CALIFORNIA

Efficiency + Demand Management

COUNCIL

Advancing Our Clean Economy

Monthly Member Readout

April 5, 2024

REC

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Today's Agenda

Council News

- 2024 Council Filings - March
- IOUs Upcoming Events
- California Policy and Regulatory Updates

Issues/Topics

- CPUC Energy Efficiency Third Party Solicitation Stakeholder Meeting 2.29.2024
  - CPUC Resources for Third-Party Implementers
  - IOU Solicitation Plans
- Opening comments on draft revised NMEC rulebook
- Joint CAISO policy proposals
- Joint comments on SGIP proposed decision
- IGFC Update

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2024 Council Filings - March

March 22 – 22-RENEW-01 Reliability Reserve Incentive Programs

March 19 – AL 7193-E (PG&E) Council Response

March 15 – Reliability Reserve Incentive Programs – CEDMC and OhmConnect*

* OhmConnect is now RenewHome

IOUs Upcoming Events

April 18, 2024: SDG&E New Program Webinar: Customer Home Electrification Readiness Program (CHERP)
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Telephone: (858) 284-1506 / Password: 43367962#
Microsoft Teams

SDG&E is hosting this webinar to present an overview of its CHERP, a proposed new program which SDG&E intends to propose in an upcoming advice letter submission. During this presentation, SDG&E will provide details of the program and respond to questions.

April 19, 2024: PG&E Webinar: Notice of Continuous Energy Feedback Program (CEFP) Expansion
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Telephone: (415) 906-0873 / Password: 427626162#
Microsoft Teams

PG&E is hosting this webinar to present the draft version of the Implementation Plan to expand the CEFP to the commercial sector under Business Energy Reports. The draft implementation plans will be posted on the CAEECC website on April 11. Stakeholders may submit questions or comments during the webinar and/or by emailing Chris Shue at christopher.shue@pge.com. All comments must be received by April 26 and the final Implementation Plan will be on CEDARS by May 10.

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IOUs Upcoming Events (Cont.)

April 8, 2024: Webinar on Third-Party Implemented Commercial Sector Pool Heating Energy Efficiency Program

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Telephone: (858) 284-1506 / Password: 101994434#

Microsoft Teams

SoCalGas is hosting a public stakeholder webinar to present the third-party implemented Commercial Sector Pool Heating Energy Efficiency Program. Please contact Brian Johnston – bjohnston@semprautilities.com with any questions or concerns.

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California Policy & Regulatory Updates

New EE Documents posted:

New documents that have been posted, some of which are available for comment, are available on the CPUC Energy Dataweb:

- PG&E and SDG&E Home Energy Reports (HER) PY 2021 2022 Early M&V Draft Research Plan (Comments due March 27)
- PG&E's Draft Response to Recommendations for CPUC Group A – Impact Evaluation Report: Population-Based NMEC – Program Years 2019-2021 (Comments due March 28)
- PY2022 Local Third-Party Programs Draft Report (Comments due April 2)
- PY2022 Regional Energy Network (REN) Evaluation Draft Report (Comments due April 9)
- Draft Early M&V Report for Program Year 2023, Energy Efficiency Summer Reliability Program (Comments due April 11)

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California Policy & Regulatory Updates (Cont.)

DR Applications (A.22-05-002, et al.)

Proposed Decision Sunsetting the Investor-Owned Utilities' Demand Response Auction Mechanism Pilot Programs

On March 1, ALJs Jungreis and Toy issued a Proposed Decision Sunsetting the Investor-Owned Utilities' (IOUs') Demand Response Auction Mechanism (DRAM) Pilot Programs. The Proposed Decision sunsets the DRAM Pilot programs of PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E by December 31, 2024 or sooner if the funding limits authorized for the pilot programs as set forth in D.23-01-006 are reached prior to that date. Opening Comments were submitted on March 21 and Reply Comments were due on March 26.

Advice Letter (AL) 7913-E (PG&E)

On February 28, PG&E submitted AL 7193-E which is PG&E's AL detailing the Automated Response Technology (ART) Program, in compliance with D.23-12-005. On March 19, the Council submitted a Response to this AL. The Council argued that PG&E's request should be approved to ensure that the thermostats currently enrolled in the Bring Your Own Thermostat program continue to provide reliability. The Council recommended that PG&E should expand the ART to other smart technologies as expeditiously as possible. Lastly, the Council argued that providers should be allowed to manage customer acceptance of ART program terms and conditions.

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California Policy & Regulatory Updates (Cont.)

Demand Flexibility (R.22-07-005)

Proposed Decision Addressing Assembly Bill (AB) 205 Requirements for Electric Utilities

On March 27, ALJ Wang issued a Proposed Decision Addressing AB 205 Requirements for Electric Utilities. The Proposed Decision authorizes all investor-owned electric utilities to change the structure of residential customer bills in accordance with AB 205. As directed by AB 205, the Proposed Decision authorizes all investor-owned utilities (IOUs) to change the structure of residential customer bills by shifting the recovery of a portion of fixed costs from volumetric rates to a separate, fixed amount on bills without changing the total costs that utilities may recover from customers. As a result, the Proposed Decision reduces the volumetric price of electricity (in cents per kilowatt hour) for all residential customers of IOUs.

The Proposed Decision adopts a gradual, incremental approach to implementing AB 205 requirements, including the requirement to offer income-graduated fixed charge (IGFC) amounts. The adopted billing structure will offer discounts based on the existing income-verification processes of the utilities' CARE and FERA programs. The CPUC will consider improvements to the new billing structure based on the initial results of implementation and a working group proposal in the next phase of this proceeding.

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California Policy & Regulatory Updates (Cont.)

Demand Flexibility (R.22-07-005)

Proposed Decision Addressing Assembly Bill (AB) 205 Requirements for Electric Utilities (Cont.)

