Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association

SCTCA

TRIBAL ENERGY & CLIMATE COLLABORATIVE

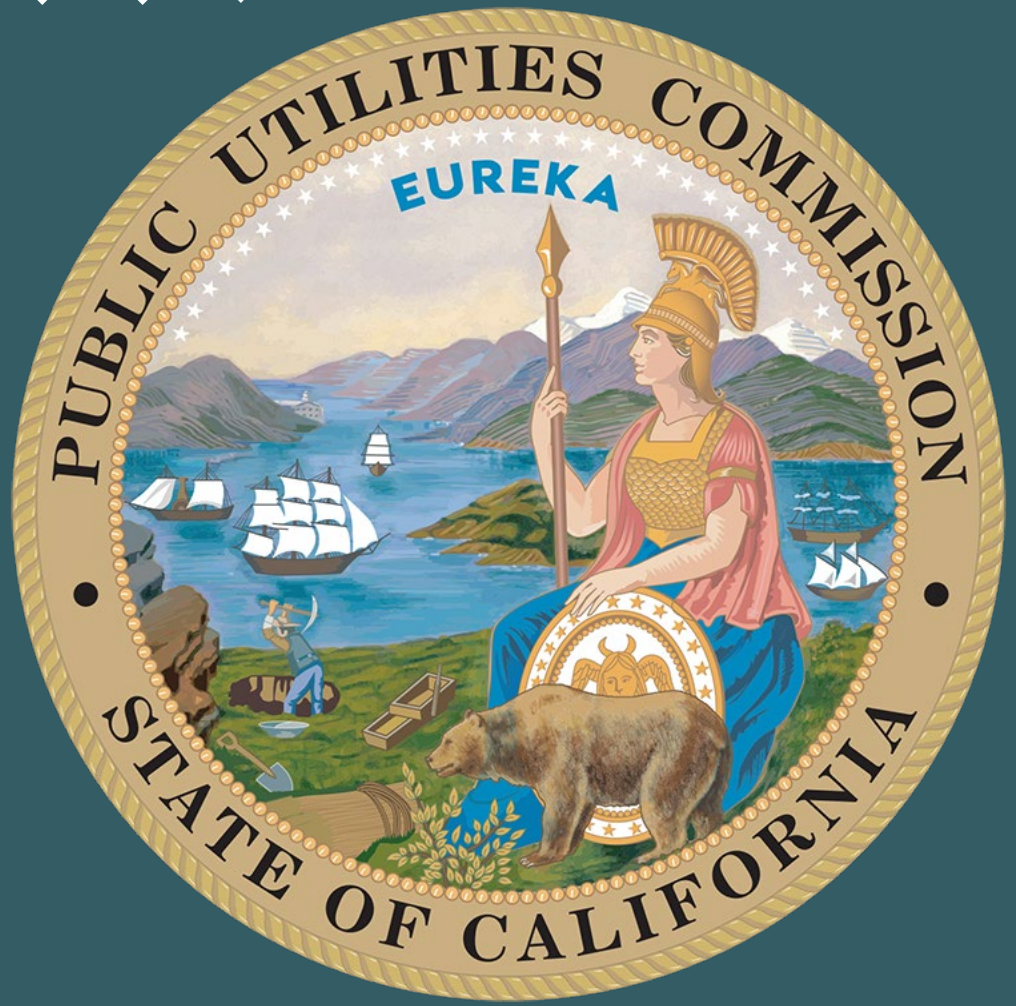
Advancing Tribes' Interests at the CPUC: Training Kickoff

April 16, 2025

BEGIN MEETING RECORDING

Webinar Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions, Overview
- Overview of the CPUC
- CPUC Proceedings Basics
- Tribal Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR)
- Finding Proceedings Info and Docs on CPUC Website
- Discussion
- Next Steps and Closing



