BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

OF THE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FILED
08/05/19
04:59 PM

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

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| Application of Pacific Gas and | ) | |
| Electric Company for Authority, | ) | |
| Among Other Things, to Increase | ) | Application |
| Rates and Charges for Electric and | ) | 18-12-009 |
| Gas Service Effective on January 1, | ) | |
| 2020. (U39M) | ) | |
| | ) | |

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT
Oakland, California
July 24, 2019
Pages 348 - 435
Volume - 4A

Reported by: Carol A. Mendez, CSR No. 4330
Jason Stacey, CSR No. 14092

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OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

JULY 24, 2019 - 1:03 P.M.

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ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE LAU: On the record.

This is the time and the place set for the Public Participation Hearing for the General Rate Case Application of Pacific Gas & Electric Company, PG&E. Application 18-12-009.

Good afternoon. My name is Elaine Lau and with me is Judge Rafael Lirag. We are the assigned administrative law judges to this proceeding. The assigned commissioner is Commissioner Randolph. Unfortunately, she will not be here. She is not able to make it. But we have her advisor, Anand Durvasula, who's joining us. And so if afterwards if you have questions for Commissioner Randolph, you can find Mr. Durvasula.

Before we start, let me go over a quick safety announcement. So in the event of an emergency, we have our CHP officers. And if we do need to evacuate, we will follow his instructions. And, yeah -- and follow him if we need to evacuate. And if there is an earthquake, the standard protocol as a

reminder is to duck, cover, and hold on.

And is there anyone in the room who is certified to CPR -- willing to perform CPR if necessary?

(Hands raised in the affirmative.)

ALJ LAU: So we have a few volunteers if that is needed. And that is it.

Thank you.

So before we start, I'd like to go over what the CPUC, California Public Utilities Commission, is and what we do. So the CPUC is the state agency that regulates privately-owned utilities, like PG&E, that provide essential services like electricity and natural gas.

There are five Commissioners at the CPUC. These five Commissioners will be the people who vote and decide to approve PG&E's request for some other dollar amount for this application.

Our roles as assigned ALJs, administrative law judges, in this case is to review PG&E's application. And based on the evidence and the testimony presented, we will write a Proposed Decision for the Commissioners to consider.

So the Commissioners will vote to either adopt our Proposed Decision, or put

forth their own alternate Proposed Decision.

Next we have Nathan Poon, who is a proceeding analyst at the CPUC, and he will give you a short review of what PG&E requested in the application.

STATEMENT OF MR. POON

Good afternoon. I'm Nathan Poon, a proceedings analyst in the Administrative Law Judge Division of the California Public Utilities Commission, I'll be providing a brief overview of PG&E's application.

Every three years, PG&E files a General Rate Case Application or "GRC," to request funding for its gas and electric operations. The Commission gathers evidence and information to determine whether PG&E's proposed revenue requirements are just and reasonable.

As part of the process, the Commission conducts public hearings like today to hear from directly-affected customers. Formal evidentiary hearings are then held with witnesses from the parties to submit evidence and are subject to cross-examination.

Currently, there are active -- many active parties in this proceeding including several consumer groups, community-based

organizations, city and county governments, unions, and large user groups.

Many of these groups oppose what PG&E is requesting. Their participation can affect the amount of money the Commission would authorize PG&E to claim. At the conclusion, the Commission issues a decision that determines appropriate rates PG&E can charge.

In this application, PG&E is requesting rates for years 2020, 2021, and 2022. Specifically, PG&E is requesting to increase its revenues by $1.058 billion in 2020, an increase of 5.8 percent over a total of 2019 revenues.

Additionally PG&E is requesting an increase of $454 million, or 2.4 percent for 2021. And an increase of $486 million, or 2.5 percent for 2022.

PG&E states that the main reasons for the requested increases are to fund core operations, liability insurance, and wildfire prevention. Namely its Community Wildfire Safety Program.

If the full requested amount is granted by the Commission, an average residential customer, one who uses 500 kilowatt hours of electricity and 34 therms

of gas, would see their gas and electricity bill increase by 7 to 8 percent, or approximately $10.50 a month.

An average low-income alternate rate or CARE customer would see an increase of about $7.00 a month.

A more detailed summary of PG&E's application is available in a handout that can be found out in the lobby that was prepared by the Commission's Energy Division.

Thank you for your attention. And I'll turn it back over to Judge Lau.

ALJ LAU: So the purpose of today's hearing is for us to listen to your comments. We're here to listen to what you have to say. Please share with us how PG&E's application affects you, your families, and your communities.

Your comments will help the Commission gather information to determine whether PG&E's proposed increase is reasonable. Judge Lau and I have -- Judge Lirag and I have received comments from the public already due to the Public Advisor's Office. So the Public Advisor's Office is -- we have a table outside the room. They are hear to answer any questions you may have regarding condition or our processes.

There's also a fact sheet of PG&E's application at the Public Advisor's table.

Also outside is a table manned by PG&E. I believe they have a few customer service representatives from PG&E out there to help you answer any questions you may have regarding the gas and electric bill.

So first now I'd like go over some ground rules. So as reminder if you'd like to speak today, please go to the Public Advisor's table and sign up. We'd like to hear from everyone that wishes to speak.

As a courtesy to others, please refrain from calling out or interrupting any speaker. Please direct comments to us. We'd like to hear from you and not to PG&E.

At this moment, I'd like to remind everyone to make sure that their cell phones are put on silent.

ALJ LIRAG: Let me just add, if you're already here inside of the room but haven't signed up, there's no need to get up and sign up. We'll call you. We'll ask if there's other folks that are not on the list that we receive that want to talk. And so you can just remain in your seat. Thank you.

Judge Lau.

ALJ LAU: So today we have our court

reporters here with us. They will provide a written transcript for today's hearing. They're going to document your comments and that transcript will be available to all Commissioners as well as the public on our website.

So at this time, we do have a presentation from PG&E. And following there will be a presentation from The Utility Reform Network, which is an active party in this proceeding.

STATEMENT OF MR. TYURIN

Hello. Can you guys hear me?

Welcome and thank you, everyone, for attending this today public participation hearing from PG&E's 2020 General Rate Case proposal.

My name is Vitaly Tyurin, and I've been a PG&E employee for 14 years. As a local customer service manager in the East Bay Division, I'm responsible for meeting a cross functional division leadership team of local leaders from across all the major lines of business throughout a local collaboration in internal PG&E teams with a focus on achieving a resolution for local customer issues.

This is 1 of 17 hearings being

hosted by the CPUC throughout our 70,000 square-mile service area. At each location, representatives from PG&E will be available to assist customers with their questions. We have representatives here today who can help track down information you need related to this proceeding sitting right outside the auditorium.

Our customers' feedback in this process is crucial for us because -- to hear because the application outlines a series of critical safety investments to help address the State's growing wildfire threat and further protect the 16 million people we serve.

Thank you to the Commission and ALJs Lirag and to ALJ Lau for this opportunity to learn from our customers.

Now I'd like to introduce Robert Kenney, the vice president of regulatory and external affairs.

STATEMENT OF MR. KENNEY

Thank you very much. Good afternoon, everybody. Thank you all for being here today. And thank you very much, Judge Lirag and Judge Lau for giving us the opportunity to speak and to contribute to and learn from these public participation

hearings on our GRC proposal.

Again, my name is Robert Kenney. I'm PG&E's Vice President of State and Regulatory Affairs. My job in that role is to oversee and direct PG&E's interactions with our regulatory agencies as well as state and local government entities.

Before I joined PG&E, I had the privilege and honor of serving on -- excuse me -- Missouri Public Utilities Commission. And I had the honor and privilege in that role participating in public participation hearings much like these. So I do know and value and appreciate the role that these public participation hearings play in the overall process.

These hearings provide a transparent and respectful way for us to interact and communicate with our customers. I truly value and appreciate your participation in the process and very much look forward to hearing what you have to say today.

PG&E's most important responsibility is the safety of our customers and the communities that we serve. One of the most important ways that we go about achieving that goal is through our GRC

proposal, which outlines our plans for upgrading technology and infrastructure to enhance our ability to provide safe and reliable gas and electric service. Our proposal will help bolster our wildfire prevention efforts, our risk monitoring, and our emergency response efforts. It will also add new and enhanced safety measures and it will increase our vegetation management. And it will harden our electric systems to increase resiliency and to help further reduce the risk of wildfires and other natural disasters.

Under the proposal, we're requesting a approximately $1.1 billion increase. More than half of that proposed increase will be directly related to wildfire prevention, risk reduction, and other safety measures and enhancements.

If approved by the CPUC, it would increase a typical residential customer's bill by approximately 6.4 percent, or $10.57 per month. ]

That includes approximately $8.73 per month for electricity and approximately $1.84 a month for gas service.