SCE and SDG&E shall begin to apply the adopted changes to residential customer bills during the fourth quarter of 2025. PG&E, Bear Valley Electric Service, Liberty Utilities, and PacifiCorp shall begin to apply the adopted changes to residential customer bills during the first quarter of 2026. The large electric utilities shall each implement the adopted billing structure changes through a Tier 3 advice letter.

In accordance with AB 205, the revenues from the fixed charges will be used to (a) ensure that a low-income customer with average electricity usage will realize bill savings in each baseline territory without changes to usage, and (b) reduce volumetric rates for all residential customers.

The new billing structure shall apply to all residential rates of the IOUs, except for master-metered rates that are not sub-metered, separately-metered electric vehicle rates for customers whose primary meter has an IGFC, or rate schedules that are scheduled to be eliminated by the second quarter of 2026. The revenues from fixed charges will be applied to reduce volumetric rates equally across all time-of-use periods.

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California Policy & Regulatory Updates (Cont.)

Demand Flexibility (R.22-07-005)

Proposed Decision Addressing Assembly Bill (AB) 205 Requirements for Electric Utilities (Cont.)

The Proposed Decision approves an aggregate total of up to $35.6 million for the implementation costs of the three large utilities. Each of the large utilities shall propose a plan and budget for customer education and outreach through a Tier 3 advice letter.

The Proposed Decision approves the settlement agreement regarding AB 205 implementation between Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc., Liberty Utilities, PacificCorp, and the Public Advocates Office, with exceptions to ensure compliance with statutory requirements. The small and multijurisdictional utilities shall each file a Tier 3 advice letter to provide additional information about base revenues, propose a customer education and outreach plan, and propose an implementation budget.

The Proposed Decision also adjusts the methodology for calculating the large utilities' average effective discount for CARE in accordance with AB 205. The Proposed Decision addresses all Phase 1 Track A issues. This proceeding remains open to address the remaining Phase 1 Track B issues.

Opening Comments are due on April 16 and Reply Comments are due on April 22.

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California Policy & Regulatory Updates (Cont.)

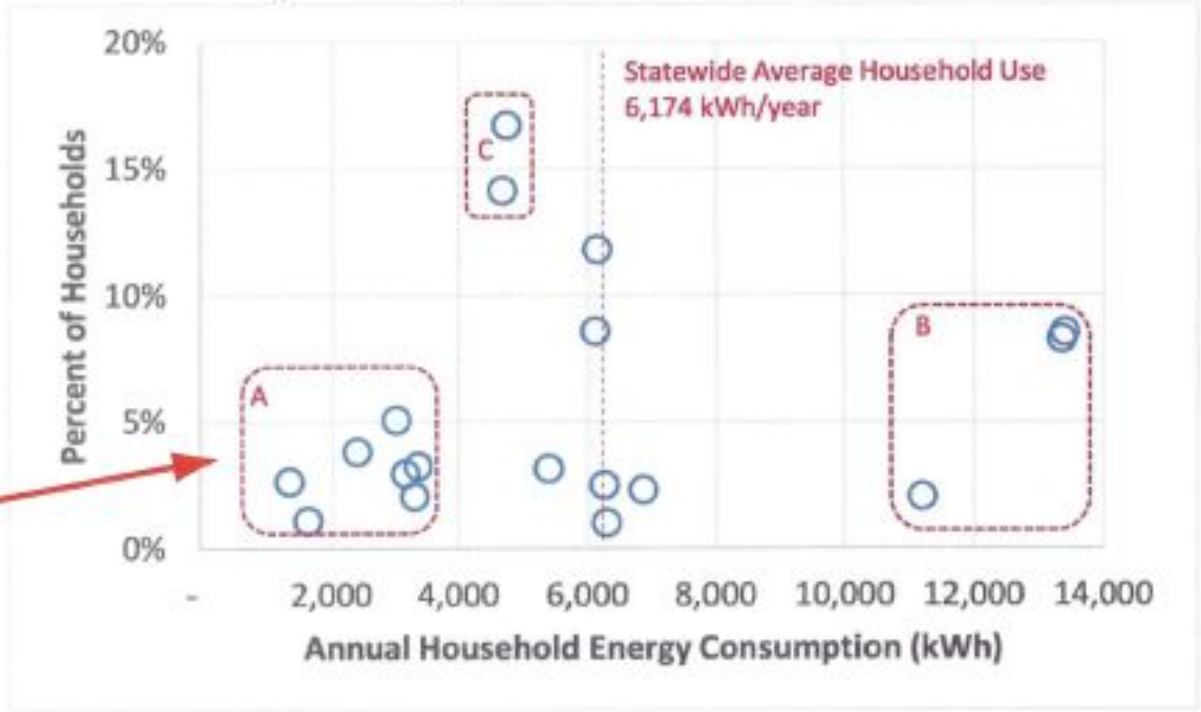
CALIFORNIA Efficiency + Demand Management COUNCIL

Demand Flexibility (R.22-07-005)

Key thing to understand: not everyone lives in the middle

Utility Tax proponents are only talking about an average-sized house when they say their proposal won't raise utility bills. But millions of people live in homes below the average size.

1 in 5 households live in a multi-family home that uses less electricity than the statewide average. These people will see their bills go up.



