

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)

ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S RULING

1. Introduction

California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) Decision (D.) 09-09-047 identified the need for a comprehensive review of the Commission's existing energy efficiency evaluation, measurement, and verification (EM&V) practices.¹ The Commission explained that the purpose of the review was to "set a course to develop effective EM&V going forward, post - 2012." The EM&V Review ordered by D.09-09-047 began on May 21, 2010 with an Assigned Commissioner Ruling (ACR) and Scoping Memo.

This ACR continues the EM&V review by summarizing party responses to the May 21, 2010 ACR and asking follow up questions based on party input.

2. Background

On June 4, 2010 comments on questions raised in the May 21, 2010 ACR were filed by the Division of Ratepayer Advocates (DRA), the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC), Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), OPower,

¹ D.09-09-047, at 302.

Southern California Gas Company and San Diego Gas & Electric Company (Joint Parties), Southern California Edison Company (SCE), The Utility Reform Network (TURN), and Women's Energy Matters (WEM). Reply comments were filed on June 18, 2010, by the City and County of San Francisco (CCSF), DRA, NRDC, and PG&E. The following summarizes these comments and reply comments.

2.1. EM&V Objectives

The May 21, 2010 ACR first asked whether the EM&V core objectives adopted in D.09-09-047 were sufficient to allow the Commission to assess California's progress in achieving the goals of the California Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan) and the utilities' contribution thereto.

Though parties generally found the adopted objectives to be well-suited to the challenge, several suggestions were offered on how the Commission's EM&V objectives may be better aligned with the objectives of the Strategic Plan. In particular, several parties suggest the EM&V objectives be modified to include an explicit reference to the Strategic Plan's goal of market transformation.²

2.2. EM&V Framework and Protocols

The May 21, 2010 ACR next asked if the Commission's adopted EM&V Protocols and Framework are capable of, and the best tools for, measuring program impacts in what will be an increasingly dynamic energy efficiency environment.

Parties' responses to this question varied significantly. PG&E asserts that the "new landscape of energy efficiency" will require new protocols. SCE

suggests improvements to the Protocols and Framework should not be a priority for the Commission at this time.³ Joint Parties find the existing protocols provide "optimum flexibility" for EM&V studies.⁴ The NRDC suggests new protocols are needed to improve savings attribution and market transformation. DRA argues that new protocols are needed to measure market affects and transformation.⁵ OPower advocates for increased application of experimental design, a methodology that "uses regression analysis to determine the net energy savings resulting from its products as measured by the average difference in energy consumption between the treatment and control groups."⁶

2.3. Macro Consumption Metrics

The May 21, 2010 ACR also asked parties to review "Macro Consumption Metrics" which could be used to produce an aggregate-level estimate of energy efficiency impacts on consumption over time. Parties reviewed several scholarly articles which suggest Macro Consumption Metrics could be woven into the framework of California's EM&V.

In general, parties expressed optimism for Macro Consumption Metrics but expressed a need for caution in the selection and application of new techniques. For example, PG&E asserts that Macro Consumption Metrics would eliminate the need for controversial Net-to-Gross ratios, but asserts that "the

⁶ OPower Comments, at 2.

² See DRA Comments, at 5; SCE Comments, at 5; Turn Comments, at 2; and NRDC Comments, at 3.

³ SCE Comments, at 4.

⁴ Joint Parties Comments, at 2.

⁵ DRA Comments, at 6.

inherent limitation of such a metric is that factors outside of the energy efficiency arena could skew the perceived effect of the energy efficiency programs themselves."⁷ Similarly, NRDC "supports and encourages exploration of aggregate-level energy metrics to supplement, but not replace the current energy and demand saving metrics"⁸ while TURN finds the development and application of such metrics to be an imperative step in improving the Commission's accounting of greenhouse gases (GHG) reductions caused by energy efficiency programs.⁹ Thus, parties generally agree that the development of a Macro Consumption Metric for use on a pilot basis in 2010 - 2012, as ordered by D.10-04-029, should be a priority for the Commission.

2.4. EM&V Beyond California

The May 21, 2010 ACR next asked parties to look beyond the borders of California to consider how California's application of EM&V could be made more collaborative.

