BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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Order Instituting Rulemaking to Establish Energization Timelines.	R.24-01-018

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY CHOICE ASSOCIATION'S RESPONSE TO CLEAN COALITION MOTION TO SET ASIDE SUBMISSION AND REOPEN THE RECORD REGARDING PG&E'S ANNOUNCED $2 BILLION REDUCTION IN 2027 CAPITAL SPENDING

Leanne Bober,
Director of Regulatory Affairs and
Deputy General Counsel
Jennifer Baak,
Senior Distribution Case Manager
Kevin Johnston,
Senior Counsel

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY CHOICE ASSOCIATION
1121 L Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814
Telephone: (510) 980-9459
E-mail: regulatory@cal-cca.org

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

CalCCA recommends the Commission:

- Grant Clean Coalition's Motion to Set Aside Submission and Reopen the Record and reopen the Phase 2 record on the limited basis requested;

- Direct PG&E to respond to Clean Coalition's proposed questions, supplemented to address PG&E's expected compliance with adopted energization targets, potential mitigation measures, and the causes of anticipated delays;

- Confirm that voluntary utility capital allocation decisions do not provide a basis for relaxing adopted energization targets or otherwise applicable remedial action or enforcement standards;

- Provide parties an opportunity to comment on PG&E's supplemental response and retain the ability to seek targeted clarification or supplemental responses from PG&E, if necessary, before resubmission; and

- Use the supplemental information to inform the Phase 2 compliance and remedial action framework, including how the Commission identifies and responds to emerging risks to the achievement of adopted energization targets.

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Pursuant to Rule 11.1(e) of the California Public Utilities Commission's (Commission) Rules of Practice and Procedure,[1] the California Community Choice Association[2] (CalCCA) submits this response to the *Clean Coalition Motion to Set Aside Submission and Reopen the Record Regarding PG&E's Announced $2 Billion Reduction in 2027 Capital Spending*[3] (Motion), dated September 9, 2026.

I. INTRODUCTION

Clean Coalition's Motion identifies material information concerning Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) plans for capital spending that arose after the Phase 2 record was

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[1] *State of California Public Utilities Commission, Rules of Practice and Procedure, California Code of Regulations Title 20, Division 1, Chapter 1* (May 2021), https://webproda.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/administrative-law-judge-division/documents/rules-of-practice-and-procedure-may-2021.pdf, *as amended by Resolution ALJ-485* (June 11, 2026), https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M609/K277/609277261.PDF.

[2] California Community Choice Association represents the interests of 24 community choice electricity providers in California: Apple Valley Choice Energy, Ava Community Energy, Central Coast Community Energy, Clean Energy Alliance, Clean Power Alliance of Southern California, CleanPowerSF, Desert Community Energy, Energy For Palmdale's Independent Choice, Lancaster Energy, Marin Clean Energy, Orange County Power Authority, 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, Valley Clean Energy, and WestLight Energy.

[3] *Clean Coalition Motion to Set Aside Submission and Reopen the Record Regarding PG&E's Announced $2 Billion Reduction in 2027 Capital Spending*, Rulemaking (R.) 24-01-018 (Sept. 9, 2026), https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Efile/G000/M618/K439/618439586.PDF.

submitted. This information potentially bears directly on the Commission's consideration of energization timeline compliance, remedial actions, monitoring, and enforcement.[4] CalCCA supports Clean Coalition's request that the Commission reopen the record on a limited basis and direct PG&E to provide the requested information.

On September 2, 2026, PG&E announced plans to defer approximately $2 billion in planned investment for 2027, reducing planned 2027 capital expenditures from $13.4 billion to $11.4 billion.[5] PG&E stated that it has identified work that can be delayed or deferred while maintaining critical safety investments and current performance on compliance obligations.[6] PG&E's Post-Legislative Session Update Conference Call specifically identified connecting new housing projects among the work that will be delayed or deferred. PG&E Chief Executive Officer Patti Poppe stated that the reduction "will push dates out," while acknowledging that PG&E had not yet finalized the specific work affected.[7]

These developments warrant the limited additional record development Clean Coalition requests. They do not establish that PG&E will fail to meet an adopted energization target, nor is such a determination necessary to grant the Motion. Rather, the announcement raises material questions regarding whether PG&E continues to expect to achieve the Commission's adopted energization targets and, if those targets may be at risk, what steps may be necessary to avoid

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4 Motion, at 1-3.

5 PG&E, *PG&E Launches Strategic Review to Build a Better, More Affordable Energy Future for California Customers* (Sept. 2, 2026) (PG&E Press Release), https://investor.pgecorp.com/news-events/press-releases/press-release-details/2026/PGE-Launches-Strategic-Review-to-Build-a-Better-More-Affordable-Energy-Future-for-California-Customers/default.aspx.

