

From: Prosper, Terrie D.  
Sent: 8/21/2012 5:12:26 PM  
To: Allen, Meredith (/O=PG&E/OU=Corporate/cn=Recipients/cn=MEAe)  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: RE: Commissioner Quotes: Currents article on CPUC sustainability forum

Hi Meredith,

Since the quotes were said in a public setting, you can go ahead and use them, but I appreciate the heads-up!

Terrie

**From:** Allen, Meredith [mailto:MEAe@pge.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 21, 2012 5:05 PM  
**To:** Prosper, Terrie D.  
**Subject:** Commissioner Quotes: Currents article on CPUC sustainability forum

Terrie,

Below is an article that we plan to issue on Currents today regarding today's en banc. It includes quotes from President Peevey and Commissioner Ferron from their statements at the event. I wanted to check with you on the process for using quotes from the Commissioners' public statements. Would you like us to run these by you first or is it ok to use given they were made in public forums? We were hoping to post today.

Thanks!

Meredith

## PG&E, Other Utilities Confirm Importance of Corporate Sustainability at CPUC Forum

By David Kligman

**SAN FRANCISCO**—Corporate sustainability at California’s investor-owned utilities isn’t new. It’s a framework that has been around since the 1970s when utilities began launching energy efficiency programs.

But, these days sustainability encompasses much more than environmental awareness, as demonstrated at a forum today (Aug. 21) held at the California Public Utilities Commission.

The purpose of the daylong program was to provide greater insight to the five-member commission on how utilities, such as PG&E, define and embrace corporate sustainability, which one speaker described as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.”

“To me, this is topic 1A of all the things that I have to deal with,” CPUC President Michael Peevey said. “This planet is headed shortly to 7 billion people. Most will clamor for a lifestyle enjoyed by most of us in this room today. We simply cannot achieve an Earth that is truly livable without focusing full-time on sustainability. We certainly cannot succeed by returning to an earlier era.”

Ezra Garrett, PG&E’s vice president of community relations and chief sustainability officer, gave an overview of how California’s public-owned utilities are collaborating on this expanded idea of sustainability.

He said the utilities, including Southern California Edison, San Diego Gas & Electric and Southern California Gas, already have done a lot.

- **Advancing energy efficiency.** The utilities are projected to save about 7,000 GWh and 150 million metric therms of natural gas through energy efficiency programs the past three years. That’s the equivalent of avoiding 3 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Expanding renewable energy.** Since 2003, the utilities have produced some 2,870 megawatts of new renewable capacity.

- **Assisting customers in need.** More than 400,000 homeowners benefited from the [Energy Savings Assistance Program](#) in 2011, saving income-qualified renters and homeowners more than 78 million kWh and nearly 6 million therms. And nearly 4 million eligible households were offered a discount on their energy bills through the [CARE \(California Alternate Rates for Energy\)](#) program last year.

- **Supporting diverse suppliers.** In 2011, the utilities spent \$3.8 billion with women-, minority- and disabled veteran-owned suppliers, representing some 35 percent of utility

suppliers. ([PG&E spent a record \\$1.6 billion](#) on diverse businesses last year.)

Much of this work from utilities has happened independently. And that has been important, Garrett said.

“Fundamentally, this is a healthy result,” Garrett said. “Because for sustainability to be truly ingrained throughout a company’s core business, the sustainability program must be customized to its unique attributes, including its customer base, geographies, company culture and business priorities.”

But Garrett said the utilities are increasingly collaborating more to help customers. He pointed to standardized building codes that foster energy efficiency and [Energy Upgrade California](#), a program that offers financial incentives to homeowners who plan multiple energy improvement projects.

Following his remarks, one of the commissioners asked Garrett why PG&E’s sustainability work encompasses much more than environmental efforts. Garrett’s response: Sustainability should be woven throughout the company.

The ultimate goal, Garrett said, is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy for customers. Sustainability has a hand in all of that.

“You can do more to further integrate the sustainability factor throughout the core business of a company,” he said. “Fundamentally, sustainability is less about the environment and more about integrating the social, economic and environmental dimensions.”

For sustainability to succeed, Commissioner Mark Ferron said, it has to be more than just fulfilling a requirement within a company.

“A commitment to sustainability needs to be imbedded in a company’s culture,” he said. “It’s not just noble, but it’s good for business....I’d like to publicly applaud the efforts of the utilities here in promoting renewables and energy efficiency over the last several decades.”

Ralph Cavanagh, co-director at the National Resources Defense Council, said he believes California’s utilities are up to the challenge. He pointed to their long histories of social responsibility, including PG&E’s annual [Clarke Awards](#) given to employees who benefit the environment and its customers.

“Collectively, these companies are the utility industry’s largest investors in energy efficiency, in renewables, in supporting infrastructure,” Cavanagh said. “They have shown a consistent spirit of innovation on efficiency that’s admired across the country.”

([Click here to read more](#) about sustainability at PG&E in the company’s 2010 Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability Report.)

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