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In Attendance: COMMISSIONER GENEVIEVE SHIROMA  
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

REPORTERS' TRANSCRIPT  
San Francisco, California  
July 9, 2019  
Pages 1 - 56  
Volume - 1

Reported by: Ana M. Gonzalez, CSR No. 11320  
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1 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

2 JULY 9, 2019 - 1:00 P.M.

3 \* \* \* \* \*

4 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE LIRAG: All  
5 right. Let's start. Please come to order.

6 This is the time and place for the  
7 Public Participation Hearing in Application  
8 18-12-009 and this is the General Rate Case  
9 Application of Pacific Gas & Electric Company  
10 or PG&E. This was filed with the California  
11 Public Utilities Commission or PUC last  
12 December.

13 The purpose of this public hearing  
14 or PPH is to listen to you, to hear your  
15 experiences about PG&E's service and any  
16 comments you may have regarding the  
17 application.

18 So good afternoon. My name is  
19 Rafael Lirag and with me is Elaine Lau and we  
20 are the Administrative Law Judges assigned to  
21 this proceeding.

22 With us today is Commissioner  
23 Shiroma. And in a little while, I will ask  
24 if she wants to make a few brief remarks.

25 But before that, I just want to  
26 repeat, if you haven't picked up an agenda,  
27 there's one outside. I think Allison here  
28 has a few. There's also a fact sheet that

1 goes over basic details of the PG&E  
2 application.

3 So, by way of introduction, the PUC  
4 is a State agency that has regulatory  
5 authority over PG&E and what it is requesting  
6 in this application.

7 PG&E, as you know, is the utility  
8 that provides customers in this area with gas  
9 and electric services.

10 So, the PUC has five Commissioners  
11 and they are appointed by the Governor. The  
12 Commissioners are the ones who set, decide  
13 and oversee the PUC's policies and  
14 operations. The Commissioners will also be  
15 the ones who will vote on the outcome of the  
16 application. The assigned Commissioner for  
17 this proceeding is President Michael Picker.

18 Before we go any further, I would  
19 like to welcome Commissioner Shiroma and ask  
20 if she wants to make a couple of brief  
21 remarks.

22 Commissioner?

23 COMMISSIONER SHIROMA: Yes. Yes.  
24 Thank you. Thank you so much.

25 Good afternoon, everyone. My name  
26 is Genevieve Shiroma and I am one of the five  
27 Commissioners. I'm here at the PUC.

28 I think these public participation

1 hearings are very important and I'm really  
2 pleased that the team will be going to quite  
3 a few different venues to provide opportunity  
4 for PG&E customers to participate if they are  
5 able to and would like to.

6 The comments that we hear from the  
7 public at these hearings are very important  
8 to the Commission's process. And I do want  
9 to thank those that were able to attend today  
10 for being here because I know that it can be  
11 difficult to do work or personal commitments.  
12 And so attending in person and through the  
13 virtual I guess, through the phone line, is  
14 I'm really pleased that folks are able to do  
15 that.

16 So I look forward to hearing and  
17 that is my main role in attending today's  
18 public hearing. And, also, I will be able to  
19 attend several others as well through the  
20 next few weeks. And the key thing is I look  
21 forward to hearing the comments and seeing  
22 how all of those feed into the formal general  
23 rate case for Pacific Gas & Electric.

24 Thank you.

25 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you, Commissioner  
26 Shiroma for your insightful remarks. And we  
27 do look forward to seeing you in a few of the  
28 other locations.

1 Right now I think we have an  
2 evacuation -- this is not an announcement to  
3 evacuate. This is instructions in case  
4 there's need to evacuate. I think Ed's going  
5 to play a recording. Off the record.

6 (Off the record.)

7 (Evacuation video presented.)

8 ALJ LIRAG: All right. Thank you.

9 Let's go back on the record.

10 So, our task as the ALJs, Judge Lau  
11 and I, we're going to review the application,  
12 review testimony from parties, conduct  
13 evidentiary hearings and review all other  
14 evidence presented. We'll then write a  
15 proposed decision for the Commissioners to  
16 consider. The Commissioners can either vote  
17 to approve our draft proposed decision or the  
18 Commissioners can vote to adopt an alternate  
19 decision.

20 So, next up we'll have a short  
21 presentation from Marianne, who is a  
22 proceeding analyst from the ALJ Division.  
23 She will briefly describe what the general  
24 rate case application is and provide a short  
25 summary of what PG&E's requesting in this  
26 application. So we'll turn it over to  
27 Marianne.

28 MS. DIVINA: Good afternoon. My name

1 is Marianne Divina. I am one of the  
2 proceeding analysts in the Administrative Law  
3 Judge Division for the California Public  
4 Utilities Commission.

5 PG&E files a general rate case  
6 application every three years with the CPUC  
7 for funding its gas and electric operations.

8 As part of the GRC proceeding, the  
9 CPUC conducts evidentiary hearings so parties  
10 can present evidence and witnesses can be  
11 cross-examined. Public hearings will help  
12 CPUC in gathering data, information and  
13 evidence to determine whether PG&E's proposed  
14 revenue requirements are just and reasonable.  
15 If approved, the GRC application determines a  
16 proper rate that PG&E will charge to  
17 customers for its gas and electric services.

18 On December 13, 2018, PG&E filed  
19 Application 18-12-009, which is PG&E's GRC  
20 application for the years 2020, 2021 and  
21 2022.

22 For the year 2020, PG&E proposed a  
23 total of \$1.058 billion over its revenue  
24 requirement or a 12.4 percent increase over  
25 its currently adopted revenues in 2019.

26 Specifically, for the year 2020,  
27 PG&E requests an increase of \$134 million or  
28 6.8 percent for its gas distribution

1 expenses; \$749 million or 17.2 percent for  
2 its electric distribution expenses and \$175  
3 million or 8 percent for its electric  
4 generation expenses.

5 For the year 2021, PG&E requests an  
6 increase of \$454 million or 4.7 percent of  
7 the revenue requirement.

8 And for 2022, an increase of \$486  
9 million or 4.8 percent is being requested.

10 PG&E states that the main reason for  
11 the proposed increase are directly related to  
12 wildfire protection, particularly PG&E's  
13 wildfire safety programs. Some of the  
14 wildfire-related projects include installing  
15 stronger poles, increasing work to keep our  
16 lines clear from branches of trees, including  
17 annual vegetation inspection affecting  
18 distribution lines; implementing SmartMeter  
19 technology; expanding network of weather  
20 stations and installing high-definition  
21 cameras in high fire threat areas.

22 Other factors of increases include  
23 insurance costs, due to the increased risk of  
24 wildfire, gas meter replacements and  
25 construction of pressure regulator stations  
26 and corrosion management.

27 Reduction of costs are expected in  
28 connection with the nonrenewal of the Diablo



1 Canyon Power Plant.

2 Since PG&E's application is  
3 requesting additional increases to provide  
4 gas and electric service over the next three  
5 years, if the proposed increases requested by  
6 PG&E are granted by PUC, this will increase  
7 your utility bill.