6 *Ibid*.

7 PG&E, *Post Legislative Session Update* (Sept. 2, 2026), Slide 4, https://s21.q4cdn.com/673114418/files/content_files/PG-E-Post-Legislative-Session-Update-2026.pdf; *PG&E Corporation Post-Legislative Session Update Conference Call* (Sept. 2, 2026), https://stockanalysis.com/stocks/pcg/transcripts/742515-status-update/.

future noncompliance. These are the same types of compliance, monitoring, and remedial action questions presently before the Commission in Phase 2.[8]

In support of the Motion, CalCCA addresses four principal issues. *First*, PG&E's announcement warrants limited additional record development because the existing record does not provide sufficient information to evaluate its potential effect on adopted energization targets. *Second*, obtaining this information before deadlines are missed is consistent with CalCCA's Phase 2 recommendations for timely identification of emerging compliance risks and effective remedial action. PG&E's voluntary capital allocation decisions should not provide a basis for relaxing otherwise applicable standards. *Third*, CalCCA supports Clean Coalition's proposed questions for PG&E and identifies limited additional information from PG&E that will assist the Commission's review. *Fourth*, CalCCA supports a narrow procedural process that allows party comment and targeted Commission follow-up, if necessary, without unduly delaying resolution of Phase 2.

CalCCA recommends the Commission:

- Grant Clean Coalition's Motion and reopen the Phase 2 record on the limited basis requested;
- Direct PG&E to respond to Clean Coalition's proposed questions, supplemented to address PG&E's expected compliance with adopted energization targets, potential mitigation measures, and the causes of anticipated delays;
- Confirm that voluntary utility capital allocation decisions do not provide a basis for relaxing adopted energization targets or otherwise applicable remedial action or enforcement standards;
- Provide parties an opportunity to comment on PG&E's supplemental response and retain the ability to seek targeted clarification or supplemental responses from PG&E, if necessary, before resubmission; and

[8] *Assigned Commissioner's Amended Phase 2 Scoping Memo and Ruling*, R.24-01-018 (Mar. 19, 2026) (Amended Scoping Ruling), at 2–4, https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Efile/G000/M602/K999/602999018.PDF.

- Use the supplemental information to inform the Phase 2 compliance and remedial action framework, including how the Commission identifies and responds to emerging risks to the achievement of adopted energization targets.

II. PG&E'S ANNOUNCEMENT WARRANTS LIMITED ADDITIONAL RECORD DEVELOPMENT

The Commission should grant the Motion because PG&E's announcement raises questions directly within the Phase 2 scope that cannot be answered on the existing record. Specifically, the Commission does not yet have sufficient information to determine which energization work will be affected, whether PG&E continues to expect to meet the adopted energization targets, or whether additional monitoring or remedial action may be necessary.

The Amended Scoping Ruling asks how the Commission should determine when remedial action is necessary to achieve energization targets, what remedial actions should be ordered, how compliance should be monitored, and how the Commission should establish an enforcement policy pursuant to Public Utilities Code section 934(g).[9, 10] PG&E's announcement that certain work will be delayed or deferred, including work connecting new housing projects, bears directly on these questions.

The existing information, however, does not establish the extent of any effect on PG&E's energization obligations. As Clean Coalition identifies, PG&E has not: (1) quantified the portion of the $2 billion reduction attributable to energization work; (2) identified the number or categories of customer energizations that will be affected; (3) identified the anticipated duration of delays; or (4) explained whether the affected work is subject to the timelines established in Decision (D.) 24-

[9] Amended Scoping Ruling, at 2–4.

[10] All subsequent code sections cited herein are references to the California Public Utilities Code unless otherwise specified.

09-020.[11, 12] These unanswered questions prevent the Commission from determining whether and to what extent PG&E's announcement creates a risk to achieving the adopted energization targets.

Additional information is particularly appropriate given PG&E's prior representations regarding the relationship between energization funding and performance. When seeking increased energization cost caps in this proceeding, PG&E stated that additional funding would allow it to "comply with Assembly Bill (AB) 50, and meet Energization OIR targets by 2027," and explained that available funding directly affects the completion and timing of energization work.[13]

The Commission should have sufficient information to understand whether PG&E's newly announced capital reduction changes those prior expectations or affects work underlying prior energization funding requests or authorizations.

The appropriate response is additional record development, not a presumption regarding the ultimate effect of PG&E's announcement. A targeted response from PG&E would allow the Commission to determine whether adopted energization targets are at risk and, if so, whether additional monitoring or remedial action is warrantthed.