Parties generally supported the idea of drawing new, best practices in EM&V from other regions. The Comments showed support for establishing a California EM&V forum through which stakeholders could work collaboratively to improve energy efficiency EM&V on an ongoing basis. Specific examples of comparable efforts in New York, the Northwest, and the Northeast were identified.¹⁰ In particular, DRA suggests that the market transformation protocols employed by the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA) may be

⁷ PG&E Comments, at 12.

⁸ NRDC Comments, at 2.

⁹ TURN Comments, at 7.

¹⁰ PG&E Comments, at 14; Joint Parties Comments, at 6.

used by California to measure its progress in achieving the goals of the Strategic Plan.¹¹

2.5. Technological Innovations

The May 21, 2010 ACR next asked parties to consider how technological innovations, especially Advance Metering Infrastructure (AMI), may be leveraged to advance California's EM&V methodologies. SCE says "there are exciting new opportunities for more precision in studies with more detailed data available at far lower cost than before."¹² However, parties generally refrain from stating exactly how the increased availability of energy usage data may improve energy efficiency EM&V. Instead, parties recommend the Commission consult technical experts to address this question.

2.6. EM&V Needs and Activities of the California Energy Commission (CEC)

Finally, the May 21, 2010 ACR asked parties to consider the EM&V needs of the CEC, municipal utilities, and California Air Resources Board and suggest what changes should be made to Commission's EM&V framework to accommodate those needs. Parties offered broad support for ensuring the Commission's energy efficiency EM&V met the needs of these stakeholders, but did not specify what changes should be made. Numerous parties suggest these stakeholders bring their perspective to the record.

3. Discussion

Comments on the May 21, 2010 ACR indicate support for two key core principles. First, the Commission needs to consider the impact of energy

¹¹ DRA Comments, at 7.

¹² SCE Comments, at 9; and see PG&E Comments, at 16.

efficiency on energy consumption distinct from traditional measurements of "energy savings." Making this distinction appears critical to fulfilling the Commission's commitment to GHG emission reductions under Assembly Bill 32 and the California Air Resources Board's Scoping Plan.¹³ As TURN points out, there is a "need to reconcile two realms, the realm of "savings" familiar to energy efficiency practitioners, and the realm of reduced energy consumption that reflects the accounting practices associated with GHG emissions reductions."¹⁴

Second, most parties agree that measuring the impact of energy efficiency programs on the markets in which they operate should be a priority for the Commission. The Commission has previously voiced its support for this core principle.¹⁵

This EM&V review will support the Commission's commitment to accurately measuring the impact of energy efficiency programs on energy consumption, GHG emission reductions, and market transformation; however, it is evident from party comments that the mechanisms to support these principles through EM&V are unclear. The remainder of this EM&V review will seek to consider what additional EM&V methods, practices, or resources should be brought to bear to support these core principles.

4. Questions

The following questions build on party comments provided in response to the May 21, 2010 ACR.

¹³ D.08-10-037, at 6-7.

¹⁴ TURN Comments, at 7.

¹⁵ See D.09-09-047, Findings of Fact 28 and 29, Conclusions of Law 11 and 12, and Ordering Paragraph 10 and 11.

4.1. EM&V Objectives

- A. Several parties suggest adding a reference to the Strategic Plan's goal of market transformation to the Commission's adopted EM&V objectives. In particular, DRA proposes adding the following phrase to the "Market Assessment" objective adopted in D.09-09-047: "The goal of market assessment is to identify a common set of Market Transformation definitions based on CPUC assigned market indicators, which will allow the Commission to determine when market transformation has occurred for a program." Do parties support the addition of this phrase to the Market Assessment objective?
- **B.** Do parties support SCE's suggesti on that the Market Assessment objective be expanded to specify that the purpose of Market Assessment is to assist the Commission in "[m]onitoring and guiding progress on meeting the goals of the Strategic Plan; and guiding updates to the Strategic Plan by providing new information about what market changes are most feasible and cost-effective"?¹⁶
- **C.** Can the suggestions in questions 1 and 2 above be reconciled and, if so, how?

4.2. Macro Consumption Metrics

- **A.** The NRDC supports and encourages exploration of Macro Consumption Metrics as a supplement to, but not replacement of, the current energy and demand saving metrics.¹⁷ Do parties agree with NRDC?
 - **a.** If Macro Consumption Metrics cannot replace current impact evaluation practices, do they offer other benefits?
 - b. The NRDC suggests Macro Consumption Metrics are necessary to "help inform progress towards the state's objective to limit greenhouse gas emissions."¹⁸ However, SCE

¹⁶ SCE Comments, at 5.

