



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS ADVISORY

Media Contacts:

Docket # : R.06-04-010

Sepideh Khosrowjahi, Policy Advisor, 415-703-1190, skh@cpuc.ca.gov

Tom Hall, Information Officer, 916-324-8685, news@cpuc.ca.gov

DRA Press Room: <http://www.dra.ca.gov/DRA/News/releases.htm>

DRA Says Schedule on Energy Efficiency Incentive Decision May Unfairly Tilt Balance Toward Utilities Seeking Undeserved \$108 Million

CPUC Two Week Delay May Not Consider All Facts Before Vote on Alternate Decision to Award Investor Owned Utilities \$108 Million for Poor Performance of Energy Efficiency Programs, According to DRA

SAN FRANCISCO, December 4, 2008 – The Division of Ratepayer Advocates (DRA), an independent consumer advocacy division of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), advises that the two-week delay of the CPUC’s scheduled vote on energy efficiency incentives is insufficient and will unfairly allow the utilities to rebut arguments from a CPUC staff report without allowing a rebuttal response from staff or consumer advocates.

As described in [DRA’s December 3, 2008, Press Alert](#), the CPUC will adopt one of two proposals regarding whether or not to grant non-refundable payments totaling \$108 million to the state’s four largest privately-owned utilities (Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison, San Diego Gas and Electric Company, and Southern California Gas Company) for unverified achievements of energy efficiency goals. Longstanding CPUC policy requires that energy efficiency incentives be based on independent evaluation to verify utility performance. The vote which has now been moved to the Commission’s December 18 meeting will not allow sufficient time for comments of all parties to be considered in the decision-making process.

The delay of a vote until December 18th will allow the CPUC to consider comments from the utilities on CPUC staff’s draft Verification Report, but would not provide sufficient time to also consider the responses and rebuttal to the utilities’ comments from CPUC staff and their expert evaluation consultants, who contributed to the report. It is essential that any consideration of awarding \$108 million to the utilities balance the assertions of CPUC staff with criticism to staff’s report.



Accordingly, DRA continues to recommend that the presiding judge's Proposed Decision be adopted, which rejects the utilities' request for expedited treatment in the absence of a verification process. Otherwise the CPUC should hold its decision until that verification process is complete, allowing full analysis and stakeholder input, which culminates with publication of the Final Verification Report on January 15, 2009.

For more information on DRA, please visit www.dra.ca.gov.

###