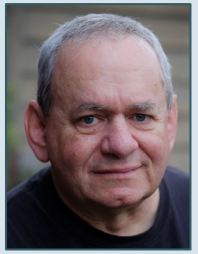
Program Funding

- This work was supported with grants from the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) **Equity and Access grant program.**
- The California Legislature recognizes that some California communities face systematic underinvestment, higher pollution burdens, and higher barriers to clean, safe, and affordable utility and transportation services. To address these challenges, it allocated $30 million dollars to the CPUC to establish the E&A Grant Program that empowers members of Environmental and Social Justice communities to participate in CPUC proceedings and decision-making processes.
- The Equity, Engagement, and Education (EEE) Grant Account awards grants up to $200,000 for the purposes of building CBO, Tribal, and community capacity to understand and engage with CPUC decision- making processes. The EEE Grant Account will increase participation within CPUC decision-making and build the long-term capacity of Tribes and CBOs to make participation in the Intervenor Compensation program and other funding sources more accessible. This will enable CBOs and Tribes to have more influence over clean energy programs and support making these programs more accessible to their served communities.

Introductions

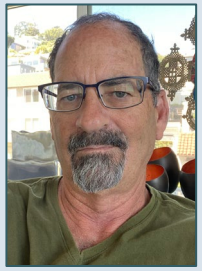
Josh Simmons

- Co-Director, Tribal Energy and Climate Collaborative, a program of the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association
- Founder, President, and Principal Consultant, Prosper Sustainably
- J.D., University of San Diego School of Law; MESM, UCSB Bren School of Env. Science & Mgmt.



Peter Allen

- Former CPUC Attorney and Administrative Law Judge (22 yrs)
- Litigated at CPUC on behalf of TURN (consumer advocate) and City of San Diego
- J.D. (cum laude), University of San Diego School of Law



Steven Moss

- Partner, M.Cubed, resource economics consulting firm
- Engaged in CPUC proceeding and other energy and regulatory forums (30+ years)
- Assisted multiple Native Tribes to secure compensation for water rights, treaty violations

ATTENDEES: Please introduce yourself in the chat

Poll: Staffing and Goals

TECC: Tribal Energy & Climate Collaborative

Policy & Regulatory Advocacy

CPUC EEE grantees:
SCTCA, Barona, San Pasqual

Co-Directors
Matt Rantanen (SCTCA/TECC); Sheilla Alvarez (Barona); John Flores (San Pasqual); Josh Simmons (TECC)

Capacity Building & Technical Assistance (TA)

