

From: Cherry, Brian K
Sent: 4/23/2013 1:48:42 PM
To: Ferron, Mark J. (mark.ferron@cpuc.ca.gov)
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: RE: April 24th Workshop: "Building a More Energy Efficiency Future: A National Perspective"

Ouch.

I totally agree with all of your comments Mark.

Let me look into this.

Based on my knowledge of the rules, I suspect the room rental and any video and support material provided by the hotel are included in the price and then divided by headcount, thus the outrageous prices quoted. Jan should have been well aware of this and planned accordingly. Re the use of ratepayer funds, I am going to strongly suggest any fees paid by PG&E come out below-the line and have shareholders pick-up.

From: Banks, Juliane [mailto:juliane.banks@cpuc.ca.gov] **On Behalf Of** Ferron, Mark J.
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2013 1:41 PM
To: Berman, Janice S
Cc: Cherry, Brian K; Dietz, Sidney; Malnight, Steven
Subject: RE: April 24th Workshop: "Building a More Energy Efficiency Future: A National Perspective"

Jan,

Thank you for alerting me to this problem. Unfortunately, the CPUC's funds for these sorts of costs are limited, both in terms of amount available and the types of costs we are authorized to use them for – this situation fails on both counts (we cannot pay for food, and my office does not have sufficient discretionary funds to cover these costs

even if we could).

We will inform all CPUC employees who plan to attend what their options are.

While I applaud PG&E's initiative and efforts to educate utility staff, Commission staff, and other California stakeholders regarding new developments and potential new directions in the Energy Efficiency space, be advised that I am extremely frustrated by the lack of foresight suggested by this meal cost problem arising so late in the game – or at all for that matter, given that the utilities should be highly sensitized to this issue based on past experience. The late invitation that I received compounds my frustration.

I also find the high costs of these meals quite surprising. We expected that PG&E would negotiate a price that would fall within our annual \$50/year reporting threshold. This raises some flags regarding what this suggests in terms of PG&E's stewardship of ratepayer EE funds. (I assume that this conference is being funded from Commission-authorized ratepayer EE funds, yes?) Also, I assume that at this point you have already been required to commit to a head count – given what I expect will be a significant last-minute reduction in attendees who will be eating these meals, am I right to assume that these are sunk costs to the ratepayers (i.e., that the food our staff will not be consuming will have been paid for by ratepayers)?

It seems that this could have been prevented with a modicum of foresight and sensitivity on your part, given the utilities' long history of dealing with this Commission and the California's Fair Practices law.

The frustrations above aside, I look forward to a productive day tomorrow. I hope to attend for as much as I can in the morning; unfortunately, I have other Commission business in the afternoon.

Mark

From: Berman, Janice S [<mailto:JSBa@pge.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2013 9:04 AM

To: Ferron, Mark J.

Cc: Baker, Simon; Clinton, Jeanne; Colvin, Michael; [Redacted] Corey, Jana; [Redacted]

Subject: April 24th Workshop: "Building a More Energy Efficiency Future: A National Perspective"

Commissioner Ferron,

We're excited about the upcoming April 24th workshop "Building a More Energy Efficiency Future: A National Perspective" at the Parc 55 Wyhdam hotel, and are pleased that more than 20 Commission staff have signed up to attend. However, we've run into an internal CPUC policy regarding 'gifting' of food which we were not previously aware of. My understanding is that the CPUC can decide to pay for the food of the employees who attend, or if the CPUC does not cover the cost, the employee can either reimburse us for the food or choose not to eat.

The costs for food are estimated to be \$35.09 for breakfast and \$72.60 for lunch per person, plus some potential snack or beverage costs that will not be finalized until a after the event. Would it be possible for the Commission to cover these costs? We would like to let Commission staff know the situation in advance, so they can make an informed choice about whether to eat or not.

Other possible options would be for Commission staff to pre-order food from the Hotel or go to a local restaurant in the area during breaks. We'd like to work with you in whatever fashion would make this best for everyone.

I apologize for this last minute issue.

Thanks,

--Jan Berman

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