

October 25, 2011

Mr. Paul Clanon
Executive Director
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Joint Parties Comments on Draft Resolution CSID-005

The Joint Parties of the National Asian American Coalition, Black Economic Council and Latino Business Chamber of Greater Los Angeles hereby provide their comments on Draft Resolution CSID -005 (Draft Resolution) which was issued on October 5, 2011 and is scheduled to appear on the Commission's November 10, 2011 agenda.

All three minority advocacy organizations support the resolution to work with community -based organizations in order to conduct outreach to limited English proficient consumers in their preferred languages. The Joint Parties recommend extending the pilot funding to determine whether CHANGES should become a permanent program, and also recommend that CHANGES should become a permanent program.


In that vein, the National Asian American Coalition in particular is concerned about the fact that the largest Asian -American minority, the Filipino -American community, is not provided with Tagalog language services. For example, Sempra has admitted that they do not provide any language assistance in Tagalog, the national language of the Philippines.

Although Sempra is correct that the Census Bureau's published data show that a majority of Filipino Americans do not require Tagalog for official communication, the Census Bureau data is only literally correct. In reality, the majority of Filipino -Americans prefer to have business data conveyed to them in Tagalog. However, since English is taught in the Philippines, many Filipino -Americans feel it necessary to inform the Census Bureau in its study that they speak English well.

Unless this Commission immediately requires Tagalog, the National Asian American Coalition will do a survey, which it will bill eventually to the utilities, to demonstrate the inaccuracy of the data that the utilities rely on to exclude Tagalog. Please note, the Joint Parties' position is consistent with the recently-enacted Mike Eng legislation, AB1088, mandating disaggregation of Asian American data.

The Joint Parties are confident that the Commission and the investor -owned utilities will be able to remedy this oversight, and value the services provided by the CHANGES program. The Joint Parties support the adoption of Draft Resolution CSID-005 and believe that with further time for additional data collection and evaluation, the CHANGES program will be a resource for all of our communities.

Most sincerely,



Jorge C. Corralejo
President and Founder
*Latino Business Chamber
of Greater LA*



Len Canty
Chairman
Black Economic Council



Faith Bautista
President and CEO
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