

Comment Set G0014, cont.  
California Botanical Habitat

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## Appendix A

G0014-20

### Schwarzenegger pressing state regulators to allow power line proposed through Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

The governor says it is needed to transfer clean energy, but opponents say it's a new threat to California's natural resources.

By Michael Rothfeld, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer  
April 27, 2008

SACRAMENTO -- Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is pushing state regulators to sign off on a high-voltage power line that a San Diego utility wants to build through the middle of California's largest state park.

Proposed for Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, the project puts Schwarzenegger again at odds with environmentalists -- and some state officials -- who believe he is allowing California's unrivaled collection of public preserves to be threatened.



Photos: Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

The latest controversy follows the governor's proposal to close 48 parks to save money, his

backing of a six-lane toll road through San Onofre State Beach and his decision not to reappoint two foes of that project -- his brother-in-law Bobby Shriver and actor-director Clint Eastwood -- to the state parks commission.

Schwarzenegger, who says the power line is needed to transport clean energy, was concerned that Shriver and Eastwood might fight it too, said some officials and others familiar with the situation. The governor's aides have said he removed the pair to give others a chance to serve.

The battle highlights the tension between California's demand for infrastructure and its desire to protect natural resources.

East of San Diego in the Colorado Desert, [Anza-Borrego](#) is among the largest state parks in the United States and runs 70 miles south from Riverside County nearly to Mexico. It shelters a variety of wildlife and contains structures thought to be ancient human dwellings. Nearly a million people visit each year.

The 150-mile transmission line would run through the park for more than 20 miles, replacing wooden poles that carry lower-voltage lines with industrial-style towers up to 160 feet tall.

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San Diego Gas & Electric and its parent corporation, Sempra Energy, promise that the proposed line, known as Sunrise Powerlink, would carry renewable power from the sun, wind and ground, mostly via yet-undeveloped plants in the bright, hot Imperial Valley.

State law requires utilities to supply 20% of their energy from renewable sources by 2010 -- a benchmark SDG&E has said it cannot meet. The San Diego utility supplies 6% today.

"The project's significance lies not only in its supplying additional power for a thriving and growing region but in doing so in a way that truly moves California into the future," Schwarzenegger wrote to Dian Grueneich, the California public utility commissioner overseeing the project's application, in a letter last December that came to light last month.

But the project would mar sweeping vistas of mountains, desert and scenic roads on 90,000 of Anza-Borrego's 600,000 acres, spoil the solitude of campgrounds with loud buzzing and jeopardize species such as the endangered bighorn sheep, according to parks officials and a draft state and federal environmental [review](#) completed in January. That report found five preferable alternatives, including a route south of the park along Interstate 8 through the Cleveland National Forest.

"The idea that we're going to sacrifice critical pieces of our environment to protect other pieces of our environment seems a little ironic," said Elizabeth Goldstein, president of the nonprofit California Parks Foundation. "That's an irony I cannot accept. We have to find a way to do both."

Schwarzenegger, in turn, called environmentalists and Democrats hypocrites for trying to block clean-energy projects.

"It's a kind of schizophrenic behavior," the Republican governor said recently at a Yale University conference on climate change. "They

say that we want renewable energy, but we don't want you to put it anywhere."

He cited opposition to SDG&E's plan for "150 miles of transmission lines" -- the precise distance of the company's proposed route through Anza-Borrego. The alternative southern route is 40 miles shorter.

The governor's parks director, Ruth Coleman, objects to SDG&E's plans and told Grueneich in February that she prefers a route that avoids the park. But in deference to Schwarzenegger, she has remained otherwise silent on the matter in recent months -- as she eventually did on the toll road plan -- since issuing a blistering statement to the Public Utilities Commission in 2006.

Coleman, who declined an interview request, wrote then that the power line "would forever change the character of this pristine park and wilderness area."

Some environmentalists question how much renewable energy the line would carry, because production is still scant in the Imperial Valley. Development is uncertain, they say, and the utility could use the line to import electricity from Sempra's natural gas-fired plants in Mexico and Arizona.

The Public Utilities Commission is expected to reach a decision on whether the line should be built, and where, by late summer. "I believe very strongly that the public needs to have confidence this process has been fair," said Grueneich, who has arranged [public hearings](#) in Borrego Springs, near the park, on May 12.

SDG&E executives argue that building through Anza-Borrego would allow northward expansion connecting with Southern California Edison's system in Riverside and Orange counties, increasing the reliability of the state's electrical grid.

In addition, they say, the southern route would come too close to another power line the

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company has, creating a fire hazard; would bisect tribal territory; and would be more disruptive to communities than building in the park along the easement for the smaller line, which pre-dated by nine years the park's establishment in 1933.

"If we took the southern corridor we would probably have four times as many miles of newly disturbed lands as we would through the northern corridor," Michael Niggli, SDG&E's chief operating officer, said in an interview. "There are some considerations here that suggest this may be a very appropriate way to meet the goals of the state of California."

Mark Jorgensen, the Anza-Borrego superintendent, said the park has been targeted before for power lines, water tunnels and fuel lines heading to San Diego from the east.

"We realize that life goes on outside of Anza-Borrego," said Jorgensen, who has worked in the park for 32 years. But "we feel it is important to stand up for the park values and why people set this site apart 75 years ago."

A spokeswoman for the governor, Lisa Page, said that Schwarzenegger "doesn't want to go through the park if it can be avoided" and that he has not backed a specific route.

But in his December letter to the Public Utilities Commission, the governor said he wanted "to offer my support for the Sunrise Powerlink project before you for consideration."