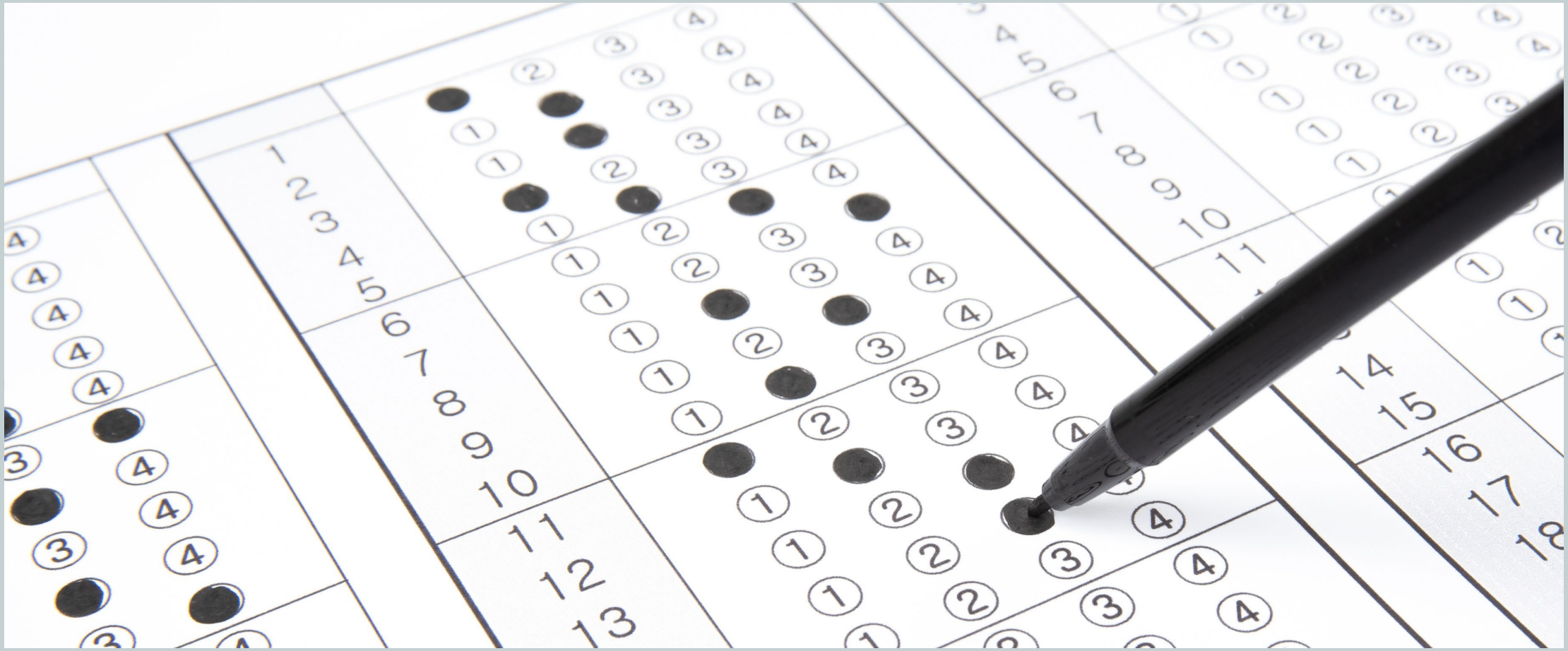
Economic and Workforce Development

Identify and advance climate, energy, and related economic and workforce development goals of SCTCA Tribes

CPUC Equity, Engagement, and Education Grant

- GOAL: Build sustainable capacity of SCTCA Tribes to participate in CPUC decision-making processes and access clean energy programs
- SCOPE OF WORK
  - Build capacity to track and participate in CPUC programs, proceedings, decision-making processes
  - Conduct outreach, education, and training to empower understanding of and participation in CPUC processes
  - Participate in priority proceedings

Poll: CPUC Familiarity, Engagement, and Representation



About the CPUC

- DOES serve as the primary state-level regulator for investor-owned energy (and water and phone) utilities, such as Southern California Edison, San Diego Gas & Electric, and Southern California Gas.
- DOES NOT regulate municipal utilities such as Los Angeles Department of Water and Power or utility districts such as Imperial Irrigation District.

Why should a Tribe care?

- Ratemaking Proceedings
- Microgrid Incentive Program
- Net Metering
- AB2143 Prevailing Wage Reqs
- Reliability and PSPS Outages
- Construction/removal of facilities and cultural and env impacts
  - E.g. transmission, distribution, dams
- Tribal Land Transfer Policy
- Tribal Consultation Policy
- SGIP Energy Storage Rebates
  - Current Petition for Modification

CPUC

Regulated Energy Utilities

PG&E, SCE, SoCalGas, SDG&E

Regulated Telecomm and Broadband Utilities

AT&T, Verizon

Regulated Water Utilities

Golden State Water, CA American Water

Regulated Transport-ation and Other Entities

Amtrak, Uber, Lyft

Local and Tribal Governments

Residential and Non-residential Ratepayers

Nonprofits and Trades Associations

Independent Generators, Developers

Community Choice Aggregators

Competitors

Other Energy Regulatory Entities

California Energy Commission (CEC)

- State's primary energy policy and planning agency
- Supports emergency response
- Tribal program

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

- Helps consumers obtain efficient energy at reasonable cost via regulation, market and collaboration
- State, Int'l, and Tribal Affairs

Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety

- Driving energy risk reduction for California
- Assesses wildfire mitigation plans, supports underground safety board efforts

California ISO (CAISO)

- Manages electricity on high-voltage, long-distance power lines, runs wholesale market, oversees transmission planning
- Stakeholder support

