



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

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Order Instituting Rulemaking to Consider New Approaches to Disconnections and Reconnections to Improve Energy Access and Contain Costs.

R.18-07-005

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY CHOICE ASSOCIATION'S REPLY COMMENTS ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING DIRECTING UTILITIES TO PROVIDE DATA AND REQUESTING COMMENTS ON PILOT QUESTIONS

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California Community Choice Association¹ (CalCCA) submits these reply comments in response to the *Administrative Law Judge’s Ruling Directing Utilities to Provide Data and Requesting Comments on Pilot Questions*² (Ruling), dated February 13, 2023. CalCCA supports the recommendations of the Center for Accessible Technology (CforAT) and the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) to require ongoing, accurate reporting of data to track success of the Arrearage Management Plan and the long term payment plans (LTPPs). CalCCA also requests that the Commission require the investor-owned utilities (IOUs) to provide additional information regarding customers eligible for Arrearage Management Plan (AMP) enrollment (in addition to the number of AMP enrolled customers).

¹ California Community Choice Association represents the interests of 24 community choice electricity providers in California: Apple Valley Choice Energy, Central Coast Community Energy, Clean Energy Alliance, Clean Power Alliance, CleanPowerSF, Desert Community Energy, East Bay Community Energy, Energy For Palmdale’s Independent Choice, Lancaster Choice Energy, Marin Clean Energy, Orange County Power Authority, Peninsula Clean Energy, Pico Rivera Innovative Municipal Energy, Pioneer Community Energy, Pomona Choice Energy, Rancho Mirage Energy Authority, Redwood Coast Energy Authority, San Diego Community Power, San Jacinto Power, San José Clean Energy, Santa Barbara Clean Energy, Silicon Valley Clean Energy, Sonoma Clean Power, and Valley Clean Energy.

² *Administrative Law Judge’s Ruling Directing Utilities to Provide Data and Requesting Comments on Pilot Questions*, Rulemaking (R.) 18-07-005 (Feb. 13, 2023): <https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Efile/G000/M502/K200/502200451.PDF>.

I. THE COMMISSION SHOULD ADOPT RECOMMENDATIONS BY CFORAT AND NCLC TO EVALUATE AMP AND LTTP “SUCCESS” THROUGH ONGOING ADDITIONAL IOU DATA

While the data provided by the IOUs in response to the Ruling give an overall snapshot of the AMP at a point in time (December 31, 2022), evaluation of success will require comparisons of data over time. As noted by CforAT and NCLC,³ requiring the IOUs to submit ongoing, accurate, comparative data will allow the Commission and stakeholders to evaluate the performance of AMP and LTTPs, as well as whether modifications to the programs are necessary.⁴

II. THE IOUS SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE DATA REGARDING CUSTOMERS ELIGIBLE FOR AMP

In addition to providing information regarding customers enrolled in AMP at a particular time, the IOUs should also be required to provide the “total customers eligible for AMP” to assess the quality and success of IOU enrollment efforts. The second step is then to address how well IOUs performed in assisting enrolled customers to complete the AMP program. For example, the AMP data provided by the IOUs as of December 31, 2022 (in response to the Ruling) demonstrates that Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) has enrolled 215,079 customers in AMP over time,⁵ while Southern California Edison Company (SCE) has enrolled 78,010

³ CforAT/NCLC Opening Comments at 9.

⁴ CalCCA has previously recommended several modifications to AMP and LTTPs which can be implemented now to encourage successful completion of the programs, including: (1) ordering the conclusion of automatic enrollment in LTTPs, and instead determining in this proceeding the most effective customer engagement to tailor payment plans to individual customer needs; and (2) modifying the AMP to better serve struggling customers by (a) allowing payments of 50 percent or more of the monthly amount due to qualify as an “on time payment” for two months out of the 12-month period, (b) providing the option of a “sliding scale” in which payment amounts ramp up over the 12-month period to encourage customers to gradually increase their monthly obligations, (c) reducing the “waiting period” for re-enrollment in AMP from 12 to six months, and (d) allowing customers removed from AMP for system/automation issues that are not the fault of the customer to be immediately re-enrolled. *See* R.18-07-005, *California Community Choice Association’s Comments on Assigned Commissioner’s Phase 2 Scoping Memo and Ruling* (Aug. 5, 2022), at 4-7; *California Community Choice Association’s Comments on Administrative Law Judge’s Ruling Relating to the Phase 2 Workshop in October 2022* (Dec. 9, 2022), at 3-7.

⁵ PG&E Opening Comments at 1.

customers over time.⁶ Given PG&E's total residential customers (4,947,963 in 2021 (37 percent of California residential customer share)) versus SCE's total residential customers (4,503,286 in 2021 (34 percent of California residential customer share)),⁷ a further inquiry into total customers eligible for AMP may explain SCE's proportionally significantly lower AMP enrolled customers. In addition, while PG&E has more customers enrolled which by itself appears successful, a ratio of enrolled versus eligible will provide insight into AMP enrollment overall.

III. CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, CalCCA respectfully requests consideration of these Reply Comments and looks forward to an ongoing dialogue with the Commission and stakeholders.

Respectfully submitted,



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CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY CHOICE
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⁶ SCE Opening Comments at 1.

⁷ U.S. Energy Information Administration, Form 861 (2021).