

**SEPARATE COMMENTS OF COMMISSIONER CARL WOOD  
ON COMMISSIONERS' SECTION OF 1999-2000 BUSINESS PLAN**

I appreciate the opportunity to provide additional comments to the Business Plan.

As the "Outlook" recognizes, utilities – electricity, gas, water, telecommunications, transportation – are essential services; their universal availability at fair, affordable prices and good quality is essential to the well-being of the people who live and work in California.

I have had the opportunity to observe at close range the effects of utility deregulation and restructuring on communities not only in California but throughout the United States. They are complex phenomena, with both positive and negative implications for the people involved. In my role as a member of the Commission, I am committed to preserving and enhancing, in concrete terms, the well-being of the people of California.

The activities of the Commission in relation to evolving markets for essential services should remain focused on assuring that Californians are substantively better off. Market development, and competition specifically, are means to that end, not ends in themselves. Regulatory intervention, including deregulation and restructuring activities, should promote real investment, enhance services, reduce costs and encourage innovation.

I am skeptical of deregulation and restructuring activities that promote disinvestment and job loss in California, harm the environment, reduce our ability to protect consumers and promote their welfare, destabilize prices and encourage speculation. I am sure we can discern the differences.