Reclaim Our Power January 14th CPUC Meeting Talking Points

Thank you for calling in for utility justice!
If this is your first action with us, scroll to end for more context.

Instructions:

1. **Call this number at 9:50 am -** If you aren't on the phone BEFORE 10 am, you will not be able to comment! Press *1 right away to share your name/organization with the operator to be on the speakers list.
   1-800-857-1917, passcode: 9899501
   (You can watch the webcast, but need to call in to comment: www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc)

2. **Draw from the below talking points**. You'll have two minutes to speak, but feel free to take less time and say what moves you:

3. **If you get kicked off/aren't recognized to speak,** email your comments and that you were kicked off to all three of the following:

- pete.energydemocracy@gmail.com
- public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov
- VotingMeetingHelp@cpuc.ca.gov

Social media content to share is here.

Talking points:
[Personal intro: Name, affiliation]
I stand with the Reclaim Our Power Campaign to transform our energy system to meet community needs, and endorse the letter they delivered to you on Monday. We need energy that is affordable, safe, and resilient, and utilities that are community and worker controlled.
I think microgrids controlled by our communities are important because: *(insert your personal reason here!)*
We urge you to include frontline community priorities today on the Track 2 Microgrid Proceeding Proposed Decision and call for the CPUC to do the following: *(Choose 1-3 of the following points:)*

- **Increase investment in disadvantaged communities**

    - $200 milion in microgrid incentives to “vulnerable communities” is a good start, but it’s not enough to protect our communities.
    - Tighten the language to make sure that those funds actually make it to disadvantaged communities, and don’t get drained by affluent communities.
- **Allow community members, not private utilities, to define which facilities to protect against power shutoffs.**
    - We need hospitals, community centers, nursing homes, and schools to be resilient all the time, not just the facilities that PG&E and other Investor-Owned Utilities choose.
    - Host community workshops to hear what the people of California value, not the utilities that have endangered our lives.
- **Facilitate community development of microgrids, not controlled by the state’s private utilities.**
    - We need to address historical inequities that have kept microgrids out of our communities. Implement a differentiated microgrid tariff structure now.
    - Set standards that allow for community microgrid development independent of PG&E and other Investor Owned Utility domination.
- **Ensure microgrids are clean, not dirty.**
    - Permitting the Investor-Owned Utilities to extend diesel generation at their substations is preposterous and runs counter to climate, environmental justice, and public health goals.
    - We remind the CPUC of its repeated assurances that diesel was to be a short-term solution to be followed by a transition to clean generation.
- **Provide opportunities for community ownership.**
    - Empower communities to invest in their own energy futures—to pursue microgrid development that meets community needs, rather than, as the PD proposes, forcing them to work through utilities that represent an outmoded and problematic energy model.
- **The process behind this proposed decision was rushed, opaque, locked out community voices, and didn’t comply with the mandate of SB 1339.**
    - Issued just before the holidays, with quick turnaround times, and no real allowance for community engagement, the proposed decision is no way to build our future energy system.
    - SB 1339 was passed to give communities more control over the microgrid development process, not relegate it to PG&E and the other corporate Investor-Owned Utilities.

CPUC Hearings Background

The California Public Utilities Commission is the primary regulator of California's Investor-Owned Utilities, like PG&E.

The 5 Commissioners are appointed by the Governor, and oversee a broad range of issues from what kind of energy and how much of it is produced, how much PG&E and the other utilities can charge for power and its delivery, and whether or how state energy law is enforced. Each CPUC meeting starts with public comment on agenda items, then decisions are made on specific issues.