8 An average residential customer  
9 using 500 kilowatt per hour or 34 therms a  
10 month will see an increase in their utility  
11 bill by around \$10.57 per month or an average  
12 increase of 6.4 percent. Specifically, the  
13 increase is around \$8.73 for electric and  
14 \$1.84 for gas services.

15 For CARE customers, they will see an  
16 increase of about \$7.01 a month or \$5.54 for  
17 electric and \$1.47 for gas services.

18 That's all. Thank you.

19 ALJ LIRAG: All right. Thank you,  
20 Marianne.

21 So we are almost at the comments  
22 section. I know everyone is here to start  
23 their comments. But I just want to point out  
24 a couple of more people that are in the  
25 building that have something to do with the  
26 application.

27 So, first we have the court reporter  
28 right in front of us who is taking down --

1 she is going to prepare a transcript of this  
2 public hearing so the other Commissioners can  
3 read every comment that was made here.

4 We also have representatives from  
5 the Public Advisor's Office. They're at the  
6 back. They're at the table outside. And if  
7 you have questions regarding helpful links or  
8 questions regarding the PUC in general,  
9 they're going to be able to help you out. So  
10 please approach them after this public  
11 hearing.

12 Next there's also several advisors  
13 in the room from other Commissioners'  
14 offices. Please raise your hand if you're an  
15 advisor. So, some of them may be available  
16 to talk to you after this hearing if you have  
17 questions to any of the Commissioners. So I  
18 believe all the Commissioners' offices or  
19 most of the Commissioners' offices are  
20 represented. So if you have questions, they  
21 might be available after hearing.

22 There's also several parties that  
23 are with us today. And we'll start by -- I  
24 think PG&E requested to make some opening  
25 remarks, but before that, PG&E has a customer  
26 service representative that is at the table  
27 outside. So if anyone has any billing  
28 questions or if you have questions about who

1 to reach in PG&E for an issue that you may  
2 have, please go to the customer service  
3 representative and ask your question or bring  
4 up your issue with them.

5 Let's have a few words from the PG&E  
6 representative.

7 STATEMENT OF MR. BROWN:

8 Welcome and thank you everyone for  
9 attending today's Public Participation  
10 Hearing on PG&E's 2020 General Rate Case  
11 Proposal.

12 My name is Jess Brown. I have been  
13 with PG&E for 35 years and I am the San  
14 Francisco Division, Local Customer Experience  
15 Director.

16 This is one of 17 hearings being  
17 hosted by the CPUC throughout our 70,000  
18 square-mile service territory.

19 At each location, including today,  
20 representatives from PG&E will be available  
21 to assist with questions of our customers.  
22 And we have representatives here, as pointed  
23 out in the back, and we can track down  
24 information you need specific to this  
25 proceeding or any customer issue that you may  
26 have.

27 If, for customers who are  
28 participating remotely via phone or

1 live-streaming and have a question about  
2 their service or bill, they should just call  
3 PG&E's 1-800 number. That's 1-800-743-5000.

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

10 Thank you to the Commission, ALJ  
11 Lau, ALJ Lirag and Commissioner Shiroma.  
12 Thank you for giving us this opportunity to  
13 learn from our customers and listen and  
14 that's what I'll do today, as well as in the  
15 future.

16 So now I would like to introduce  
17 our CEO and President of PG&E Corporation  
18 Bill Johnson, who would like to say a few  
19 words.

20 STATEMENT OF WILLIAM JOHNSON

21 Good afternoon. Good afternoon to  
22 everybody who is here. Thank you for coming.  
23 Commissioner Shiroma, Judge Lirag, Judge Lau,  
24 thank you for giving us this opportunity to  
25 contribute to public participation hearings  
26 on our 2020 General Rate Case Proposal.

27 These hearings provide a  
28 transparent and respectful way for us to

1 communicate -- to communicate and most  
2 importantly to hear and listen to our  
3 customers.

4 My name is Bill Johnson. I am the  
5 President and CEO of PG&E. Unlike my  
6 colleague, Jess Brown, who has been here  
7 35 years, I have been here two months. So I  
8 don't have the background he has.

9 But prior to coming here, I've  
10 spent almost the entire four decades in the  
11 public and private sectors of the utility  
12 business. I was drawn to this business from  
13 a career in law by the opportunity to do good  
14 things for people every day by providing  
15 something we all need and use, which is  
16 energy.

17 So I consider it my duty as a  
18 senior member and perhaps the senior member  
19 of the utility industry to respond when PG&E  
20 called and asked if I would help to apply my  
21 decades of experience trying to help make  
22 this company back to what we all need it to  
23 be.

24 And these efforts include  
25 supporting PG&E's most important  
26 responsibility, which is to serve our  
27 customers and our communities safely. And  
28 one of the most significant ways we can

1 achieve this is through our GRC proposal,  
2 which outlines our plans to upgrade  
3 technology and infrastructure; to enhance our  
4 ability to provide safe and reliable gas and  
5 electric service.

6 Our proposal will help bolster  
7 wildfire protection, risk monitoring and  
8 emergency response. It will also add new and  
9 enhanced safety measures, increase vegetation  
10 management and harden our electric system to  
11 increase resilience and help further reduce  
12 wildfires, all in order to safely and  
13 reliably serve our customers.

14 Under the proposal, we are  
15 requesting about a 1.1 billion increase over  
16 currently-adopted revenues. More than half  
17 of the proposed increase would be directly  
18 related to wildfire prevention, risk  
19 reduction and additional safety enhancement.

20 If approved by the CPUC, it would  
21 increase a typical residential customer's  
22 bill by 6.4 percent or \$10.57 per month,  
23 which includes \$8.73 per month for  
24 electricity and \$1.84 per month for natural  
25 gas therms.

26 I think it's important for us to  
27 share with everybody what your money will be  
28 spent on. I think it's also important to

1 make sure we all know where it won't be  
2 spent.

3 The GRC proposal will help fund a  
4 series of important safety investments, but  
5 it does not request funding from PG&E  
6 Corporation or utility officer compensation.  
7 That means it doesn't go toward the pay of my  
8 colleagues or me.

9 The proposal also does not request  
10 funding for potential wildfire claims  
11 involved in the Chapter 11 Bankruptcy  
12 proceeding.

13 The GRC proposal is a significant  
14 request and it comes at a difficult time, but  
15 as always our commitment to keep customers'  
16 costs as low as possible while meeting our  
17 responsibility to serve our customers safely,  
18 even as our changing climate prevents  
19 significant new challenges and risks.

20 This funding proposal is subject to  
21 the CPUC's thorough, open and transparent  
22 reviewal process and approval process and we  
23 encourage our customers to provide feedback  
24 and participate in this important public  
25 process that will help shape customer rates  
26 and the energy future of California. ]

27 Thank you for the opportunity.

28 ALJ LIRAG: All right. Thank you. I

1 also want the folks listening in, and members  
2 of the public that are here, to know that  
3 there are several consumer community union  
4 and large user groups who are parties to the  
5 proceeding. Many of these groups are opposed  
6 to what PG&E is requesting, and many have  
7 recommended reductions to the amounts and  
8 requests proposed by PG&E. So I think there  
9 are some parties that are here, and I'm  
10 giving them this opportunity to say a few  
11 brief remarks as well.

