

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

Order Instituting Rulemaking to
Examine the Commission's Post-2008
Energy Efficiency Policies, Programs,
Evaluation, Measurement, and
Verification, and Related Issues

Rulemaking 09-11-014
(Filed November 20, 2009)

**RESPONSE OF MARIN ENERGY AUTHORITY
TO COMMENTS REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S
RULING SETTING PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

March 25, 2010

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**RESPONSE OF MARIN ENERGY AUTHORITY
TO COMMENTS REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE’S
RULING SETTING PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

The Marin Energy Authority (“MEA”) respectfully submits this response to comments regarding Administrative Law Judge’s Ruling Setting Prehearing Conference, dated March 3, 2010, pursuant to Rulemaking 09-11-014, filed November 20, 2009 (the “Rulemaking”) entitled Order Instituting Rulemaking to Examine the Commission’s Post-2008 Energy Efficiency Policies, Programs, Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification, and Related Issues.

The MEA outlines three key areas for the Commission to address regarding the implementation of energy efficiency programs by Community Choice Aggregators (“CCA” or “CCAs”). Specifically, the Commission will need to address (1) the mechanics of CCA access to public goods charge funds and other similar sources of funds (together, the “PGC Funds”), (2) the determination of how activities of programs funded by PGC Funds (the “Programs”) are allocated, and (3) guidelines for investor owned utilities (“IOUs”) to follow regarding the PGC Funds and Programs.

A. The Commission Should Delineate Clear Mechanics for CCA Access to PGC Funds

The Administrative Law Judge has requested that MEA comment on PG&E’s Response to Administrative Law Judge’s Ruling Setting Prehearing Conference (“PG&E Response”) proposing that CCAs and the Commission follow the procedures and criteria

set forth in Decision (D.) Nos. 3-7-034 and 4-1-032. The MEA finds that the procedures and criteria set forth therein are insufficient. The Commission understood in its Decision (D.) 03-07-034 that it was adopting “skeletal rules” that did not address energy efficiency issues for CCAs in their entirety. (D. 03-07-034 at 4.)

In addition, the decision also provisionally establishes that the Commission would “apply the same procedures and criteria for review that we apply now to all Third Party applicants for energy efficiency program funding, including EM&V requirements.” (D. 03-07-034 at 8.) Regarding the application process, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (“PG&E”) proposed that a CCA file “in accordance with the requirements and the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure.” (PG&E Response at 6.) It is unclear what the “requirements” are nor is there reference to a CCA process in the Rules of Practice and Procedure. The potentially applicable reference not mentioned in the PG&E Response is the Energy Efficiency Policy Manual (Version 4); however, the current version does not contain guidance for community choice aggregators. The Commission’s Energy Efficiency Policy Manual (Version 2) made reference to mechanics applicable to a CCA, but this version has been superseded by the subsequent versions and relied on the unclear concepts discussed below of D. 03-07-034.

The MEA believes the CPUC-directed EM&V requirements may not be applicable to CCA-administered Programs. Much as the rate decision-making process is tailored to the specific needs and policies of the CCA, so should the EM&V requirements. However, in the event EM&V standards are applicable to CCA-administered Programs, such standards should reflect local needs, including more qualitative and long-term strategic endeavors to achieve energy efficiency and distributed

generation gains. An emphasis on long-term savings and on building institutional capacity for energy efficiency and distributed generation programs is consistent with the Strategic Plan for Energy Efficiency (“Strategic Plan”) and the Commission’s understanding that “the intent of AB 117 is to promote the use of Section 381 funds by cities, counties and CCAs in ways that are responsive to local needs, cost-effective and fair.” (D. 03-07-034 at 13.)

By developing goals, metrics and savings for CCAs in this way, CCAs will be able to go beyond picking the lowest hanging fruit and take strides to achieve strategic long-term goals to improve energy efficiency and avoid the lost opportunities of focusing on short term goals alone.