Source:
Clean Coalition, Rebuttal Testimony, Flagstaff Research Appendix, 6/2/23, pp.4-5

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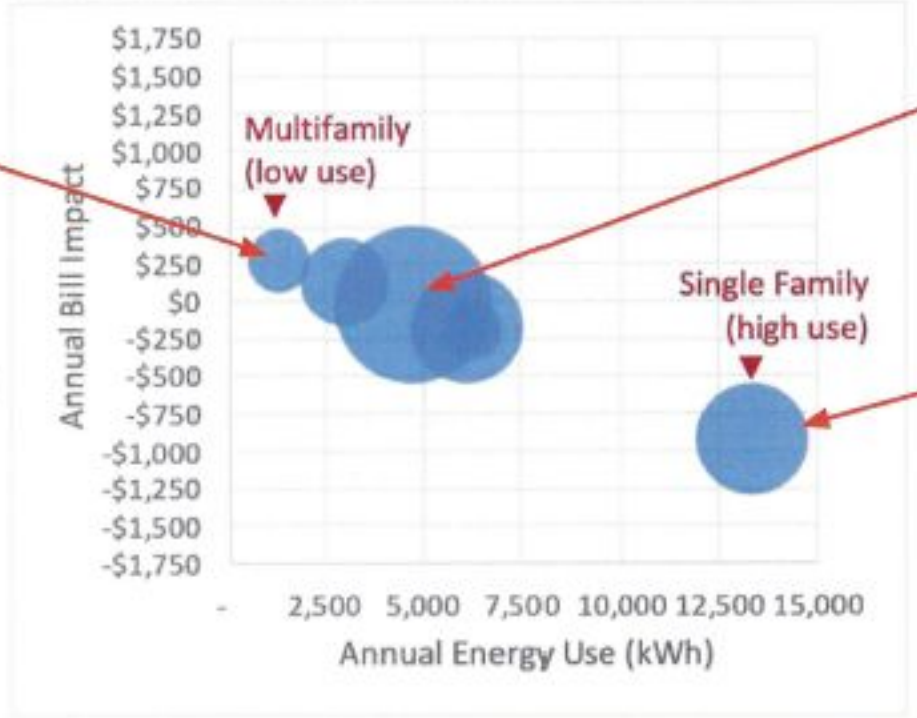
California Policy & Regulatory Updates (Cont.)

CALIFORNIA Efficiency + Demand Management COUNCIL

Demand Flexibility (R.22-07-005)

A $30/mo Utility Tax will increase bills by $250+/year on millions who live in apartments and small homes

1) The Public Advocate's $30/mo Utility Tax would increase utility bills on these households—millions of people who live in apartments, condos, and small homes. Same with NRDC and TURN's proposal.



2) Utility Tax proponents are only telling you about these households – the average. This obscures the impact on millions of low energy users.

3) Meanwhile, these large energy users—who tend to be wealthier than average—will see bill decreases close to $1,000 / year.

Source:
Clean Coalition, Rebuttal Testimony, Flagstaff Research Appendix, 6/2/23, p. 18

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Analysis of CPUC's Proposed Residential Fixed Charge on Annual Utility Bills

NON CARE/FERA $24/month	PG&E		SCE		SDG&E	
Multifamily	Usage (kWh) (1)	Bill impact ($) (2)	Usage (kWh) (1)	Bill impact ($) (2)	Usage (kWh) (1)	Bill impact ($) (2)
Low Usage	1,334	+225.30	2,397	+177.74	1,623	+177.64
Medium Usage	3,009	+146.58	3,353	+133.76	3,296	+63.87
High Usage	6,254	-5.94	6,853	-27.24	6,291	-139.79
Single Family	Usage (kWh) (1)	Bill impact ($) (2)	Usage (kWh) (1)	Bill impact ($) (2)	Usage (kWh) (1)	Bill impact ($) (2)
Low Usage	4,747	+64.89	4,676	+72.90)	3,160	+73.12
Medium Usage	6,112	+0.74	6,142	+5.47	5,398	-79.06
High Usage	13,337	-338.84	13,391	-327.99	11,205	-473.94

CARE $6/month	PG&E		SCE		SDG&E	
Multifamily	Usage (kWh) (1)	Bill impact ($) (2)	Usage (kWh) (1)	Bill impact ($) (2)	Usage (kWh) (1)	Bill impact ($) (2)
Low Usage	1,334	+31.25)	2,397	-2.43	1,623	+0.26
Medium Usage	3,009	-19.92	3,353	-32.11	3,296	-73.68
High Usage	6,254	-119.06	6,853	-140.79	6,291	-206.06
Single Family	Usage (kWh) (1)	Bill impact ($) (2)	Usage (kWh) (1)	Bill impact ($) (2)	Usage (kWh) (1)	Bill impact ($) (2)
Low Usage	4,747	-73.02	4,676	-73.19	3,160	-67.67
Medium Usage	6,112	-114.72	6,142	-118.71	5,398	-166.59
High Usage	13,337	-335.45	13,391	-343.79	11,205	-423.26

FERA $12/month	PG&E		SCE		SDG&E	
Multifamily	Usage (kWh) (1)	Bill impact ($) (2)	Usage (kWh) (1)	Bill impact ($) (2)	Usage (kWh) (1)	Bill impact ($) (2)
Low Usage	1,334	+81.30	2,397	+33.74	1,623	+33.64
Medium Usage	3,009	+2.58	3,353	-10.24	3,296	-80.13
High Usage	6,254	-149.94	6,853	-171.24	6,291	-283.79
Single Family	Usage (kWh) (1)	Bill impact ($) (2)	Usage (kWh) (1)	Bill impact ($) (2)	Usage (kWh) (1)	Bill impact ($) (2)
Low Usage	4,747	-79.11	4,676	-71.10	3,160	-70.88
Medium Usage	6,112	-143.26	6,142	-138.53	5,398	-223.06
High Usage	13,337	-482.84	13,391	-471.99	11,205	-617.94

(1) Usage data based on the CEC Residential Appliance Saturation Study that identifies typical low/mid/high usage for multifamily + single family households.