12 Is there anyone from any of the  
13 other parties that are here? Please come  
14 forward. You can introduce yourself, and  
15 what your party represents and your interest  
16 in the application. Thank you.

17 STATEMENT OF MS. PIERRE

18 Good afternoon. My name is  
19 Constance Slider Pierre. I'm the Organizing  
20 Director at TURN, The Utility Reform Network.

21 I would first like to thank both  
22 Administrative Law Judges Lirag and Lau, as  
23 well as Commissioner Shiroma, for the  
24 opportunity to speak today and say a few  
25 words to welcome members of the public.

26 Thank you for taking the time to  
27 come to today's public participation hearing.  
28 I hope you all will take advantage of this



1 opportunity to share your experiences and  
2 your concerns. We know that safety is very  
3 important, and we are all concerned about it.  
4 However, we also want to make sure that every  
5 dollar earmarked for safety improvements is  
6 spent on that and nothing else.

7           Public participation hearings  
8 represent the California Public Utilities  
9 Commission at its finest. In the hearing  
10 rooms the judges get to hear from utility  
11 attorneys, consumer attorneys locked in  
12 battle arguing over numbers and technical  
13 issues. But today the judges want to hear  
14 from you consumers about how proposed changes  
15 and rate increases affect you, your family  
16 and your community.

17           Your voice makes a difference.  
18 Today you have the chance to share your  
19 opinion before decisions have been made,  
20 because by the time you hear it on the news  
21 or in the paper, it is too late to engage in  
22 the public discourse that affects change and  
23 has its greatest impact.

24           Key issues of concern regarding  
25 PG&E's latest proposal. PG&E's latest  
26 proposal will increase residential customer  
27 bills annually from 2020 through 2022. If  
28 approved, this proposal would raise your

1 monthly bill \$20 by 2022, grow PG&E's revenue  
2 23 percent by 2022 from 2019, create a  
3 \$2 billion annual increase for PG&E by 2022  
4 resulting in a \$4.6 billion total increase  
5 for PG&E above 2019 over the next  
6 three years.

7           Additionally, this proposal comes  
8 on top of other rate increases currently  
9 being proposed by PG&E that would authorize a  
10 60 percent profit margin increase for  
11 shareholders, while forcing ratepayers to pay  
12 billions for additional tree trimming and  
13 costs associated with wildfires caused by  
14 PG&E's negligence.

15           During your testimony today I  
16 encourage you to use your time to reflect on  
17 your experience as a PG&E customer. Tell the  
18 Commission how current energy costs affect  
19 you; what trade-offs you have to make, you  
20 are being forced to make; what measures you  
21 have taken to reduce costs and conserve  
22 energy. Share with the Commission what an  
23 additional \$20 increase could mean for your  
24 budget, and what trade-offs you may be forced  
25 to make in the future if this proposal were  
26 approved.

27           Finally, if you haven't already  
28 signed up to speak, please consider doing so.

1 I hope our statement has provided some  
2 context and inspiration for you to do so,  
3 that you feel you can lift up your voice and  
4 be heard today. Thank you.

5 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you. Is there anyone  
6 else from any of the other parties? Hearing  
7 none, let's proceed with the comments.

8 Before that, there are members of  
9 the public listening in by telephone, and  
10 this hearing is also being webcast. To those  
11 folks who are tuning in remotely, please send  
12 us your comments to, well, it is this  
13 address, [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov). I'm not  
14 sure if you can see this. Again, it is  
15 [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov). We definitely  
16 want to hear from you as well.

17 Now let's get to the speakers.  
18 Since there is only a few, I won't need to  
19 time you, but it should probably be from  
20 around three to five minutes. If you go  
21 overly long, I'll raise the sign, 1 minute  
22 and then 0 minutes; 0 minutes I'll give you a  
23 chance to wrap up. Hopefully, I won't have  
24 to use it, and I don't think I will.

25 Also, I'm pretty bad at pronouncing  
26 names, so I apologize in advance. I'll do my  
27 best.

28 So the first speakers are -- first

1 speaker will be Joel Britton, followed by  
2 David Wilner, followed by Ann Brubaker. So  
3 those folks called can move to a chair that  
4 is closer to the podium so there is less lag  
5 in between speakers, and then I'll call on  
6 more speakers as we progress. Let's hear  
7 from Mr. Britton.

8 STATEMENT OF MR. BRITTON

9 Thank you. Thank you. I will read  
10 a statement. My statement is, Socialist  
11 Workers Party candidate for mayor of San  
12 Francisco in opposition to Pacific Gas and  
13 Electric Company's request for a rate  
14 increase. I am speaking in opposition to any  
15 rate increase for PG&E. Working people must  
16 not be forced to pay for PG&E's disregard for  
17 our lives and property. PG&E management's  
18 sole concern is maximizing profits for its  
19 shareholders.

20 The Socialist Workers Party calls  
21 for the nationalization of PG&E and running  
22 it under workers' control. All of its  
23 transactions must be made transparent, and  
24 the books opened to public inspection. That  
25 is the only way to enhance job safety,  
26 control all technical processes to provide  
27 affordable gas and electricity and prevent  
28 the company from causing other disasters.

1 "Affordable" is very important here. I work  
2 part time in retail at a Walmart store. And  
3 wages Walmart pays are not enough to pay for  
4 the proposed increase, I will say.

5 PG&E's record demonstrates urgency  
6 of taking the utility out of the hands of its  
7 management. San Bruno 2010 pipeline  
8 explosion caused by PG&E's lack of  
9 maintenance destroyed 38 houses, damaged many  
10 more and killed eight people. Equipment  
11 owned and operated by PG&E ignited 12  
12 wildfires in Sonoma County in October 2018,  
13 destroying thousands of structures and  
14 killing 18 people. Then last fall's Camp  
15 Fire that destroyed 19,000 people and killed  
16 85 people was caused by electrical  
17 transmission landlines owned and operated by  
18 PG&E. Managers did not shut off the  
19 electricity on the day of the Camp Fire, even  
20 though weather conditions called for them to  
21 do so.

22 Raising our rates will do nothing  
23 to end PG&E's gross irresponsibility. As a  
24 longtime oil refinery worker and member of  
25 the Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers Union, I  
26 learned firsthand the importance of union  
27 struggles for safety. The more control  
28 workers have over operations, the greater the

1 protection against explosions, fires, and  
2 other disasters affecting workers and the  
3 surrounding community.

4 Workers at PG&E, many of whom are  
5 members of the International Brotherhood of  
6 Electrical Workers, need to be in control of  
7 operations at this utility. They know from  
8 their own experience what is safe and what is  
9 dangerously unsafe. They must have the  
10 authority to organize the work, and to  
11 initiate shutdowns when they are necessary.

12 The fight for nationalization of  
13 PG&E under workers' control will require  
14 organizing and acting independently of the  
15 capitalist parties, the democrats and  
16 republicans. This fight can be a part of a  
17 movement of millions of working people that  
18 we need to build and charter course out of  
19 the capitalist economic, social and moral  
20 crisis to replace capitalist rule with a  
21 workers and farmers government.

22 Thank you very much.

23 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you, Mr. Britton.