¹⁷ NRDC Comments, at 5.

¹⁸ Id.

argues that converting existing energy savings metrics to GHG emission reductions is sufficient to accomplish the same goal.¹⁹ Which perspective is most valid?

- **B.** Do parties agree with PG&E's suggestion that the inherent limitation of Macro Consumption Metrics is that "factors outside of the energy efficiency arena could skew the perceived effect of the energy efficiency programs themselves?"²⁰
 - **a.** Is it possible to control for factors like economic activity or electrification of transportation such that the impact of energy efficiency is more evident?
 - **b.** Would the availability of certain data strengthen Macro Consumption Metrics? If so, what data, if any, would improve the reliability of econometric evaluations?
- **C.** Would the addition of a Macro Consumption Metric comparable to that suggested by Horowitz,²¹ or other approaches, provide more certain measures of the aggregate impact of California's energy efficiency policies than is available through existing EM&V?
- **D.** Would the addition of a Macro Consumption Metric comparable to that suggested by Horowitz, or other approaches, provide evaluation results more quickly than existing EM&V?

4.3. EM&V Beyond California

A. Parties suggest California establish a working group of

evaluation practitioners and users to explore best practices for

¹⁹ SCE Comments, at 9-10.

²⁰ PG&E Comments, at 12.

²¹ "Measuring the Savings From Energy Efficiency Policies: A Step Beyond Program

Evaluation." Horowitz, M.J. April 2010. (http://www.springerlink.com/content/120908/?Content+Status=Accepted)

California and facilitate increased collaboration.²² What form would this working group take?

- **a.** What should be the responsibilities of such a group?
- **b.** Who should lead the effort?
- **c.** What would be the group's relationship with the Commission?
- **d.** How should the Commission use the group's recommendations?

4.4. Experimental Design

- A. D.10-04-029 adopted a policy to measure and count savings from "comparative usage programs" using experimental design. OPower suggests that there may be an expanded role for experimental design in California's energy efficiency evaluation framework. OPower admits that experimental design cannot be used for every energy efficiency initiative, but argues that it should be the preferred initiative when practical.²³
 - **a.** Could and should experimental design be practically applied to energy efficiency initiatives beyond comparative usage programs?
 - **b.** Would experimental design be an appropriate methodology to measure the impact of each of the 12 statewide programs approved in D.09-09-047?²⁴ Please delineate between the subsets of each statewide program as necessary, and indicate which subset would be well served by experimental design.

4.5. Market Transformation

A. D.09-09-047 directed the Commission's Energy Division to develop market transformation metrics, a process which is

²² PG&E Comments, at 14; Joint Parties Comments, at 6.

²³ OPower Comments, at 2.

²⁴ D.09-09-047, at 102-103.

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- **a.** Are there available best practices from NEEA that should be adopted by California? Please be specific.
- **b.** What would be the primary challenges in adopting market transformation metrics from NEEA? What strategies could be applied to overcome such challenges?

4.6. EM&V Needs and Activities of the CEC

- **A.** D.08-07-047 sets interim energy efficiency savings goals for 2012 through 2020 for electricity and natural gas on a Total Market Gross (TMG) basis. The TMG goals encompass forecasted energy savings from a wide range of energy efficiency activities beyond investor-owned utility (IOU) programs. Can existing EM&V practices adequately determine the impact of energy efficiency initiatives beyond the Commission's energy efficiency programs (i.e., compliance with codes and standards)? If not, should this capability be added and how?
 - a. If the Commission's EM&V should measure energy efficiency initiatives beyond its own programs, how should such activities be coordinated with the CEC?
- **B.** Parties note that EM&V impact evaluations, as well as other parts of the current EM&V framework need to provide support for long-term demand forecasts, such as those prepared by the CEC, and used in the Commission's long-term procurement planning. Should IOUs be directed, and funded through EM&V, to develop disaggregated demand forecasting models that more directly

²⁵ Market Transformation is defined in D.09-09-047 at 86-87.

²⁶ DRA Comments, at 7 and 10. DRA does not refer to specific metrics in its comments, but parties could look to following web address for more specific information: <u>http://www.nwalliance.org/research/marketresearchreports.aspx</u>.

allow energy efficiency program impacts to be included in long-term forecast models?

a. Are there additional analytical efforts which could be undertaken to better support the integration of projected energy savings into California's demand forecasts?

