

























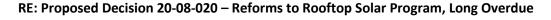






August 24, 2022

California Public Utilities Commission 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102



Dear Commissioners:

We urge you to take long overdue action to enact meaningful reforms to the state's rooftop solar program, Net Energy Metering (NEM). Meeting California's equity and decarbonization goals requires the elimination of the decades-long unfair cost burden on 90% of Californians without solar who are disproportionately renters and lower income residents.

It's been 10 years since the legislature mandated the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) fix the cost burden on non-solar customers, and it's been 254 days since proposed reforms were released last December.

Under the current NEM program, costs toward the electric grid that used to be shared more equitably by all customers are being disproportionately paid by non-solar customers. Every day that goes by without reform needlessly raises electricity bills by \$12 million a day. That means non-solar customers have paid nearly \$3 billion in higher electricity bills **so far this year**, or \$250 extra per year, per customer, to cover electric grid costs that are no longer being paid by solar customers. Without change, this amount will grow to more than \$550 a year.

The continued delay in making any meaningful updates to this nearly 30-year-old program has resulted in rooftop solar being the most expensive form of clean energy available.

Among the data and key findings that validate the urgency for reform:

 The CPUC's recent SB 695 report on affordability identified NEM as one of "three critical and overlapping policy fronts" that "must be managed to address the risk that high electric rates and bills could slow California's overall progress









San Gabriel Valley Civic Alliance

































toward its electrification and climate goals, and harm some of the state's most economically vulnerable residents."

- University of California energy expert validates that <u>NEM disproportionately</u> benefits the wealthy.
- The CPUC's own analysis in this proceeding validates the <u>cost of NEM</u> significantly exceeds the benefits of the program and raises rates.

The Commission has done a commendable job of balancing numerous competing interests and we appreciate the complexity of this issue. From a customer perspective, however, it is time for action and the solution is simple:

• Every customer that relies on the electric grid should pay their fair share.

The very profitable solar industry's sensationalized opposition to this simple concept is dumbfounding. Surely, we do not expect an increasingly shrinking population of Californians who don't have or can't afford rooftop solar to fund the reliability and resiliency of the electric grid for everyone? The solar industry's claim that proposed reforms are discriminatory is not only false, but offensive to the millions of customers who have been paying an unfair and effectively regressive tax on their electric bills for years to fund the excessive subsidies mandated by this program.

Please ignore the hysteria and focus on the facts. It's well past time for NEM reform.

Thank you for your consideration,

Deborah Howard, Executive Director California Senior Advocates League

Adriana Ayala, Executive Director
The Chicana Latina Foundation

Susy Borlido, Co-Executive Director **Sustainable Works**

CiCi Rojas, President
The Latino Coalition

Jesse B. Johnson, Jr., Founder **100 Black Men of Long Beach, Inc.**

Jose L. Perez, President and CEO **Hispanics In Energy**

Antonio Sanchez, Political Director **IBEW Local 11**

Nate Fairman, Business Manager IBEW Local 465 Kimberly Fuentes, Policy and Communication Director

California League of United Latin American Citizens

Mike Meador, Founder and CEO California Greenworks

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Jenn Lowe, Legislative Director

Association of California Cities – Orange
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Julian Cañete, President and CEO
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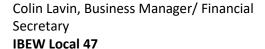












Matthew Hargrove, President and CEO **California Business Properties Association**

Isela Perez, Editor The Latino Journal

Matthew Hargrove, Statewide Administrator **ICSC (International Council of Shopping** Centers)

Matthew Hargrove, Statewide Administrator **Building Owners and Managers Association** California

Matthew Hargrove, Statewide Administrator **NAIOP of California**

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Jorge DeNava, Executive Director **Central Valley Opportunity Center**

Gil Jaramillo, Executive Director **Tulare Kings Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**

Vicky Ventura, CEO **Antelope Valley Chambers of Commerce**

Iris Gutierrez, Board Member **High Desert Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**

Betsy Chou, VP of Finance & Operations **Sharefest Community Development**

Ramiro A. Cavazos, President and CEO **United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**

John Gamboa, President **California Community Builders**

Emma Hernandez, CEO **Southeast Community Development** Corporation

Robert McDonald, President & CEO **Black Chamber of Orange County**

Jennifer Bullard, Sr. Vice President of Advocacy and Government Affairs **Orange County Business Council**

Ortensia Lopez, Executive Director **El Concilio of San Mateo County**

Luis H. Sanchez, CEO **Community Resource Project**

Cesar Zaldivar Motts, Executive Director **Newstart Housing Corporation**

Maria S. Salinas, President & CEO **Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce**

Pilar Pinel, Founder and CEO **Embracing Latina Leadership Alliances**

Vickie McMurchie, Executive Director **Dana Point Chamber of Commerce**

Rev. Frank Jackson Jr., Chairman and Chief **Executive Officer Village Solutions Foundation**

Val Martinez, Executive Director **Redwood Community Action Agency**

Victoria Hernandez, Executive Director **South Orange County Economic Coalition**





























Scott Alevy, President and CEO
Laguna Niguel Chamber of Commerce

Carla Peterman, Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs Pacific Gas & Electric

Erin Stream, Executive Director
The Arc of Riverside County

Sithea San, Chairman, Board of Directors Cambodia Town, Inc.

Andres Herrera, Board President El Concilio Family Services

Patricia Donaldson, President and CEO **Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce**

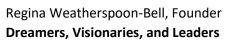
Michael Turnipseed, Executive Director Kern County Taxpayers Association

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La Dulce Vida Publications & Events

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Anthony Duarte, CEO
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Dan Skopec, Senior Vice President, State Government Affairs & Chief Regulatory Officer

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Carol Rosen, Program Director

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