24 Next, Mr. Wilner.

25 STATEMENT OF MR. WILNER

26 Good morning. My name is David  
27 Wilner. I live in the city of Novato. And I  
28 oppose any rate increase proceeding, unless

1 it is tied to reducing our extortion on the  
2 electric grid as outlined in the comments to  
3 the Public Advocates Office and president of  
4 this Commission.

5 I tried bringing this matter to the  
6 Commission's attention late last year. No  
7 one seems to be interested in what I have to  
8 say, or perhaps there is a coverup and this  
9 is something PG&E and the Commission do not  
10 want to talk about. At any rate, safety is  
11 the issue that needs immediate attention and  
12 should not require two years in a ratemaking  
13 proceeding to resolve.

14 I believe the Public Advocates  
15 Office has a duty to pursue this issue on  
16 behalf of the ratepayers and the public to  
17 make sure that everything possible is being  
18 done to prevent the risk of forest fires.

19 I provided a copy of my statement.  
20 I didn't realize there was a second  
21 administrative law judge. I will see that  
22 you get my comments just as well. Also, for  
23 anybody that is interested, I have copies  
24 here that I can provide.

25 Thank you very much for the  
26 opportunity to present my concerns.

27 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you, Mr. Wilner.

28 Next is Ms. Brubaker, followed by

1 Jeff Powers. And I'm sorry, this name is  
2 hard to pronounce -- is it Nishikant Sheorey?  
3 -- and then followed by Lindsey Phillips.

4 Ms. Brubaker.

5 STATEMENT OF MS. BRUBAKER

6 You don't have an overhead  
7 projector?

8 ALJ LIRAG: No.

9 MS. BRUBAKER: Sorry. My name is Anne  
10 Brubaker. I am the chairman of the San  
11 Francisco Coalition of Underground Utilities.  
12 We oppose this rate hike, because addressing  
13 safety, climate change includes hardening  
14 wires and poles. It also includes wires down  
15 technology.

16 The last round of undergrounding in  
17 San Francisco by PG&E was done with zero  
18 oversight of expense and cost. San Francisco  
19 has been denied the opportunity to review the  
20 accounting procedures of PG&E. The idea that  
21 we are now going to give PG&E more money to  
22 make our wires heavier, more resilient -- our  
23 poles -- I can't even imagine what a hardened  
24 pole would be.

25 Telecom has free rein over our  
26 aboveground poles thanks to the Middle Class  
27 Tax Relief and Jobs Bill of 2012. Most of  
28 you in the room won't realize this, but when



1 you get that radio equipment on your pole,  
2 that has come down from federal statutes.  
3 Your community has no control.

4 Those poles are going higher, in  
5 some cases 12 feet higher; not for safety,  
6 but so that they can get those radio emitting  
7 cans on your aboveground poles. So we are  
8 faced with more wires, more poles, bigger  
9 wires, bigger poles. And the solution is not  
10 more, it is to put it underground. San Diego  
11 has a citywide project, all wires are  
12 underground.

13 I'm being contacted on a regular  
14 basis from people as far as away as  
15 Connecticut and Florida asking how we in San  
16 Francisco are doing, because we are a leader.  
17 I will tell you right now, we aren't doing  
18 all that well.

19 This is what we have in San  
20 Francisco. I don't know if you guys can see  
21 this. There is no overhead projector. This  
22 is San Francisco. This is San Francisco.  
23 This is San Francisco. There is no living  
24 excuse for not having our wires underground.

25 The idea that they are going to --  
26 PG&E will erect more and charge us more to  
27 make us more of a Third World country is  
28 absolutely unconscionable. I get pictures

1 like this from Beijing. This is -- I don't  
2 believe this is what we want is to pay more,  
3 to get this kind of antiquated technology  
4 flies in the face of logic.

5 I would encourage all of you,  
6 particularly the CPCU (sic) that has not  
7 raised the rate of 20A funds since the  
8 program was instituted, I would encourage the  
9 CPCU to look really hard at ways to make it  
10 possible for all of California to put the  
11 wires underground, as has France, as has  
12 England, as has the Netherlands. We are a  
13 Third World country, I hate to say it. Until  
14 we get this done, parting of wires is not the  
15 solution. Thank you.

16 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you, Ms. Brubaker.

17 Next is Mr. Jeff Powers.

18 STATEMENT OF MR. POWERS

19 Thank you, commissioners. My name  
20 is Jeff Powers. I have been a worker for  
21 many years. I'm a member of Socialist  
22 Workers Party. I'm a journalist. I write  
23 for a newspaper The Militant. I covered the  
24 Camp Fire for The Militant this past year. I  
25 have been to the Paradise area six to eight  
26 times. It has been a real experience for me.  
27 I've been doing this for a long time, this  
28 has been a big experience for me.

1           The first trip I made up there was  
2   when the fire was still going on. You  
3   couldn't see here in the Bay Area because  
4   there was so much smoke from it. When we got  
5   out there, I was there with another person.  
6   We went to Chico. We went to Walmart, went  
7   to the Walmart parking lot. We had a chance  
8   to talk to people that had escaped from  
9   Paradise and the other towns nearby. It was  
10  like they had been in a war. They told  
11  similar stories, living in tents, it was  
12  raining. The conditions that they got out of  
13  were difficult.

14           Nobody warned them. They had to  
15  find out on their own. They found out  
16  through friends when they were in Paradise.  
17  They escaped in a harrowing way. A number  
18  lost their cars, and almost all of them lost  
19  everything that they had. It was extremely,  
20  extremely difficult experience for them.

21           The thing that impressed me the  
22  most though, I have to say, was the human  
23  solidarity that was shown by the people of  
24  Chico who, on their own, working people like  
25  myself on their own, went out to help them,  
26  got them food, provided them places to stay.  
27  It was -- that was a very encouraging thing.

28           Now as time has gone by it has

1 become clear, clear then, but it has become  
2 clear, very clear, the responsibility for  
3 this catastrophe is totally with PG&E  
4 management. They did not maintain the power  
5 lines. They didn't shut off that day. They  
6 didn't do it. Didn't do anything to warn  
7 anybody.

8 Now we are at a hearing where we  
9 are being asked, the residents in the state  
10 of California, to pay for their actions. And  
11 \$20 a month, what is that, that is \$240 a  
12 year. That is a lot of money for someone who  
13 works for a living, who lives the Bay Area.

14 I'm totally opposed to this. I'm  
15 sure the working people here and throughout  
16 this state are going to be totally opposed to  
17 it. These people are responsible. They  
18 should be held responsible. They are the  
19 ones that should bear the financial  
20 responsibility.

21 Yeah, we have to make some changes.  
22 It would be great to do that, better power  
23 lines, clean up the area. We should not have  
24 to pay for this.

25 Thank you. ]

26 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you, Mr. Powers.

27 Next is Nishikant Sheorey.

28 Hopefully I got that name right.

1 MR. SHEOREY: Very good.

2 ALJ LIRAG: Close enough?

3 STATEMENT OF MR. SHEOREY

4 Yeah. No worries.

5 Thank you for allowing me to speak.

6 I just want to say, so I am a ratepayer, a  
7 Clean Tech Renewable Energy engineer as well  
8 as organizer of the Democratic Socialists of  
9 America Eco Socialists Committee.