IT IS RULED that:

1. Parties may file and serve comments to this ruling by July 16, 2010, and Reply Comments by July 23, 2010.

2. All comments, reply comments, and other submittals made pursuant to this ruling shall be served on the service list in this proceeding pursuant to Rules 1.9 and 1.10.

Dated July 2, 2010, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ MATTHEW TISDALE for

Dian M. Grueneich Assigned Commissioner

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Dated July 2, 2010, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ LILLIAN LI Lillian Li

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Gerald Lahr ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS 101 8TH STREET, PO BOX 2050 OAKLAND CA 94607 (510) 464-7908 jerryl@abag.ca.gov For: Association of Bay Area Governments

Scott Blaising BRAUN BLAISING MCLAUGHLIN, P.C. 915 L STREET, SUITE 1270 SACRAMENTO CA 95814 (916) 682-9702 blaising@braunlegal.com For: San Joaquin Valley Power Authority

Robert L. Knight CAL. BLDG. PERFORMANCE CONTRATORS ASSN. 1000 BROADWAY, SUITE 410 OAKLAND CA 94607 (510) 444-8707 X223 rknight@bki.com For: California Building Performance Contractors Association

Andrew Mcallister CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY 8690 BALBOA AVENUE, SUITE 100 SAN DIEGO CA 92123 (858) 244-7282 andrew.mcallister@energycenter.org For: California Center For Sustainable Energy

Jeanne M. Sole CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO CITY HALL, RM 234 1 DR. CARLTON B. GOODLET PLACE SAN FRANCISCO CA 94102-4682 (415) 554-4700 jeanne.sole@sfgov.org For: Ckty and County of San Francisco

Mona Tierney-Lloyd Senior Manager Western Reg. Affairs ENERNOC, INC. PO BOX 378 CAYUCOS CA 93430 (805) 995-1618 mtierney-lloyd@enernoc.com For: EnerNoc, Inc. Thomas P. Conlon President GEOPRAXIS PO BOX 5 SONOMA CA 95476-0005 (707) 280-1529 tconlon@geopraxis.com For: GeoPraxis, Inc.

Eric Lee

HARPIRIS ENERGY, LLC 25205 BARONET ROAD CORRAL DE TIERRA CA 93908 (530) 220-7000 eric@harpiris.com For: Harpiris Energy

Jody London

JODY LONDON CONSULTING PO BOX 3629 OAKLAND CA 94609 (510) 459-0667 jody_london_consulting@earthlink.net For: Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition

Diana L. Lee Legal Division RM. 4107 505 VAN NESS AVE San Francisco CA 94102 3298 (415) 703-4342 dil@cpuc.ca.gov For: DRA

Elizebeth Rasmussen MARIN ENERGY AUTHORITY 3501 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, RM. 308 SAN RAFAEL CA 94903 (415) 473-4352 erasmussen@co.marin.ca.us For: Marin Energy Authority

Sara Steck Myers Attorney At Law 122 28TH AVE. SAN FRANCISCO CA 94121 (415) 387-1904 ssmyers@att.net For: Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies

Donald Gilligan NATIONAL ASSC. OF ENERGY SVC. COMPANIES 1615 M STREET, NW WASHINGTON DC 20036 (202) 822-0950 dgilligan@naesco.org For: National Association of Energy Services Companies

Lara Ettenson NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL 111 SUTTER STREET, 20TH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO CA 94104 (415) 875-6100 lettenson@nrdc.org For: Natural Resources Defense Council

Michael Sachse OPOWER 1515 N. COURTHOUSE RD., SUITE 610 ARLINGTON VA 22201 (646) 265-0556 michael.sachse@opower.com For: OPower

Michael R. Klotz PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY 77 BEALE STREET, MS B30A, ROOM 3105B SAN FRANCISCO CA 94120 (415) 973-7565 M1ke@pge.com For: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Larry Cope SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY 2244 WLANUT GROVE AVENUE ROSEMEAD CA 91770 (626) 302-2570 larry.cope@sce.com For: Southern California Edison