Schwarzenegger sent a copy of his letter to commission President Michael Peevey, a former energy company executive who has taken an interest in the project, though he is not assigned to oversee it.

On March 20, Peevey's chief of staff flew by

helicopter over the proposed routes with Niggli, the utility's chief operating officer, who described the advantages of the Anza-Borrego route, according to a PUC filing.

"In the 25 years I've been doing this, I've never seen this kind of hands-on intervention by the commissioners and the governor this early in a case," said Michael Shames, executive director of the Utility Consumers' Action Network, a San Diego nonprofit advocacy group fighting the power line.

Sempra donated \$25,000 to Schwarzenegger's 2007 inaugural committee, state records show. In 2004, the company gave the governor a \$50,000 political contribution, which he returned due to a pending lawsuit between Sempra and the state.

There is a dispute between SDG&E and parks officials over whether the Parks and Recreation Commission would need to vote on a new power line. Shriver and Eastwood would have been in a position to exert influence over the project had it come before them for a vote, although they had not taken a position on it.

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<http://www.latimes.com/news/science/environment/la-me-park27apr27,1.3488731.full.story>

### **Energy Funds Swell Governor's Post-Election Accounts**

Since being elected in October, governor Schwarzenegger has raked in nearly \$11 million in contributions, with PG&E and Sempra throwing in tens of thousands of dollars.

February 20, 2004

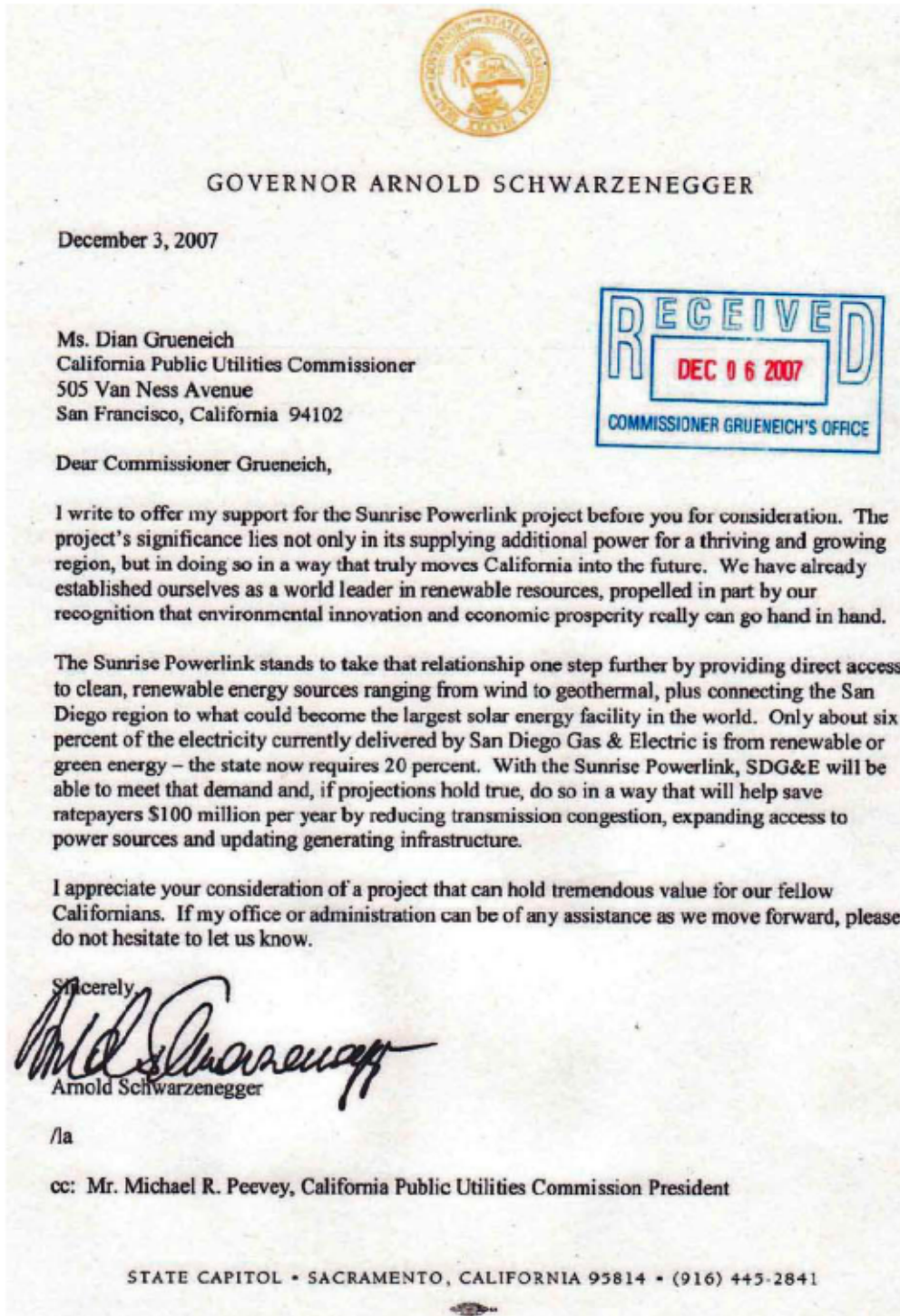
<http://www.californiaenergycircuit.net/displaykeywordstories.php?keid=33&task=show&un=&ut=&pd=&seid=1211835990>

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## Appendix B

# CEQA

The California Environmental Quality Act

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### PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE

#### SECTION 21000-21106

##### Chapter 1: Policy

##### § 21000. Legislative intent

The Legislature finds and declares as follows:

(a) The maintenance of a quality environment for the people of this state now and in the future is a matter of statewide concern.