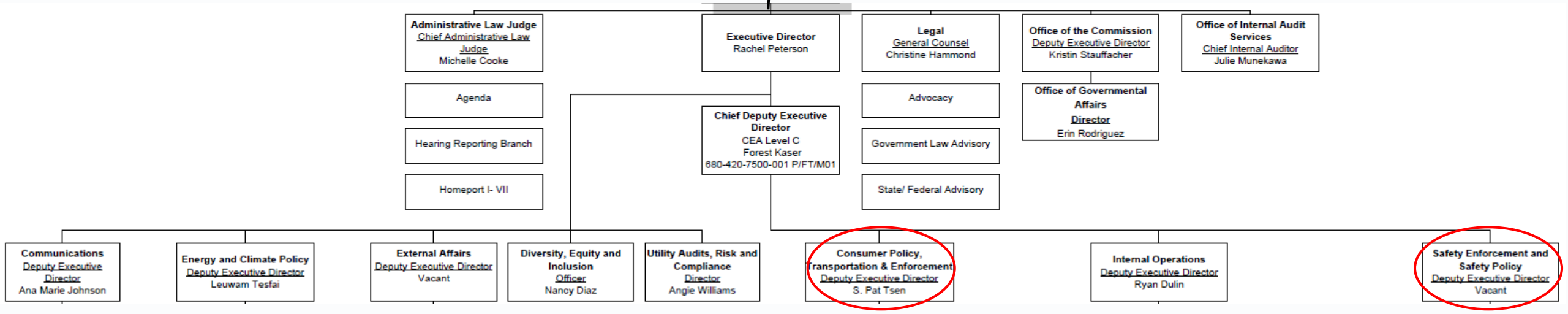
Alice Busching Reynolds, President

Darcie Houck, Commissioner

John Reynolds, Commissioner

Karen Douglas, Commissioner

Matthew Baker, Commissioner



Complete Org Chart: www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/about-cpuc/documents/org-charts/overview-org-chart-10-2024b.pdf

List of All Divisions: www.cpuc.ca.gov/about-cpuc/divisions

Notable CPUC Divisions

Industry/Advisory Divisions	Advocacy Divisions	Legal Division	Administrative Law Judge Division
• Energy • Water • Communications	• Public Advocates Office • Safety Enforcement Division • Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division	• All Commission attorneys are in Legal Division • The division is divided into separate Advisory and Advocacy sections	• Formal proceedings before the Commission are run by an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ)

Encouraging Participation

- Seek to offer Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) credits for attorneys licensed in California for at least some of these trainings

- POLL FOR ATTORNEYS: What is your interest in obtaining MCLE credits?
  - Select NOT APPLICABLE for questions if you are not an attorney

Types of Formal CPUC Proceedings

- Application (A.)
- Rulemaking (R.)
- Investigation (I.)
- Complaint (C.)
- Example: R.22-02-002

Formal Proceeding Categories

- Quasi-legislative
- Ratesetting
- Adjudicatory
- Why do these matter?
  - Affect what outcomes are possible
  - Dictate with whom you can communicate (Ex Parte Rules), and
  - Determine who controls the Proposed Decision

Tribal Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR)

Executive Orders

- 2011, 2019: Gubernatorial Executive Orders establish and reinforce Governor's Tribal Advisor, Tribal consultations

Policies

- 2018: CPUC Tribal Consultation Policy
- 2019: CPUC Final Land Transfer Policy

Resolution

- 2021: CPUC Resolution E-5076
- Approves Tribal Land Transfer Policy, sets guidelines

Rulemaking 22-02-002: Tribal Order Instituting Rulemaking

- Quasi-legislative proceeding
- What does it cover?
  - How to change CPUC utility regulation to better reflect Tribal interests
- Tribal OIR status and opportunity
- What can your Tribe do?

Poll: Priority Topics/Issues, Desired Level of CPUC Engagement

Finding Information: Navigating the CPUC Website (Demonstration)

Examples are included as a supplement at the end of these slides

Discussion

What are your Tribe's priorities related to energy and utilities?

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Final Thoughts, Questions?

