

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

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Revisit  
Net Energy Metering Tariffs Pursuant to  
Decision D.16-01-044, and to Address  
Other Issues Related to Net Energy  
Metering.

Rulemaking 20-08-020

**NOTICE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATION**

Steven King  
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December 9, 2022

## NOTICE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATION

As an interested party in the net metering proceeding at the California Public Utilities Commission, R.20-08-020, Environment California gives notice of the attached ex parte communication on behalf of itself and the other parties to proceeding R.20-08-020 that are signatories of the attached communication.

Today, on December 9, 2022, Environment California sent the attached letter to all five Commissioners, as well as Kerry Fleischer, advisor to President Busching Reynolds, Maria Sotero, advisor to Commissioner Reynolds, Simi George, advisor to Commissioner Rechtschaffen, Cheryl Wynn, advisor to Commissioner Shiroma, and Maryam Mozafari, advisor to Commissioner Houck. In addition, the letter was sent to Governor Newsom's energy staff. The communication was sent on behalf of 173 organizations that are named on the letter. It expresses the organizations' opposition to the proposed decision from November 10, 2022, in particular opposition to the sudden drastic cuts to the net metering credit.

We are concerned that the proposed changes as written will set back California's climate change and clean energy goals, consign the public to annual power outages, reduce customer bill savings and harm low-income access to solar energy. California cannot expect to decarbonize and achieve 100% clean energy without empowering the state's 40 million residents and businesses to contribute to this effort.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Steven King

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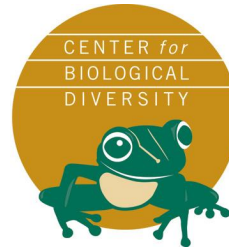
GREENPEACE



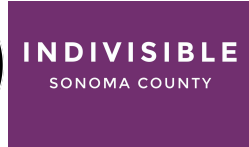
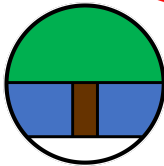
SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Citizens' Climate Lobby Santa Cruz Chapter



Know your Environment. Protect your Health. ewg



Coalition for Environmental Equity and Economics



EJCW



CFROG



ORANGE COUNTY, CA CHAPTER

# CALPIRG



Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments



HAMMOND CLIMATE SOLUTIONS FOUNDATION  
*Dynamic Action for a Sustainable Planet*



SAN DIEGO COASTKEEPER



HAMMOND CLIMATE SOLUTIONS  
*Dynamic Action for a Sustainable Planet*

Action



Antibiofilm Antifouling



Catholic Charities  
Diocese of Stockton



The Climate Reality Project  
SILICON VALLEY CHAPTER

North County  
**NCCCA**  
Climate Change Alliance



visceral



Environmental Justice Program



Protect Our Communities Foundation



The Climate Reality Project  
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER



PDA-CA



SUN  
Sustainable Urban Network

CALIFORNIANS FOR WESTERN WILDERNESS



CalDC  
CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC COUNCIL

LONG BEACH ALLIANCE FOR CLEAN ENERGY



BREATHE  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SAN DIEGO 350  
CLIMATE ACTION



SAN DIEGO CLIMATE HUB



Climate Action Mendocino



Our Future Depends on Taking Action Today!

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The Climate Reality Project  
LOS ANGELES CHAPTER



VOTE SOLAR



INDIVISIBLE EAST BAY



Basin and Range Watch

Indivisible California  
**GREEN TEAM**

INDIVISIBLE WESTSIDE \* LA



350 Contra Costa Action



INDIVISIBLE SAN JOSE





San Joaquin Valley

SILICON VALLEY  
YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION



Feminists In Action



LOS ANGELES



THE RESISTANCE  
NORTHRIDGE ★ INDIVISIBLE



LIVERMORE  
INDIVISIBLE

INDIVISIBLE SF



INDIVISIBLE  
TOGETHER WE WILL  
LOS GATOS



OUR  
REVOLUTION  
EAST BAY



www.cacommunityenergy.org



Dear Members of the California Public Utilities Commission (cc: Governor Newsom)

California set out to be a national leader in clean energy in 2006 with the goal of putting solar on one million rooftops. The state displayed its leadership once again in 2018 by committing to 100% clean electricity, and also in 2022 by setting bold interim targets to get there. However, California’s position as a national clean energy leader is at risk if the California Public Utilities Commission’s (CPUC) newest proposed decision on net energy metering (NEM) is adopted. As climate, clean energy, conservation, faith, and environmental justice leaders from across the country, we urge you to defend California’s highly successful solar incentive program by directing the CPUC to issue an alternate proposed decision.

The proposal put forth by the CPUC would discourage Californians from investing in solar panels by slashing the subsidies they would receive by 75%, making it more expensive to go solar at a time when we should be accelerating our shift to clean energy. While this proposal is a

modest improvement upon the CPUC's previous proposed decision, it is still too extreme. The state should encourage more adoption of rooftop solar, not less. If adopted in its current form, this proposal would disincentivize consumer adoption of the very technologies that will enable California to achieve its greenhouse gas reduction plans and grid resiliency in the face of ongoing blackouts and public safety power shutoffs.