(b) It is necessary to provide a high-quality environment that at all times is healthful and pleasing to the senses and intellect of man.

(c) There is a need to understand the relationship between the maintenance of high-quality ecological systems and the general welfare of the people of the state, including their enjoyment of the natural resources of the state.

(d) The capacity of the environment is limited, and it is the intent of the Legislature that the government of the state take immediate steps to identify any critical thresholds for the health and safety of the people of the state and take all coordinated actions necessary to prevent such thresholds being reached.

(e) Every citizen has a responsibility to contribute to the preservation and enhancement of the environment.

(f) The interrelationship of policies and practices in the management of natural resources and waste disposal requires systematic and concerted efforts by public and private interests to enhance environmental quality and to control environmental pollution.

(g) It is the intent of the Legislature that all agencies of the state government which regulate activities of private individuals, corporations, and public agencies which are found to affect the quality of the environment, shall regulate such activities so that major consideration is given to preventing environmental damage, while providing a decent home and satisfying living environment for every Californian.

##### § 21001. Additional legislative intent

The Legislature further finds and declares that it is the policy of the state to:

(a) Develop and maintain a high-quality environment now and in the future, and take all action necessary to protect, rehabilitate, and enhance the environmental quality of the state.

(b) Take all action necessary to provide the people of this state with clean air and water, enjoyment of aesthetic, natural, scenic, and

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historic environmental qualities, and freedom from excessive noise.

(c) Prevent the elimination of fish or wildlife species due to man's activities, insure that fish and wildlife populations do not drop below self-perpetuating levels, and preserve for future generations representations of all plant and animal communities and examples of the major periods of California history.

(d) Ensure that the long-term protection of the environment, consistent with the provision of a decent home and suitable living environment for every Californian, shall be the guiding criterion in public decisions.

(e) Create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony to fulfill the social and economic requirements of present and future generations.

(f) Require governmental agencies at all levels to develop standards and procedures necessary to protect environmental quality.

(g) Require governmental agencies at all levels to consider qualitative factors as well as economic and technical factors and long-term benefits and costs, in addition to short-term benefits and costs and to consider alternatives to proposed actions affecting the environment.

### **§ 21001.1. Review of public agency projects**

The Legislature further finds and declares that it is the policy of the state that projects to be carried out by public agencies be subject to the same level of review and consideration under this division as that of private projects required to be approved by public agencies.

### **§ 21002. Approval of projects; feasible alternative or mitigation measures**

The Legislature finds and declares that it is the policy of the state that public agencies should not approve projects as proposed if there are feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available which would substantially lessen the significant environmental effects of such projects, and that the procedures required by this division are intended to assist public agencies in systematically identifying both the significant effects of proposed projects and the feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures which will avoid or substantially lessen such significant effects. The Legislature further finds and declares that in the event specific economic, social, or other conditions make infeasible such project alternatives or such mitigation measures, individual projects may be approved in spite of one or more significant effects thereof.

#### **§ 21002.1. Use of environmental impact reports; policy**

In order to achieve the objectives set forth in Section

21002, the Legislature hereby finds and declares that the following policy shall apply to the use of environmental impact reports prepared pursuant to this division:

(a) The purpose of an environmental impact report is to identify the significant effects on the environment of a project, to identify alternatives to the project, and to indicate the manner in which those significant effects can be mitigated or avoided.

(b) Each public agency shall mitigate or avoid the significant effects on the

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environment of projects that it carries out or approves whenever it is feasible to do so.

(c) If economic, social, or other conditions make it infeasible to mitigate one or more significant effects on the environment of a project, the project may nonetheless be carried out or approved at the discretion of a public agency if the project is otherwise permissible under applicable laws and regulations.

(d) In applying the policies of subdivisions (b) and (c) to individual projects, the responsibility of the lead agency shall differ from that of a responsible agency. The lead agency shall be responsible for considering the effects, both individual and collective, of all activities involved in a project. A responsible agency shall be responsible for considering only the effects of those activities involved in a project which it is required by law to carry out or approve. This subdivision applies only to decisions by a public agency to carry out or approve a project and does not otherwise affect the scope of the comments that the public agency may wish to make pursuant to Section 21104 or 21153.

(e) To provide more meaningful public disclosure, reduce the time and cost required to prepare an environmental impact report, and focus on potentially significant effects on the environment of a proposed project, lead agencies shall, in accordance with Section 21100, focus the discussion in the environmental impact report on those potential effects on the environment of a proposed project which the lead agency has determined are or may be significant. Lead agencies may limit discussion on other

effects to a brief explanation as to why those effects are not potentially significant.

**§ 21003. Planning and environmental review procedures; documents; reports; data base; administration of process**

The Legislature further finds and declares that it is the policy of the state that:

(a) Local agencies integrate the requirements of this division with planning and environmental review procedures otherwise required by law or by local practice so that all those procedures, to the maximum feasible extent, run concurrently, rather than consecutively.

(b) Documents prepared pursuant to this division be organized and written in a manner that will be meaningful and useful to decision makers and to the public.

(c) Environmental impact reports omit unnecessary descriptions of projects and emphasize feasible mitigation measures and feasible alternatives to projects.

(d) Information developed in individual environmental impact reports be incorporated into a data base which can be used to reduce delay and duplication in preparation of subsequent environmental impact reports.

(e) Information developed in environmental impact reports and negative declarations be incorporated into a data base which may be used to make subsequent or supplemental environmental determinations.

