

# CPUC Public Agenda 3527

Thursday, May 18, 2023, 11:00 a.m.

## **Commissioners:**

Alice Reynolds, President

Genevieve Shiroma

Darcie L. Houck

John Reynolds

Karen Douglas

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California Public  
Utilities Commission

# CPUC Mission

We Empower California through:

- Assuring utility services are clean and safe.
- Providing for critical services and infrastructure.
- Designing rates that are fair and reasonable.
- Protecting the interests of consumers and ratepayers

# CPUC Core Values



**Accountability**



**Excellence**



**Integrity**



**Open  
Communication**



**Stewardship**

# Commissioner Code of Conduct

- I. Commissioners should conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates respect for the public, for fellow Commissioners, and for Commission staff.
- II. Commission meetings should be opportunities for a full and respectful exchange of ideas and the responsible execution of Commission duties.
- III. Serving on the Commission is an honor and Commissioners should treat their colleagues at the Commission with respect for the varied backgrounds, skills and interests that each one brings.
- IV. Commissioners are public officials who should uphold the integrity of their office at all times.

# Public Comment

- Per Resolution ALJ-252, any member of the public (excluding parties and their representatives) who wishes to address the CPUC about matters before the Commission must call in to toll-free number:



**1-800-857-1917**

Passcode: 9899501

- ***Para escuchar esta reunión en español, por favor llame: (800) 857-1917, código de acceso: 3799627.***
- Once called, each speaker has up to 1 minute at the discretion of the Commission President.
- A bell will ring when time has expired.
- **Written comments on a specific proceeding can be submitted via the CPUC's docket card. Please visit [www.cpuc.ca.gov/docket](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/docket), input the proceeding number, then click on the public comment tab. You can also visit the Public Advisor's Office webpage at [www.cpuc.ca.gov/pao](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/pao) for further information.**
- Public Comment is not permitted on the following items:
- 28

# Public Agenda Changes

Items shown on the Consent Agenda will be taken up and voted on as a group in one of the first items of business of each CPUC meeting.

- Items on Today's Consent Agenda are:  
**1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, and 43.**
- Any Commissioner, with consent of the other Commissioners, may request an item from the Regular Agenda be moved to the Consent Agenda prior to the meeting.
- **Item 44** from the Regular Agenda has been added to the Consent Agenda.
- Any Commissioner may request an item be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion on the Regular Agenda prior to the meeting.
- **No Item** has been moved to the Regular Agenda.
- **Item 3** has been withdrawn.
- The following items have been held to future Commission Meetings:
  - **Held to: 6/8/2023    2, 4, and 16**
  - **Held to: 6/29/2023    5**

# Regular Agenda

- Each item on the Regular Agenda (and its alternate if any) will be introduced by the assigned Commissioner or CPUC staff and discussed before it is moved for a vote.
- For each agenda item, a summary of the proposed action is included on the agenda; the CPUC's final decision may, however, differ from that proposed.
- The complete text of every Proposed Decision or Draft Resolution is available for download on the CPUC's website: [www.cpuc.ca.gov](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov)
- Late changes to agenda items are available on the Virtual Escutia Table; or in paper format or via QR Code at the Commission Meeting site.

# Regular Agenda | Energy Orders

## Item #45 [21551] – Order Instituting Rulemaking to Update and Amend Commission General Order 131-D

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### Quasi-Legislative

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#### **PROPOSED OUTCOME:**

- Adopts order instituting rulemaking (OIR) to update and amend Commission General Order 131-D.

#### **SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:**

- There are no safety considerations associated with this Decision.

#### **ESTIMATED COST:**

- There are no costs associated with this Decision.