History shows that when drastic cuts are made to NEM programs, people stop putting panels on their rooftops. Nevada's January 2016 cut to NEM compensation was followed by a 47% reduction in residential solar installations over the next year (compared with the 12 months preceding the change). The September 2017 restoration of net metering was followed by an increase in solar adoption that eventually led residential rooftop solar adoption to return to its earlier level.

In California, the Imperial Irrigation District abandoned net metering in July 2016, causing residential solar installations to fall from a peak of more than 11 MW per year to less than 2 MW annually two years later – a decline of 88%.

Rooftop solar is key to California's clean energy transition, and we should be speeding up our progress. Under existing policies rooftop solar has become increasingly accessible for low- and middle-income families in the last decade, according to data from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. This trend towards more solar accessibility across income levels, however, will not continue if it becomes more expensive to go solar under the new CPUC proposal.

Now is not the time for California to backslide. California's electricity grid was severely strained during September's heat wave, and we continue to watch the climate emergency accelerate with each additional wildfire, day of extreme heat, and year of drought. Rooftop solar, especially when paired with battery storage, is critical to protecting the environment by reducing dirty and dangerous fossil fuel pollution, protecting fragile habitats and natural areas, and creating a more resilient electricity grid.

California cannot help lead the nation to a 100% clean energy future without empowering its 40 million residents and businesses to put solar panels on their rooftops and batteries in their homes and buildings.

We urge the CPUC to issue an alternate proposed decision that allows rooftop solar and solar paired with battery storage to continue to grow. The alternate proposed decision should fairly compensate solar and solar plus storage customers for the true value that they are adding to the grid, more gradually phase out existing solar compensation rates, and ensure strong solar incentives going forward that align with our climate and clean energy goals.

Sincerely,

Steven King, Environment California  
Monica Embrey, Sierra Club California  
Liz Robinson, Philadelphia Solar Energy Association  
Laura Neish, 350 Bay Area  
Jennifer Tanner, Indivisible CA Green Team  
Caroline Henderson, Greenpeace  
Glen Brand, Solar United Neighbors  
Roger Lin, Center for Biological Diversity  
Allis Druffel, California Interfaith Power and Light  
Nick Jensen, California Native Plant Society  
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Gerald Meral, Natural Heritage Institute  
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Eileen Austen, East Valley Indivisibles  
Jan Dietrick, 350 Ventura County Climate Hub  
Jill ZamEk, San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace  
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Lani Faulkner, Equity Transit  
Magi Amma, Santa Cruz for Bernie  
Magi Amma, The Climate Alliance of Santa Cruz County  
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Ellie Cohen, The Climate Center  
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Andy Carman, Environteers.org  
Bill Allayaud, Environmental Working Group  
Susan Morgan, Indivisible Marin  
Janet Cox, Climate Action California

Cheryl Auger, Ban SUP  
Dr. Rev Ambrose Carroll, Coalition for Environmental Equity and Economics  
Dr. Rev Ambrose Carroll, Green the Church  
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Clara Castronovo, CALPIRG Students  
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Katie Huffling, Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments  
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Harry Wang, Physicians for Social Responsibility Sacramento  
Tara Hammond, Hammond Climate Solutions Foundation  
Tara Hammond, San Diego Climate Hub  
Karinna Gonzalez, Hammond Climate Solutions  
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Marilyn Bruno, Aequor Inc.  
Stephen Wheeler, Fossil Free UCD  
Ector Olivares, Catholic Charities of Stockton  
Rebecca Emigh, CANUCLA  
Jay Buys, Visceral  
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Gary Ding, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action  
Anita Ghazarian, Indivisible Alta Pasadena  
Rebecca Elliot, Indivisible San Jose  
Ruth Richardson, Rooted in Resistance -Indivisible  
Adriene Couter, Indivisible Ventura  
Tina Cahill, Indivisible Sacramento  
Darlene Patrick, Indivisible Stanislaus  
James William, San Joaquin Valley Democratic Club  
Jennifer Levin, Hang Out Do Good  
Sherry Lear, 350 South Bay LA  
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Michelle Fowle, The Resistance Indivisible Northridge  
Mary Perner, Livermore Indivisible  
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Ogie Strogatz, Indivisible Resisters Walnut Creek  
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Jessica Craven, Indivisible CA-34 Womens Feminists In Action  
Janeen Pederson, Stand Strong LA Indivisible  
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Karla Albright, Together We Will Indivisible Los Gatos  
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Merrill Berge, Camarillo Sustainable Growth  
Ben Schwartz, Clean Coalition  
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Carol Coyote Cook, Our Revolution East Bay  
Susan George, Progressive Zionists of America  
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Nancy Treviño, Alianza Americas/Presente.org  
Keith Umemoto, California Alliance for Retired Americans  
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Maureen Forney, NorCal Broads  
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Russ Speer, Water Holistic West, LLC  
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Pamela Drake, Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club  
Emma Martin, The Center for Independent Living, Inc.  
Jessica Tovar, Local Clean Energy Alliance  
Lynda Deschambault, Contra Costa County Climate Leaders  
Kelly Herbinson, Mojave Desert Land Trust