So it's very important that we share with you where your money is going. It

is equally as important that we share with you where your money is not going.

So while the GRC proposal does help fund a series of important safety investments, it does not request funding for the PG&E corporation or the utility's executive compensation. In other words, it does not go toward my pay or the pay of any of my colleagues.

The proposal will also not go towards funding for potential wildfire claims involved in our Chapter 11 Bankruptcy proceeding.

We know that the GRC request is significant and it comes at a difficult time. And we appreciate and recognize the fact that there is never a good time for a rate increase.

As always, our commitment is to keep customer costs as low as possible while meeting our responsibilities to safely serve our customers even as our climate change -- even as changing climate presents significant new challenges and risks.

This funding proposal is subject to the CPUC's thorough, open transparent approval process. This public participation hearing is one component of that open,

transparent process. We encourage and, in fact, welcome your participation and look forward to listening to your feedback as you participate in the important public process.

Again, Your Honors and the CPUC, thank you very much for allowing us the opportunities to speak. And thank you all for taking time out of your day to come and participate in the process.

Thank you.

ALJ LAU: Next we have a representative from The Utility Reform Network, for TURN. They are an active party in this proceeding.

Can you please also just introduce yourself and tell us what your organization is?

MS. PIERRE: Good morning. Good afternoon. My name is Constance Slider Pierre. I'm the organizing Director for The Utility Reform Network or TURN.

I would like to first just take a moment to thank both Administrative Law Judges Lirag and Lau for the opportunity to speak today and say a few words, particularly to the members of the public. Thank you all for being here today and for coming to today's public participation hearing. I hope you all will take advantage of the

opportunity to share your experiences and your concerns.

We at TURN know that safety is very important and we are all concerned about it. However, we also want to make sure that every single dollar earmarked for safety improvements is spent on just that and nothing else.

Public participation hearings represent the California Public Utilities Commission at its very best. In the hearing rooms, judges get to hear from utility attorneys and consumer attorneys locked in battle arguing over numbers and technical issues.

Today, however, the judges want to hear from you, consumers, about how proposed changes and rate increases affect you, your family and your community. Your voice really does make a difference. And today you have the chance to share your opinion before decisions have been made. Because by the time you hear about a new policy on TV or read about it in the newspaper, it's too late to engage in the public discourse to affect change and have the greatest impact.

Key issues of concern regarding PG&E's latest proposal: PG&E's latest

proposal will increase residential customer bills annually from 2020 to 2022. If approved, this proposal would raise your bill -- monthly bill by $20 by 2022; grow PG&E's revenue 23 percent by 2022 from 2019, create a $2 billion annual increase for PG&E by 2022, resulting in a $4.6 billion total increase for PG&E above 2019 over the next three years.

Additionally, this proposal comes on top of other rate increases currently being proposed by PG&E that would authorize a 60 percent profit margin increase to shareholders, while forcing ratepayers to pay billions for additional tree trimming and costs associated with wildfires caused by PG&E's negligence.

To be clear, TURN opposes these exorbitant rate hikes. During your testimony today, I encourage you to use your time to reflect on your experience as a PG&E customer. Tell the Commission how current energy costs affect you, what trade-offs you have been forced to make, what measures you will have to take to reduce costs and energy in the future. Share with the Commission what an additional $20 increase could mean for your budget and what trade-offs you may

be forced to make in the future if the proposal were approved.

Finally, if you haven't already signed up to speak, please consider doing so. I hope our statement has provided you some context and inspiration so that you can lift your voice and be heard today.

Thank you.

ALJ LAU: Thank you, TURN.

So, I would also like to introduce in the room today an advisor from Commissioner Guzman Aceves' Office, Maria Sotero. So if you have questions for Commissioner Guzman Aceves, please feel free to find her afterwards.

So we have over 20 speakers that signed up to speak today. Because of the amount of speakers, we will have to limit your comments to three to five minutes. We do -- so at around the four-minute mark, we would have to let you know that "Please, wrap up within the next minute or so."

So we are about to begin and we are ready to invite speakers ready to come up to speak. I'm going to read off three names at a time in the order that they will speak. So if you hear your name being called, please be ready to, you know, go so that we can move

forward quickly.

So the first three speakers in the order that they will speak are Marissa Shaw, Marilyn Golden and Beth Weinberger.

Ms. Shaw, can you make your way up the podium?

MS. SHAW: No. I'm disabled.

ALJ LAU: Oh, yeah, and another announcement: If you need to -- if you're on a wheelchair, please proceed on the left side.

ALJ LIRAG: Or wherever is more comfortable.

STATEMENT OF MS. SHAW

Thank you. My name is Marissa Shaw and I would like to say what PG&E needs is not $20 extra a month. What they need is oversight.

They have already had fiscal -- they have already shown us in the state that their fiscally irresponsible with the money they currently have. Why do we believe they won't be with this extra proposed rate hike?

Second of all, I need to say as a person with a disability that even though the CARE Program and the Baseline Program for people with disabilities exist, they need to be -- we need to get more support, people

with disabilities. It's already really difficult as a person with a disability to pay the rates that people with disabilities have had this high power and high gas recipients. It's based upon our disability.

So I suggest that you look at the CARE Program and the Medical Baseline Program and consider increasing the coverage for those programs. Because basically we are paying for PG&E's past mistakes. Even though they're not saying, that is what we are really doing.

And, thirdly, I want to bring attention to the fact that these planned rollouts in the communities, PG&E has not met with people with disabilities, community groups throughout the state. And we're the most -- we're probably going to be the most affected when it comes to these planned rollouts. If PG&E is not willing to sit down with people with disabilities and find out what we need, then why are we going to be held responsible when CARE and the Medical Baseline Programs are insignificant to our needs?

Thirdly, I just want to make one other comment. Currently my situation where I live in Richmond, my landlord pays --

excuse me, pays for my PG&E, as it is included in my rent. So I even question whether or not I will get a notice because my landlord will get that notice in regards to a planned rollout. And what am I supposed to do? Sit at home and be homebound waiting for PG&E to actually turn back on my gas and electric?

I have friends on respirators who can't have their power turned off and we need to have -- PG&E needs to meet with communities -- people with disabilities throughout the state. Otherwise, why are we being held responsible for a potential rate hike when they're not even listening to our needs? They're not even willing to meet with our community.

Thank you.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: That's right. You told them.

ALJ LAU: Thank you, Ms. Shaw.

Marilyn Golden.

STATEMENT OF MS. GOLDEN

Thank you. Hi. I'm Marilyn Golden. I'm with the Disability, Rights Education and Defense Funds, or D-R-E-D-F, DREDF, which is a national law and policy center on disability rights based here in the

East Bay.

The concern we have about the rate hikes relates very closely to the recent announcement from PG&E and other utilities about the fact that there are going to be utility shutdowns, de-energization, so to speak, to ensure safety from wildfires.

While we, of course, support that program, we are extremely concerned about its impacts on disabled people in California.

The utilities have talked a lot about notification. They will let us know when there is going to be a shutdown. Whether or not that can be made to work, which is a big "if," notification is absolutely not enough.

In that regard, I want to quote from or reference the recent letter -- well, actually several months ago a letter from the County of Alameda to actually PG&E and it really applies to all the utilities.

Its concern about the community wildlife -- excuse me, wildfire safety programs unintended -- possible unintended consequences for medically-vulnerable

residents and those who may need special consideration in planning for emergency preparedness.

They make the very important point that utility shutoffs generally disproportionately impact a number of constituencies, one of them being people with physical disabilities or who have serious medical conditions.

The loss of service represents not just an inconvenience but a potential risk to our lives.

So, the utilities really need to adapt this program to take into account our special needs; not people on Medical Baseline, but anybody with life-support needs.

And there are, you know, what does this really mean? I mean the one thing I want to point out, and I think it's very abstract to people. So what are these risks people with disability experience?

We really need reliable and electric -- electricity infrastructure because, one, a lot of us use power wheelchairs, a lot of us depend on elevators. A lot of us particularly, you know, where

wildfires are at most risk, it's going to be the hottest times. People unable to get out of their building.

We need to rely on medical equipment including ventilators, dialysis, oxygen air filters. Some people with disabilities need power 24/7 just to breathe.

And I note that Marge is going to talk about similar things and I thank her for helping coordinate all of this. You will hear from her soon.

So those are some of the problems. It may seem unresolvable, but I think there are examples that California can follow.

I want to look specifically, for example, what Green Mountain Power does in Vermont. That is a utility that has been building a sustainable -- they're a sustainable electrical utility. And they depend on a Tesla power wall program which is a robust battery that energizes people's houses. It can be integrated with solar systems, but it can also be an independent backup for people that don't have solar.