Steven D. Patrick SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY 555 WEST FIFTH STREET, GT14G1 LOS ANGELES CA 90013-1011 (213) 244-2954 SDPatrick@SempraUtilities.com For: San Diego Gas & Electric/SoCal Gas Samuel S. Kang THE GREENLINING INSTITUTE 1918 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SECOND FLOOR BERKELEY CA 94704 (510) 926-4004 samuelk@greenlining.org For: The Greenlining Institute

Robert Finkelstein

THE UTILITY REFORM NETWORK 115 SANSOME STREET, SUITE 900 SAN FRANCISCO CA 94104 (415) 929-8876 X-307 bfinkelstein@turn.org For: TURN

Barbara George WOMEN'S ENERGY MATTERS PO BOX 548 FAIRFAX CA 94978-0548 (510) 915-6215 wem@igc.org For: Women's Energy Matters

********** STATE EMPLOYEE **********

Simon Baker Energy Division AREA 4-A 505 VAN NESS AVE San Francisco CA 94102 3298 (415) 703-5649 seb@cpuc.ca.gov

Carmen Best Energy Division AREA 4-A 505 VAN NESS AVE San Francisco CA 94102 3298 (415) 703-1797 cbe@cpuc.ca.gov

Bill Junker CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION 1516 9TH STREET, MS 22 SACRAMENTO CA 95819 (916) 654-4172 bjunker@energy.state.ca.us

Chris Kavalec CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION 1516 9TH STREET SACRAMENTO CA 95831 (916) 654-5184 ckavalec@energy.state.ca.us

Don Schultz CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION 1516 9TH STREET SACRAMENTO CA 95819 dschultz@energy.state.ca.us

Sylvia Bender CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION 1516 9TH STREET, MS20 SACRAMENTO CA 95814 (916) 653-6841 sbender@energy.state.ca.us

Matthew Tisdale CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 4104 EMAIL ONLY EMAIL ONLY CA 00000 (415) 703-5137 MWT@cpuc.ca.gov

Jordana Cammarata Energy Division AREA 4-A 505 VAN NESS AVE San Francisco CA 94102 3298 (415) 703-1606 jnc@cpuc.ca.gov

Jeanne Clinton Energy Division RM. 4008 505 VAN NESS AVE San Francisco CA 94102 3298 (415) 703-1159 cln@cpuc.ca.gov

Cheryl Cox Division of Ratepayer Advocates RM. 4209 505 VAN NESS AVE San Francisco CA 94102 3298 (415) 703-3027 cxc@cpuc.ca.gov Tim G. Drew Energy Division AREA 4-A 505 VAN NESS AVE San Francisco CA 94102 3298 (415) 703-5618 zap@cpuc.ca.gov

Darwin Farrar Administrative Law Judge Division RM. 5041 505 VAN NESS AVE San Francisco CA 94102 3298 (415) 703-1599 edf@cpuc.ca.gov

Cathleen A. Fogel Energy Division AREA 4-A 505 VAN NESS AVE San Francisco CA 94102 3298 (415) 703-1809 cf1@cpuc.ca.gov

Peter Franzese Energy Division AREA 4-A 505 VAN NESS AVE San Francisco CA 94102 3298 (415) 703-1926 pcf@cpuc.ca.gov

Mikhail Haramati Energy Division AREA 4-A 505 VAN NESS AVE San Francisco CA 94102 3298 (415) 703-1458 mkh@cpuc.ca.gov

Katherine Hardy Energy Division AREA 4-A 505 VAN NESS AVE San Francisco CA 94102 3298 (415) 703-2322 keh@cpuc.ca.gov

Peter Lai Energy Division RM. 500

Jean A. Lamming Energy Division AREA 4-A 505 VAN NESS AVE San Francisco CA 94102 3298 (415) 703-2142 jl2@cpuc.ca.gov

Kim Mahoney Division of Ratepayer Advocates RM. 4104 505 VAN NESS AVE San Francisco CA 94102 3298 (415) 703-2376 kmb@cpuc.ca.gov

Ayat E. Osman Energy Division AREA 4-A 505 VAN NESS AVE San Francisco CA 94102 3298 (415) 703-5953 aeo@cpuc.ca.gov

Lisa Paulo Energy Division AREA 4-A 505 VAN NESS AVE San Francisco CA 94102 3298 (415) 355-5495 lp1@cpuc.ca.gov

Anne W. Premo Energy Division 770 L STREET, SUITE 1050 Sacramento CA 95814 (916) 928-4700 awp@cpuc.ca.gov