# Management Reports



### Item #46 [21558]

## Management Report on Administrative Actions and Consumer Protection and Safety Activities

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# Reliability and Resilience Safeguards for Extreme Climate Events

*CPUC Actions to Ensure Regulated Utilities Prepare for Summer 2023*

Management Report to the Commission

Rachel Peterson, Executive Director

May 18, 2023



California Public  
Utilities Commission

# Safeguards Presented:

- Preparedness for Extreme Heat
- Public Safety Power Shut Offs to Reduce Utility-Ignited Wildfire Risk
- 2023 Risk of Flooding
- All-Hazards: Electric, Telecommunications, Passenger Transport, and Rail
- CPUC Senior Leadership Emergency Preparedness

## **SAFEGUARD #1:**

# **California Must Have Enough Power During Extreme Heat Events**

**California and the Commission are on an all-fronts mission to ensure we have enough power during extreme heat**

**A lack of electricity during extreme heat is a safety emergency**

**Summer 2022 was both a success and a learning story**

## SAFEGUARD #1: California Must Have Enough Power During Extreme Heat Events

### To prepare for 2023, we are:

- **Increasing electricity supply** by actively supporting getting new generation and storage resources online
- Working with the Energy Commission to maximize customer enrollment in **emergency load shifting** programs under extreme grid conditions
- Planning the **order that grid resources will be dispatched** during extreme grid conditions to keep the lights on
  - Jointly exercising the plan with the Governor's Office, California Independent System Operator, Energy Commission, Dept of Water Resources, Air Resources Board, and California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

## SAFEGUARD #1: California Must Have Enough Power During Extreme Heat Events

### To prepare for 2023, we are:

- Ensuring power plant owners are checking their plant's **operational soundness and preparedness**
  - Standardized data request issued to 190 generation plant owners on preparations now for extreme grid conditions when their plant operations will also be stressed
  - Plant owners are expected to have protocols in place to report immediately if an incident and unplanned outage occurs before, during or after extreme grid conditions
- Ensuring electric utilities are **addressing local reliability impacts and local community hazards** caused by unplanned outages within the distribution system
  - CPUC held March 17, 2023 workshop where 200 local government and community attendees discussed unplanned outages and distribution reliability issues

***“Unplanned outages are not just in an inconvenience, they are devastating to... small businesses and detrimental to the health of our medically frail residents.”***

– LORI PARLIN, EL DORADO COUNTY SUPERVISOR



## **SAFEGUARD #2:**

# **Utilities Must Be Prepared to Safely Execute Public Safety Power Shutoff Events**

**Weather events in 2022 – less intense winds, earlier rains – helped reduce the utilities' need for PSPS events**

**The CPUC has consistently set expectations that utilities understand and mitigate the public safety impacts of shutting off power**



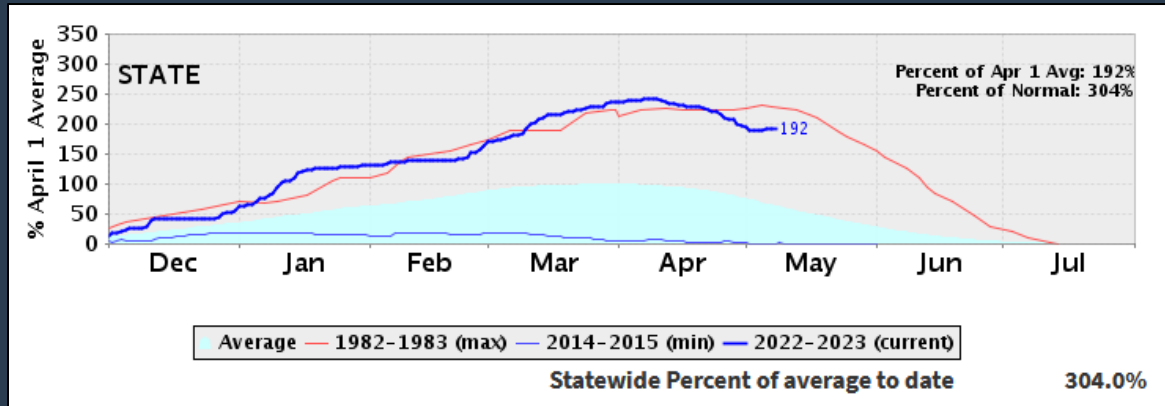
## SAFEGUARD #2: Utilities Must Be Prepared to Safely Execute Public Safety Power Shutoff Events