(f) All persons and public agencies involved in the environmental review process be responsible for carrying out the process in the most efficient, expeditious manner in

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order to conserve the available financial, governmental, physical, and social resources with the objective that those resources may be better applied toward the mitigation of actual significant effects on the environment.

### **§ 21003.1. Environmental effects of projects; comments from public and public agencies to lead agencies; availability of information**

The Legislature further finds and declares it is the policy of the state that:

(a) Comments from the public and public agencies on the environmental effects of a project shall be made to lead agencies as soon as possible in the review of environmental documents, including, but not limited to, draft environmental impact reports and negative declarations, in order to allow the lead agencies to identify, at the earliest possible time in the environmental review process, potential significant effects of a project, alternatives, and mitigation measures which would substantially reduce the effects.

(b) Information relevant to the significant effects of a project, alternatives, and mitigation measures which substantially reduce the effects shall be made available as soon as possible by lead agencies, other public agencies, and interested persons and organizations.

(c) Nothing in subdivisions (a) or (b) reduces or otherwise limits public review or comment periods currently prescribed either by statute or in guidelines prepared and adopted pursuant to Section 21083 for environmental documents, including, but not limited to, draft environmental impact reports and negative declarations.

### **§ 21004. Mitigating or avoiding a significant effect; powers of public agency**

In mitigating or avoiding a significant effect of a project on the environment, a public agency may exercise only those express or implied powers provided by law other than this division. However, a public agency may use discretionary powers provided by such other law for the purpose of mitigating or avoiding a significant effect on the environment subject to the express or implied constraints or limitations that may be provided by law.

### **§ 21005. Information disclosure provisions; noncompliance; presumption; findings**

(a) The Legislature finds and declares that it is the policy of the state that noncompliance with the information disclosure provisions of this division which precludes relevant information from being presented to the public agency, or noncompliance with substantive requirements of this division, may constitute a prejudicial abuse of discretion within the meaning of Sections 21168 and 21168.5, regardless of whether a different outcome would have resulted if the public agency had complied with those provisions.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature that, in undertaking judicial review pursuant to Sections 21168 and 21168.5, courts shall continue to follow the established principle that there is no presumption that error is prejudicial.

(c) It is further the intent of the Legislature that any court, which finds, or, in the process of reviewing a previous court

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finding, finds, that a public agency has taken an action without compliance with this division, shall specifically address each of the alleged grounds for noncompliance.

**§ 21006. Issuance of permits, licenses, certificates or other entitlements; waivers of sovereign**

The Legislature finds and declares that this division is an integral part of any public agency's decision making process, including, but not limited to, the issuance of permits, licenses, certificates, or other entitlements required for activities undertaken pursuant to federal statutes containing specific waivers of sovereign immunity.

**§ 21060.5. Environment**

"Environment" means the physical conditions which exist within the area which will be affected by a proposed project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, noise, objects of historic or aesthetic significance.

**§ 21083. Office of Planning and Research; preparation, development and review of Guidelines**

(a) The Office of Planning and Research shall prepare and develop proposed guidelines for the implementation of this division by public agencies. The guidelines shall include objectives and criteria for the orderly evaluation of projects and the preparation of environmental impact reports and negative declarations in a manner consistent with this division.

(b) The guidelines shall specifically include criteria for public agencies to follow in determining whether or not a proposed project may have a "significant effect on the environment." The criteria shall require a

finding that a project may have a "significant effect on the environment" if one or more of the following conditions exist:

(1) A proposed project has the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, curtail the range of the environment, or to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals.

(2) The possible effects of a project are individually limited but cumulatively considerable. As used in this paragraph, "cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of an individual project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.

(3) The environmental effects of a project will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

(c) The guidelines shall include procedures for determining the lead agency pursuant to Section 21165.

(d) The guidelines shall include criteria for public agencies to use in determining when a proposed project is of sufficient statewide, regional, or area wide environmental significance that a draft environmental impact report, a proposed negative declaration, or a proposed mitigated negative declaration shall be submitted to appropriate state agencies, through the State Clearinghouse, for review and comment prior to completion of the environmental impact report, negative declaration, or mitigated negative declaration.

(e) The Office of Planning and Research shall develop and prepare the proposed guidelines

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as soon as possible and shall transmit them immediately to the Secretary of the Resources Agency. The Secretary of the Resources Agency shall certify and adopt the guidelines pursuant to Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, which shall become effective upon the filing thereof. However, the guidelines shall not be adopted without compliance with Sections 11346.4, 11346.5, and 11346.8 of the Government Code.

(f) The Office of Planning and Research shall, at least once every two years, review the guidelines adopted pursuant to this section and shall recommend proposed changes or amendments to the Secretary of the Resources Agency. The Secretary of the Resources Agency shall certify and adopt guidelines, and any amendments thereto, at least once every two years, pursuant to Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, which shall become effective upon the filing thereof. However, guidelines may not be adopted or amended without compliance with Sections 11346.4, 11346.5, and 11346.8 of the Government Code.

### **§ 21083.1. Legislative intent; interpretation by courts**

It is the intent of the Legislature that courts, consistent with generally accepted rules of statutory interpretation, shall not interpret this division or the state guidelines adopted pursuant to Section 21083 in a manner which imposes procedural or substantive requirements beyond those explicitly stated in this division or in the state guidelines.

