



FILED
08/20/19
02:42 PM

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Establish
a Framework and Processes for Assessing
the Affordability of Utility Service.

Rulemaking 18-07-006

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING INVITING
COMMENTS ON STAFF PROPOSAL**

Commission Staff from the Water, Energy, and Communications Divisions have developed the attached "Staff Proposal on Essential Service and Affordability Metrics," which sets forth a proposed framework for the Commission to assess the affordability of public utility rates across utility types and services. The Staff Proposal includes recommendations for: (1) definitions of essential service and affordability; (2) quantifications of essential service; (3) metrics to measure affordability of essential service; and (4) geography and data sources for those metrics.

Parties are invited to participate in a workshop scheduled for August 26, 2019 where Commission Staff will present the Staff Proposal and be available to answer questions regarding the proposal. The agenda for the workshop is as follows:

TIME	EVENT
10:00 am to 10:05 am	Opening/Safety Announcement
10:05 am to 12:00 Noon	Staff Proposal (presented by Commission Staff)
12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm	Break
1:00 pm to 3:45 pm	Q&A (facilitated by Commission Staff)
3:45 pm to 4:00 pm	Concluding Remarks

Parties are also invited to submit written comments on the Staff Proposal, which may address any issues relevant to the proposal, including the following questions:

1. Do the proposed affordability metrics adequately assess affordability?
If not, how should the metrics be changed?
2. Are the proposed sources of data for household-level information acceptable for constructing affordability metrics?
If not, what sources would be more appropriate, and why?
3. What regulatory, operational, and/or resource considerations might be necessary to effectively implement affordability metrics?
How should the Commission monitor and track affordability on a recurring basis, outside of specific proceedings?
4. When and how should affordability metrics be utilized in Commission decisions and program implementation?
 - a. How should the Commission use or interpret the resulting values from affordability metrics in proceedings?
 - b. How should the Commission use affordability metrics to prioritize or design ratepayer programs?

- c. In which types of proceedings should the Commission assess affordability? What criteria should be used to determine if a proceeding requires an affordability assessment?

Parties may submit written comments pursuant to the schedule set forth below:

Event	Date
Workshop on Staff Proposal California Public Utilities Commission Auditorium 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102 Call-in Number: (866) 912-9666 Participant Code: 7032767	August 26, 2019 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Comments on Staff Proposal filed and served	September 10, 2019
Reply Comments on Staff Proposal filed and served	September 20, 2019

IT IS SO RULED.

Dated August 20, 2019, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ SOPHIA J. PARK

Sophia J. Park
Administrative Law Judge