(2) Bill impact results based on CPUC Proposed Decision

FLAGSTAFF RESEARCH

CALIFORNIA Efficiency + Demand Management COUNCIL

Low energy users, such as renters and those living in small homes, will see their bills increase under the CPUC's proposed Fixed Charge. Even some CARE and FERA households will see their bills go up. Meanwhile, the biggest bill reductions will be enjoyed by those living in larger homes with high energy usage.

High fixed charges create a direct cross subsidization from low energy users to high energy users, eroding years of progressive energy policy that covers costs based on electricity usage thereby encouraging efficiency and conservation and protecting those living in apartments and small homes.

https://www.stoptheutilitytax.org

California Policy & Regulatory Updates (Cont.)

New Public Advocates Office Petition

Petition to Open Rulemaking Pursuant to Public Utilities (P.U.) Code Section 1708.5

On March 6, the Public Advocates Office submitted a Petition to Open a Rulemaking Pursuant to P.U. Code Section 1708.5. The Public Advocates Office contends that the proposed rulemaking would integrate policies, outcomes, and budgets for energy efficiency, DR, ESA demand side programs to effectively advance the state's climate and decarbonization goals. They also state that the scope of the rulemaking would allow the CPUC to develop policies and new approaches to ensure that decarbonization technologies will promote equity, cost-effectiveness, and reliability. Responses are due on April 5.

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California Policy & Regulatory Updates (Cont.)

New Public Advocates Office Petition

Completely Ignored: CAEECC Equity and Market Support Working Group Final Report on Indicators

This report provides very specific recommendations and clarifications around Indicators for 1) Equity Programs; and 2) Market Support Programs.

1. Indicators to be reported quarterly and annually should be done so by uploading a spreadsheet in the Documents area of CEDARS, similar to annual Common Metrics submittals by PAs.
2. Links to programmatic information and data should be provided in the spreadsheet to ensure readers can access contextual information when viewing the Indicator reporting, e.g., https://cedars.sound-data.com/programs/list/; https://cedars.sound-data.com/documents/standalone/list/; and https://cedars.sound-data.com/reports/summary/.
3. PAs should consider creating and using a high-level and consistent template across the PAs to report on the Indicators. When developing the template, the PAs should take heed of the Recommendation #25 that states reporting should not be an overly cumbersome process"

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California Policy & Regulatory Updates (Cont.)

CALIFORNIA Efficiency + Demand Management COUNCIL

New Public Advocates Office Petition

Long-standing CPUC policy has required that PA Energy Efficiency program portfolio's must be "cost effective" ***at the portfolio level,*** but that non-resource programs inclusive of equity, market support, and market transformation programs (among others), and program portfolio's administered by Regional Energy Network (REN's) PA's ***are not required to be cost effective.***

These program specific guidelines around cost-effectiveness have been specifically decided previously in multiple proceedings before the CPUC and with ample rationale intended to promote multiple goals and objectives, most notably to help assure that hard-to-reach, disadvantaged, and/or underserved communities receive a greater share of ratepayer funding provided for demand-side management programs. The PAO request to open a new proceeding proposes to sweep aside nearly a decade of prior rulings in the name of "rate affordability" while providing minimal basis that doing so would have any material impact on rate affordability.

It is unclear what the actual objective is of the PAO request to open a new proceeding. The implication that EE proceedings and policy development has somehow been siloed from decarbonization efforts, electrification efforts, and rate/billing affordability is simply not supported by the record.

We note that PAO has not been an active participant in CAEECC meetings for over one year and we strongly believe that the issues being raised under this PAO request should first be discussed and considered by this body, with a recommendation to be developed by CAEECC for CPUC review.

This provides a more considered forum for analyzing and ultimately determining whether a new proceeding is actually called for. This is especially true, given the fact that the Rolling Portfolio EE policy framework is relatively new, and that the transition to a PA-Administered, and mostly 3rd Party Implemented framework for EE programs has been in place for only a few years. The proposed PAO proceeding risks dismantling a framework that has not had an opportunity to be fully tested and implemented.

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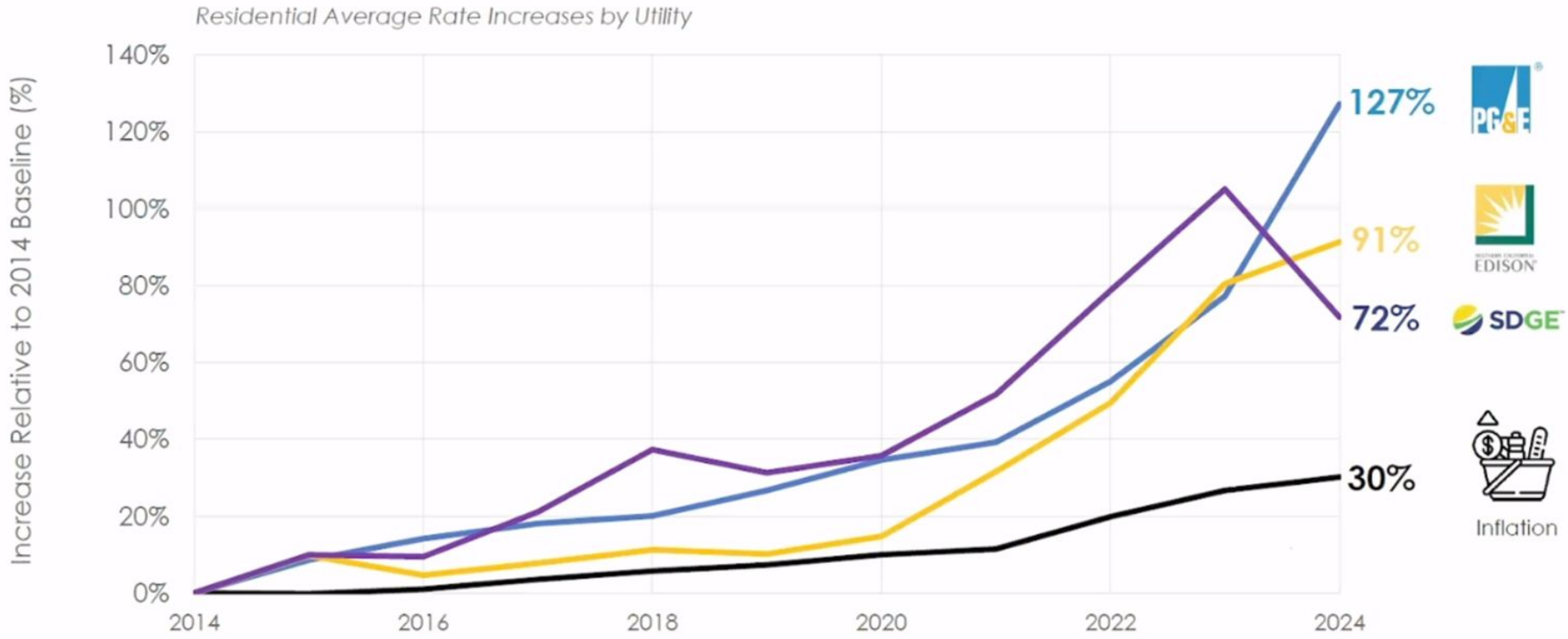
PAO Presentation & Select Comments