### **§ 21083.2. Archaeological resources; determination of effect of project; EIR or negative declaration; mitigation measures**

(a) As part of the determination made pursuant to Section 21080.1, the lead agency shall determine whether the project may have a significant effect on archaeological resources. If the lead agency determines that the project may have a significant effect on unique archaeological resources, the environmental impact report shall address the issue of those resources. An environmental impact report, if otherwise necessary, shall not address the issue of nonunique archaeological resources. A negative declaration shall be issued with respect to a project if, but for the issue of nonunique archaeological resources, the negative declaration would be otherwise issued.

(b) If it can be demonstrated that a project will cause damage to a unique archaeological resource, the lead agency may require reasonable efforts to be made to permit any or all of these resources to be preserved in place or left in an undisturbed state. Examples of that treatment, in no order of preference, may include, but are not limited to, any of the following:

(1) Planning construction to avoid archaeological sites.

(2) Deeding archaeological sites into permanent conservation easements.

(3) Capping or covering archaeological sites with a layer of soil before building on the sites.

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(4) Planning parks, greenspace, or other open space to incorporate archaeological sites.

(c) To the extent that unique archaeological resources are not preserved in place or not left in an undisturbed state, mitigation measures shall be required as provided in this subdivision. The project applicant shall provide a guarantee to the lead agency to pay one-half the estimated cost of mitigating the significant effects of the project on unique archaeological resources. In determining payment, the lead agency shall give due consideration to the in-kind value of project design or expenditures that are intended to permit any or all archaeological resources or California Native American culturally significant sites to be preserved in place or left in an undisturbed state. When a final decision is made to carry out or approve the project, the lead agency shall, if necessary, reduce the specified mitigation measures to those which can be funded with the money guaranteed by the project applicant plus the money voluntarily guaranteed by any other person or persons for those mitigation purposes. In order to allow time for interested persons to provide the funding guarantee referred to in this subdivision, a final decision to carry out or approve a project shall not occur sooner than 60 days after completion of the recommended special environmental impact report required by this section.

(d) Excavation as mitigation shall be restricted to those parts of the unique archaeological resource that would be damaged or destroyed by the project. Excavation as mitigation shall not be required for a unique archaeological resource

if the lead agency determines that testing or studies already completed have adequately recovered the scientifically consequential information from and about the resource, if this determination is documented in the environmental impact report.

(e) In no event shall the amount paid by a project applicant for mitigation measures required pursuant to subdivision (c) exceed the following amounts:

(1) An amount equal to one-half of 1 percent of the projected cost of the project for mitigation measures undertaken within the site boundaries of a commercial or industrial project.

(2) An amount equal to three-fourths of 1 percent of the projected cost of the project for mitigation measures undertaken within the site boundaries of a housing project consisting of a single unit.

(3) If a housing project consists of more than a single unit, an amount equal to three-fourths of 1 percent of the projected cost of the project for mitigation measures undertaken within the site boundaries of the project for the first unit plus the sum of the following:

(A) Two hundred dollars (\$200) per unit for any of the next 99 units.

(B) One hundred fifty dollars (\$150) per unit for any of the next 400 units.

(C) One hundred dollars (\$100) per unit in excess of 500 units.

(f) Unless special or unusual circumstances warrant an exception, the field excavation phase of an approved mitigation plan shall be completed within 90 days after final approval necessary to implement the

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physical development of the project or, if a phased project, in connection with the phased portion to which the specific mitigation measures are applicable. However, the project applicant may extend that period if he or she so elects. Nothing in this section shall nullify protections for Indian cemeteries under any other provision of law.

(g) As used in this section, "unique archaeological resource" means an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

- (1) Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.
- (2) Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
- (3) Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

(h) As used in this section, "nonunique archaeological resource" means an archaeological artifact, object, or site which does not meet the criteria in subdivision (g). A nonunique archaeological resource need be given no further consideration, other than the simple recording of its existence by the lead agency if it so elects.

(i) As part of the objectives, criteria, and procedures required by Section 21082 or as part of conditions imposed for mitigation, a lead agency may make provisions for archaeological sites accidentally discovered

during construction. These provisions may include an immediate evaluation of the find. If the find is determined to be a unique archaeological resource, contingency funding and a time allotment sufficient to allow recovering an archaeological sample or to employ one of the avoidance measures may be required under the provisions set forth in this section. Construction work may continue on other parts of the building site while archaeological mitigation takes place.

(j) This section does not apply to any project described in subdivision (a) or (b) of Section 21065 if the lead agency elects to comply with all other applicable provisions of this division. This section does not apply to any project described in subdivision (c) of Section 21065 if the applicant and the lead agency jointly elect to comply with all other applicable provisions of this division.

(k) Any additional costs to any local agency as a result of complying with this section with respect to a project of other than a public agency shall be borne by the project applicant.

(l) Nothing in this section is intended to affect or modify the requirements of Section 21084 or 21084.1.

### **§ 21106. Request of funds to protect environment**

All state agencies, boards, and commissions shall request in their budgets the funds necessary to protect the environment in relation to problems caused by their activities.

<http://www.ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/stat/>

[http://www.ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/stat/Ch\\_1.html](http://www.ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/stat/Ch_1.html)

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## Appendix C

# Public Utilities Code

### CALIFORNIA CODES PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE SECTION 1801-1812

**1801.** The purpose of this article is to provide compensation for reasonable advocate's fees, reasonable expert witness fees, and other reasonable costs to public utility customers of participation or intervention in any proceeding of the commission.

**1801.3.** It is the intent of the Legislature that:

(a) The provisions of this article shall apply to all formal proceedings of the commission involving electric, gas, water, and telephone utilities.

(b) The provisions of this article shall be administered in a manner that encourages the effective and efficient participation of all groups that have a stake in the public utility regulation process.