And there's several programs. They have a program where people can pay it partly, like I think it's 10 or $15 a month until they have paid for the item and then

they have also a grant program for people that really can't even pay a minimal amount per month. And it really shows that very real mitigations are possible for a utility to undertake to go well-beyond notification.

The CPUC really needs to be requiring our utilities to provide these things, particularly if we are going to be called upon to support them. But this rate increase with rate increases that are separate which are tied to the wildfire shutoff program, et cetera, et cetera, so before we entertain supporting rate increases or even if there aren't any rate increases, we really have to call upon the CPUC to ensure that utilities don't take lightly our living dependencies on utilities.

Thank you. ]

ALJ LAU: Next we have Beth Weinberger.

STATEMENT OF MS. WEINBERGER

I'm over here. My name is Beth Weinberger.

I've lived in Oakland for more than 35 years and have been a ratepayer to PG&E for even longer than that. I notice that the main reasons they have given for this requested rate increase -- the first two given are increases in cost to safety program

and increases in liability insurance due to the increased risk of a wildfire.

Well, evidence -- you have said that we need evidence. There is many years' worth of evidence that PG&E has used increases supposedly for safety programs and for other purposes rather than for the safety programs they intended them for or said they would. And we have seen no evidence that they have been held accountable or required to pay any of that money back into safety programs. And yet here they are asking for more of the same thing without giving any evidence that they will be more accountable this time than they have been in the past.

The increase in liability insurance costs for the increased risk of wildfire is at least partly due to their failures of maintenance and safety programs in the past. I see no reason why ratepayers should have to pay for PG&E's misdeeds that have been clearly shown in the past. At least not until the CPUC finds a way to make them accountable for actually spending the money the way it is intended.

You also asked for information from us about personal impacts. So I will briefly address that. Utilities have programs for

low rates for low-income people. But what they don't provide for in any way is for people like myself who are not low income but who are retired and on fixed incomes. So that while I'm not low income at this point, I'm being nickelled and dimed into that state by increases that do not -- do not match or account for the fact that my income is relatively fixed.

I would like to see some attempt to address that in between group that is not yet low income but is being battered into that by increases that do not address that issue.

Thank you.

ALJ LAU: Thank you. The next three speakers are Marg Haul and Reverend Michael Jones Jr. -- or Senior, sorry. Rochelle Johnson.

STATEMENT OF MS. HAUL

Yes. My name is Marg. I'm a grassroots and disability rights activist. First we hear from PG&E that our power will be shut off during fire season, but they can't tell us for how long or over what geographical areas.

They say, "We'll provide you with notification." But then you're on your own. They say, "Plan accordingly."

These announcements reflect a callus disregard for the complicated and fragile lives of all the disabled people. Now PG&E wants to raise our rates. Many people with disabilities are very low income. SSI is $932 a month. Let that sink in. $932 a month. This kind of budget can't absorb a rate increase.

Back to preparedness. Of course we should be prepared. But pretending that individual solutions are enough is frankly offensive. It feels like officials are blaming the victim. The fact is most preparedness is out of our control.

We need systemic solutions. We need a reliable electrical grid to power wheelchairs, elevators, and medical equipment. Our lives depend upon ventilators, dialysis, oxygen, and filters. Some of us need 24/7 power just to breathe. Transportation systems will fail and that means that our attendants may be unable to show up to feed, clothe, and bathe us.

Old people and wheelchair users can have compromised circulatory systems. This makes power outages during a heat wave very dangerous. We can't change the fact that we will be stranded in elevator buildings -- or

stranded in apartment buildings with non-functioning elevators and no means to escape. People will be trapped in dangerously hot homes. Cooling centers will be non-existent or beyond our reach. Local dialysis centers have no backup power. Bet you didn't know that. We could call 911, but we're not sure that phone service will be reliable. Emergency rooms will be overwhelmed.

PG&E has had a chance to fix this over the years. They could have developed a clean, reliable, decentralized, safe, and resilient infrastructure. The technology exists. They could have partnered with the community and with us to address this problem. But they didn't.

And now we say to PG&E, "Your lack of planning is not going to be our emergency."

And we say to you the public officials, "It's your job to make them respect us."

Berkeley is the home of the independent living and disability justice movement. We will not go quietly into the dark to die. We will fight back.

ALJ LAU: We have Reverend Michael

Jones Jr. -- Sr.

STATEMENT OF REVEREND JONES

Good afternoon. My name is Dr. Reverend Michael Jones. I am the Director of the Good Hope Resource Center. I am representing my pastor, Pastor Doyle Smith (phonetic) of the Bay City Baptist Church Union, which represents 37 churches in Berkeley through Union City.

I'm standing here today to say enough is enough. How long will we have to pay for and make the sacrifices for our -- make the sacrifices on our bills?

As someone that works right on the front line, I sign up people for CARE every day. I sign up people and take people's applications down to the Spectrum Program every day.

As somebody that's on the front line for a mother that has to take off the day -- a day off and lose $80 or $100 and then go down to get a payment of $179, is it worth it for her to do that?

I'm on the front line when we have a -- in the City of Oakland, 70 percent -- 70 to 75 percent of the students are on the Free Lunch Program. And then during the summer time, the parents are wondering how they're

going to feed their kids. Because if you're on the Free Lunch Program, you have to improvise breakfast as well as lunch for you. So $20 may not be significant for you, but it is significant now.

Being on the front line, I see people that are qualified for the CARE Program, and $20 decides whether they're going to be on that program or not. I see people that can't take off the time to go to Spectrum to take that ride down to Spectrum to get that one-time-a-year payment.

I work with people every day that -- we still have a program called Reach that's so difficult and so labor -- I mean so paperwork that it's impossible to access it. I work with open public schools when students came in and said, "I can't do my homework because we don't have internet because I'm living in -- "

I visit homeless encampments every day. I know the reality that's there every day. So $20 may be insignificant, but it is significant to those people who are already homeless.

How many homeless people do we -- if PG&E doesn't think that they have an effect on those very same homeless people out

there, you need to go out and visit one of them and talk to them. Yeah, the blinders are on because we don't get to visit them now.

But what happens when we try to transition them back into the community and they can't even pay the bill? I don't know how many times. Most people say, "Well, why should I go down and try to sign up for CARE? Why should I take the time?"

They only come to us when they're in trouble. And once they're in trouble, it's because the bill has got to a point where they can't do anything about it.

Even though I recognize that PG&E is moving in the right direction of sharing information about medical baseline, CARE, FERA Programs, Life Support Programs, much more has to be done.

I say that it -- enough is enough. How many families have to be homeless? If you don't think it's a reality, let the judges -- you judges go around and ask some of those folks that are homeless out there why they're homeless. Take a tour out there and see.

They're trying to find cover. They put up false -- you can ride down San Leandro

Boulevard and see all the different tents and whatever they built up. They build houses and -- I say enough is enough.

How many times does non-profits and churches have to bridge the gap and fill in the gap with no kind of responsibility? Our churches are dwindling. Why? Because our people can't -- the parishioners can't afford to live there. Can't even afford to pay the bills.

I say enough is enough. You can't keep just beating a dead horse. How many homeless encampments do we got to have? Who is going to pay the rate increase if we increase? You can look at the statistics and look at the news. You can drive in every neighborhood now and find homeless encampments now.

If it's not -- if PG&E doesn't man up and pay their responsibility and be responsible for what they're doing -- I want to see some evidence of what the shareholders are going to make this year. I want to see their dividends that they're going to share. I want to see some -- I want them -- I want them to -- I want them to make their record what they're going to put out this year on dividends to the shareholders. Not the

executives, their shareholders that own PG&E. I want to see how much they contributed back into the State of California.

We live in one of the most expensive areas in the country. Yet we are the most richest and we have more industry. We have more money in the State of California than anywhere else. But we want to stack on another $20 onto people that are barely making it.

Everywhere you look around even right over here right in Oakland we see gentrification happening. People that used to own those homes, middle-class people -- I was with a lady just last night. "You missed it by $20 to get a heat payment from Spectrum."

"You missed the CARE Program. Let's try and make it for the FERA Program."

We have to do better. We have to stop putting this on -- even though the bottom of it -- the poor people end up paying for a lot of the money that they get. Because that's what happens. You end up taxing them. The middle class has to pay too. But the people that really work, they pay for it.

If you're an executive for PG&E,

you make $70,000 or $80,000 a year. $50 or $20 is nothing to you. But if you got to decide whether your kids are going to eat. If you -- if we didn't have organizations and non-profits, like the Linda Ham Foundation, that go out and make sure kids have backpacks.

Do you realize that a $20 bill decides whether a kid can have a backpack and the necessary equipment that they need for school? Do you realize that if you raise that and get that increase, what that single mother or that single father -- or before it used to take one person to work. Now it takes two. Now two is not enough. Now you need a third job too.

So what are they supposed to tell their kids? "Are we going to eat tonight? Or are we going to have PG&E service?"