III. COMMISSION REVIEW SHOULD OCCUR BEFORE ENERGIZATION DEADLINES ARE MISSED, AND VOLUNTARY CAPITAL ALLOCATION DECISIONS SHOULD NOT RELAX REMEDIAL ACTION STANDARDS

Obtaining this information now is consistent with, rather than a departure from, the compliance framework CalCCA proposed in its Phase 2 Opening Comments. CalCCA recommended objective triggers for remedial action tied principally to utility performance, along

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[11] Motion, at 8.

[12] D.24-09-020, *Decision Establishing Target Energization Time Periods and Procedure for Customers to Report Energization Delays*, R.24-01-018 (Sept. 12, 2024), https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M540/K806/540806654.PDF.

[13] *PG&E Request to Revise the 2025 and 2026 Energization Cost Caps Rebuttal Testimony* (Dec. 13, 2024), R.24-01-018 (PG&E Request), at 2, 10.

with frequent reporting to identify emerging compliance risks.[14] The Commission can investigate a known risk to future compliance without prematurely determining whether PG&E has missed a target or that remedial action is presently required.

In its Phase 2 Opening Comments, CalCCA explained that the Commission should ensure its energization requirements are enforceable, transparent, and effective in practice. CalCCA recommended clear triggers for remedial action tied to missed energization targets, a structured escalation framework for noncompliance, and frequent, standardized, and transparent reporting to enable ongoing oversight.[15]

Section 934(d) requires the Commission to require electrical corporations to take remedial actions necessary to achieve the adopted energization targets. This statutory direction supports a framework that ensures the targets are achieved, rather than merely responding after persistent noncompliance. CalCCA therefore proposed clear and objective triggers for remedial action, including missed average or maximum targets, overdue projects, systemic delays, disparate customer impacts, and incomplete or missing data.[16]

CalCCA's proposal also recognized the need for information that allows the Commission to identify problems as they develop. CalCCA recommended enhanced monthly reporting to provide a "current and actionable view of performance" and "ensure timely identification of emerging compliance risks."[17] Waiting until the effects of PG&E's capital reduction are reflected solely in future performance reports could leave the Commission evaluating those effects only after customer delays have occurred.

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[14] *California Community Choice Association Opening Comments on Assigned Commissioner's Amended Phase 2 Scoping Memo and Ruling*, R.24-01-018 (Apr. 30, 2026) (CalCCA Phase 2 Opening Comments), at ii, 1–5, https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Efile/G000/M605/K875/605875479.PDF.

[15] *Ibid*.

[16] CalCCA Phase 2 Opening Comments, at 2–5.

[17] *Id*. at 4.

The Commission should also make clear that a utility's voluntary capital allocation decisions do not provide a basis for relaxing adopted energization targets or otherwise applicable standards for remedial action. PG&E previously represented that additional funding would allow it to comply with AB 50[18] and meet this proceeding's energization targets by 2027, and that available funding directly affects the completion and timing of energization work.[19] PG&E has now announced its decision to defer approximately $2 billion in planned 2027 investment, identifying customer energization work as one of the categories that may be delayed or deferred.[20] If that decision contributes to PG&E's failure to achieve an adopted energization target, PG&E should remain subject to the same remedial action and enforcement framework that would otherwise apply. A utility should not receive leniency from an adopted performance requirement based on the consequences of a capital allocation decision within its own control.

This conclusion is also consistent with PG&E's prior position that it would not refuse to spend beyond an energization cost cap if necessary to meet the targets adopted in D.24-09-020.[21] The Commission should distinguish between circumstances outside an investor-owned utility's (IOU) control and delays resulting from the IOU's own management, resource allocation, or investment decisions. That distinction preserves the Commission's ability to consider legitimate external constraints without creating an incentive for a utility to reduce the resources devoted to energization and subsequently rely on that reduction to justify diminished performance.

PG&E's announcement illustrates why the Phase 2 framework should address potential compliance risks before deadlines are missed. The Commission need not determine today that

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[18] Assembly Bill 50 (Wood, Ch. 317, Stats. 2023), https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB50.

[19] PG&E Request, at 2, 10.

[20] PG&E Press Release.

[21] *PG&E Response to TURN Data Request TURN_008-Q001* (Jan. 9, 2025), at 1, https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/SupDoc/R2401018/7942/553678982.pdf.

remedial action is warranted. It should, however, have the information necessary to determine whether PG&E continues to expect to meet the adopted targets, what risks the announced reduction presents, what portion of those risks results from circumstances within PG&E's control, and whether prospective action is necessary to avoid future noncompliance.