(c) The process for finding eligibility for intervenor compensation be streamlined, by simplifying the preliminary showing by an intervenor of issues, budget, and costs.

(d) Intervenors be compensated for making a substantial contribution to proceedings of the commission, as determined by the commission in its orders and decisions.

(e) Intervenor compensation be awarded to eligible intervenors in a timely manner, within a reasonable period after the intervenor has made

the substantial contribution to a proceeding that is the basis for the compensation award.

(f) This article shall be administered in a manner that avoids unproductive or unnecessary participation that duplicates the participation of similar interests otherwise adequately represented or participation that is not necessary for a fair determination of the proceeding.

**1802.** As used in this article:

(a) "Compensation" means payment for all or part, as determined by the commission, of reasonable advocate's fees, reasonable expert witness fees, and other reasonable costs of preparation for and participation in a proceeding, and includes the fees and costs of obtaining an award under this article and of obtaining judicial review, if any.

(b) (1) "Customer" means any of the following:

(A) A participant representing consumers, customers, or subscribers of any electrical, gas, telephone, telegraph, or water corporation that is subject to the jurisdiction of the commission.

(B) A representative who has been authorized by a customer.

(C) A representative of a group or organization authorized pursuant to its articles of incorporation or bylaws to represent the interests of residential customers, or to represent small commercial customers who receive bundled electric service from an electrical corporation.

(2) "Customer" does not include any state, federal, or local government agency, any publicly owned public utility, or any entity that, in the commission's opinion, was established or formed by a local government entity for the purpose of participating in a commission proceeding.

(c) "Expert witness fees" means recorded or billed costs incurred by a customer for an expert witness.

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(d) "Other reasonable costs" means reasonable out-of-pocket expenses directly incurred by a customer that are directly related to the contentions or recommendations made by the customer that resulted in a substantial contribution.

(e) "Party" means any interested party, respondent public utility, or commission staff in a hearing or proceeding.

(f) "Proceeding" means an application, complaint, or investigation, rulemaking, alternative dispute resolution procedures in lieu of formal proceedings as may be sponsored or endorsed by the commission, or other formal proceeding before the commission.

(g) "Significant financial hardship" means either that the customer cannot afford, without undue hardship, to pay the costs of effective participation, including advocate's fees, expert witness fees, and other reasonable costs of participation, or that, in the case of a group or organization, the economic interest of the individual members of the group or organization is small in

comparison to the costs of effective participation in the proceeding.

(h) "Small commercial customer" means any nonresidential customer with a maximum peak demand of less than 50 kilowatts. The commission may establish rules to modify or change the definition of "small commercial customer," including use of criteria other than a peak demand threshold, if the commission determines that the modification or change will promote participation in proceedings at the commission by organizations representing small businesses, without incorporating large commercial and industrial customers.

(i) "Substantial contribution" means that, in the judgment of the commission, the customer's presentation has substantially assisted the commission in the making of its order or decision

because the order or decision has adopted in whole or in part one or more factual contentions, legal contentions, or specific policy or procedural recommendations presented by the customer. Where the customer's participation has resulted in a substantial contribution, even if the decision adopts that customer's contention or recommendations only in part, the commission may award the customer compensation for all reasonable advocate's fees, reasonable expert fees, and other reasonable costs incurred by the customer in preparing or presenting that contention or recommendation.

**1802.3.** A representative of a group representing the interests of small commercial customers who receive bundled electric service from an electrical corporation shall not be eligible for an award of compensation pursuant to this article if the representative has a conflict arising from prior representation before the commission. This conflict may not be waived.

**1802.5.** Participation by a customer that materially supplements, complements, or contributes to the presentation of another party, including the commission staff, may be fully eligible for compensation if the participation makes a substantial contribution to a commission order or decision, consistent with Section 1801.3.

**1803.** The commission shall award reasonable advocate's fees, reasonable expert witness fees, and other reasonable costs of preparation for and participation in a hearing or proceeding to any customer who complies with Section 1804 and satisfies both of the following requirements:

(a) The customer's presentation makes a substantial contribution to the adoption, in whole or in part, of the commission's order or decision.

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(b) Participation or intervention without an award of fees or costs imposes a significant financial hardship.

**1804.** (a) (1) A customer who intends to seek an award under this article shall, within 30 days after the prehearing conference is held, file and serve on all parties to the proceeding a notice of intent to claim compensation. In cases where no prehearing conference is scheduled or where the commission anticipates that the proceeding will take less than 30 days, the commission may determine the procedure to be used in filing these requests. In cases where the schedule would not reasonably allow parties to identify issues within the timeframe set forth above, or where new issues emerge subsequent to the time set for filing, the commission may determine an appropriate procedure for accepting new or revised notices of intent.

(2) (A) The notice of intent to claim compensation shall include both of the following:

(i) A statement of the nature and extent of the customer's planned participation in the proceeding as far as it is possible to set it out when the notice of intent is filed.

(ii) An itemized estimate of the compensation that the customer expects to request, given the likely duration of the proceeding as it appears at the time.

(B) The notice of intent may also include a showing by the customer that participation in the hearing or proceeding would pose a significant financial hardship. Alternatively, such a showing shall be included in the request submitted pursuant to subdivision (c).

(C) Within 15 days after service of the notice of intent to claim compensation, the administrative law judge may direct the staff, and may permit any other interested party, to file a statement responding to the notice.

(b) (1) If the customer's showing of significant financial hardship was included in the notice filed pursuant to subdivision (a), the administrative law judge, in consultation with the assigned commissioner, shall issue within 30 days thereafter a preliminary ruling addressing whether the customer will be eligible for an award of compensation. The ruling shall address whether a showing of significant financial hardship has been made. A finding of significant financial hardship shall create a rebuttable presumption of eligibility for compensation in other commission proceedings commencing within one year of the date of that finding.