10 (Interjection by court reporter.)

11 MR. SHEOREY: All right. So I do  
12 oppose these increases. I recognize that the  
13 rates are evaluated and raised periodically.  
14 But given recent events, this is fairly  
15 egregious.

16 Basically what ratepayers are being  
17 asked to do by accepting these increases is  
18 essentially bearing the costs for PG&E's  
19 literally failed, deadly levels of greed,  
20 incompetence and negligence.

21 I recognize that a safe and reliable  
22 grid is of utmost importance. It's critical.  
23 It's a public utility. It's a public good.  
24 That is, by the way, something that PG&E's  
25 management and executives do not seem to  
26 acknowledge or at least do not prioritize.

27 ALJ LIRAG: I think you're still going  
28 a little bit too fast for our reporter, so

1 just a little slower. Thank you.

2 MR. SHEOREY: Anyway. So, ratepayer  
3 money should be going towards making sure we  
4 have a safe and reliable grid. But clearly,  
5 based on recent events, this is not the case  
6 or at least that has not been prioritized.

7 Those who have profited off the  
8 misery and the deaths and the suffering  
9 should be the ones to bear the financial  
10 costs. I recognize that this is critical and  
11 we do need to bring our grid up to speed, but  
12 ratepayers, taxpayers should not be the ones  
13 who pay that price.

14 And while we have the opportunity,  
15 we should be bringing PG&E and all of our  
16 electrical infrastructure under public and  
17 worker control and ownership. This must be  
18 done to make sure that situations like this  
19 do not occur in the future.

20 And so in the future, ratepayer  
21 money must go directly to maintaining our  
22 grid; making sure it is safe -- safe from,  
23 you know, to prevent wildfires and going into  
24 the future, as climate change becomes more  
25 and more catastrophic, to make sure that we  
26 can enable renewable energy in other sources  
27 of public good, technology and  
28 infrastructure.

1           That money should be making sure, we  
2     the people, get a service that is critical to  
3     us and not generating profit for the already  
4     well-paid and influential people.

5           So, once again, I oppose this rate  
6     increase.

7           Thank you for your time.

8           ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

9           Next is Lindsay Phillips followed by  
10    Jessica Tovar and Maggie Lewis.

11           So, Ms. Phillips.

12           STATEMENT OF MS. PHILLIPS

13           Good afternoon, Judges,  
14    Commissioner.

15           My name is Lindsey Phillips. I am  
16    a -- about a 30-year resident of  
17    San Francisco, raised in the Bay Area.

18           I live on a block of Filbert Street  
19    with seven poles on one side of the street.  
20    I have watched two or three of those poles go  
21    down over the years, taking out automobiles.  
22    It is a terrible situation.

23           I actually, shortly after I moved  
24    here, many years ago, I wanted to see about  
25    getting those poles underground. So at the  
26    time the City had a program that you could  
27    join if you could get 60 percent of the  
28    owners and neighbors in four contiguous

1 blocks to go along with the idea of  
2 undergrounding.

3 I and a friend managed to  
4 accomplish that and we got into the queue, so  
5 to speak. Well, a couple of years later, the  
6 City changed the rules and decided to do  
7 their undergrounding in a different way. But  
8 it really -- it never reached some areas of  
9 the City. There are many areas of the City  
10 that are not -- do not have utilities  
11 undergrounded. It's a huge safety issue.

12 I don't know how many people are  
13 aware of the fact that in the event of a  
14 catastrophe, like an earthquake where the  
15 poles and wires are downed, the first  
16 responder, fire trucks, ambulances, cannot  
17 drive over live downed wires. They have to  
18 wait for a PG&E or other utility crew to come  
19 out and disable those wires, which means that  
20 communities, neighborhoods that are not  
21 undergrounded can be very, very vulnerable to  
22 fire and other building collapses, waiting  
23 for first responders to get there.

24 But aside from that, I think that,  
25 you know, California always already pays huge  
26 utility rates. I have two daughters who live  
27 in Colorado. They each have families. They  
28 live in single-family dwellings. They have



1 air conditioning. They have radiant heat.  
2 And my utility bill in a 1,200-square foot  
3 apartment with one person in it is more than  
4 theirs per month and year.

5 I think that if anything, PG&E  
6 should be lowering our rates, frankly. I  
7 don't see that we are getting much of a  
8 return on our investment as ratepayers.

9 I testified actually before the  
10 State PUC about 25 years ago at their request  
11 because they had summoned a number of us who  
12 had been involved in trying to get  
13 undergrounding accomplished. And they called  
14 us because they were investigating PG&E's  
15 lack of accomplishment of undergrounding in  
16 this city. Nothing ever seemed to come of  
17 that. I don't know that it resulted in  
18 anything positive.

19 So I really think that putting up  
20 more poles, bigger poles, stronger poles,  
21 more wires is really and truly not the  
22 answer. We, for safety's sake, we really  
23 need to get these wires undergrounded and  
24 that should be PG&E's first real task is to  
25 underground the wires, get them out of our  
26 skies and make our cities and our rural areas  
27 safer places to live.

28 Thank you so much.

1           ALJ LIRAG: Thank you. So I have four  
2 more speakers on my list. And the next is  
3 Ms. Tovar.

4                         STATEMENT OF MS. TOVAR

5                         Jessica Tovar, Local Clean Energy  
6 Alliance.

7                         And I just wanted to, you know,  
8 just reiterate, PG&E has been responsible for  
9 multiple fires, not just the one that  
10 happened last fall and responsible for taking  
11 the lives of innocent people and destroying  
12 property.

13                        This demonstrates the audacity of  
14 this corporation that puts profits over  
15 people to come and ask for increases.  
16 Absolutely not. We absolutely oppose any  
17 increases to the bills for struggling  
18 ratepayers throughout the state of  
19 California.

20                        This is a corporation that  
21 literally turns the lights off on people who  
22 cannot pay their bills. We can't -- we  
23 cannot be rewarding this corporation any  
24 more. This is a bailout. And every step of  
25 the way that they come and ask for more money  
26 is an additional insult to injury. There are  
27 so many people struggling in the state of  
28 California, so many low-income people. And

1 in this city and in this greater Bay Area it  
2 is becoming impossible to live. And as far  
3 as we are concerned, raising electricity and  
4 gas, absolutely not.

5 And we shouldn't be even having  
6 this conversation. We should be talking  
7 about, you know, rewarding or actually  
8 crediting people and making rates actually  
9 more affordable for the people in this state  
10 and actually paying back the wildfire debt  
11 that is owed to the folks from the various  
12 fires. It's not just Paradise.

13 And we should be talking about  
14 safety; we should be talking about safety for  
15 the workers. And above all, we should be  
16 investing in centralized energy so that we  
17 don't rely on remote wires and transmission  
18 that clearly are dangerous. And PG&E has  
19 shown time and time again that they are not  
20 -- they are not paying attention to the  
21 workers' cries that these things need to be  
22 maintained. This is an old infrastructure.  
23 We need to put it away. We need to turn this  
24 system over to the people and decentralize  
25 it.