Kristina Skierka Energy Division AREA 4-A 505 VAN NESS AVE San Francisco CA 94102 3298 (415) 703-1184 ks3@cpuc.ca.gov

Jeorge S. Tagnipes Energy Division 320 WEST 4TH STREET SUITE 500 Los Angeles CA 90013 (213) 576-7087 ppl@cpuc.ca.gov

Zenaida G. Tapawan-Conway Energy Division AREA 4-A 505 VAN NESS AVE San Francisco CA 94102 3298 (415) 703-2624 ztc@cpuc.ca.gov

Pamela Wellner Energy Division AREA 4-A 505 VAN NESS AVE San Francisco CA 94102 3298 (415) 703-5906 pw1@cpuc.ca.gov

Michael Wheeler Executive Division RM. 5206 505 VAN NESS AVE San Francisco CA 94102 3298 (415) 703-5147 mmw@cpuc.ca.gov

********* INFORMATION ONLY *********

Christopher A. Lewis BLANK ROME LLP ONE LOGAN SQURE 130 NORTH 18TH STREET PHILADELPHIA PA 19103-6998 (215) 569-5793 Lewis@BlankRome.com

Christopher Sharp BLANK ROME LLP ONE LOGA SQUARE 130 NORTH 18TH STREET PHILADELPHIA PA 19103-6998 (215) 569-5794 Sharp@BlankRome.com

Natara Feller BLANK ROME LLP THE CHRYSLER BUILDING 405 LEXINGTON AVENUE NEW YORK NY 10174-0208 (212) 885-5023 nfeller@BlankRome.com

Peter F. Jazayeri

AREA 4-A 505 VAN NESS AVE San Francisco CA 94102 3298 (415) 703-2451 jst@cpuc.ca.gov

Audrey Chang CA ENERGY EFFICIENCY INDUSTRY COUNCIL EMAIL ONLY EMAIL ONLY CA 00000 (916) 390-6413 achang@efficiencycouncil.org

Steven R. Schiller CA ENERGY EFFICIENCY INDUSTRY COUNCIL EMAIL ONLY EMAIL ONLY CA 00000 (916) 390-6413 sschiller@efficiencycouncil.org

Chris Ann Dickerson CAD CONSULTING 720B CANYON OAKS DRIVE OAKLAND CA 94605 (510) 562-1034 cadickerson@cadconsulting.biz

Irene M. Stillings Executive Director CALIF. CNTR FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY 8690 BALBOA AVE., STE 100 SAN DIEGO CA 92123 (858) 244-1177 irene.stillings@energycenter.org

Ashley Watkins CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY 8690 BALBOA AVE. SUITE 100 SAN DIEGO CA 92123 (858) 244-1195 ashley.watkins@energycenter.org

Jennifer Green CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY 8690 BALBOA AVENUE SAN DIEGO CA 92123 (858) 244-1180 jennifer.green@energycenter.org

Sephra A. Ninow CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY 8690 BALBOA AVENUE, SUITE 100 SAN DIEGO CA 92123 BLANK ROME LLP 1925 CENTURY PARK, EAST SUITE 1900 LOS ANGELES CA 90067 (424) 239-3470 Jazayeri@BlankRome.com

CALIFORNIA ENERGY MARKETS 425 DIVISADERO ST., SUITE 303 SAN FRANCISCO CA 94117 (415) 963-4439 cem@newsdata.com

Peter Canessa CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO 1211 CHAPARRAL CIRCLE SAN LUIS OBISPO CA 93401 (805) 547-1130 pcanessa@charter.net

Ann Kelly Dept. Of The Environment CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO 11 GROVE STREET SAN FRANCISCO CA 94102 (415) 355-3720 ann.kelly@sfgov.org

Cal Broomhead Dept Of Environment, Energy Section CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO 11 GROVE STREET SAN FRANCISCO CA 94102 (415) 355-3706 cal.broomhead@sfgov.org

Dennis J. Herrera CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO CITY HALL, ROOM 234 SAN FRANCISCO CA 94102 (415) 554-4637

Theresa L. Mueller Attorney At Law CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO 1 DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT PLACE SAN FRANCISCO CA 94102-4682 (415) 554-4615 theresa.mueller@sfgov.org

