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TURN believes we can and should live in a society where electricity, broadband, and phone services are treated as basic rights for all families.

TIME OUT ON RATE INCREASES!

TURN is declaring a state of emergency—an affordability state of emergency!

Residential utility customers have been let down by the CPUC (California Public Utilities Commission). While the four big utilities raise rates, the Commission sits by.

The Commission has slapped Edison customers with a 20% increase in the last 12 months, by approving \$2.1 billion in rate increases. They have also slammed PG&E customers with a 20% rate increase in the first three months of 2022 alone, on top of double-digit increases in 2021. This is simply not sustainable for customers.

While the Commission is approving rate increases, CEO pay has become out of control. Just this month, it was announced that Pattie Poppe, PG&E's CEO, received \$51.2 million in compensation in 2021, the highest in the nation. Northern California customers need PG&E to be the first in wildfire safety, the first in clean energy, the first in affordable bills—not the first in CEO pay!

Skyrocketing rates don't happen by themselves. Skyrocketing rates happen because they are approved by the Commission. The cost of greening the grid should not be cutting off any low-income communities from the grid because the prices are too doggone high.

I delivered these remarks on February 28 to the five CPUC Commissioners and others attending a conference on affordable utility bills. In my remarks, I proposed a cost containment strategy that would allocate zero ratepayer dollars to electrify homes, charge EVs, and develop green hydrogen pipelines and direct the utilities to seek funding from non ratepayer sources. Additionally, we recommend hiring an independent auditor to review management staffing ratios and expenses to cut down on costs.

I reminded the Commissioners of their duty to moderate inflation by containing energy costs. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the 4.2% electricity cost increase is the second-largest single contributor to inflation.

It's time to call a TIME OUT on rate increases. We can't continue to let the sky be the limit on how many times in a year and how much the Commission can grant in rate increase!

Thank you for everything you do to support TURN in its crusade for corporate accountability,

affordable monthly bills, clean energy, wildfire safety, and equity for all communities.

In partnership,



Mark Toney,
Executive Director



WELCOME OUR NEW TURN STAFF!

TURN is very excited to introduce our three new staff members. These new team members reinforce TURN's commitment and focus on equity. Adria steps into a new TURN position—our Race Impact Policy Analyst, Xochitl joins our Organizing Team and Kameron has become a part of the Finance and Administrative team.



XOCHITL MONTANO joined TURN this February, as the Northern California Organizer. She was born and raised in San Francisco. Early in life, she learned about racial, gender, economic and other inequities that made her follow an organizing path. She became involved in organizing in 2012, doing a lot of work around education justice. Xochitl was instrumental in advancing the campaign at the Board of Education to pass the ordinance that eliminated willful defiant suspensions, which affected mainly Black and Brown students in San Francisco.

Xochitl is ready to make a meaningful difference for Californians who experience systemic discrimination. She is excited about making change and developing systemic leaders in her community. In her free time, she likes to cook, read, discover new music, and spend time with friends.



ADRIA TINNIN joined TURN this March, as Race Impact Policy Analyst. Adria examines TURN's policies, practices, and positions on utility-consumer advocacy work to eradicate structural and/or institutional racism that exists in utility regulatory practice and ultimately improve energy and telecommunications outcomes for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

Adria was a researcher and lecturer in the Political Science Department at UCLA, teaching courses in American politics and environmental justice politics. Her research focused on inequities in regulatory enforcement in low-income communities and communities of color. She also worked as a political risk analyst for GeoQuant, a geopolitical risk analysis firm.

Adria earned a B.A., M.A., and Ph.D in Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles.

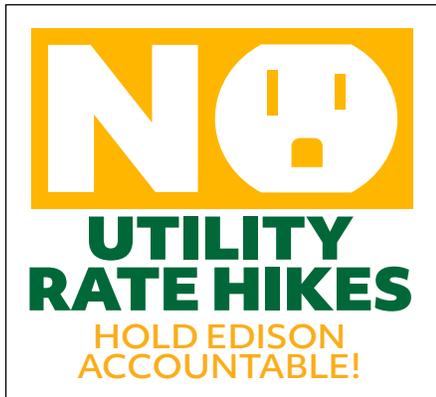


KAMERON JACKSON joined the TURN team this February, as the Finance/Database Manager. Kameron brings experience in financial planning and analysis. Prior work includes corporate financial modeling for budgeting and forecasting. Kameron will help cross-functional work—across departments—to gather all the intel needed to develop a consolidated financial picture and outlook for the chief financial officer.

Kameron is excited by the prospect, noting: "I am excited to be able to join TURN and take part in a cause that has impacted the lives of many and giving a voice to those who feel it has been suppressed."

Kameron holds an MBA from Southern Utah University. He is continuing to pursue education and securities to support his career. In his free time, he can be found in your local fitness facility "getting those gains."