26 Thanks.

27 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

28 Next is Maggie Lewis followed by

1 Barbara Stebbins and then Ruben Adra.

2 STATEMENT OF MS. LEWIS

3 My name is Margie Lewis and I work  
4 with Local Clean Energy Alliance and  
5 Communities for a Better Environment.

6 As the PUC, you are charged, you  
7 are appointed with overseeing and keeping my  
8 and the rest of the ratepayers best interests  
9 at heart.

10 So, let's go back a little in  
11 history, 2001. PG&E declared bankruptcy.  
12 Fast-forward 18 years. What has happened?  
13 We know the Einstein definition of insanity  
14 is if you keep doing the same thing over and  
15 over again, you cannot expect anything to  
16 change. They had 18 years. What has  
17 happened? Disaster. That is what has  
18 happened.

19 So absolutely not. It is  
20 unconscionable for them to get a rate  
21 increase from not only what they want, they  
22 have just worked on bill AB 1054, so that not  
23 only the "we" in the PG&E area, all of the  
24 ratepayers in California are going to get  
25 charged with the bailout. That is  
26 unbelievable and it's just totally  
27 unacceptable.

28 In fact, in the East Bay where I

1 live, in Oakland, they have a Local Clean  
2 Energy Alliance. We have got an East Bay  
3 Clean Energy source that I have switched to.  
4 So I get cleaner energy than PG&E. Yet, what  
5 do they do on the bill? They have charged us  
6 a thing called PCIA. It's a can-to alimony  
7 from a bad divorce and they are making us pay  
8 that in perpetuity.

9 That is what the PG&E is doing, who  
10 says they care about clean energy, who says  
11 they want to have our best interest at heart.  
12 The interest they have is management and the  
13 shareholders, which they don't even  
14 necessarily live in the area or even in the  
15 state of California.

16 You know, recently since they have  
17 declared bankruptcy, they have apportioned  
18 either 11 or \$12 million in a Golden  
19 Parachute. It's either a Golden Parachute or  
20 for the new incoming CEO.

21 Now, come on. There it is again  
22 doing the same thing. I don't trust them as  
23 far as I can throw them, like the words in  
24 the -- oh God. Was it a movie or a TV show?  
25 It was called "Network." "We're tired and  
26 we're not going to take it anymore!" The  
27 ratepayers are not going to take this  
28 anymore. Unconscionable. Why don't you go

1 into the millions of dollars spent over the  
2 last 18 years, to the shareholders to the  
3 CEOs and go to them and say, "Hey. You have  
4 made a lot of investments on our backs. You  
5 pay this back because we're not going to do  
6 it."

7 Thank you.

8 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

9 Next is Ms. Stebbins.

10 STATEMENT OF MS. STEBBINS

11 MS. STEBBINS: Barbara Stebbins. I'm  
12 with Local Clean Energy Alliance and also  
13 with No PG&E Bailout.

14 I just kind of want to set this  
15 stage here a little bit in terms of PG&E. I  
16 mean I'm not sure how many of you know that  
17 PG&E is a criminal corporation. It is  
18 currently serving probation for the six  
19 felony counts it was found guilty of as a  
20 result of San Bruno. Five of those were  
21 criminal negligence. The sixth one was  
22 obstruction of justice because of their  
23 attempt to falsify the records around their  
24 gas pipeline maintenance. Okay?

25 So they came twice just before  
26 San Bruno; not just before, but like a year  
27 before to ask for \$10 million for pipeline  
28 safety which never -- specifically for the

1 pipeline that ran under San Bruno. They  
2 actually never touched that pipeline.

3 In 2014, an independent state audit  
4 found them guilty of funneling \$100 million  
5 from pipeline safety into executive bonuses  
6 and shareholder profits.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Whoa!

8 MS. STEBBINS: You know, as Margie just  
9 said, how do we trust this corporation?

10 So we are entirely opposed to the  
11 rate increase. We want you to realize, as  
12 the woman from TURN said, it's going to be  
13 \$20 by 2022. And that does not include all  
14 of the cost recovery proceedings that are in  
15 the brand new bill, brand new bailout bill,  
16 AB 1054, which will allow -- it creates a  
17 wildfire fund, true, but it also allows cost  
18 recovery proceedings at the CPUC for them to  
19 recover any money that they put out, any  
20 bonds that they float. It will recover money  
21 that comes out of the State Treasury, in  
22 order to -- for those same corporate  
23 utilities to be able to access that wildfire  
24 fund and essentially get bailed out.

25 So you can expect there will be a  
26 lot more fees added to your bill. Right now,  
27 if you check your bill, what you pay for the  
28 actual energy is probably less than what you

1 are paying in fees and taxes. So you can  
2 expect that to get a whole lot worse.

3 So, I mean, I really encourage you  
4 all. I don't like public speaking either,  
5 but it's really good to come here and let  
6 them know about how you feel about having  
7 fees continually added to your bill because  
8 of a criminal corporation's negligence.

9 Thank you.

10 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

11 So next is Ruben Adra, followed by  
12 Kyle DeWolfe and Allegra Mautner. So,  
13 there's a total of five speakers left. I  
14 received a new list from Gail.

15 STATEMENT OF MR. ADRA

16 My name is Ruben Adra. I want to  
17 tell you --

18 ALJ LIRAG: Let's go off the record.

19 (Off the record.)

20 ALJ LIRAG: Let's go back on the  
21 record.

22 Thank you, Mr. Adra. Please  
23 proceed.

24 MR. ADRA: I want to tell you guys that  
25 PUC -- PG&E should put in a rate cap over --  
26 as far as the strategy. And we don't want to  
27 raise our rates because they are responsible  
28 for the damage last year. And all of my



1 neighbors in my neighborhood don't like  
2 raising our rates. And tell the PG&E take  
3 care of the damage themselves and don't raise  
4 our rates. And that's all.

5 Thank you.

6 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

7 Next is Mr. DeWolfe.

8 STATEMENT OF MR. DeWOLFE

9 Good afternoon. My name is Kyle  
10 DeWolfe. I live in San Francisco. I want to  
11 go on the record as opposing these rate  
12 hikes.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Louder, please.

14 MR. DeWOLFE: Okay. Is that any  
15 better?

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

17 MR. DeWOLFE: Wildfires are not any  
18 problem in California. They have been here  
19 longer that there have been people. PG&E's  
20 poor maintenance is also not a new problem.  
21 As a previous speaker mentioned, the  
22 San Bruno pipeline explosion was because the  
23 CPUC gave them money for maintenance and they  
24 failed to actually move on that.

25 If we give them more money for  
26 maintenance, why would we expect that, given  
27 their past behavior, they would actually  
28 spend it on maintenance?

1                   In 2018 SCE filing, \$13.8 billion  
2 was set aside for potential wildfire  
3 litigation. Why do we need to raise rates?  
4 If they did the maintenance, they wouldn't  
5 get sued. And so they could use this money  
6 that they have put aside for litigation to  
7 pay for the ongoing maintenance.               ]

8                   On top of which, this is not a  
9 consumer issue. This is an owner issue.  
10 These rate hikes should be passed not to the  
11 consumers, but to the owners of PG&E, which  
12 is the shareholders. Thank you.