Shawn Thompson CITY OF IRVINE 1 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA IRVINE CA 92646

(858) 244-1186 sephra.ninow@energycenter.org (949) 724-7449 sthompson@ci.irvine.ca.us

Mary Tucker CITY OF SAN JOSE, ENVIRONMENTAL SRVC DEP 200 EAST SANTA CLARA ST., 10TH FLR. SAN JOSE CA 95113-1905 (408) 975-2581 mary.tucker@sanjoseca.gov

Shayna H. Hirshfield CITY OF SAN JOSE-ENVIRONMENTAL SVCS DEP 200 EAST SANTA CLARA SAN JOSE CA 95113 (408) 975-2531 Shayna.Hirshfield@sanjoseca.gov

Susan Munves Energy And Green Bldg. Prog. Admin. CITY OF SANTA MONICA 1212 5TH STREET, FIRST FLOOR SANTA MONICA CA 90401 (310) 458-8229 susan.munves@smgov.net

Don Liddell DOUGLASS & LIDDELL 2928 2ND AVENUE SAN DIEGO CA 92103 (619) 993-9096 liddell@energyattorney.com

Andrew B. Brown ELLISON SCHNEIDER & HARRIS, L.L.P. 2600 CAPITOL AVENUE, SUITE 400 SACRAMENTO CA 95816-5905 (916) 447-2166 abb@eslawfirm.com

Lynn Haug ELLISON, SCHNEIDER & HARRIS L.L.P. 2600 CAPITAL AVENUE, SUITE 400 SACRAMENTO CA 95816 (916) 447-2166 Imh@eslawfirm.com

Reuben Deumling ENERGY ECONOMICS INC. Cynthia Mitchell ENERGY ECONOMICS, INC. 530 COLGATE COURT RENO NV 89503 (775) 324-5300 ckmitchell1@sbcglobal.net

Jeff Hirsch JAMES J. HIRSCH & ASSOCIATES 12185 PRESILLA ROAD CAMARILLO CA 93012-9243 (805) 553-9000 Jeff.Hirsch@DOE2.com

Ed Vine LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY BUILDING 90-400 BERKELEY CA 94720-8136 (510) 486-6047 ELVine@lbl.gov

G. Patrick Stoner Program Director LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION EMAIL ONLY EMAIL ONLY CA 00000-0000 (916) 448-1198 X 309 pstoner@lgc.org

MRW & ASSOCIATES, LLC EMAIL ONLY EMAIL ONLY CA 00000 (510) 834-1999 mrw@mrwassoc.com

Max Baumhefner Legal Fellow NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL 111 SUTTER ST., 20TH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO CA 91404 (415) 875-8204 mbaumhefner@nrdc.org

Noah Long NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

3309 SE MAIN STREET PORTLAND OR 97214 (503) 231-5059 9watts@gmail.com 111 SUTTER STREET, 20TH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO CA 94104 (415) 875-6100 nlong@nrdc.org

Peter Miller NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL 111 SUTTER STREET, 20TH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO CA 94104 (415) 875-6100 pmiller@nrdc.org

Jennifer Barnes NAVIGANT CONSULTING, INC. EMAIL ONLY EMAIL ONLY CA 00000-0000 (415) 399-2116 Jennifer.Barnes@Navigantconsulting.com

Brad Kates OPINION DYNAMICS CORPORATION 230 THIRD FLOOR WALTHAM MA 02451 (617) 492-1400 bkates@opiniondynamics.com

Mary Sutter OPINION DYNAMICS CORPORATION 2415 ROOSEVELT DRIVE ALAMEDA CA 94501 (510) 864-8507 msutter@opiniondynamics.com

Jenny Gluzgold PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC CO. 77 BEALE STREET, B9A SAN FRANCISCO CA 94105 (415) 973-0347 yxg4@pge.com

Lise Jordan PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY PO BOX 7442 SAN FRANCISCO CA 94120 lhj2@pge.com (415) 973-6965

Case Coordination PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY Jonathan D. Pendleton Attorney At Law PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY 77 BEALE STREET, B30A SAN FRANCISCO CA 94105 (415) 973-2916 j1pc@pge.com

Lauren Rohde PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY 77 BEALE STREET, MC B9A SAN FRANCISCO CA 94105 (415) 973-8340 LDRi@pge.com