Josh Simmons
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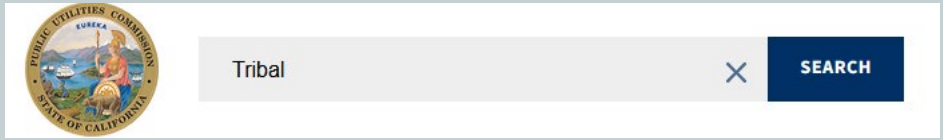
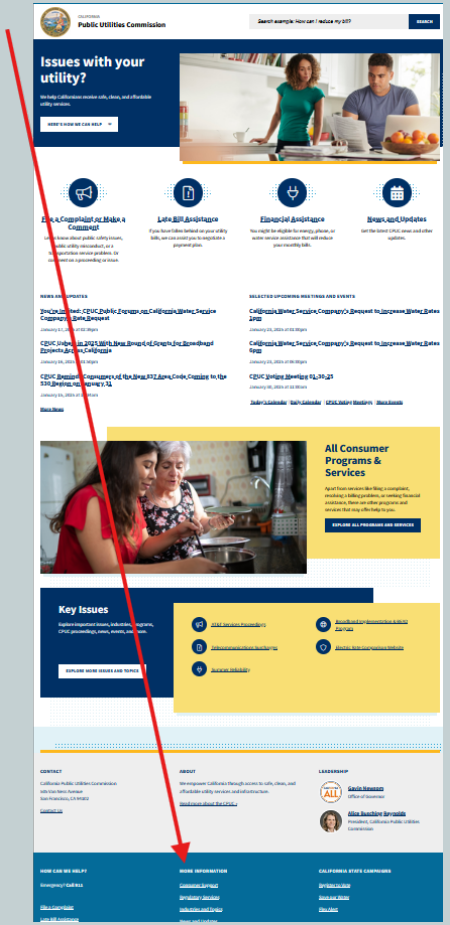
jsimmons@prospersustainably.com

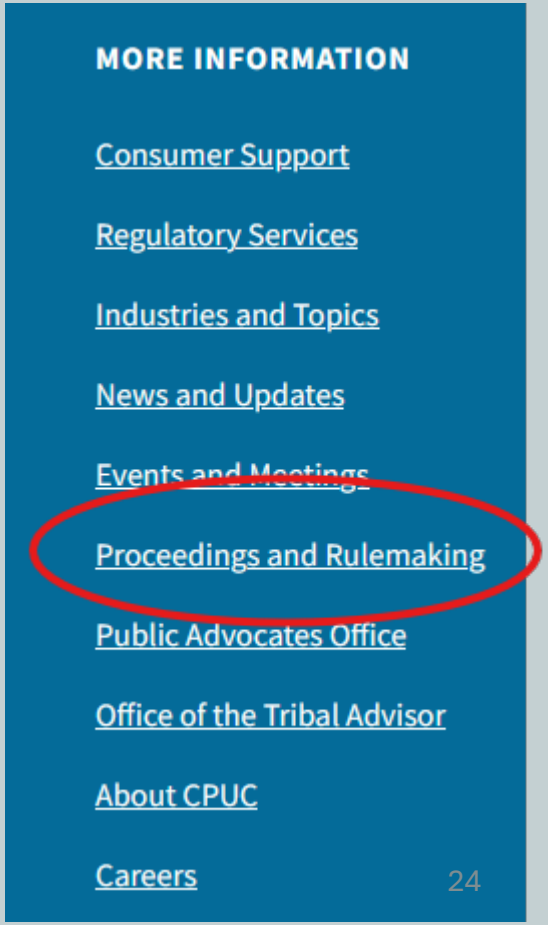
Supplement: Finding information - navigating the CPUC Website