Assembly Utilities & Electricity

Oversight Hearing

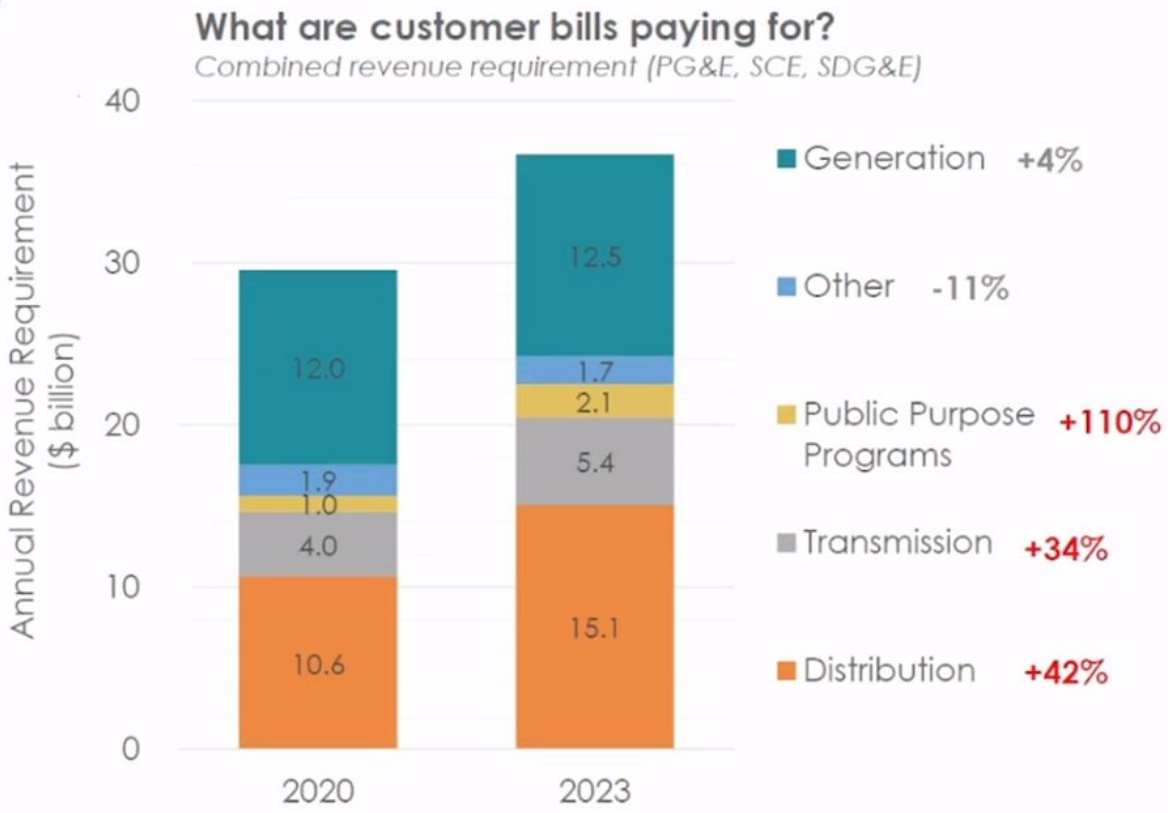
March 6, 2024

California electric rates are far outpacing inflation



2024 USA Average Values Based on Q3 2023 data, the latest for which there was available information at the time of publication.
Source: *Investor-Owned Utility Advice Letters (California Rates) & Consumer Price Index (Inflation)*

Grid investments have rapidly increased in recent years



Notable Cost Drivers

- Wildfire-related expenses
- Distribution system maintenance & upgrades
- Transmission buildout

