&E  
24 is putting out, that they are saying that  
25 they may do could be absolutely devastating  
26 to people. The -- our ability to get  
27 services as dialysis patients is imperative.  
28 You know, I've chosen not to do it again,

1 should my time come up, but the deal is -- is  
2 that there are some very important health  
3 risks that face the people of this city and  
4 community. That is if their bills go up and  
5 they can't afford to pay their electric  
6 bills, it's not good. They could be put in  
7 some dire traits.

8 And those choices are not just  
9 medications. I have medications that cost  
10 \$300 a month. That's just my share. It's  
11 amazing what people have to go through in  
12 this country being the supposed great place  
13 that we live in.

14 You know, I watch this, and it's  
15 like a really bad replay of history. And I  
16 don't understand how we let it get like this.  
17 Part of it was apathy. But the biggest issue  
18 I see is greed, and it's PG&E. And we need  
19 the CPUC to back us up and help the people.

20 ALJ LAU: Thank you.

21 Is there anyone else who would like  
22 to speak?

23 (No response.)

24 ALJ LIRAG: Yeah. The people in the  
25 second row. Since you're all here, you might  
26 as well speak. The gentleman in blue?  
27 You're good? All right.

28 ALJ LAU: If there are no speakers

1 today, then we will conclude the meeting.  
2 Thank you so much for taking the time to come  
3 to today's hearing and sharing your comments  
4 with us. If you have any further comments  
5 that you would like to share with us, please  
6 email the Public Advisor's Office. I believe  
7 it's on the agenda, but it's also  
8 public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov. Again, it's  
9 public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov. And we will have  
10 another public participation meeting in Chico  
11 tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. So we are now  
12 adjourned.

13 Off the record.

14 (Whereupon, at the hour of 6:43  
15 p.m., this matter having been continued  
16 to 1:00 p.m., on July 18, 2019 at  
Chico, California, the Commission then  
adjourned.)

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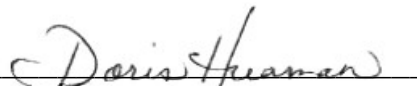
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