Search broadly at www.cpuc.ca.gov

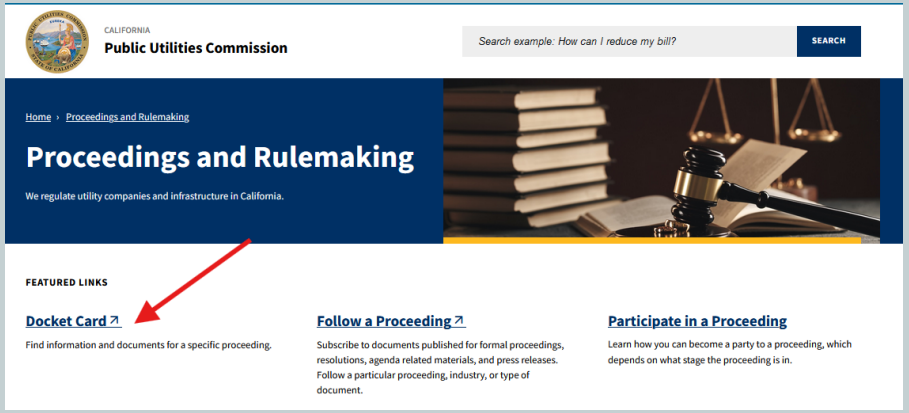


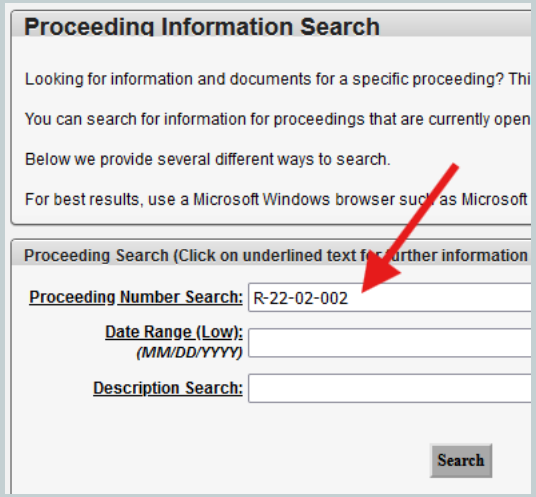
Take a deeper dive

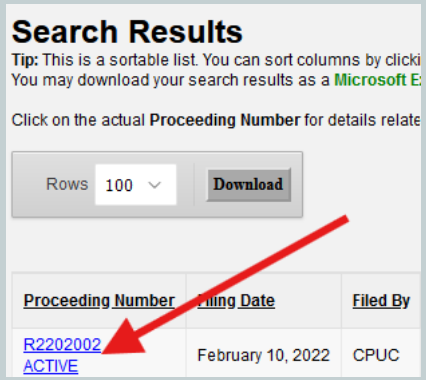


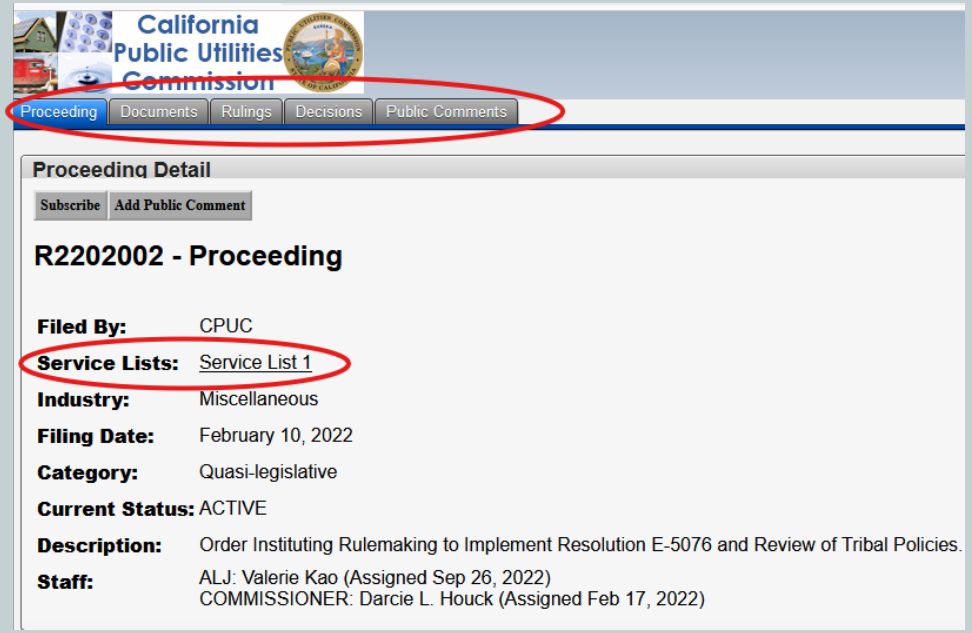


Key Resource: The Docket Card