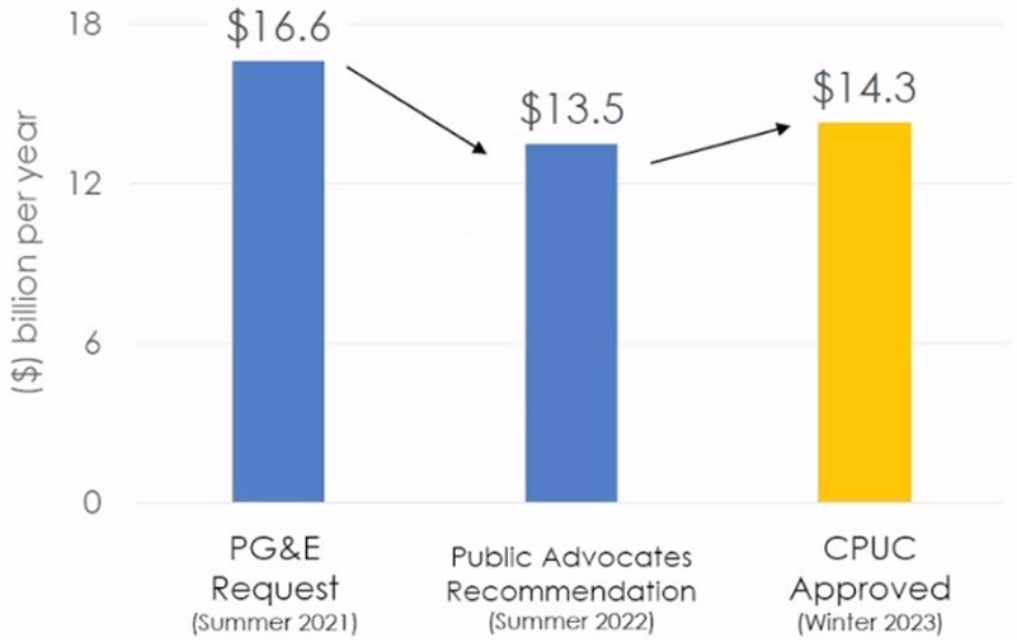
Source: California Public Utilities Commission. Recreated from data in 2023 Senate Bill 695 Report: Report to the Governor and Legislature on Actions to Limit Utility Cost and Rate Increases Pursuant to PUC Code Section 913.1. (May 2023)

The Public ADVOCATES OFFICE

We scrutinize utility requests to find ratepayer savings

"the Commission must ensure that PG&E focuses its revenue requirement request on the most realistic, practical, and necessary projects..." – *Public Advocates Office filing (November 4, 2022)*

PG&E General Rate Case Revenue Requirement



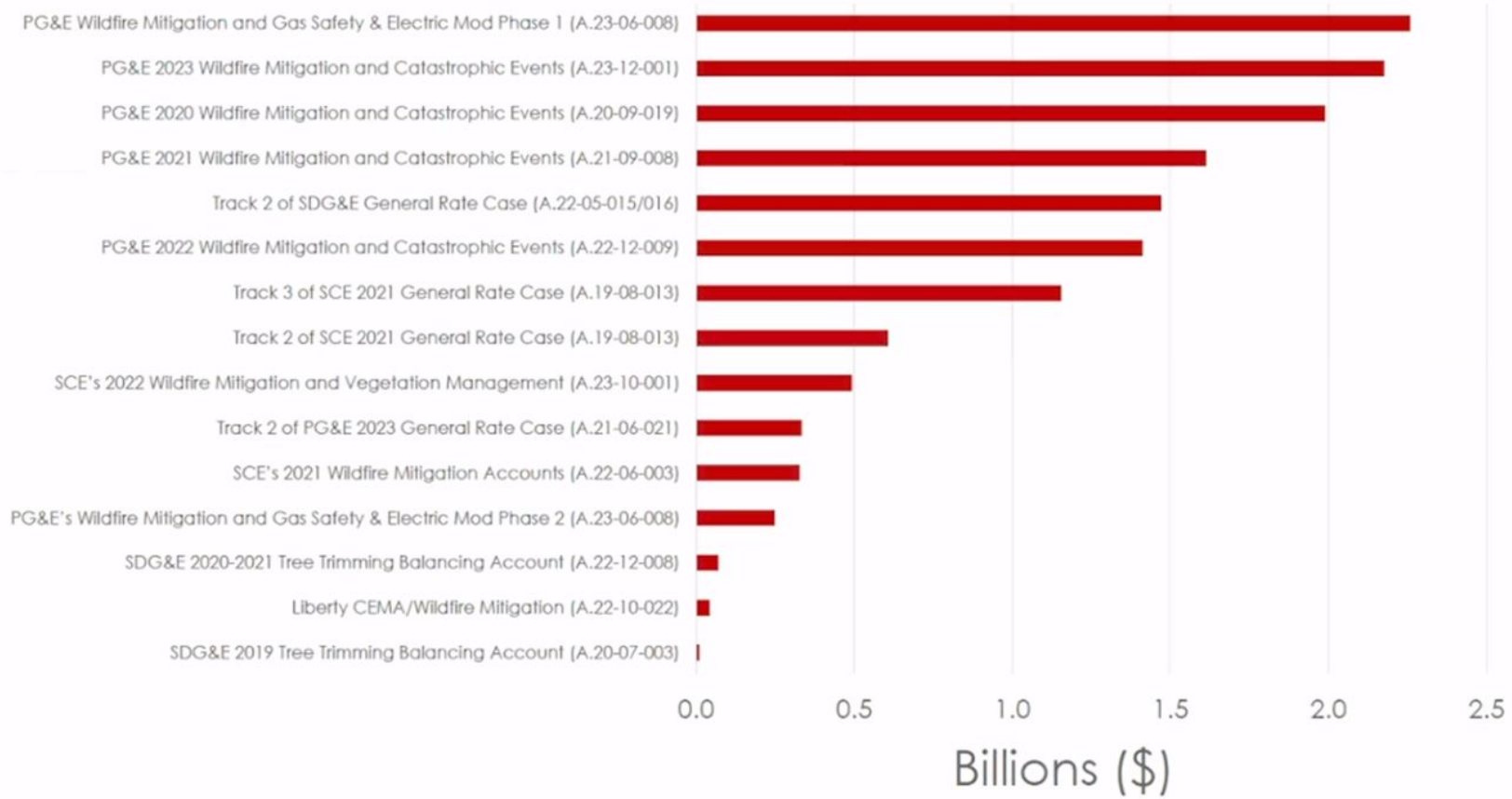
Note: The above bars represent the average amount over PG&E's TY 2023 General Rate Case Application from 2023 to 2026