Roger Goldstein PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY PO BOX 7442 245 MARKET STREET, B9A SAN FRANCISCO CA 94120 (415) 973-2328 rfg2@pge.com

Sandy Lawrie Energy Proceedings PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY PO BOX 7442, MC B9A SAN FRANCISCO CA 94120 (415) 973-2494 slda@pge.com

Shilpa Ramaiya PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY PO B OX 7442 77 BEALE STREET, MAIL CODE N3A SAN FRANCISCO CA 94120 (415) 973-3186 SRRd@pge.com

Brenda Hopewell PORTLAND ENERGY CONSERVATION, INC. 1400 SW 5TH AVENUE, SUITE 700 PORTALND OR 97201

77 BEALE ST., PO BOX 770000 MC B9A SAN FRANCISCO CA 94177 RegRelCPUCCases@pge.com (415) 973-2776

Chonda J. Nwamu Attorney At Law PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY 77 BEALE STREET, B9A SAN FRANCISCO CA 94105 cjn3@pge.com (415) 973-6650 For: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Athena Besa SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY 8330 CENTURY PARK COURT, CP12F SAN DIEGO CA 92123 (619) 699-5064

Athena Besa SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY EMAIL ONLY EMAIL ONLY CA 00000 (415) 202-9986 ABesa@SempraUtilities.com

Joy C. Yamagata SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC/SOCALGAS 8330 CENTURY PARK COURT, CP 32 D SAN DIEGO CA 92123-1530 (858) 654-1755 JYamagata@SempraUtilities.com

Theresa Burke SAN FRANCISCO PUC 1155 MARKET STREET, 4TH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO CA 94103 (415) 554-1567 tburke@sfwater.org

Michael Rochman Managing Director SCHOOL PROJECT UTILITY RATE REDUCTION 1430 WILLOW PASS ROAD, SUITE 240 CONCORD CA 94520 (925) 743-1292 service@spurr.org

Pedro Villegas SEMPRA ENERGY UTILITIES 601 VAN NESS AVENUE, SUITE 2060 SAN FRANCISCO CA 94102 (415) 202-9986 PVillegas@SempraUtilities.com (415) 531-4825 bhopewell@peci.org

Puja Deverakonda POSITIVE ENERGY 1911 FORT MYER DRIVE ARLINGTON VA 22209 (646) 265-0556 puja@opower.com

Marilyn Lyon South Bay Cities Council Of Governments SOUTH BAY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CTR. 15901 HAWTHORNE BLVD., STE. 400 LAWNDALE CA 90260-2656 (310) 543-3022 marilyn@sbesc.com

Jennifer M. Tsao Shigekawa SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY 2244 WALNUT GROVE AVENUE ROSEMEAD CA 91770 (626) 302-6819 Jennifer.Shigekawa@sce.com

Rafi Hassan SUSQUEHANNA FINANCIAL GROUP, LLLP 101 CALIFORNIA STREET, SUITE 3250 SAN FRANCISCO CA 94111 (415) 403-6531 rafi.hassan@sig.com

Enrique Gallardo THE GREENLINING INSTITUTE 1918 UNIVERSITY AVE., 2ND FLOOR BERKELEY CA 94704 (510) 926-4018 enriqueg@greenlining.org

Stephanie C. Chen THE GREENLINING INSTITUTE EMAIL ONLY EMAIL ONLY CA 00000 (510) 898-0506 stephaniec@greenlining.org

Marybelle C. Ang THE UTILITY REFORM NETWORK 115 SANSOME STREET, STE. 900 SAN FRANCISCO CA 94104 (415) 929-8876

Jacki Bacharach Executive Director SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS 5033 ROCKVALLEY ROAD RANCHO PALOS VERDES CA 90275 (310) 377-8987 sbccog@southbaycities.org mang@turn.org

Craig Tyler TYLER & ASSOCIATES 2760 SHASTA ROAD BERKELEY CA 94708 (510) 841-8038 craigtyler@comcast.net

Megan Myers VASQUEZ ESTRADA & DUMONT LLP 1000 FOURTH STREET, SUITE 700 SAN RAFAEL CA 94901 (415) 453-0555 mmyers@vandelaw.com

Cheryl Collart VENTURA COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE 1000 SOUTH HILL ROAD, STE. 230 VENTURA CA 93003 (805) 289-3335 cheryl.collart@ventura.org