B. The Commission Must Determine a Process for Allocation of PGC Funds

Under the Decisions referenced in the PG&E Response, the process for a CCA to access PGC Funds is unclear. PG&E references Interim Opinion D. 03-07-034, which set forth a policy to treat a CCA like a third party. Specifically, a CCA could apply for Program funding, but that such funding would not be allocated to the CCA. (D. 03-07-034 at 8.) Under Conclusion of Law 5, the Commission determined that “energy efficiency program administrators should allocate a ‘proportional share of cost-effective energy efficiency and conservation activities’ to CCA territories *where the CCA is not the energy efficiency program administrator*. AB 117 permits the Commission to adjust the proportional share under certain circumstances.” (D. 03-07-034 at 21. Emphasis added.)

However, it appears that if a CCA were to apply for funds such “proportional share” would disappear. Under Conclusion of Law 6, the Commission determined that “the proportional share of energy efficiency program funding, as defined herein, should

be allocated to a CCA's territory where the CCA is not administering energy efficiency programs funded by revenues collected pursuant to Section 381." (D. 03-07-034 at 21.) This apparent "all or nothing" approach does not take into consideration any potential partnership between IOUs and CCAs. To maximize the benefit of PGC Funds and Programs for customers, given the economies of scale and the value of already-existing programs, CCAs may partner with communities outside the CCA service territory, with third parties and with the IOU. By continuing the availability of regional and state Programs, the Commission can ensure lower transaction costs and also makes these essential Programs easy to find for customers.¹

With regard to the "proportional share of approved energy efficiency program activities," proposed by D. 03-07-034, MEA believes this methodology should be revisited. It is unclear how funding levels can be specifically correlated to energy efficiency program "activities" as set forth in Assembly Bill 117. A fair value of the Program activities delivered in the CCA territory should be considered.

One significant outstanding question is raised also by the distinction between different types of PGC Funds, public goods charge funds and procurement funds. These funds have been intermingled, making it impossible to determine which charges fund which programs. MEA notes that public goods charge funds, as a distribution charge on all IOU customers (including CCA customers), could fund regional programs or could be allocated specifically to a CCA without significant complications. With regards to

¹ This collaborative approach is also beneficial to address other jurisdictional considerations. For example, the MEA service territory does not comprise the entirety of Marin County, but traditionally energy efficiency and other programs have been provided on a countywide basis. The CCA ability to partner with non-CCA communities and other organizations would allow MEA to ensure continuity and ease of access to energy efficiency services.

procurement funds, MEA reserves the right to assess a procurement charge to fund additional programs and policies.

The MEA recommends that the Commission set in place a collaborative process among the Commission, a CCA and its IOU to efficiently and fairly deploy PGC Funds and Programs.

C. The Commission Must Set Forth Guidelines for IOU Use of PGC Funds and Programs

In connection with the deployment of PGC Funds and Programs, the Commission should prevent the use of these funds and activities by IOUs to influence the consideration, formation or operation of CCAs. This includes the influencing of communities and customers, as discussed in the Proposal of Marin Energy Authority Regarding Administrative Law Judge’s Ruling Setting Prehearing Conference dated March 15, 2010 for this same matter (the “MEA Proposal”). The MEA Proposal need not be rehashed here. MEA notes, however, that the distinction discussed above between public goods charge funds and procurement funds should be considered in setting forth these restrictions.

Dated: March 25, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, JAMIE TUCKEY, hereby certify that:

I am employed in San Rafael, State of California. My business address is 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 308, San Rafael, California 94903; telephone (415) 507-2813.

On March 25, 2010, I served the RESPONSE OF MARIN ENERGY AUTHORITY TO COMMENTS REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING SETTING PREHEARING CONFERENCE on (1) all known parties to Proceeding No. R.09-11-014 by electronic mail to each party named on the service list, (2) all known parties to Proceeding R.03-10-003 by electronic mail to each party named on the service list and a paper copy to those listed below without listed electronic mail addresses, and (3) presiding Administrative Law Judge Darwin Farrar and Commissioner Dian Grueneich by paper copy.

Executed on March 25, 2010, at San Rafael, California.

/s/ Jamie Tuckey

JAMIE TUCKEY

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