(2) The administrative law judge may, in any event, issue a ruling addressing issues raised by the notice of intent to claim compensation. The ruling may point out similar positions, areas of potential duplication in showings, unrealistic expectation for compensation, and any other matter that may affect the customer's ultimate claim for compensation. Failure of the ruling to point out similar positions or potential duplication or any other potential impact on the ultimate claim for compensation shall not imply approval of any claim for compensation. A finding of significant financial hardship in no way ensures compensation. Similarly, the failure of the customer to identify a specific issue in the notice of intent or to precisely estimate potential compensation shall not preclude an award of reasonable compensation if a substantial contribution is made.

(c) Following issuance of a final order or decision by the commission in the hearing or proceeding, a customer who has been found, pursuant to subdivision (b), to be eligible for an award of compensation may file within 60 days a request for an award. The request shall include at a minimum a detailed description of services and expenditures and a description of the customer's substantial contribution to the hearing or proceeding. Within 30 days after service of the request, the commission staff may file, and

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any other party may file, a response to the request.

(d) The commission may audit the records and books of the customer to the extent necessary to verify the basis for the award. The commission shall preserve the confidentiality of the customer's records in making its audit. Within 20 days after completion of the audit, if any, the commission shall direct that an audit report shall be prepared and filed. Any other party may file a response to the audit report within 20 days thereafter.

(e) Within 75 days after the filing of a request for compensation pursuant to subdivision (c), or within 50 days after the filing of an audit report, whichever occurs later, the commission shall issue a decision that determines whether or not the customer has made a substantial contribution to the final order or decision in the hearing or proceeding. If the commission finds that the customer requesting compensation has made a substantial contribution, the commission shall describe this substantial contribution and shall determine the amount of compensation to be paid pursuant to Section 1806.

**1806.** The computation of compensation awarded pursuant to Section 1804 shall take into consideration the market rates paid to persons of comparable training and experience who offer similar services. The compensation awarded may not, in any case, exceed the comparable market rate for services paid by the commission or the public utility, whichever is greater, to persons of comparable training and experience who are offering similar services.

**1807.** Any award made under this article shall be paid by the public utility which is the subject of the hearing, investigation, or proceeding, as determined by the commission, within 30 days. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any

award paid by a public utility pursuant to this article shall be allowed by the commission as an expense for the purpose of establishing rates of the public utility by way of a dollar-for-dollar adjustment to rates imposed by the commission immediately on the determination of the amount of the award, so that the amount of the award shall be fully recovered within one year from the date of the award.

**1808.** The commission shall deny any award to any customer who attempts to delay or obstruct the orderly and timely fulfillment of the commission's responsibilities.

**1812.** A group or association that represents the interests of small agricultural customers in a proceeding and that would otherwise be eligible for an award of compensation pursuant to Section 1804 without the presence of large agricultural customers, as determined by the commission, shall not be deemed ineligible solely because that group or organization also has members who are large agricultural customers.

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/waisgate?WAISdocID=98482222728+1+0+0&WAISaction=retrieve>

CEQA Rules of Practice:

[http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/published/RULES\\_PRAC\\_PROC/70731.htm](http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/published/RULES_PRAC_PROC/70731.htm)

### **17.3. (Rule 17.3) Request for Award**

Requests for an award of compensation shall be filed within 60 days of the issuance of the decision that resolves an issue on which the intervenor believes it made a substantial contribution or the decision closing the

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proceeding. If an application for rehearing challenges a decision on an issue on which the intervenor believes it made a substantial contribution, the request for an award of compensation may be filed within 60 days of the issuance of the decision denying rehearing on that issue, the order or decision that resolves that issue after rehearing, or the decision closing the proceeding.

Note: Authority cited: Section 1701, Public Utilities Code. Reference: Section 1804, Public Utilities Code.

### **17.4. (Rule 17.4) Request for Compensation; Reply to Responses**

(a) The request for compensation shall identify each issue resolved by the Commission for which the intervenor claims compensation, and shall specify the pages, findings, conclusions and/or ordering paragraphs in the Commission decision which resolve the issue.

(b) The request for compensation shall include time records of hours worked that identify:

(1) the name of the person performing the task;

(2) the specific task performed;

(3) the issue that the task addresses, as identified by the intervenor; and

(4) the issue that the task addresses, as identified by the scoping memo, if any.

(c) The request for compensation shall itemize each expense for which compensation is claimed.

(d) The request for compensation may include reasonable costs of participation in the proceeding that were incurred prior to the start of the proceeding.

(e) The request for compensation may include reasonable advocate's fees, reasonable expert witness fees, and other reasonable costs incurred as a result of an application for rehearing.

(f) If the proceeding involved multiple intervenors, the request for compensation shall include a showing that the participation materially supplemented, complemented, or contributed to the presentation of any other party with similar interests, or that the participation did not overlap the presentation of other intervenors.

(g) The party may file a reply to responses to its request for compensation within 15 days after service of the response.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1701, Public Utilities Code. Reference: Section 1804, Public Utilities Code.