Where we found over $3 billion per year

- **Electric grid capital.** System Hardening, Emergency Recovery, Distribution Substation Capacity, Distribution Transformer Replacements, etc.
- **Natural gas system operations.** Transmission Pipeline, Corrosion Control, and Leak Management, etc.
- **Human resources & IT.** HR Service Delivery and Inclusion, Benefits, 401k Retirement Savings Plan, Transportation & Aviation Services, Land & Environmental Management etc.
- And more... (link)

The Public ADVOCATES OFFICE

We reviewed **$14+ billion** of utility wildfire-related requests since 2020

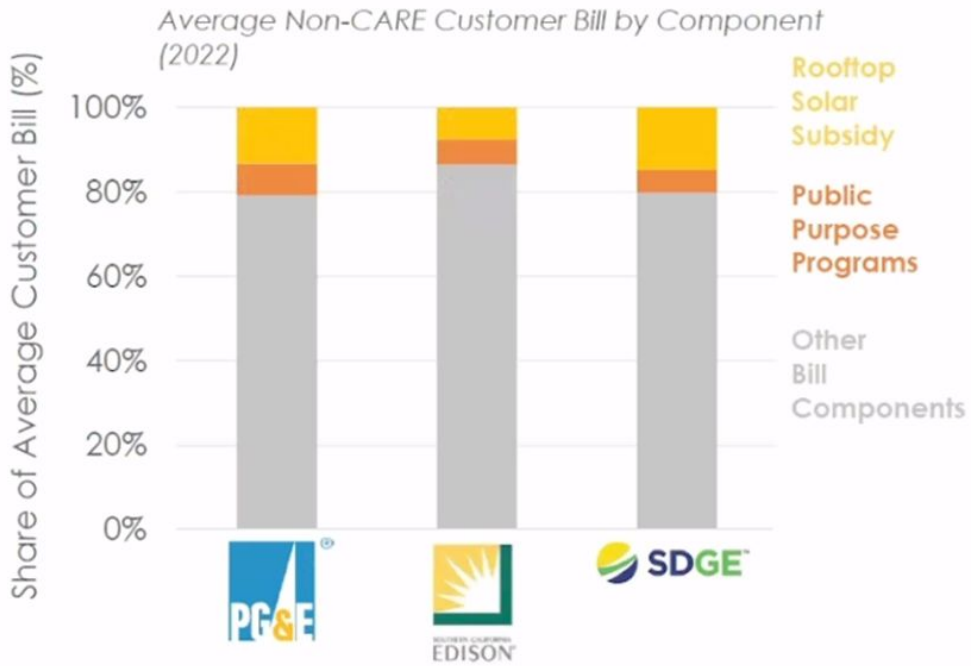


Note: These represent the major, incremental wildfire-related applications to increase revenue requirements reviewed by the Public Advocates Office

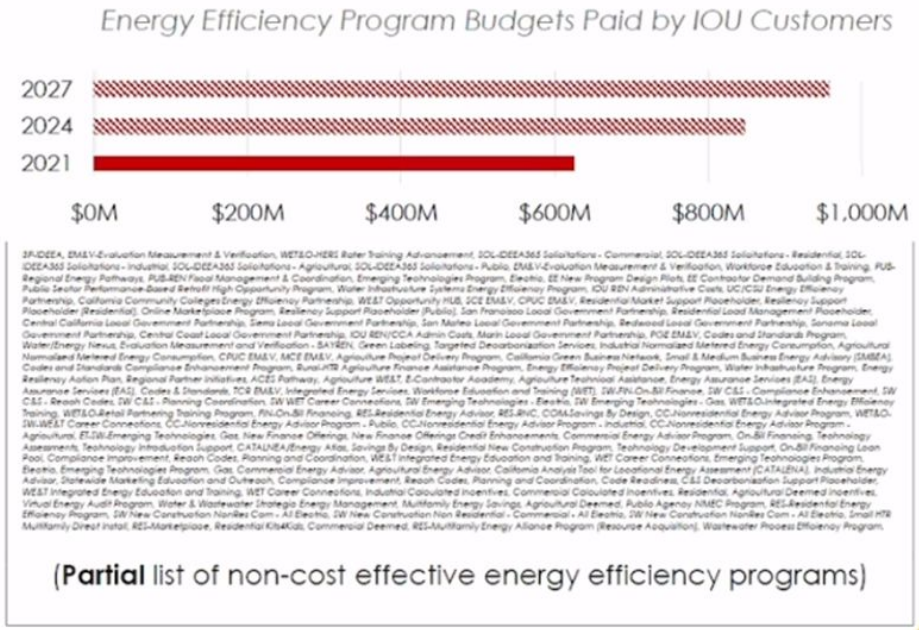
The Public ADVOCATES OFFICE

Utility spending is not the only driver of increases

Reason 1. Subsidies are driving rates up faster than how much utilities can collect alone



Reason 2. Bills pay hundreds of millions for non-cost effective programs each year



(**Partial** list of non-cost effective energy efficiency programs)

Source: California Public Utilities Commission. Recreated from data in *2023 Senate Bill 695 Report: Report to the Governor and Legislature on Actions to Limit Utility Cost and Rate Increases Pursuant to PUC Code Section 913.1*. (Rooftop Solar Subsidy "Cost Shift"), Public Advocates Office analysis, including proposed program budgets (energy efficiency programs)

The Public ADVOCATES OFFICE

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PAO comments at

So what can we do? Our objectives in the public Advocates office is to try to bend the cost curve down. So rate increases are lower than the rate of inflation. This will take a combination of immediate rate relief measures and long-term reforms. We look at Solutions through three lens.