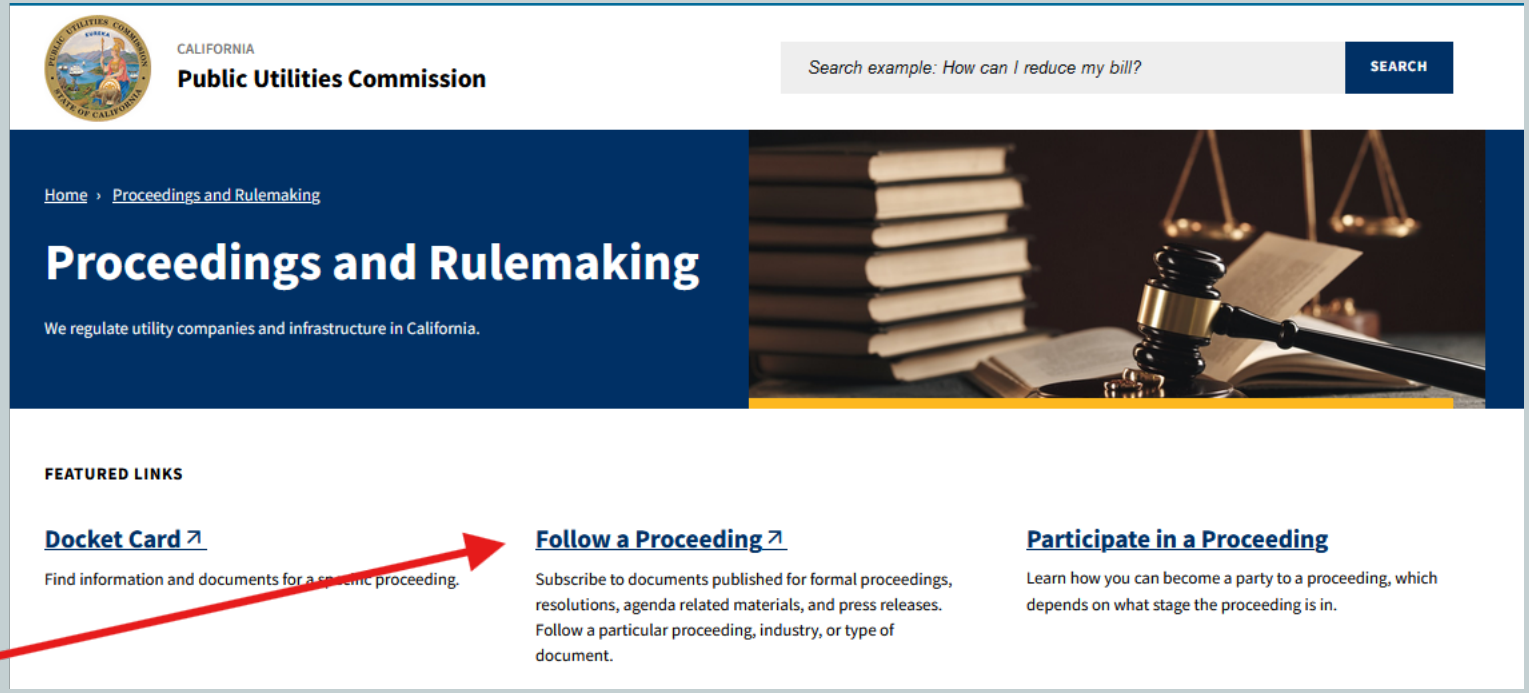


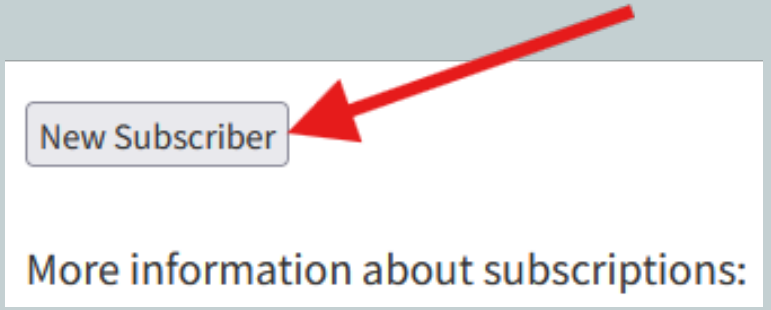






How to follow a proceeding





Finding documents

Proceedings and Rulemaking

We regulate utility companies and infrastructure in California.