FIGHT THE HIKES— JUST SAY NO!



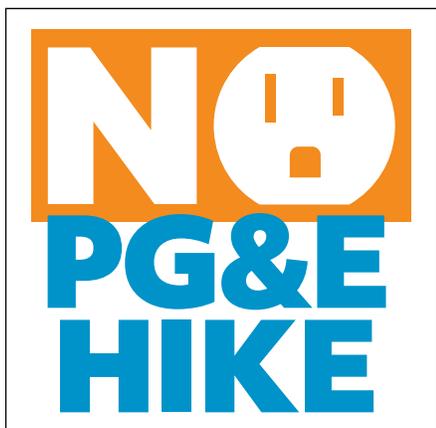
TURN FIGHTS EDISON RATE HIKE PROPOSAL

TURN is leading the fight against two Southern California Edison proposals that would raise your monthly bills yet again. Not content with the 20% in increases Edison already received over the last year, Edison also wants to force its customers to pay more for building electrification and customer service software.

Edison has asked the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for permission to spend a whopping \$677 million of ratepayer money to convert hot water, cooking, and heating from natural gas to electricity for 10,000 single-family homes

in Southern California. TURN strongly believes that revenue for building electrification should not from ratepayers already burdened with skyrocketing bills, but instead from the building sector or other sources. On March 30, TURN testified before the Assembly Utilities & Energy Committee, arguing that the Legislature should utilize \$962 million for building electrification in Governor's proposed budget to replace the Edison request for ratepayer funds.

Even worse, Edison wants to overcharge ratepayers—for the privilege of being billed higher rates! It's bad enough that the CPUC granted Edison \$260 million for a software upgrade. Now Edison wants consumers to pay for \$630 million in cost overruns! You can count on TURN to fight to make Edison shareholders eat the cost overruns, and not ratepayers.



SAY NO TO THE PG&E \$18.3 RATE HIKE

Last year's rate hikes were just the tip of the iceberg... if PG&E has its way. In March, PG&E proposed a series of rate hikes totaling more than \$700 annually over four years.

If PG&E's General Rate Case request is approved by the CPUC, typical customers will pay \$370 more per year (\$30 a month) in 2023 and over \$700 more per year (\$68 a month) in 2026 for gas and electricity. Customers receiving CARE low-income discounts will pay \$260 more per year (\$20 a month) in 2023 and nearly \$500 more per year (\$42 a month) in 2026 for gas and electricity.

This proposal is on top of the 20% rate increase in the first three months of 2022 AND the double-digit increases in 2021. In total, the average PG&E bill has gone up to \$384 annually.

Simply put, this is unsustainable and will do little to guarantee safe and reliable energy services. The additional funds would not protect against increasingly deadly wildfires or planned shutoffs.

So, what can you do? You still have time to submit written public comments:

Submit written comments online to the CPUC. Let them know you oppose the proposed rate hikes and how the proposed rate hikes will impact you, your family, and your community.

The link to make comments: apps.cpuc.ca.gov/c/A2106021

Skyrocketing energy bills can be extremely frustrating especially when they are the highest ever in 40 years. Those costs can add up and force families to cut back on necessary expenses. Here are some energy-saving tips that you can apply to your daily routine to help you reduce energy usage and lower your bills.

EVERYDAY TIPS

- Your water heater is the third-highest energy expense in your home. Try turning it down to 120° F.
- A 5° higher setting on your air conditioning thermostat will save about 10% on cooling costs. Set your thermostat between 75° F and 78° F when you are home and 85° F when you are away for more than a few hours.
- See if your utility offers a Peak-Savers Program (or something similar) and if so, sign-up for it.
- Turn off everything not in use: lights, TVs, computers. Plug electronics into a power strip or individual adapters that can be switched off so the appliance draws no extra electricity while it is in standby mode. You'll be very surprised at the difference it makes.
- Turn on your ceiling fan when using your air conditioner. By doing so, you can raise your thermostat about four degrees to save on cooling costs—with no reduction in home comfort.

IN YOUR KITCHEN

- Fill your refrigerator with large juice/water bottles to keep it full. Cold contents in a fridge, help retain the cold.
- When cooking, keep the lids on pots to retain the heat.
- Vacuum the coils on your refrigerator at least every three months. The dirt build-up makes the refrigerator work harder to keep the contents cool, and therefore uses more energy.

DOING LAUNDRY

- Wash clothes in cold water instead of hot. 90% of the energy a washing machine consumes goes to heating the water.
- Make sure your dryer's outside vent is clear and clean the lint filter after every load.
- Put a dry, clean towel in the dryer with each load of wet clothes. The towel will absorb dampness and reduce drying time.
- Use a clothesline.