What are they supposed to tell them when they don't have a backpack to carry their schools in? What are they supposed to say when they can't do their homework?

We're from an electronic age, but what are we doing to keep up and make sure that the rest of the community -- the whole community is supported and their needs are being met?

We go out -- the Good Hope Resource Center goes out to disabled people and not only do we help them, we sign them up for as many programs as we possibly can.

So I would say to you: Please do not let this increase go through.

Thank you.

ALJ LAU: Rochelle Johnson, R-o-c-h-e-l-l-e. So the next three set of speakers are David Gassman, Jessica Tovar, and Blaine Beckwith.

So now we have -- can you introduce yourself when you're on the podium?

STATEMENT OF MS. TOVAR

Hi. I'm Jessica Tovar with the Local Clean Energy Alliance.

So first and foremost, I'm so disgusted that we're even here. PG&E has the nerve to ask to raise rates for electricity and gas on top of bailout charges on the backs of struggling ratepayers throughout the Bay Area and the rest of California. Shame on you.

You know, when we can't pay our bills what happens? Our power is cut off, our gas is cutoff. As far as I'm concerned, if PG&E can't pay their -- the wildfire debts, it's time to turn the lights out on

PG&E. Go back to the drawing board.

What we need is to take over our utilities. Have it owned and run by the people. That's the only way it's going to be accountable to the people. I think it's really an insult to injury that we're here talking about rate increases. It's already too expensive for people. I applaud you all for being out here and speaking up against this.

You know, I have to be very honest with the CPUC. I have no confidence in you guys doing the right thing. Because you allowed the bailout. You allow increases time and time again.

In your mission, you're supposed to be looking out for the ratepayers. Well, I want to see action. You should send them back to the drawing board.

"No. We're not going to increase gas and electricity rates. And we shouldn't be bailing out PG&E."

They are a criminal corporation who doesn't care how they impact poor people and how they impact disabled people. They don't care about the people that they killed. Eighty-five people were burned alive, okay, in that fire in Paradise. And they want to

walk away from that and the properties that they destroyed, the families that they devastated.

I think enough is enough. No. Absolutely not. We shouldn't even be having this discussion. This is absolutely disgusting.

And, PG&E, you know, your time is up. We're here to fight you, and we've been following you. Please join the No PG&E Bailout Coalition. And thank you to TURN. Thank you to the folks that are here speaking out today.

There are so many people who could not be here today to speak for themselves. There are so many people who struggle who have to work today and have to work tonight. We're here on behalf of them and letting you know, "No. Absolutely not. No PG&E bailout. No rate hike and enough is enough."

Clean power to the people.

ALJ LAU: Then we have David Gassman.

STATEMENT OF MR. GASSMAN

Hello. I'm David Gassman. I, too, am a part of the No PG&E Bailout. I don't think I'll be as effective as Jessica, but I will do my best.

Let me also, in terms of full

disclosure, point out that I am a retiree from PG&E, okay. I wasn't there for 40 years or 45 years like some people have been. But I was there for 13.6 years, and I have a pension from PG&E. And quite frankly I enjoyed most of my time -- obviously not every minute of it -- working for PG&E.

I think the arguments made by the disabled community just a few minutes ago I think were very effective. Very much to the point. I think Beth here made some very cogent points, and I don't intend to repeat them. I don't think I'm capable of repeating them. And you heard them the first time.

And frankly I don't envy -- and I'm speaking to obviously the Commissioners -- your position in trying to deal with this. I am against the rate increases of course.

I think the investors -- and I was a shareholder certainly when I was an employee of the company. They gave us a discount or whatever. I'm no longer a shareholder. But I had some substantial investments and investments are a risk. That's the nature of business in this country. And sometimes you do well, and sometimes you don't. And, you know, think about -- I mean, I'm sure the Commissioners

think about this constantly. PG&E has a guaranteed customer base. They're a monopoly. They have fixed -- you know, fixed rates of return and guaranteed rates of return on investment. And they've been bankrupt -- they filed for bankruptcy twice in the last 20 years. So I won't suggest to you that something is drastically dramatically wrong with this way of doing business.

I mean, just from a financial standpoint. Disregard the burning down of Paradise, which actually is a community I know somewhat because we have a friend who had a cabin -- "had" a cabin there that burned to the ground, and I stayed there once or twice. I can identify.

I think this model, at least in California, of a, you know, powerful transition -- high power transmission line way of centrally generating electricity spread across the state obviously needs to be rethought. I can't swear to you that I know the community choice aggregation -- local community generation is going to solve all of the problems. But it might solve some of them.

I think you need to give, you know,

serious consideration to rethinking the whole way that we generate electricity and we distribute electricity. And PG&E really needs to be -- more than bailed out. As opposed being bailed out, it really needs to be restructured. The whole electrical generation -- I mean, given what we're looking at in terms of climate change. Looking at -- we're actually seeing it. We saw it now. We saw it in Paradise. I've said enough.

Thank you.

ALJ LAU: So next we have some comments from Blaine Beckwith. But she cannot be here today. So her comments will be read by someone who will attend on her behalf.

STATEMENT OF MR. BECKWITH

It will be read by Marg. Yes, yes, Blaine goes by "he."

"So my name is Blaine Beckwith, and I have been disabled since birth, which was 1955. My disability is a genetic condition known as spinal muscular atrophy or "SMA." This caused me to have severe pneumonia in my 20s, which in turn forced me to have a tube surgically implanted in my throat. The result was I had to be attached to a ventilator 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

I have been that way since 1982. Basically, I live on electrically-powered life support.

Since PG&E came up with this idea of planned power outages as a way to possibly prevent wildfires, I have been really concerned even terrified. I don't know how I'm supposed to stay alive without electricity. What will happen to me and others who are also connected to electrically-powered life support?

Even though I have a backup battery, it will not even begin to last 24 hours. I also don't have a generator or even access to one nor enough money to buy one. Due to my life-long disability, I'm a very low-income person. I'm deeply offended that PG&E has the nerve to ask for a rate increase under these circumstances.

Many other people in the senior and disability community have no backup power to keep them alive during these outages, and they're also placed in a extremely precarious position. They are very worried. My own brother, Mark Beckworth is one such person.

I greatly resent the way PG&E left we seniors and disabled entirely out of the planning process for these outages. It seems that PG&E never even bothered or concerned

itself with the life-saving issues that we have in our lives. Why was that?

Does PG&E plan on supplying us with some type of generators or alternative means for us to operate on life-support systems? Or are we not even being thought about or cared about? Is PG&E ready to let all of us die?

Also what about those people who live alone and no one to help them in an emergency? Have our needs even been considered or thought about? Or does PG&E consider us to be expendable?"

ALJ LAU: Thank you.

MS. HAUL: I hope the PUC Commissioners read these comments. Will they?

MR. DURVASULA: Yes, they do.

ALJ LIRAG: Thank you for the copy. It's for the reporter so they can make sure that every word is taken down. Thank you.

ALJ LAU: So the next three speakers are Ms. Pamela Mason, Manual Arias, Sheila Cushman.

Can we have Pamela Mason come down?

ALJ LIRAG: If your name gets called, you're welcome to move forward so there's less transition between speakers. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. MASON

Good afternoon. My name is Pamela Mason. I'm on the CARE Program and on the Baseline Program, but you can't see the difference in your bill. You say it's a discount, but I don't see it. I never see that in my bill.

I'm on fixed income, and $20 more would put me in the dark. You have no consideration of how elderly people can survive. You really don't care. All you want us to pay for is mistakes you have made. And that's not fair to the people.

I'm pretty sure you have a mother. Do you have a mother and father? Would you do them the way you trying to do us?

ALJ LIRAG: We're here to listen to your comments.

MS. MASON: Okay. And we use less PG&E than what they charge us for. ]

And the so-called meter readers that you have, half of them do not read the meters. They just put down anything and you charge us for it. And that's not fair. And so when all of the elderly people that can't afford the rate increase and they're left in the dark, they can't eat because there is no electricity; they can't watch TV; medical, because I have to have -- I have severe

apnea, sleep apnea, and I wear a mask on my face every night while I sleep. And without PG&E, that's the end of my life.

So, all I have to say is if you can deal with it, deal with it.

ALJ LAU: Thank you.

Next we have Manuel Arias. Sorry. I'm not very good at pronouncing names.

Okay. So, actually, we have Sheila Cushman next.

STATEMENT OF MS. CUSHMAN

I got bumped up in line. I'm Sheila Gunn Cushman.

I need to give you guys a lot of facts that aren't here.

PG&E is making an assumption that the local community will magically, poof, take care of things when these rolling power outages happen. And one thing that PG&E is saying is that they are going to try and notify everybody on the Medical Baseline Program, which I'm on, but they will notify us 48 hours in advance if they can; 24 hours if they can. And if they cannot, poof, I'm in the dark. It's a good thing I'm blind.

