

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

Application of Pacific Gas and Electric
Company for Authority, Among Other Things,
to Increase Rates and Charges for Electric and
Gas Service Effective on January 1, 2014.

(U 39 M)

And Related Matter

Application 12-11-009
(Filed November 15, 2012)

Investigation 13-03-007

**OPENING COMMENTS OF THE JOINT PARTIES ON THE PROPOSED DECISION
OF ALJ PULSIFER**

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INSTITUTE FOR CORPORATE
RESPONSIBILITY; and NATIONAL HMONG
AMERICAN FARMERS

Dated: July 7, 2014

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Pursuant to Rule 14.3 of the California Public Utilities Commission’s (“Commission” or “CPUC”) Rules of Practice and Procedure, the National Asian American Coalition, the Ecumenical Center for Black Church Studies, the Chinese American Institute for Empowerment, the National Hmong American Farmers, and the Burmese American Institute for Corporate Responsibility (collectively, the “Joint Parties”) submit these Opening Comments on the Proposed Decision of ALJ Pulsifer in PG&E’s 2014 General Rate Case (“GRC”).

The Joint Parties are pleased that the Proposed Decision adopts the Proposed Settlement between the Joint Parties and PG&E, with the beneficial suggestions of TURN and the Greenlining Institute. We look forward to greater engagement with PG&E, and to PG&E’s enhanced engagement with the constituencies and communities represented by the Joint Parties. The settlement takes a significant step towards furthering the Joint Parties and PG&E’s mutual goal of encouraging meaningful, grassroots community participation in the GRC process.

The Joint Parties hope that the Settlement can serve as a framework for other utilities, particularly in the pending Edison GRC and the soon-to-be filed Sempra GRC, to engage with communities of color and low income ratepayers in their service areas who stand to benefit

significantly from rate education, energy conservation outreach, and greater input on the issues that directly affect them. The Joint Parties appreciate working with PG&E on these matters and hope that similar cooperation and mutual benefit can be achieved with other utilities.

We also hope that this settlement is helpful to the Commission as it tries to ensure the greater participation and input of underserved communities. It is vital for the CPUC to facilitate this participation in order to maintain the public's trust – a public that is over 60 percent minority. As it stands now, the Joint Parties and the Greenlining Institute are the only organizations that *consistently* intervene in proceedings before the Commission on behalf of the 60 percent minority community, one predicted to be 75 percent minority before 2050. No legislative, gubernatorial, or CPUC goals on energy efficiency can possibly be achieved without this community being fully educated and fully active before this commission.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

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