IV. CLEAN COALITION'S PROPOSED QUESTIONS SHOULD BE ADOPTED AND SUPPLEMENTED

Clean Coalition's proposed questions[22] provide an appropriate starting point because they seek the information necessary to determine the scope and consequences of PG&E's announcement without presuming noncompliance. CalCCA supports those questions and recommends limited additions directed at three issues: (1) expected compliance; (2) mitigation; and (3) causation.

First, expected compliance. PG&E should expressly state whether it currently expects to meet each applicable energization target adopted in D.24-09-020, notwithstanding the announced capital reduction. If PG&E does not expect to meet a target, it should identify the affected target, anticipated magnitude and duration of the impact, and affected categories of projects or customers. Clean Coalition's proposed Question 4 asks whether and how the reduction is anticipated to affect PG&E's ability to achieve the average and maximum energization timelines.[23] This supplemental question would further clarify PG&E's present expectation regarding compliance with each applicable target.

Second, mitigation. PG&E should identify the mitigation or remedial measures it has considered or intends to implement to avoid or minimize impacts on energization timelines. This should include any reprioritization of work, reallocation of available funding, staffing, or

[22] Motion, Appendix A, at A-1–A-3.
[23] Motion, Appendix A, at A-2, Question 4.

contracting changes, or other operational measures. This information would assist the Commission in determining not only whether a compliance risk exists, but also what actions may be available to address that risk before an adopted target is missed.

Third, causation. PG&E should identify the extent to which any anticipated energization delays are attributable to the announced capital allocation decision versus other circumstances outside PG&E's control. This distinction is important not only for understanding the effects of PG&E's announcement but also for determining the appropriate application of the Phase 2 remedial action framework. To the extent a future failure to achieve an adopted target results from PG&E's voluntary capital allocation decisions, those decisions should not provide a basis for relaxing otherwise applicable remedial action or enforcement standards.

The Commission should also consider clarifying Clean Coalition's proposed Question 3 by requiring PG&E to identify how customer and project impacts will factor into its determination of which projects to delay or defer. Clean Coalition already proposes requiring PG&E to explain the criteria and process used to select affected work, the schedule for those determinations, and the process for notifying the Commission and parties.[24] Identifying how customer impacts factor into those criteria would provide additional context regarding the consequences of PG&E's implementation decisions.

V. LIMITED REOPENING WILL SUPPORT TIMELY OVERSIGHT WITHOUT UNDULY DELAYING PHASE 2

The Commission can obtain this additional information without broadly reopening Phase 2 or materially delaying the proceeding. Clean Coalition proposes a targeted PG&E response followed by a brief opportunity for party comments and prompt resubmission. CalCCA supports that approach with one additional procedural safeguard: the Commission should retain the ability

[24] Motion, Appendix A, at A-2, Question 3.

to seek targeted follow-up if PG&E's response or subsequent party comments identify material questions requiring clarification.

Clean Coalition proposes that PG&E provide its supplemental response within ten calendar days, followed by a seven-day opportunity for parties to comment. Its proposed ruling does not require an evidentiary hearing at this time and provides that the proceeding would thereafter stand resubmitted unless otherwise ordered.[25] This narrow process appropriately focuses the additional record development on the September 2 developments rather than reopening Phase 2 generally.

CalCCA recommends that the Commission preserve the Administrative Law Judge's ability to require targeted clarification or supplemental responses from PG&E after party comments if PG&E's initial response or the comments reveal material factual gaps. This need not create an additional mandatory round of briefing. Rather, it would provide a limited mechanism to ensure that the reopened record answers the questions for which it was reopened before the proceeding is resubmitted.

More broadly, the present circumstances reinforce the importance of timely visibility into changes that may affect energization performance. As Clean Coalition explains, section 933.5 requires utility reporting regarding constraints and obstacles to timely energization, including funding limitations, while section 934(e) requires periodic updates to energization timelines and reporting requirements to reflect changed circumstances, new information, and experience.[26] CalCCA's Phase 2 Opening Comments similarly recommended frequent and transparent reporting to permit ongoing oversight and timely identification of emerging compliance risks.[27]

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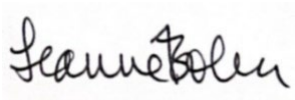
[25] Motion, at 9; Appendix A at A-3.
[26] Motion, at 8.
[27] CalCCA Phase 2 Opening Comments, at ii, 4.

The information developed through this limited reopening can serve two related purposes. It will provide the Commission with the information necessary to evaluate the potential energization impacts of PG&E's September 2, 2026, announcement, and it can inform the Commission's development of a Phase 2 framework capable of identifying and responding to similar material risks to achievement of energization targets as they arise.

VI. CONCLUSION

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

Respectfully submitted,



Leanne Bober,
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