### To prepare for 2023, we are:

- Actively monitoring **electric utility readiness activities** for the 2023 PSPS season, such as tabletop exercises and reviews of utility weather and wildfire forecasting tools
- Ensuring **electric utilities continuously learn** from each other and affected communities
  - April 18, 2023 – CPUC held Post-Season Public Briefing on 2022 PSPS events
  - Local governments and emergency responders reviewed 2022 PSPS events and future readiness actions
- Monitoring **electric utility community engagement**, interagency working groups and exercises around PSPS
- Monitoring utility capabilities to **prepare, notify, and communicate with customers and communities with access and functional needs** before, during, and after a PSPS event
  - Continually monitoring electric utility preparedness to mitigate impacts on customers (e.g. Outreach and support to Medical Baseline customers)
  - Ensuring that utilities have established and are exercising clear communication pathways with county and local emergency responders
  - Providing advance support such as backup batteries
  - Monitoring Joint Utility Statewide AFN Leadership and AFN Advisory Council as they refine their PSPS plans and details of support programs to the AFN community

### SAFEGUARD #3:

## All Regulated Industries Must Be Prepared for Heightened Risk of Flooding in 2023



Statewide 2023 snowpack greatly exceeds historical averages

### **SAFEGUARD #3: All Regulated Industries Must Be Prepared for Heightened Risk of Flooding in 2023**



© paule858

- A series of winter storms has saturated soils, stressed levees, and filled reservoirs, reducing capacity to absorb additional inflow
- Current snowpack is above historical maximum levels
- Currently, colder temperatures are limiting snowmelt though expected warmer temperatures and lengthening days with increased solar radiation will increase snowmelt
- The gradual melting of snowpack may overwhelm stressed water control systems and rapid snowmelt may have catastrophic consequences that would force evacuations, disrupt and damage infrastructure

### **SAFEGUARD #3:**

## ***Preparedness for 2023 Risk of Flooding Focus: Electric Utilities***



- All six electric utilities have analyzed any potential flood impacts that could occur due to snowmelt
- During construction, utilities factor in FEMA 100-year flood risk data to determine mitigations
- PG&E, SCE, PacifiCorp, Bear Valley and Liberty report:
  - Continually monitoring the flooding situation due to snowmelt
  - Have established priority areas within their service territories for enhanced monitoring and mitigation
  - Analyzed potential flood impacts on electric infrastructure and identified measures to mitigate potential impacts
  - Understand potential impacts to infrastructure (e.g. roadways) that may impact restoration operations, and ensure the safety of personnel
  - Assessed all-hazard mutual aid agreements

## **SAFEGUARD #4:**

# **All Regulated Industries Must Be Prepared for All Types of Hazards**

**Each disaster is unique and requires flexibility to respond appropriately**

**All-Hazards preparedness activities are the foundation for a flexible response to potential wildfires, heat waves, reliability challenges, and Public Safety Power Shutoffs – or any combination of these emergencies**

## SAFEGUARD #4: All Regulated Industries Must Be Prepared for All Types of Hazards



### To prepare for 2023, we are:

- Tribal preparedness:
- March 1, 2023 – Smoke, Air, Fire, Energy Symposium at Blue Lake Rancheria
  - Featured an interagency discussion “Living with Fire and Smoke”
  - Working with Tribal communities in coordination with state agencies to increase the resilience and reliability of infrastructure through consultations and conferences
- Utility all-hazards preparedness:
  - March 16, 2023 – CPUC held a spring preparedness seminar with the six electric utilities, and federal and state emergency preparedness and response experts on Planning, Organizing, Equipping, Training and Exercising
  - Conducting a soundness check on six electric utility emergency response plans per CPUC General Order 166: Standards for Operation, Reliability, and Safety During Emergencies and Disasters