IMPROVING BROADBAND ACCESS FOR CALIFORNIA FAMILIES



BY BRENDA D. VILLANUEVA
TURN Managing Director &
Lead Counsel, Telecom

California consumers have been living, working, receiving healthcare, and learning from home during this pandemic. This means that access to reliable broadband and telecommunications is more important than ever.

TURN supported efforts for the state to fund local governments and tribes to stand up broadband service in their communities. The grant program will allow rural, tribal, and disadvantaged communities to maintain quality broadband services. This is a good way to bridge a resource gap for many agencies.

For those with voice-over IP phone service, TURN joined a national effort to secure federal policy that will help establish more consumer

protections for these customers. Current requirements only apply to traditional landline telephone service provided by local telephone companies. Phone company networks are evolving to use new VoIP technology, many customers are moving to cable VoIP and wireless phone services and broadband is now an essential communications service.

For certain AT&T phone customers, TURN raised concerns about AT&T phone service quality. More recently, TURN supported state efforts to upgrade or add new service quality standards for phone, wireless, VoIP, and broadband services.

Consumers should be able to call and communicate when they need it. This is more important now as we live through longer wildfire seasons and face the pandemic rollercoaster and other uncertainties.

Our efforts will pave the way for Californians to receive reliable communications now and in the future, regardless of the technology they use.



Income is a key determinant in whether a household has internet access. A... look at the survey results through the lens of income shows that 29% of households earning less than \$40,000 a year have no internet connection or only have access through a smartphone.

USCNews Science/Technology
(March 30, 2021)



While these communications services have been essential to modern life, the pandemic deepened our reliance on them and underscored our reliance on them."

CPUC Commissioner Darcie Houck

THE PUBLIC SPEAKS OUT ON PG&E RATE INCREASES

On March 22, 2022, The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) concluded their Public Participation Hearings (PPH) regarding PG&E’s 18% additional rate increase. Over 1,300 written comments have been already submitted* and over 125 ratepayers have spoken at hearings. Please join this growing list and let Commissioners know how these increases will impact you!



I think with everything that we’ve done in the last two years in addition to all the previous rate increases, that it would be economically devastating and create much less quality of life with this rate increase especially with our small businesses. Our small businesses are still trying to recuperate from the shutdowns over the last two years. This is something that they also cannot face.

Debi Bray

CEO of Madera Chamber of Commerce



I have seen firsthand what happens when older people cannot afford to pay for electricity. I don’t know if you’ve ever seen it before, but heat stroke is not something that you want to witness. And when it comes down to it, you’re going to have a bunch of older people who have to decide between getting their medication, getting food, or paying their electric bill.

Gabriel Smith

Healthcare Provider Dignity Health



This is a no-can-do for fixed-income people. Between all the increases we’re getting lately for garbage, all the utilities, property taxes, gas, grocery prices, insurance, and medical, I mean it’s just going to put us all in the welfare line.

Bianca Signorelli,

Oakdale, CA



PG&E is bleeding all of us dry. They are destroying California single-handedly.

Lynn Archer

Nevada City, CA

*as of the time of this publication

Dear Xochitl,

My PG&E bill doubled in two years, and now there is another 30% in the coming year if PG&E’s proposal is approved. We work hard, but these rate increases are difficult for my family to absorb! I’m wondering what can be done to stop the rate increase so that my family doesn’t end up out in the street.

—Outraged

Dear Outraged,

Your family is among the tens of thousands of California residents being hit by huge utility rate increases. Investor-owned

utilities (IOU), like PG&E, continue to make profits while placing their maintenance and upkeep expenses back on to ratepayers.

For nearly 50 years, TURN has been successful in holding utilities accountable and keeping rates more affordable. But we need your help to stand up and speak out!

You still have time to submit a written public comment to share your objections.

apps.cpuc.ca.gov/c/A2106021

ASK XOCHITL



THE UTILITY REFORM NETWORK

Lower bills. Livable planet.
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TURN.org

5 WAYS TO SUPPORT HELP PROTECT CONSUMERS

Your support makes our work possible! TURN is dedicated to ensuring equity, accessibility, and affordability for utility consumers, and supporting a sustainable future for our planet.

■ BECOME A “SPEAK OUT CHAMPION” MONTHLY CONTRIBUTOR

Make your voice heard loud and clear! Visit TURN.org/

■ FAIR SHARE CHAMPION

Make a tax-deductible gift to TURN by donating stock

(you will need to provide to your brokerage account)

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■ PLANNED GIFT — THE SYLVIA SIEGAL LEGACY FUND

You can make a residuary or specific bequest to TURN by including language in your will or living trusts or by designating TURN as a beneficiary of your retirement account or life insurance policy.

■ CORPORATE MATCH

You can double or triple your end of year giving! Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match charitable contributions made by their employees. Check with your HR department to see if your company will match your donation.

■ GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP

Introduce friends and associates to TURN by supporting our work in their name.

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