And for the record, I'm wearing a T-shirt right now that says "Conserve Energy. Read in the dark." I can read in the dark

and not everybody can.

But my rent is $250 a month because I'm on Section 8. If I add up $20 times 12, that's $240 a month and that is almost a month's worth of rent. I now receive food stamps to the tune of $16 a month so PG&E's rate increase will poof that away as well.

I live in a duplex where when I moved in I was paying for the other person's gas in winter and our heaters were gas; so, for 20 days when I hadn't moved in yet but had signed the lease and so I switched over my PG&E. I got a bill for $40 and I just about -- well, I was going to say something you can't say on the air. And I was not happy. And it took me two years to get that fixed. I almost got kicked out of the house by Section 8 because my landlord didn't fix it very fast. As a result of that, I found out that I -- my electricity is being paid for by the good grace of my upstairs neighbor. I let her know that. I let the landlord know that. Nothing has happened. If ever I tried to get a power storage battery for my unit I will have to get that fixed so that I can be sure and actually receive the use of said battery.

The other thing that you need to

understand that if a person with a disability requires 24/7 power, they will be whisked off to a hospital where theoretically there will be a generator.

I learned in Lake County there are no such generators in the hospitals. They cannot afford them. They are one of the most poorest counties in the state. And I have a friend there who has chemotherapy and needs to be cool and needs power 24/7.

My only communication is that of a cell phone. No one is talking about what is going to happen to the cell towers if the power is out for five days or better.

There is no clear cut, as people have said, way of determining how much of the state will be cut at a time and for how long because the PG&E inspectors have to inspect every inch of that line.

Local EMS which would be called for 911, that is emergency medical services, will pick up a person who needs a wheelchair but not their wheelchair; take them to the hospital, and then they're on their own to get home.

Many local community-based organizations, all these nonprofits that PG&E is resting on the backs of hoping that they

will save the day, do not have the funds for accessible vehicles to take people to and from. There are no funds set aside. This is not a disaster. So it is only emergency preparedness. There are no funds set aside for cooling and warming places. There is no plan. This was a surprise for everybody. And PG&E is just saying to everyone, "Well, all we have to do is notify. It's up to you now. Good luck."

By the way, PG&E has an ADA Program manager. Her name is Deirdre Walke. Last name W-a-l-k-e. Look her up. She was not aware of this policy until it occurred. So, no, I do not wish to pay $240 a year for something I didn't do. Would you ask a victim of a traffic accident to pay for their medical? Would you ask a person of a train wreck to pay for their train wreck? Would you ask a rape victim to pay for their rape kit? I don't think so.

And the reason that that other woman was asking you "do you have a mother," we need to know that you felt the humanity of this. And I need to know that this will be stopped.

Take the money from the bleeping investors, not from us. We don't have it!

You will fix this! You will make it so our lives are not in danger and if you do not, we will break up your buildings.

ALJ LAU: Manuel Arias.

STATEMENT OF MR. ARIAS

Good evening. My name is Manuel Arias. And I have been living in East Oakland for 57 years.

ALJ LAU: Mr. Arias, maybe you can step back a little.

MR. ARIAS: I have been here in East Oakland for 57 years and I'm on permanent disabled for 27 years.

I have heard a lot of things said, already said what I wanted to say.

Do you not consider the people who's losing their house because their high payments? And on top of that we have seen raises of all the utilities, PG&E, garbage and all the other bills we had to pay.

I have been for 27 years on permanent disability and it's not easy to fix all those payments and then on top of that you're going to see $20 hike? If you are here saying $20, that's a lot for us.

I'm a member of Faith in Action. We represent over 40,000 families. And all these families, they don't have access to pay

those bills. So that's why a lot of people losing their houses. They're going to the homeless. You're not considering the community who is losing their household, who have to go and live in their car, to live on the street and that's a shame.

That's a shame for PG&E to not take into consideration on that. I'm really sorry about the tragedy last year in Paradise. I really do. I really do sorry knowing other people lost their lives, lost their homes, but that is not our fault. That is not our fault that we have to pay for that. So you have to take into consideration that, you know. We know.

Like as I say, we represent all those families and we see those people are crying all the time. They can't come up with those payments. I have -- when I see my grandkids come home, I have to be, you know, behind them to "Don't forget the lights on because we're going to pay for it and we're paying for that." So we can't use the air conditioning when it's hot. We can't use the heater when it's cold because we don't want to see those bills higher, you know, increase.

So that's not the right thing to do.

You have to find other resources to pay those. Like I said, it's not our fault what happened last year what has happened with those wildfires. And I'm really sorry. I keep repeating that. And I'm really sorry for those people who lost their lives.

So thank you very much.

ALJ LAU: So the next set of speakers we have are Al Salnine (sic). I'm sorry if I mispronounce your name. Lincoln Olive (sic) O'Neil, Pete Woiwode.

STATEMENT OF MR. SANDINE

Thank you. My name is Al Sandine. I have been a PG&E ratepayer since about 1960.

I think it's legitimate to ask at this point: Why aren't PG&E's top executives being treated the same as the defendants in the Ghost Ship Fire case? Instead they're coming to ask us for more money. They said they need it to do -- mainly to do fire suppression work. As you heard, they want to do inspections and replace defective equipment and so on and that sounds good but they should have been doing it for the last 20 years at least. Why now?

I'm in favor of this work being done. My wife is so sensitive to wood smoke

that another fire season could do her in. But this is like a protection scheme, you know. Give us more money or something bad could happen to your house or your family or your town. That's what -- you know, that is really what we're faced with.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: The Mafia.

MR. SANDINE: So I think you should not only stop propping up PG&E with yet another rate increase; PG&E needs -- we need to start the process of replacing PG&E with a public-owned or series of publicly-owned utilities that would be accountable not to big investors or Wall Street but just people of Northern California.

Thank you.

ALJ LAU: Thank you.

Next we have Lincoln Olive (sic) O'Neil.

STATEMENT OF MR. OLIVER-O'NEIL

Hi. My name is Lincoln Oliver-O'Neil.

ALJ LAU: Mr. Oliver-O'Neil.

So from now on, I do ask speakers to spell their last name for the record so that the court reporter can document your names accurately.

MR. OLIVER-O'NEIL: Last name Oliver,

O-l-i-v-e-r hyphen O'N-e-i-l. My mother did not want to give up her last name.

I'm a farmhand at City Slicker Farms in West Oakland and I'm a volunteer with the Local Clean Energy Alliance, who is here today with the No PG&E Bailout Coalition.

I want to use my time to express my opposition for the rate hikes, with specific emphasis on concerns regarding PG&E oversight for its safety programs.

Sacramento recently passed very hastily two bills, AB-1054 and AB-111. In those bills you, the CPUC, have the ability to give PG&E a valid safety certification. With this valid safety certification, PG&E will not have to prove that they took reasonable measures to prevent catastrophic wildfires when they happen. I say "when they happen" because the wildfires aren't just going to go away. We can't just black out thousands of customers who need that power, cross our fingers and hope that things will just get better.

The CPUC has shown that they exist solely to prop up this monopoly utility.

In 2008, where was the oversight, San Bruno? In previous fires, there have been substation fires inside the city of

San Francisco and still the CPUC has not come out harder against this monopoly utility.

Thus, I do not believe that the accountability is there to properly prevent wildfires and provide reliable power through a privately-owned utility. I think that the CPUC needs to take a harder look at the possible alternatives.

I strongly urge you to investigate a publicly-owned utility, whether that be fragmented across various regions or statewide, research is necessary. I agree with you on that.

The CPUC is supposed to represent the interests of the people of California and yet here you are poised to support an organization that has harmed the people of California and will continue to harm us if you do not do your job.

Listen here to the people who have come to this room and to the people that they represent who are not here today and please do your job.

Thank you.

ALJ LAU: Thank you.

Pete Woiwode. Can you also please spell your last name?

STATEMENT OF MR. WOIWODE

It's Woiwode. Close enough. You got closer than most people. And it's W-o-i-w-o-d-e.

So, my name is Pete Woiwode. I have been a ratepayer of PG&E for 12 years. So I live here in Oakland and I am part of the No PG&E Bailout Coalition, as well as working on behalf of low-income Californians in the disability community and the folks who access subsidized childcare, folks who access subsidized medical care, folks who are fighting like hell to stay in their affordable housing or access that affordable housing.

If any of those communities were to out of the blue get a $240 additional cost to their daily life, they would lose their housing. They might not be able to access the medical services that they need for their children, for their families. They would not be able to have their children be able to stay in childcare and be safe and healthy. And as we know, people who access childcare are able to participate in the workforce, build the economy.

