



SAN JOAQUIN
— COUNTY —
Greatness grows here.

Board of Supervisors

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January 4, 2024

CPUC Public Advisor
RE: Proceeding No. A.21- 06-021
505 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Office of the Public Advisor:

On behalf of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our formal outrage at PG&E for shifting the financial burden of burying power lines onto the rate paying residents of San Joaquin County. While improving the safety and resiliency of electrical infrastructure is essential, families and seniors should not be underwriting the power company's deferred upgrades and general maintenance. This is particularly true for communities like ours where wildfires are infrequent, if not nonexistent.

Since January 2021, PG&E has increased power and gas bills by nearly 40%. Our regional Council of Government (SJCOG) reports that the per capita income in San Joaquin County is \$32,102, which is \$10,000 less than the per capita income of the average Californian. San Joaquin's median household income is \$74,962, which is lower than the State's average of \$84,097. In 2022-2023, our County provided \$7.3 million in emergency utility assistance to more than 6,379 low-income households so they would not have to choose between filling prescriptions and keeping the power on and their homes heated or cooled. This latest PG&E rate increase will overwhelm economically vulnerable individuals, families, and communities who are already living on the edge of poverty.

As I mentioned in a recent statement, San Joaquin County residents are being hit from all sides by increasing costs and higher bills. At a time when grocery costs, housing costs, and inflation are all impacting families' monthly budgets, I am stunned by PG&E's tone-deaf indifference to their customers. PG&E should not be able to continue to pass increasing costs on to its customers based on their lack of planning over many decades, and appropriate maintenance of California's electrical infrastructure.

We urge the CPUC to oppose PG&E's rate increase. PG&E's decision to pass a \$6 billion project on to its ratepayers, our constituents, is simply wrong. PG&E needs to do the right thing and prioritize its customer base by reversing this reckless decision of passing this financial burden on to consumers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert Rickman, Chair
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

c: Governor Gavin Newsom
Patricia K. Poppe, CEO, PG&E
State Legislative Delegation