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Item 7 Energy Disconnections and Reconnections DACAG Meeting Public Comment

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

August 21, 2026

Re: Item 7 Energy Disconnections and Reconnections DACAG Meeting Public Comment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Rising Sun Center for Opportunity builds career pathways for economic equity and climate resilience in the Bay Area and Central California. Youth in our Climate Careers program deliver no-cost energy and water efficiency in communities that experience significant energy and pollution burdens. Since 2000, Rising Sun has provided energy efficiency services to over 68,000 California homes, employing more than 2,000 local, low-income youth to do so and saving customers over $36 million in utility bill costs. Utility disconnections jeopardize the health and well being of the community members we serve and the youth we employ.

Along with our other colleagues at the Affordable Energy Campaign, we ask the Commission to retain the utility caps on disconnections. The Joint IOUs reported that, as of January 1, 2026, approximately 18.7%—nearly one in five—of their residential customers were in arrears and therefore potentially exposed to the disconnection process. Without caps, a significant portion of the residential customer population could face shutoff.

In addition, we encourage the Commission to extend the Arrearage Management Program (AMP) as a permanent program with modifications to better serve low-income customers as well as to make the PIPP Program permanent. The Commission should fund the shortfall between PIPP payments and the true cost of electricity and natural gas bills with the IOUs' excessive shareholder profits.

Finally, The Commission should not close the docket before the evidentiary record is complete. The final evaluation of the Community-Based Organization Arrears Case Management Pilot is not due until September 2, 2026. Closing before reviewing that evaluation would separate the evidence from the proceeding created to act on it.

Several major policy questions remain unresolved. The Commission is still considering disconnection caps, geographic "hotspots," extreme-weather protections, AMP and PIPP, payment-plan rules, and implementation of SB 1142. These are not merely administrative details; they determine whether and under what conditions households lose essential utility service.

Rising Sun appreciates the DACAG's attention to this issue. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Best,

Sneha Ayyagari
Director of Policy
Rising Sun Center for Opportunity