So I just want to highlight that if any of us -- if any of us -- I'm a white-collar professional, if $240 were to

show up unannounced on my door for something that I hadn't done that had hurt my community members, that had damaged my lungs, that had killed 85 people in fires in the recent past, I would call a lawyer. I would find a way to stop this immediately. Most people in California don't have that privilege and we can't put that burden on people of California.

So, I briefly want to address Mr. Kenney. I don't know if he is still here. It appears he left. He is still here. I appreciate you coming and speaking to us and appreciate you making clear that your paycheck will not be benefitted by this. What I didn't hear you say was that the shareholders of PG&E will not be benefitted by this or by the $10 billion that was just guaranteed by the Legislature to bail out PG&E or by the other rate hikes that we can assume are going to come down the track as more and more of these damages come to light.

So I'd like to say that I appreciate the openness to this invitation and certainly appreciate the CPUC engaging here, but I would like to ask in the room: Who would like these things to go forward? Very few people. Who here trusts PG&E to

make decisions about our safety and our lives and our energy system? Very few people.

I'm seeing in the 17 effort -- events of this across the state, imagine if you asked the question, you would see a similar thing.

We trusted PG&E in 2007 and in 2010 and to expand their safety protocols around pipelines and in 2010 a bomb went off in San Bruno and 8 people died. And they were not held accountable. And we come back and they ask for more money.

In 2016 and 2017, giant fires, over 100 people killed in all those various fires and all of our lungs poisoned, countless amounts of people -- countless amount of people damaged with the fire smoke here for weeks and they are not held accountable.

So I'm asking this: There is a criminal actor here that is holding us ransom, holding the CPUC ransom, holding the people of California ransom and we owe it to the people of California to do something differently, to say to them: No thanks. This plan doesn't work, not this time. No thanks. You've got to go figure out something else. Talk to your shareholders. Talk to the people who are pushing you to

increase your profit margin by 60 percent over the course of this tumultuous period where they kicked out a bunch of their Board and replaced them with a bunch of people from hedge funds.

We were sitting with one of the Board members of the CPUC meeting recently where he was proud to say that 25 percent of the incoming Board had ever lived in California, not currently lived; 25 percent had ever lived in California. This is not an entity that has the people of California in mind when they are making decisions. They are making decisions on the profit mode. And that has caused human lives. That has caused ecological damage -- ecological damage, and we have a different way.

Tell PG&E, "Go home. Figure out a different way. And we're going to restructure and build small community democratically-owned energy in our communities."

Thank you very much.

ALJ LAU: So the next set of speakers we have are Savannah Wheeler, Donnie Morgan, Birdie Sampson. And, again, when you come up to the podium, please spell your last name.

STATEMENT OF MS. WHEELER

Hi. My last name is Wheeler, W-h-e-e-l-e-r and I'm here as (inaudible). I'm an Oakland resident and a student, a graduate student.

I'm just here to voice my strong opposition to these hikes. The crippling costs of living here and the crippling costs of tuition, an extra $20 a month would be a really serious burden for my classmates and I.

With all of the other hundreds of thousands of shutoffs across the state, I'm worried about my neighbors and my community members and how many people won't be able to afford utilities if these are passed.

So, again, I just wanted to voice my strong opposition to these hikes.

Thank you.

ALJ LAU: Donnie Morgan.

STATEMENT OF MS. MORGAN

Good afternoon. My name is Donnie Morgan and I'm a retiree on a set income and my budget is not that large and I have to function from month-to-month on a ledger that I keep that I don't overspend myself.

And I would like to say that the $20 hike would put me in a fix that I have to borrow from my grocery bills to make ends

meet. And that means that I will be going without food.

So, I would like to say that I hope PG&E can and their shareholders can manage without giving us that large of a rate hike and find other means to offset their budget. And it would be good if they could to have compassion on their customers.

And we are also praying for a miracle for PG&E and also a miracle for its customers of PG&E. We all stand in the need of mercy. And I would like to see that go forth. And I would like for the people of Paradise to know that we are praying for them, our devastated areas, we are praying for you and we hope that something good will come through with PG&E and for their customers.

Thank you.

ALJ LAU: Thank you.

Next we have Birdie Sampson. Can you please spell your last name?

STATEMENT OF MS. SAMPSON

My name is Birdie Sampson and I'm disabled. And I'm on --

ALJ LAU: Ms. Sampson, can you spell your last name?

MS. SAMPSON: Birdie Sampson. Sampson,

S-a-m-p-s-o-n.

ALJ LAU: Thank you.

MS. SAMPSON: I think it's an outrage what PG&E is doing. Because it might not sound like $20 is a lot but it's a hell of a lot of money for people with children and disabled people and just people in general that is poor. And I think you can get your money from somewhere else.

They got all this money in the United States. We are the richest country in the world. Why are we still having all these problems with homeless people, people half-starving, no electricity? The water is going up. Everything is going up.

And I think some of this money they got these trillions of dollars they got, they can do something with that. Get that money from them. The governor got all this money. What you all doing with it? Checking balance? You can do something with it.

PG&E got people sitting on the Board. You can do something with this. You ain't got to take no $20 from no poor people.

Thank you.

ALJ LAU: Thank you.

Next we have Verda Gaines, Lawrence Van Hook and Brian Woodson.

And when you guys come up, can you please spell your name?

STATEMENT OF MS. GAINES

Hi. My name is Verda Gaines, G-a-i-n-e-s.

Now if PG&E goes up $20 for me, I'm on a fixed income, it would really make a difference in me, for me to get my medicine. And it is very hard because I'm having trouble now with the water bill and by then it went up and there's another problem. Then I'm having trouble with medicine that I'm going to have to try to get this month and I'm just having a hard time with that.

Now, a lot of people don't understand when a person is on a fixed income and they figure that, "Oh, it don't make any difference. They can do it. They have MediCal." And it's not that easy. It's not that easy at all.

So, if PG&E go up on me, I'm going to have a hard time. And I wish they can get theirselves together because I can't do it. I really can't.

So I'm just going to let them know, if they can find some kind of way to fix things and look after people like me. I'm not on SSI. I'm retired. And it is hard how

everything that went up. And if I don't watch what I do with my budget, I'm going to be just like them people out on the street. So I have to watch what I do and how I spend my money. And if I can't budget myself right, I'm going to be just out there; like they say, a foot from the grave.

So, hey, PG&E going to have to help everybody. And I can't do it. I can't do it by myself. I'm doing everything that I can to keep from being out there on the street, "up under the bridge," as they say.

So if PG&E can help the rest of the people just like me, I would really appreciate.

Thank you.

ALJ LAU: Thank you.

Next we have Lawrence Van Hook. I will ask you to spell your last name Mr. Van Hook.

STATEMENT OF MR. VAN HOOK

Lawrence Van Hook, V-a-n-h-o-o-k, Van Hook.

Those are some of my members there. So if PG&E gets this pay hike, I got to figure out how the bill going to get paid. That's the problem because I got too many of them. The rest of them will be here tonight

at 6 o'clock. And these elders are not only taking care of their own selves, but they are taking care of grandkids. They're taking care of other people in their households.

I pastor a church, a professor at the college. I'm on the Executive Board of the NAACP. They're -- the National session just got back, but I need to be here so I can stop PG&E from getting its pay hike.

I'm with the Ministries Union, 37 Church -- I mean, I do it all. I'm doing a lot.

And I want to really say this to the PCU (sic): We've got to move these meetings out of downtown because it's just too hard to get people to park. It's just so difficult, because too many people wanted to be here, but they couldn't come because either their work schedule or "Where am I going to park? How am I going to get to the meeting?" I've got a building. I've got several colleagues got church parking lots. We can go there, so that we can actually hear from the people that really will be affected by this. ]

I'm number 8 of 11 kids, and I'm at the bottom. And I have some brothers that knew how to tuck their cover. And so I froze

every night because I wasn't smart enough. Because they were smarter than me, they were more clever than I was, and they knew what to do because they had more experience.

A lot of people that I serve both at the college level and in the community, they feel that the PCU (sic) and the PG&E are the same people because they just big guys. They just big people. So a lot of people thinking that you are PG&E. They really do. They really do.

And so we really, really need to be clear about how we raise another customer's bill. We just did this a year ago. One time it was $4, and we was fighting that real hard. Now it went to $8.00 and we fighting that really hard. Now we back. It's $20. And now I know how to say -- it went between $20 and $50. So we have to do something different.

I now have -- I want to thank PG&E because they are trying to educate the people more. But more money got to go into the education. It has to go into the education. Now we got pay scales, pay rates, pay brackets. You can't wash your clothes at this time. You can't use your drier at this time. You got to cut this off. So there's a

lot of information that has to happen. So we got to make sure that PG&E spends some resources continuing the education.

I got the chance to partner with PG&E to help people with CARE and FERA. And so over 130,000 people are not on CARE and FERA in Alameda County and Fresno County. This is a big deal.