## **SAFEGUARD #4: All Regulated Industries Must Be Prepared for All Types of Hazards**

### **To prepare for 2023, we are:**

- CPUC's situational awareness:
  - Monitoring incident reports from the State Operations Center and utilities; regular contact with California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
  - Developing CPUC's GIS tools to better map incidents and identify utility infrastructure – electric, gas, telecommunications – in an affected area

## SAFEGUARD #4:

# All-Hazards Pre-Season Preparedness Focus: Communications and Water



## Communications

- From May to August, conducting ~83 site visits to validate providers' **ability to provide service** during power outages
  - 35 site visits planned in 16 counties, including El Dorado, Humboldt, Nevada, and Placer in second half of May
- CPUC requires telecommunications providers (wireline and wireless) to have **72-hour backup power** at facilities located in Tier 2 and Tier 3 High Fire Threat Districts

## Water

- CPUC has ensured all 9 large investor-owned **water utilities are enrolled in load reduction** programs
- CPUC assessing water utilities' risk and capacity to mitigate risk, including emergency preparedness for flood, wildfire, prolonged electricity outage
- Preparedness means **lines of communication are open** among CPUC, Water Board, local government, California Water Association, and water utility owners



## Resilient: Macro Cell Site



### Mono Pole Cell Site: Resilient

- Transport Diversity: **Yes**
  - Primary Backhaul: Fiber Optic
  - Secondary Backhaul: Microwave
- 72-Hrs. Backup Power: **Yes**
  - Mobile Generator
- Surveillance Camera: **Yes**
  - Monitors vandalism

**SAFEGUARD #4:**  
***All-Hazards Pre-Season  
Preparedness Focus:  
Rail and Passenger  
Transportation***



**Rail**

- CPUC monitors reported rail accidents, derailments and other related incidents 24/7
- Ensure **Continuous Welded Rail** regulatory compliance and best practices by railroads
- Monitoring and investigating today, ahead of both hot and cold weather conditions
- Ensure railroads are **clearing debris and vegetation** from around and under railroad bridges and culverts

**Passenger Transportation**

- Ready to generate a current **list of transportation providers for transportation during emergencies** for California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

## **SAFEGUARD #5:**

# **CPUC Senior Leadership Must Maintain and Exercise Emergency Management Capabilities**

**CPUC has significantly expanded our emergency preparedness and response capabilities since 2020**

**During disasters, CPUC responds in support of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services**

**We have adapted and adjusted our preparedness and response given emergencies such as COVID-19**

## **SAFEGUARD #5: CPUC Senior Leadership Must Maintain and Exercise Emergency Management Capabilities**

**Alongside ensuring that utilities we regulate are prepared for 2023, we are:**

- **Monitoring CalOES and Federal reporting** that could potentially lead to a response by the state of California
- CPUC **Senior Activation team is organized to support** California's response in any disaster or emergency, including issuing safety guidance to CPUC staff
- CPUC leadership has a **common operating picture for sound situational awareness** when the Senior Activation team is activated. Planned pre-summer tabletop exercise will refresh expectations, communication pathways, and communication tools
- CPUC actions **support statewide disaster operations**, and CPUC's procedures are a scalable approach to activate as needed for statewide response



# California Public Utilities Commission

### Item #46 [21558]

## Management Report on Administrative Actions and Consumer Protection and Safety Activities

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# Management Reports





# Commissioner's Reports



President  
Alice Busching Reynolds



Commissioner  
Genevieve Shiroma



Commissioner  
Darcie L. Houck



Commissioner  
John Reynolds



Commissioner  
Karen Douglas

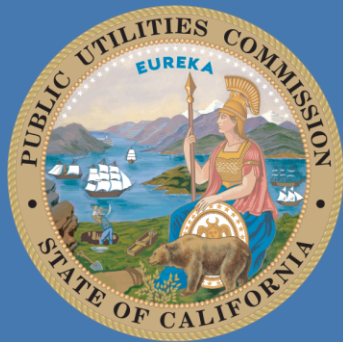


The CPUC thanks you for  
participating in today's meeting

The next Public Meeting will be:

**June 8, 2023**  
**11:00 a.m.**  
**Remotely**





# California Public Utilities Commission

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