13                  ALJ LIRAG: Thank you. Next is Allegra  
14 Mautner, followed by Edgar Perry and Matthew  
15 Jones.

16                   STATEMENT OF MS. MAUTNER

17                  Hi there. My name is Allegra  
18 Mautner. I am a former employee of Western  
19 Environmental Consulting. I am an arborist  
20 and did utility line inspection for the  
21 vegetation management program at PG&E.

22                  I saw firsthand how much -- how  
23 much PG&E cares about our safety as citizens  
24 of California. It is very little. The  
25 training they gave me was inadequate, and the  
26 way in which they spoke about ratepayers and  
27 customers was abhorrent. They saw us as an  
28 annoyance on their way to profits for their

1 shareholders. Their first allegiance is to  
2 shareholders, and they don't have our safety  
3 in mind. And giving them more money is not  
4 going to change that.

5 The way I see it, we talk about  
6 being a progressive state here in California;  
7 and this is an incredibly regressive solution  
8 to this problem. It is not a solution at  
9 all. We should not be looking at the bills  
10 of our -- a lot of people throughout this  
11 state in order to solve this problem. This  
12 is a much larger problem than just PG&E.

13 The way in which we look at our  
14 energy as a state is really important to look  
15 at comprehensively. In asking ratepayers to  
16 pay for that problem, instead of actually  
17 looking at how we are going to manage and be  
18 climate ready going forward, is not the  
19 proper solution. These capacities are just  
20 going to keep getting worse, and they are  
21 going to be happening more often. There is  
22 not a way to prevent them totally, but there  
23 is a way to reduce the impact on them. And  
24 asking people to pay more on their energy  
25 bills when some people can't even pay the  
26 energy bills that they have right now is not  
27 the way forward.

28 I am against these rate hikes, and

1 I think it is shameful that we are even  
2 discussing it. The way forward is to  
3 actually look at how our energy, how we use  
4 our energy in California, and come up with  
5 novel solutions that don't involve giving  
6 profits to the top 1 percent of our society  
7 while the rest of us struggle to survive.  
8 That is all I have to say about that.

9 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you. Next is Edgar  
10 Perry, followed by Matthew Jones. Mr. Perry.

11 STATEMENT OF MR. PERRY

12 My name is Edgar (inaudible) Perry,  
13 regular Perry, P-e-r-r-y.

14 In the past, the governorship of  
15 Jerry Brown and the CEO of PG&E and more than  
16 one California attorney generals one in  
17 which, as you know, the Senator, U.S. Senator  
18 Kamala Harris, all of them have been advised  
19 that PG&E, which is included in a lawsuit at  
20 the U.S. Supreme Court from the appeal of the  
21 Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals No. 18-72114,  
22 of the problems that we have now with PG&E  
23 with fires and San Bruno explosion.

24 It is suggested that once more for  
25 the record in this court that PG&E needs to  
26 underground its wires. PG&E needs to check  
27 better the gas supply of different  
28 communities. And I don't presume to say

1 everything, but other speakers told about  
2 PG&E not being a utility, but pure and simple  
3 an operation which is interested in all the  
4 money. And over 150 billions with a B, not  
5 an M, have been wasted by PG&E actions. And  
6 frankly, the lawsuits I was talking about  
7 includes the State of California and  
8 different divisions, one of them is PG&E.

9 So do us a favor, we the people of  
10 California -- I've been in California for  
11 over 55 years. Do us a favor, tell the new  
12 governor to listen to the people. We have  
13 had enough.

14 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you. Next is  
15 Mr. Matthew Jones. Matthew Jones is the last  
16 speaker on the list, but I'll ask if other  
17 people want to speak also.

18 STATEMENT OF MR. JONES

19 Good afternoon, everyone. Thanks  
20 for giving me the opportunity to speak. It  
21 is not my first time speaking before this  
22 Commission. And that is because I'm  
23 originally from San Bruno, grew up in the  
24 community there. Spent two years working for  
25 the city in our community development  
26 department right after the explosion and the  
27 aftermath of the rebuilding of the community  
28 there.

1           And I'm opposed to the rate hikes.  
2     The reason for me is that I really don't get  
3     a sense that this, even this hearing or this  
4     process, is actually a democratic process.

5           I've also served on a commission  
6     myself. I've been a staffer for two  
7     different commissions. I feel like a public  
8     process, if a public process was actually  
9     occurring, it would occur at a time when  
10    everyone is available to make it. It is a  
11    privilege to be able to be up here today, to  
12    have the time to be up here.

13           I'm also thinking about for that  
14    \$10 a month proposed, \$120 a year, I'm  
15    thinking about low-income families that don't  
16    have the ability to come to a meeting like  
17    this? They are just struggling to get rent.  
18    This is just one more thing to be added to  
19    their lives that they have to deal with.

20           I guess there is this general  
21    feeling of disempowerment, where it is a  
22    play-to-pay system that we live in right now.  
23    I just don't understand. PG&E is a convicted  
24    felon. I'm wondering why a convicted felon  
25    should be able to set the rules in  
26    government, and why they are an insider in  
27    this process. I'm also wondering why a  
28    convicted felon like PG&E should be allowed

1 to spend over a million dollars per year  
2 lobbying staff, including the Commission,  
3 including the governor, including the  
4 legislature.

5 And guess what, over the past two  
6 weeks there has been behind-the-scenes deals  
7 happening, unbeknownst to the public. We  
8 just found out last week. And there is a  
9 bill right now in Sacramento that is about to  
10 go through the Assembly, AB 1054. My guess  
11 is you all haven't heard about it? The  
12 insiders probably have. But to the rest of  
13 you, we haven't been a part of this process.  
14 There is only one public hearing in the past  
15 week that happened right before it went to  
16 the Senate floor. That to me underscores the  
17 fact that they have a hold on this whole  
18 process. PG&E owns it. It is pay to play.

19 To me that -- I just -- I'm so  
20 frustrated because, you know, if you look at  
21 water, if you look at parks, if you look at  
22 schools, if you look at roads, those are all  
23 considered public goods. To me, energy is a  
24 public good. Internet is a public good. All  
25 those things should be put under the control  
26 of people, made into an actual democratic  
27 process, taken out of the hands of  
28 corporations, which have infiltrated our

1 democracy, and bringing power back to the  
2 people. Democratizing our energy systems.

3 So I endorse a takeover of PG&E.  
4 We should own PG&E. We should democratize  
5 our energy systems and need to actually  
6 declare this a public good and treat it as  
7 such. Thank you.

8 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you. Mr. Jones was  
9 the last person on the list. Is there anyone  
10 else that hasn't spoken? Please come  
11 forward, speak your name.

12 STATEMENT OF MS. DHIEME

13 My name is (inaudible) Dhieme.

14 ALJ LIRAG: I'm sorry, can you spell  
15 your last name?

16 MS. DHIEME: D-h-i-e-m-e. I'm a  
17 resident for 60 years in San Francisco.

18 PG&E was a fantastic firm. They had  
19 their own staff. They had their own power  
20 that is (inaudible). Nowadays, the  
21 (inaudible) run everything. Maybe we should  
22 learn to cost account in order to keep  
23 expenses down.