As I did my research, more people who are on CARE and FERA was asking for another -- "Give me something else I can use because they're in between. They're not the poorest of the poor, but they don't have enough to take care of all of their extra bills." So they're in that gap. So we got to make sure -- that group is really the most vulnerable now.

That the people that are not on the FAC, not on these fixed incomes as far as welfare. But they're on fixed income because some of them are retired. Some of them have money that they're accounted for and they can't handle another pay hike another pay increase.

I don't know how we can suggest it. But I think that we got to find a way to have a cutoff for people who under a certain amount of income, they should not have to pay

for the fires. They just shouldn't. I mean the real poor.

I should be paying for the fires because I'm going to find a way to pay my bills. But I have the education. I've got the know how and the resources to do so. But the people I serve, they shouldn't have to come up here and say, "I don't want to pay for a fire that I knew nothing about."

We need to make sure that we have more education from PG&E to make sure that the people understand how to participate in their own future.

Number 2, we need to make sure that we don't just kick the can down the road and continue to allow customers to pay the bill of my big brothers that tucked and covered and let me freeze because I was the little brother. I couldn't fend for myself. Now when they come to my house, I don't let them sleep in the big bed because I got to treat them back like they treated me.

But they shouldn't have to do that if we all in one family together. And if 5 million customers from Bakersfield to the Oregon border that's a lot of people. And so we got to do something different. But if we can make sure that the people that are poor

-- we got to find the gaps so that we can say, "You all -- "

That's Number 46 times 1. That's what he did. He said, "Everybody who owes $250, we're going to give you a big break. Everybody else you're on your own."

So we need to do something for the people that's under a certain level. And not put on them that they have to be responsible for something that they have not even participated in.

It is really important that PG&E does its share. I don't have to talk about the shareholders. I don't have to talk about anything else because I think we have an opportunity here to make the difference. But we cannot do it on the backs of the poor. We cannot do it on the backs of the low income. We cannot do it on the backs of the disabled people. We cannot do it on the backs of veterans. We got to do something different.

I'm going stop now, and I'll come back this afternoon and say some more. And then that way I'll feel a little more fired up and get my preacher voice out.

ALJ LAU: Now we have Brian Woodson. Would you spell your last name?

STATEMENT OF REVEREND WOODSON

Reverend Brian K. Woodson, W-o-o-d-s-o-n. I am a local pastor, and I am the organizer of Faith in Action formally known as OCO. We have in our membership in excess of 40,000 members.

This is absolutely not. Absolutely not. Just say no. This week it has been reported that July will be the hottest month on the globe in the history of recording the globe's temperature. Perhaps the hottest since civilized communities built cities and towns on the planet.

The world has changed. And you are either one side or the other. You are either on the side of those who are consumed by greed and have no care what happens to the rest of us or the planet. Or you are on the side of the people and the planet itself.

Where would I ask you could anyone or any organization or any company that's been convicted in one instant of five felony counts of criminal negligence and one count of obstruction they go free? No one goes to jail. The CEO leaves with a golden parachute after eight some million dollars in salary.

The piece -- the CPUC has a job to say no. You could be a part of what you right in the world in which we live. And to

be what's right, please tell the other judges we have to stand with the people. We have to stand with the planet. We have to say no. The time for extractive greed and wealth accumulation, it's over. People are dying now.

PG&E has not only been negligent, but they have not been a community partner. They are in a position to know and have known the dangers of their practices. And yet they just keep going on.

So I want to be short, but I want to say this. Just say no. No rate hike. And not until PG&E proves itself a partner. Not until PG&E begins to show itself worthy of our respect. Not until PG&E begins to develop clean renewable energy. Not until PG&E begins to build and install and help us install sustainable, reliable, affordable, local, power delivery resistance. Not until then should you come back and ask us for any more money.

Not until we can generate our own power. Not until solar panels are all over our communities and we don't have to plug into anybody. Please don't come back to the people. Please stop abusing us. Please stop nickelling and diming us until we die and we

lose hope.

The world has changed. I ask you to be on the side of what's right in this world and to tell PG&E and all the millionaires and all of their investors, "I am sorry. The world has changed and the people will not allow anymore rate hikes."

Thank you.

ALJ LAU: Next is Al Weinrub, Pastor LJ Jennings, and Marirose Taruc. I am sorry if I mispronounced your name. But once you're on the podium, please spell your last name.

STATEMENT OF MR. WEINRUB

My last name is Weinrub, W-e-i-n-r-u-b. It's hard to top what's been said so far. Hard to know how much is actually being heard.

I just want to say that, you know, this is -- this rate hike constitutes a bailout of PG&E. And I want to tell people who are in the audience who understand that to be the case to hold up their signs so we can see that we understand that this is what this is really about. This is a bailout of PG&E pure and simple.

Thank you. There's a lot of things going on in my mind. Just to try to set a little bit of a framework here, we're not

making this up. The Wall Street Journal, you know, actually looked into internal PG&E documents and reported, you know, on the 10th of this month that:

> PG&E corporation knew for years that hundreds of miles of high-voltage power lines failed and sparked fires. Yet it repeatedly failed to perform the necessary upgrades. The failure last year was a century old transmission line --
>
> A century old transmission line -- That sparked a wildfire, killed 85 people, and destroyed a town OF 14,000 homes of Paradise was not an aberration. PG&E repeatedly delayed upgrading some of its oldest transmission lines ranging them as low-risk projects while spending billions of dollars on other work it considered to be more important.

That was the Wall Street Journal saying that. That's not me. In the meantime, Judge William Alsup, who is basically working the probation of this criminal entity. PG&E is a formally criminal entity as we've explained five counts of criminal negligence and obstruction. That judge basically reported that PG&E took $5 million and syphoned it off to shareholders and to executives. This is money that was supposed to be used for safety and protection.

So when you look at these two things, you have PG&E saying, "Well, we're going to take our funds we got from the shareholders. We're going to stick it in our pockets. We're not going to do what we're obligated to do around safety. And then what we're going to do is come back and say now give us some more money to do what we didn't do before."

That's already what's a called a "racket." That's a racket when you do that kind of thing. When somebody came to your door and ripped you off and then came back and said, "Now we need more money because we ripped you off and we need to settle your cost for whatever."

That's funny. It's ridiculous to say that.

The other piece to this puzzle unfortunately is the California Public Utilities Commission itself. The same article in the Wall Street Journal actually mentioned the fact that the CPUC has not properly enforced any of the requirements that were -- that are on PG&E on fire safety.

They have the enforcement division. Ms. Sinko (phonetic) is her name. She said that:

The CPUC safety auditors
are historically relied on
utility records rather than
field inspections.

You know, that's been going on. It pointed out that California regulators held hundreds of pages of rules for many aspects of utility operations. The rules for transmission are three sentences long. They simply say that:

Each utility must come up
with its own procedures and
follow them.

What does this mean? This means that the CPUC has basically been totally in

bed with PG&E. A partner in this racket.

I'm just here to say that what's at stake here is actually the real legitimacy of the California Public Utilities Commission. Time and time again it's cut the deal to make sure that PG&E gets rate hikes.

People come here every time and say how damaging this is going to be to their livelihood and their ability to survive. Time and time again PG&E goes and CPUC goes and grants the rate hikes with no enforcement, no obligation, no public responsibility. It's part of the problem.

So obviously it's your responsibility to stop this. But nobody really expects it to happen because the CPUC is the biggest part of the problem. Everybody expects that a large corporate monopoly is going to be out there trying to rip off the public in order to raise money for its shareholders.

But a public agency is supposed to be protecting the public. And this is a case where it's clear that that public agency has no legitimacy at this point in time and will certainly have no legitimacy at all unless it absolutely refuses to deny this rate increase.

Thank you.

ALJ LAU: Thank you.

Next we have Pastor L.J. Jennings. Will you please spell your last name?

STATEMENT OF MR. JENNINGS

Good afternoon. Pastor L. J. Jennings. Last name is J-e-n-n-i-n-g-s. I'm a pastor here in the City of Oakland as well as the president of the Bay Area Community Benefit Organization, which is an organization made up of churches throughout Alameda County.

You've heard a lot of stories and you've heard a lot of testimony from a number of individuals that are -- that I think require the most earnest heed to be given to.

Although I don't come with stories that tug at the heart and situations that demand, I think, some emotion, I want to be a little more pragmatic about my comments. One is as it relates to what it means to be a corporate citizen. What it means to be a good corporate citizen.

A good corporate citizen by way of that means that the corporate citizen would provide not only the services that they profess to provide, but they would do it in a safe manner. And that they would do it in a

way that does not rape from their clientele or those that they serve.

And I would suggest that -- I say that only because one of the things that we live in a society relative to school that if you perform well, you get advanced to the next grade.

