

## **Remarks of Commissioner Grueneich at her first Commission meeting - January 27, 2005**

Thank you President Peevey for that introduction. It gives me great pleasure to serve the people of California in this position and to share this podium with my fellow Commissioners.

I believe I am the first Commissioner who has practiced before this Commission. While that gives me insight into the working of the Commission and I can say already that it is certainly as challenging as I had imagined.

I know that I was selected for this post because of my stance on the issues - issues like energy efficiency, renewables, climate change, and customer choice. But I also know that my appointment is based on my experience and efforts over 27 years working in the energy industry. One of the strengths I bring to the Commission is having worked with people of all different positions and interests - from small consumer groups interested in discrete issues, to environmental groups interested in the long-term sustainability of California's electricity industry and electricity customers attempting to negotiate better prices for power to make their operations more economically viable, and all manner of others in-between.

I intend to continue working with parties of all shapes and sizes and I pledge to put my experience to work in order to craft the best regulatory policies possible for California. I will be a strong advocate for consumers - small and large, a friend to both business and the environment, and a considered and deliberate judge of the many issues that come before this Commission.

I'm proud to be a Democrat appointed by a Republican governor because I believe it provides a working example of cooperating to solve issues. Ensuring well-functioning, reliable and reasonably priced utility industries for the families and businesses of California is not a task that belongs to one party or another but it will be at the forefront of my actions on this Commission.

While my background is predominantly in energy issues, I have no intention of confining myself to this field and I look forward to immersing myself in the multitude of utility and regulatory issues before this Commission across all industries.

I would like to thank the staff of the Commission for their friendly welcome and for all of the assistance and information they have begun showering on me. I look forward to working with as many of you as possible over the coming years and to learning from your expertise. I plan to begin meeting with the various

divisions as soon as I am settled in. I am committed to a collegial working environment - we may not always agree on the substance of issues but I promise to find a way to work together.

Finally, I would like to announce my interim staff, which was selected for me by the Executive Director and the President's Office in order to speed my acclimation to the Commission. My interim staff includes Larry Chaset, who is advising me on legal, electricity and natural gas issues; Aaron Johnson, who is advising me on both electricity and water issues and will serve as my interim chief of staff; and Karen Miller, who is advising me on both telecommunications and transportation issues. In addition, Theresa Cho, a long-time colleague of mine from my consulting firm, was appointed as my legal advisor by the Governor just yesterday and will serve on my permanent staff.