



California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

February 2006, Number 19

This newsletter is intended to inform you about recent actions and issues before the CPUC that may affect your community. If you need assistance or clarification on anything in this newsletter, please contact [Kyle DeVine](#) or the [Public Advisor](#). Below is information on how to subscribe or unsubscribe and you can also email us at: cpucnl@cpuc.ca.gov.



Reminder! Small business expos continue; the next one is February 23 in San Diego. Commissioner Bohn is hosting a series of Small Business Opportunities Expos statewide. Buyers, contractors and program managers from AT&T, the California Water Association, PG&E, San Diego Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison and Verizon will be available to discuss their upcoming service and product needs. The schedule so far: San Diego on February 23, Bakersfield on March 9, Sacramento on March 16, Riverside and Los Angeles in April (TBD). More information is available on our website, [click here](#).

Rachelle Chong was appointed to the Commission on Jan. 11 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to complete the term of former Commissioner Susan P. Kennedy, which runs through 2008. Ms. Chong has more than 21 years of experience in telecommunications law and policy, including three years as a commissioner on the Federal Communications Commission from 1994 to 1997. To visit her website, [click here](#).



Let's go solar! The Commission has made a commitment to provide \$2.8 billion of incentives toward solar development over 11 years; we call this the "California Solar Initiative," (proceeding R.04-03-017). To learn more, [click here](#).

Update! The vote on the Telecommunications Bill of Rights has been delayed until March. Commissioner Grueneich has issued an alternate decision, which according to law (Senate Bill 15), delays consideration of the item for at least 30 days (proceeding R.00-02-004). To view the proposed decisions and more information, [click here](#).

Update! A 40% discount is available on a limited basis to schools, libraries, community-based organizations, and government-owned health care facilities that are participating in the California Teleconnect Fund program. For more information, [click here](#).

New! The Commission's work plan for 2006 is available. It describes the proceedings and other

decisions the Commission expects to consider during 2006. To access the work plan, [click here](#).

Update! The Commission has ordered utilities to spend 4% of the budgeted project costs for low cost electromagnetic fields (EMF) mitigation in new and upgraded projects. Although we are unable to determine whether there is a relationship between EMFs and health effects, the Commission's Energy Division will review all available studies and new findings. If such studies indicate negative EMF health impacts, we will reconsider our EMF policies (proceeding R.04-08-020). To read the decision, [click here](#).

New! The Commission's report to the legislature on Community Choice Aggregation is available, just [click here](#).



New! San Diego Gas and Electric has asked for approval to build the Sunrise Powerlink which would be a major new transmission line between the Imperial Valley and San Diego. A prehearing conference was held January 31 in Ramona. The proceeding schedule will follow shortly (proceeding A.05-12-014).

Reminder to conserve energy! In January, the Commission approved another increase, this one for \$961 million or 9%, for Southern California Edison Company. The main reason for the increased revenue requirement is the substantial increase in natural gas and power prices forecasted for 2006 (proceeding A.05-08-002). To read the decision, [click here](#).

New! Southern California Edison's request to acquire electricity - which all southern California electricity customers (even customers of other utilities) would pay for - **has been withdrawn** (proceeding A.05-06-003).

Northern



Update! The Contra Costa 8 prehearing conference has been set for Feb. 7, to schedule hearings on recovery of stranded costs from a nonbypassable charge which has caused some parties to protest the settlement for the electric generating facility (proceeding A.05-06-029). To read the ruling, [click here](#).

New! Mar Vista Water Company customers in Forest Glen in Santa Cruz County will see rate increases to cover operating and major system improvement expenses. Residential customers with measured service will see an increase of 46% while customers whose water is not measured will experience a 61% increase. Also, the water company collected more than it needed to pay off a loan and it will refund \$215,402 plus interest to customers (Resolution W-4579). For more information, [click here](#).

New! Cazadero Water Company customers in Cazadero in Sonoma County will see rate increases to cover operating expenses. The average residential monthly bill for measured service will increase 33% and the unmeasured residential service bill will increase 58% (Resolution W-4582). For more information, [click here](#).

New! R.R. Lewis Small Water Company customers near Sierra City in Sierra County will see a quarterly surcharge of \$87.34 for four consecutive quarters to cover costs for a temporary

chlorination system ordered by the Department of Health Services (Resolution W-4569). For more information, [click here](#).

New! San Luis Obispo County has filed a request to construct a pedestrian crossing in San Miguel which would cross the railroad tracks in the vicinity of 16th Street. A public hearing has been set for April 19 at 7:00 p.m., in the Lillian Larsen School Cafeteria, 1601 "L" Street, San Miguel (proceeding A.04-07-001). For more information, [click here](#).

Upcoming Commission Meetings: February 16, March 2 and March 15. The agenda for the February 16 meeting will be posted to the website February 6th.

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kyl@cpuc.ca.gov • [Public Utilities Commission](#)