24 Congratulate you, Mr. Jones, for  
25 your new position. And the legal skills of  
26 yours will be very welcome. But I think we  
27 need somebody who can work in construction  
28 and supervision so they can install our



1 pipelines for gas to our houses and get out  
2 of plastic. Whatever we do for our  
3 air-conditioning, for our earthquakes,  
4 earthquakes, once they catch fire? Plastic  
5 gas pipes. And this is the way PG&E has  
6 performed during the last years. They bring  
7 the plastic gas pipes to the sewer system of  
8 my neighbors, so the sewer systems eventually  
9 clog up. If I do quality work of this kind,  
10 I certainly need a raise in my fees, because  
11 I have to do everything a second time over  
12 again and pay the subcontractors. Have your  
13 own staff, train your own staff, be a  
14 supervisor on the street and not in the power  
15 of the administration.

16 I'm very disappointed by PG&E. It  
17 was a good company. It should tell you  
18 something if it goes through bankrupt two  
19 times in a short period. You have your work  
20 cut out if you want to stay alive.

21 And since they are now starting this  
22 Clean Power San Francisco, and I say no. And  
23 sign me over without my signature is  
24 abominable. I think PUC needs to learn that  
25 you do not take somebody's rights and sign  
26 them over after you made something four  
27 times. That is not acceptable.

28 I don't know where you went to

1 business college. Get your university money  
2 back and learn to do better business  
3 transactions. What you are doing at the  
4 moment is you are weakening PG&E.

5 ALJ LIRAG: Excuse me.

6 MS. DHIEME: If you want to do that,  
7 you have to reorganize a whole power grid  
8 business for San Francisco. I'm against the  
9 raises. I'm for cost cutting.

10 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you. Anyone else?  
11 Also, for the rest of the speakers, sorry to  
12 bring this up late, please direct your  
13 comments to us. If you have comments to PG&E  
14 directly, I believe they are going to stay  
15 after the hearing, and you can talk directly  
16 to them. But for purposes of the public  
17 participation hearing, we like to hear your  
18 comments to the PUC. Thank you.

19 Please state your name.

20 STATEMENT OF MR. SALKOFF

21 David Salkoff.

22 ALJ LIRAG: Can you spell your last  
23 name?

24 MR. SALKOFF: S-a-l-k-o-f-f.

25 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you.

26 MR. SALKOFF: I'm a resident and  
27 ratepayer of Davis. And I graduated with a  
28 PhD in neuroscience from Yale last year.

1 Following this stuff, even for a new  
2 scientist, is pretty complicated. And I made  
3 the two-hour trek out here today partly  
4 because there is no CPUC meeting near Davis.  
5 There is not even one in Sacramento, for some  
6 reason. I'm not really sure why, because  
7 there is a CPUC office there.

8 The people that these rate increases  
9 are going to hurt the most can't be here  
10 today. It is 1:00 p.m. on a Tuesday. Most  
11 people are working during that time, so all  
12 this talk about transparency and democracy is  
13 a farce, in my eyes.

14 A couple of weeks ago there was a  
15 fire in a residential area of Davis. And the  
16 fire department got there within about  
17 five minutes, and PG&E took one hour to  
18 arrive. And, luckily, the fire department  
19 was able to control the fire but couldn't  
20 completely put it out until the energy was  
21 turned off. So what is the difference  
22 between the, you know, the public fire  
23 department and PG&E? I think it is because  
24 PG&E's main concern, or primary goal is to  
25 make profit. And why would they want to turn  
26 off energy?

27 So I'm against the rate increases,  
28 and I think that if ratepayers have to pay

1 for the negligence of PG&E, then we should  
2 get some control over it.

3 In 2006, I believe, there was a  
4 campaign for the public utility of  
5 Sacramento, SMUD, to take over infrastructure  
6 in Davis, West Sacramento and Woodland. And  
7 Davis was overwhelmingly supportive. I think  
8 73 percent of Davis residents were supportive  
9 of SMUD purchase of construction. However,  
10 PG&E spent millions on the campaign. Of  
11 course, SMUD wasn't allowed to spend any, it  
12 is a public utility, just borrowed from  
13 campaign funding. Anyway, the vote failed,  
14 despite the fact Davis residents wanted  
15 utilization.

16 I think PG&E is just really standing  
17 in the way. And I mean you guys think that  
18 you are providing a service to everyone, but  
19 everyone sees you as a complete monster.  
20 Thank you.

21 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you for driving all  
22 the way here. Anyone else?

23 (No response.)

24 ALJ LIRAG: I think that is the last  
25 speaker.

26 I want to repeat for the folks that  
27 are listening in, please send us your  
28 comments to [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov). We

1 definitely want to hear from you.

2 Before I conclude, I want to thank  
3 everyone that attended, and then especially  
4 Commissioner Shiroma for being here. Do you  
5 have any closing remarks?

6 COMMISSIONER SHIROMA: Yes. Thank you,  
7 Judge. I appreciated hearing from people who  
8 are PG&E customers today.

9 And I wanted to also note that there  
10 will be another eight meetings at 6:00 p.m.  
11 in the evening in places like Stockton,  
12 Chico, Oakland, San Jose, San Luis Obispo,  
13 Santa Rosa, Bakersfield and Fresno. So I  
14 really appreciate that the CPUC is looking to  
15 provide many other opportunities for PG&E  
16 customers to come and participate in the  
17 public hearing and provide comments. And  
18 these dates, times and places are on the  
19 website. There are 1:00 p.m. meetings and  
20 also 6:00 p.m. meetings in each of those  
21 cities I just outlined.

22 Again, appreciate the folks who  
23 really made today's meeting and appreciate  
24 hearing your comments. Thank you.

25 ALJ LIRAG: Thank you, Commissioner.  
26 Judge Lau?

27 ALJ LAU: I have no...

28 ALJ LIRAG: Judge Lau has no comments.

1 Thank you.

2 ALJ LAU: I have no comments.

3 Thank you for coming here to speak.

4 And Judge Lirag and I will take your comments  
5 into consideration.

6 ALJ LIRAG: We just want to reiterate  
7 that we would like to really thank everyone  
8 for coming here. Your comments were very  
9 insightful. We took notes of all of them,  
10 and our reporters took down every word,  
11 hopefully.

12 The next public hearing is on July  
13 17th in Stockton, that one has a 6:00 p.m.  
14 one, so that is 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. And  
15 then July 18th will be at Chico, also  
16 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

17 Again, thank you to everyone. This  
18 concludes the public participation hearing.  
19 Let's go off the record.

20 (Whereupon, at the hour of 2:20  
21 p.m., this matter having been continued  
22 to 1:00 p.m., July 17, 2019, at  
Stockton, California, the Commission  
then adjourned.) ]

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDING

I, ANA M. GONZALEZ, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER  
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CSR NO. 11320

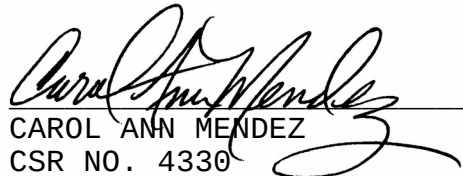
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CSR NO. 4330



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