[http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/published/RULES\\_PROC/70731.htm](http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/published/RULES_PROC/70731.htm)

### **Article 4. Complaints 4.1. (Rule 4.1) Who May Complain**

(a) A complaint may be filed by:

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(1) any corporation or person, chamber of commerce, board of trade, labor organization, or any civic, commercial, mercantile, traffic, agricultural or manufacturing association or organization, or any body politic or municipal corporation, setting forth any act or thing done or omitted to be done by any public utility including any rule or charge heretofore established or fixed by or for any public utility, in violation, or claimed to be in violation, of any provision of law or of any order or rule of the Commission; or

(2) any local government, alleging that a holder of a state franchise to construct and operate video service pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 5800 et seq. is in violation of Section 5890.

(b) No complaint shall be entertained by the Commission, except upon its own motion, as to the reasonableness of any rates or charges of any gas, electrical, water, or telephone corporation, unless it be signed by the mayor or the president or chairman of the board of trustees or a majority of the council, commission, or other legislative body of the city or city and county within which the alleged violation occurred, or by not less than 25 actual or prospective consumers or purchasers of such gas, electric, water, or telephone service.

Note: Authority cited: Section 1702, Public Utilities Code. Reference: Section 1702, and Section 5890(g), Public Utilities Code.

### **4.2. (Rule 4.2) Form and Contents of Complaint**

(a) Complaints shall state the full name, address and telephone number of each complainant and his attorney, if any, and of each defendant. The specific act complained of shall be set forth in ordinary and concise language. The complaint shall be so drawn as to completely advise the defendant and the Commission of the facts constituting the grounds of the complaint, the injury complained of, and the exact relief which is desired. At least one complainant must verify the complaint and any amendments thereto. (See Rule 1.11.) The complaint shall state the proposed category for the proceeding, the need for hearing, the issues to be considered, and a proposed schedule. The proposed schedule shall be consistent with the categorization of the proceeding, including a deadline for resolving the proceeding within 12 months or less (adjudicatory proceeding) or 18 months or less (ratesetting or quasi-legislative proceeding). (See Article 7.)

(b) An original plus six exact copies of a complaint or amendment thereto, plus one additional copy for each named defendant, shall be tendered to the Commission for filing.

(c) A complaint which does not allege that the matter has first been brought to the staff for informal resolution may be referred to the staff to attempt to resolve the matter informally.

Note: Authority cited: Section 1702, Public Utilities Code. Reference: Sections 1702 and 1707, Public Utilities Code.

### **4.3. (Rule 4.3) Service of Complaints and Instructions to Answer**

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When a complaint or amendment is accepted for filing (see Rule 1.13), the Docket Office shall serve on each defendant (a) a copy of the complaint or amendment and (b) instructions to answer, with a copy to the complainant, indicating (1) the date when the defendant's answer shall be filed and served, and (2) the Administrative Law Judge assigned to the proceeding. The instructions to answer shall also indicate the category of the proceeding and the preliminary determination of need for hearing, as determined by the Chief Administrative Law Judge in consultation with the President of the Commission.

Note: Authority Section 1701, Public Utilities Code. Reference: Section 1701.1, Public Utilities Code.

### 4.4. (Rule 4.4) Answers

The answer must admit or deny each material allegation in the complaint and shall set forth any new matter constituting a defense. Its purpose is to fully advise the complainant and the Commission of the nature of the defense. At least one of the defendants filing an answer must verify it, but if more than one answer is filed in response to a complaint against multiple defendants, each answer must be separately verified. (See Rule 1.11.)

The answer should also set forth any defects in the complaint which require amendment or clarification. Failure to indicate jurisdictional defects does not waive these defects and shall not prevent a motion to dismiss made thereafter.

The answer must state any comments or objections regarding the complainant's statement on the need for hearing, issues to be considered, and proposed schedule. The proposed schedule shall be consistent with the categorization of the proceeding, including a deadline for resolving the proceeding within 12 months or less (adjudicatory proceeding) or 18 months or less (ratesetting or quasi-legislative proceeding). (See Article 7.)

Answers must include the full name, address, and telephone number of defendant and the defendant's attorney, if any, and indicate service on all complainants.

Note: Authority cited: Section 1701, Public Utilities Code. Reference: Section 1701.1, Public Utilities Code.

### 4.5. (Rule 4.5) Expedited Complaint Procedure

(a) This procedure is applicable to complaints against any electric, gas, water, heat, or telephone company where the amount of money claimed does not exceed the jurisdictional limit of the small claims court referenced in Pub. Util. Code § 1702.1.

(b) No attorney at law shall represent any party other than himself or herself under the Expedited Complaint Procedure.

(c) No pleading other than a complaint and answer is necessary.

(d) A hearing without a reporter shall be held within 30 days after the answer is filed.

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(e) Separately stated findings of fact and conclusions of law will not be made, but the decision may set forth a brief summary of the facts.

(f) Complaints calendared under the Expedited Complaint Procedure are exempt from the categorizing and scoping requirements of Article 7 and the requirements of Article 8 regarding communications with decisionmakers and Commissioners' advisors.

(g) The Commission or the presiding officer, when the public interest so requires, may at any time prior to the filing of a decision terminate the Expedited Complaint Procedure and recalendar the matter for hearing under the Commission's regular procedure.

(h) The parties shall have the right to file applications for rehearing pursuant to Section 1731 of the Public Utilities Code. If the Commission grants an application for rehearing, the rehearing shall be conducted under the Commission's regular hearing procedure.

(i) Decisions rendered pursuant to the Expedited Complaint Procedure shall not be considered as precedent or binding on the Commission or the courts of this state.

Note: Authority cited: Section 1701, Public Utilities Code. Reference: Section 1702.1, Public Utilities Code.

[http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/published/RULES\\_PRAC\\_PROC/70731.htm](http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/published/RULES_PRAC_PROC/70731.htm)

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