



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

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**VERIZON CALIFORNIA INC.'S (U 1002 C) OPENING COMMENTS ON
PRESIDENT PEEVEY'S PROPOSED DECISION**

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June 16, 2014

Verizon California Inc. (U 1002 C) (“Verizon”) submits its Opening Comments on the Proposed Decision of President Peevey regarding franchise renewals under the Digital Infrastructure and Video Competition Act of 2006 (“DIVCA”) (hereinafter “PD”). These comments are filed pursuant to Rule 14.3 of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure.

Verizon supports the PD, including its proposed revisions to General Order 169, in its entirety. After a thorough review of the many comments filed by the various parties and the applicable law, the PD recommends a franchise renewal process that has the following principal features:

1. The renewal application process shall be the same as the initial application process, except that the renewal application shall be submitted three months before the current franchise expires or three months prior to the 10th year the initial franchise was issued. *See, e.g.*, PD at 13-14. As Verizon explained in previous comments, this process complies with DIVCA § 5858(a) and (b).
2. The public, including ORA, may comment on a renewal application within 15 days from the date the application was served, but comments are limited to whether the applicant is in violation of a non-appealable court order. *See, e.g.*, PD at 16. This process complies with DIVCA § 5850(d) (providing for non-renewal only if applicant is in violation of a non-appealable order) and § 5900(k) (allowing ORA to comment on renewal applications).
3. Finally, the PD (at pages 16-17) "cautions" cable operators that invoking the formal process merely for the purpose of preserving their rights may create issues. . . ." Verizon appreciates this point, but makes clear that operators have a right to invoke the formal process. (47 U.S.C. § 546(a)-(g).) It is essential that the

Commission complete this rulemaking promptly so that operators know the renewal options available to them under state law.

For the reasons set forth in the Staff Report, and for the reasons set forth in Verizon's previous comments, Staff's proposal reflects the law and Legislative policy and should be adopted.

June 16, 2014

Respectfully submitted,



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