If you run a service-based business if you do well and take care of your people, you can increase your rates so people will continue to come to you. But what we have here is a situation where increases are not tied to performance. Increases are not tied to how well an entity is performing relative to their responsibilities to the citizens that they provide.

So I would suggest that any time that this Commission comes back to the public to ask for any type of increase, then before we come back to ask for the increase, then we look at a report card that we evaluate whether they're delivering what they're supposed to be delivering in the manner that they're supposed to be delivering in. And if they're not delivering in the manner that they're supposed to be delivering it, then we have to go back to them and say, "Well, not this time."

And so -- and I say that because I think that a couple of those speakers raised this issue relative to whether or not the CPUC is really an independent body that protects and looks out for the people. There's a consensus that the CPUC is really in line with PG&E. And that is -- if that is the quid pro quo, then all of this is really for not.

And I would suggest -- I would suggest that and I would hope and pray that these forums and these community gatherings and these opportunities for the community to chime in are not just dog and pony shows. That they're not just to fulfill the requirement that you've done your outreach and that you've talked to the community. But that you continue to allow what's been going on to go on.

And so I would caution us to realize also that when we talk about increases, the increases that we talk about are disproportionately affecting black and brown folk. Disproportionately affecting black and brown folk. And if you -- we just heard the news article yesterday where Oakland has now had another 47 percent increase in homelessness.

And I can give you the numbers when you look at that homelessness -- that homeless data a large significant percentage of them are black and brown folk. So when we look at increasing rates just in your sphere, we also have to look at it they increase rates in the grander scheme of things.

What about the taxes that they're trying to go up on and water that they're trying to go up on and the rent that's exacerbated. I -- all of these have to be taken into context if we're really going to be looking out for the citizenry. If we're really going to look out for those ratepayers, those individuals, that have made PG&E a multibillion dollar industry and a multibillion dollar company.

Let me say finally that I would hope and pray that the three of you take back to the broader group the real passion and the real consensus of what you're hearing today. And that the decisions that are made are not made in the interest of furthering either your career or furthering PG&E's bottom line, but that it's to further the enhancement and the safety of the people that make up the citizenry.

Thank you.

ALJ LAU: Thank you.

Next we have Marirose Taruc. And please spell your last name.

STATEMENT OF MS. TARUC

Good afternoon, everybody. Marirose Taruc, T-a-r-u-c.

I'm here to urge you to reject these rate hikes. I want emphasize that investor-owned utility model, this model of PG&E is not sustainable in a time of worsening climate disasters because there are others models.

I'm the co-chair of the AB-32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee. I chaired that committee for the last two climate scoping plans in the State of California. I've seen PG&E try to avoid their responsibility for reducing their climate pollution so that it doesn't worsen our climate crisis.

In the fall in November of 2018, as the wildfires were raging in Paradise and that area, I was at a hearing of the California Air Resources Board trying to stop polluting companies from California from using international forestry offsets. And there, PG&E was lighting up to ask the Air Resources Board to grant this program so that

they would not have to reduce their emissions in California. And rather continue to pollute with their dirty power plants and dangerous transmission lines so that they could use these offsets instead. They are the top five offsets users in California. And they don't deserve a break.

They keep hoarding money. They keep hoarding the State's money, the ratepayers' money, our money, and they don't need to dump their responsibility for these wildfires onto Northern California ratepayers.

And I want you to think about what the "P" stands for in CPUC. What does the "P" stand for.

(Crosstalk.)

MS. TARUC: It should stand for the "public." I've sat here and listened to folks in the public, folks from the disability community, students, renters, our seniors, those who are on fixed income, people of color. I work a lot with environmental justice communities who have to live next to these dirty power plants, these co-generation plants, these dangerous transmission lines, all over the state of California and I know we want something

different.

The public deserves something different. We need to imagine something different as the climate crisis unfolds. We need to stop the bail out of PG&E. We need to stop these rate hikes. We need a vision from you to serve the public for public -- a different public structure to our energy system.

Thank you.

ALJ LAU: The last set of speakers -- I have the last set of speakers are Brooke Anderson, Michelle Mascarenhas Swan, and the last speaker that has signed up so far is Beth Gunston.

When you come up to the podium, please remember to spell your last name.

STATEMENT OF MS. GUNSTON

Hi. I'm Beth Gunston, G-u-n-s-t-o-n. I'm running short on time. I feel like a lot of people have already said what I feel very eloquently as others have said too.

I'm with an organization called Oakland Rising. We're a collaborative of racial, economic, environmental justice organizations. We represent over 60,000 voters here in Oakland. These are black and

brown, low-income working-class immigrants.

We oppose this bail out, this rate hike for all of the same reasons that everyone else has said here today. And yeah. I'll just close it with that.

Thank you.

ALJ LAU: At this moment, I'd like to ask is there anyone in the room who would like to speak? You may approach the podium and spell your last name.

ALJ LIRAG: So anyone that hasn't signed up yet that hasn't already talked, you're welcome to come up and speak.

Is there anyone?

ALJ LAU: Please state your name and spell your last name.

STATEMENT OF MR. LANKFORD

Hi. My name is Pastor Raymond Lankford, L-a-n-k-f-o-r-d. I represent the Alameda County Faith Advisory Council. This is a coalition of over 300 faith-based centers. I also represent San Bernardino Faith Advisory Council, which represents hundreds of thousands of church organizations in San Bernardino and Riverside County. I also stand her representing the Faith Advisory Council of Pomona County. I also stand here representing my mother.

I take care of my mom who is 81 years of age. She's a double amputee. She has arthritis. And I take care of my sister who is 60 years of age and both are on fixed incomes. And they struggle already with the PG&E rate that they have to pay that comes to their house.

And I represent my household. You can rest assured with the income that I make taking care of my family it's certainly not enough. And not only do we struggle paying our PG&E. When we're late paying our PG&E because we have to pay life insurance, we have to buy food, we also have to pay for medicines, then our credit is impaired because our PG&E bill is late.

I would hope that this body, this Commission, would reflect upon why so many people are irate, angry, and upset with PG&E. The governor is upset. And so we talk about the head person of our state and then you heard countless testimonies from people throughout the state.

There's a body of people that can't speak for themselves because they're dead. They died in these horrific firestorms that started because of the negligence of PG&E. No voice of anyone living that represents

PG&E has taken into consideration the loss of life that these families have to endure. And while many of us haven't had that type of experience here in Oakland, we can only imagine what that pain and suffering is for families.

Those that may win their case have won their cases against PG&E, their loved ones will never come back. And it's just unfortunate that at this time PG&E would ask those that have the services to pay for the faults of others.

I would think that this body would go back and challenge PG&E to make decisive changes internally and hit them where it hurts them the most. In their pocketbook. People should be terminated. People should be released from their positions, and those that remain in position should accept a role of responsibility and accountability on behalf of PG&E and the services that it brings.

So consider my mom. I'm thankful. We may find $20. But you know what? Her credit shouldn't be impaired because her bill was late or behind. But consider those voices that can't speak for themselves. We have a whole city that was lost. We have

communities that was lost because of somebody's negligence.

And I don't even have words to express for that. So, again, I'm thankful for you all coming to this wonderful city. Oakland is the greatest city in the world. We're glad that you're here, but consider those who cannot speak for themselves. And guess what? The decision makers for PG&E, they have the abilities to find the money elsewhere than from the people.

Thank you. ]

ALJ LAU: Thank you.

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

(No response.)

ALJ LAU: None?

This meeting is concluded. Thank you so much for taking the time to come to today's meeting and sharing your comments with us.

We will have another public participation meeting later this evening at 6 o'clock.

Judge Lirag, do you have any more?

ALJ LIRAG: I just want to thank everyone for coming here. We're going to be here at 6:00 again. If you already talked

today or this afternoon, feel free to come back again if you have additional thoughts.

Thank you.

ALJ LAU: If you have further comments you would like to share with us, you can e-mail the Public Advisor's Office at public.advisors@cpuc.ca.gov.

Thank you. We are now adjourned. Off the record.

(Whereupon, at the hour of 3:01 p.m., this matter having been continued to 6:00 p.m., July 24, 2019, at Oakland, California, the Commission then adjourned.) ]

* * * * *

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

OF THE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDING

I, CAROL ANN MENDEZ, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER NO. 4330, IN AND FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE PAGES OF THIS TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY ME COMPRISE A FULL, TRUE, AND CORRECT TRANSCRIPT OF THE TESTIMONY AND PROCEEDINGS HELD IN THIS MATTER ON JULY 24, 2019.

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

EXECUTED THIS AUGUST 05, 2019.

CAROL ANN MENDEZ
CSR NO. 4330

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

OF THE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDING

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EXECUTED THIS AUGUST 05, 2019.

JASON A. STACEY
CSR NO. 14092

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