06:19
First, hold utilities accountable to their authorized budgets. This means returning to basic budgeting and cost control measures. And also includes not authorizing new balancing accounts keeping for basic service. Keeping in mind that balancing accounts provide the utility guaranteed cost recovery from rate parents. The second lens is to make the clean energy transition, more affordable for all customers.

06:47
In the short term, we should take out all the fat in the utility bills. **This means eliminating cost ineffective programs**. And the longer term, we need to design electrification in a way that provides downward pressure on rates. And third, we need to adapt to increasing Wildfire mitigation and Disaster Recovery costs.

07:08
Right now, these specific costs are being worn on ratepayers immediately. We need to figure out a way to spread these costs over a longer period of time. In conclusion, I want to acknowledge that some very difficult decisions lie ahead in order to prioritize affordability and achieve the state's climate goals.

Proposed Decision Sunsetting the Investor-Owned Utilities' Demand Response Auction Mechanism Pilot Programs

- On 2/29, the Council filed opening comments on proposed revisions to the Normalized Metered Energy Consumption (NMEC) rulebook
- Key points
  - Some proposed changes appear to be policy changes that should not be included within a document of technical updates
  - The Commission should wait to update the NMEC rulebook until process and impact evaluations can be completed
  - The rules governing NMEC should be kept simple and remain free from unnecessary complexity; should also avoid adding new upfront requirements
  - Predictable and transparent timelines are needed for the Custom Project Review process to ensure projects are moving forward
  - CPUC should provide guidance on whether rejected proposed revisions would be considered in the future
  - ¨Below-code¨savings achieved through Normal Replacement measures under an NMEC project do not constitute free ridership
- Next steps: Proposals to be vetted with stakeholder feedback considered; final cuts in May

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Issues/Topics

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- **Issues/Topics**
  - Council comments on DEBA DER solicitation concept
  - Council comments on updated proposed DSGS improvements
  - Update on DR policy proposals at CAISO
  - PG&E Automated Response Technology program advice letter
  - PAO petition to open a new rulemaking

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Council comments on DEBA DER solicitation concept

- On 3/15, the Council & OhmConnect (Renew Homes) submitted joint comments on CEC Staff's draft DER for Reliability Solicitation Concept
- Key points
  - Support the idea of a solicitation but stressed the need for simplicity and low administrative burden
  - Resources procured should be accounted for in the Resource Adequacy process
  - The proposal does not provide for an adequate profit opportunity for DER providers
  - The overlapping funding allocations are overly complex and risk creating distortions
  - Clarity is needed on dual participation eligibility
  - The $100/MWh market-informed price trigger for Group 1 and 2 projects is too low
  - VPP aggregation software costs should be eligible for funding under Group 2
  - LSE involvement should not be required for Group 3 projects
- Next steps: CEC will issue the solicitation this month

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Council comments on updated proposed DSGS improvements

- On 3/22, the Council submitted comments on CEC Staff's updated proposed modifications to the Demand-Side Grid Support (DSGS) Program
- Key points and responses to CEC Staff questions
  - CEC Staff should finalize the new DSGS guidelines quickly even if no vote occurs until May
  - Supported Weekday + Saturday availability but with the option for lower Saturday nominations
  - Recommended an optional payment for Sunday availability
  - Recommended a 100 kW minimum portfolio requirement to ensure small and/or new DER providers can participate
  - Thermal energy storage should be eligible for Options 1 and 3
  - Budget transparency is critical to creating business and regulatory certainty
  - DSGS resources should be accounted for in the Resource Adequacy process
  - Incentive Option 3 should allow for dual participation
  - CEC Staff should begin developing device-level measurement
- Next steps: Expect new DSGS guidelines in April or May, CEC vote in May

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Update on DR policy proposals at CAISO

- Following the 2/28 submission of joint policy proposals by Leap, OhmConnect (Renew Homes), and the Council, the WEIM Regional Issues Forum (RIF) convened on 3/18 to review stakeholder proposals
- Leap and OhmConnect (Renew Homes) briefly presented on the Device-Level Metering and Modified Proxy Demand Resource (mPDR) proposals
- Discovered that the DR community falls under the IPP/Marketing Sector so we can participate in these Sector meetings going forward
- Following the RIF, we were invited to present on the mPDR proposal at a 4/22 CAISO stakeholder call where several other DR-related proposals will be discussed
- In addition, CPUC Commissioner Houck reached out to OhmConnect (Renew Homes) to request a call with them, Leap, and the Council to further discuss the Device-Level Metering proposal

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PG&E Automated Response Technology program advice letter

- On 2/28, PG&E submitted Advice Letter 7193-E which detailed its Automated Response technology (ART) Program, pursuant to D.23-12-005
- The ART will allow participants with a variety of smart home technologies to participate in DR and load shifting; current eligible technologies include smart thermostats, heat pump water heaters, EV chargers, and batteries
- Key elements include:
  - Open to bundled or unbundled residential customers, third-party Providers (PG&E is willing to co-brand Provider outreach materials)
  - Market-integrated; PG&E may dispatch at least once/month
  - If participant is on a time-varying rate, aggregator must implement a daily load-shifting strategy
  - Pay-for-performance with capacity payments based on monthly performance
  - Available 24 x 7 x 365; up to 6 hours of dispatch in a day
  - Day-ahead trigger based on CAISO market prices or day-of for PG&E system emergencies
- On 3/19, the Council submitted a response in support of PG&E's advice letter but recommended 1) should add more devices as quickly as possible, and 2) should allow Providers to manage their customers' T&C directly rather than through PG&E
- Next steps: Draft resolution expected in April

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Discussion & Q&A

Thank You!

Please contact us if you have any questions.

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