FEATURED LINKS

Docket Card ↗
Find information and documents for a specific proceeding.

Follow a Proceeding ↗
Subscribe to documents published for formal proceedings, resolutions, agenda related materials, and press releases. Follow a particular proceeding, industry, or type of document.

Participate in a Proceeding
Learn how you can become a party to a proceeding, which depends on what stage the proceeding is in.

E-File a Document
Electronic filing lets you send documents to the CPUC to be processed and included with other pleadings in formal proceedings.

Locate documents
Including Decisions and Proposed Decision (as well as red-lined revisions) Official CPUC-generated proceeding documents, Advice Letters, electronically filed documents, staff reports, press releases, environmental impact reports and more.

Intervenor Compensation
Providing financial resources to individuals and groups representing residential or small commercial electric utility customers to bring their concerns and interests during formal proceedings.

Home › Proceedings and Rulemaking › Locate Documents

Advanced Search

Different types of documents and files require a special type of search functionality. Ex
retrieve a specific document such as a docket file or an advice letter.

- Advanced Search
- Advice Letters Search
- Advice Letters Statistics
- Agenda Decisions
- Agenda Search
- Agenda- Current Voting Meeting
- Daily Calendar (PDF versions)
- Decisions and Resolutions for Public Comment
- Docket Card / Proceeding Information
- E-filed Documents
- Fact Sheets
- Final Resolutions
- Legacy Decisions and Resolutions (pre-July 2000)
- News Releases
- Public Utilities Code (P.U. Code)
- Rules of Practice and Procedure
- Rulings
- Service Lists

Resolution Search Form

Decisions, Resolutions, and Rulings signed by the Commission starting **July 2000** are n

Resolution or Advice Letter Number: E-5076 Search Tips

Industry: --Select One--

Publication date: From To: (mm/dd/yyyy)

Search Clear Form

California Law and CPUC Rules

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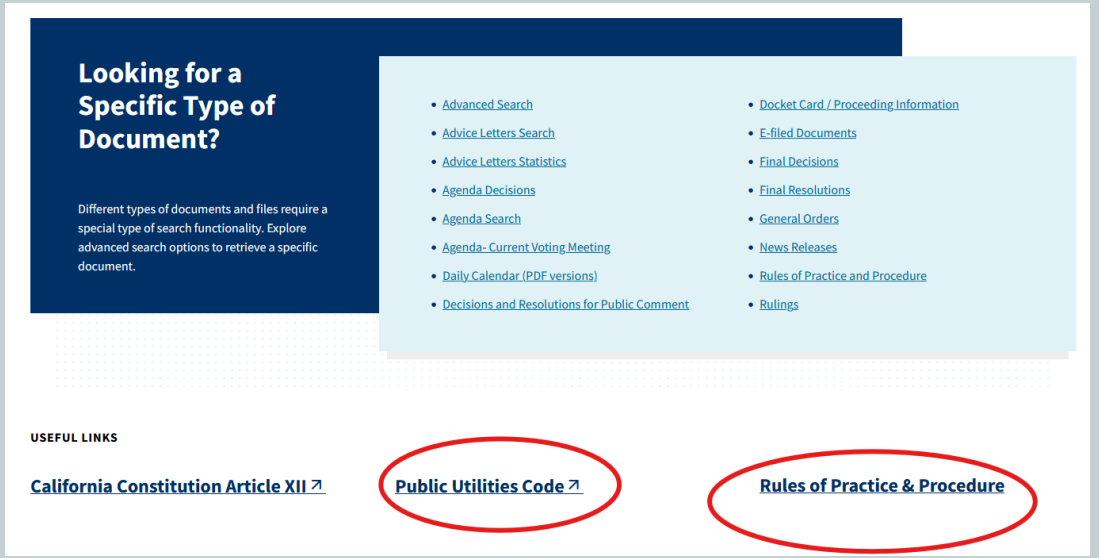
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