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disadvantaged old and disabled-SGIP

Most people with disabilities and many of the elderly are low income but unless we live in certain geographic areas, the equity programs for solar+battery mostly do not reach us. With the advent of regular Public Safety Power Shutoffs by PGE, which endanger our lives and our health, it is urgent to develop well designed programs to meet our needs. These efforts must include our voices and insight to be effective.

I'm a grass roots disability activist. Many of us were encouraged to hear about the recent CPUC SGIP program to dedicate funding for an "Equity Resiliency" program. This was intended reimburse fully the cost of back up batteries in the homes and apartments of those who live in the fire zones and who are on medical baseline.

As we began the work to connect people with the program, we quickly realized the structural problems which, unless fixed, will render this program useless to those who most need it: that is low income people with disabilities, who live in PSPS shut off areas and rely on electricity to power essential equipment.

Here are some of the specific barriers:

I've contacted 7 solar contractors who participate in SGIP: NONE of them are willing to install residential storage batteries under SGIP without a rooftop solar system component to the contract.

Solar contractors are reluctant to provide even an estimate for solar+battery to low income people because it doesn't pencil out economically.

Low income people with disabilities are who live in the high hazard fire zones are not eligible for most of the programs through GRID alternatives which could give them the means to obtain rooftop solar to go along with the battery.

Other equity programs for either apartments or houses are underfunded and not taking new applicants.

The current system for working with an SGIP contractor requires the homeowner to pay the contractor directly and then wait for a reimbursement, a process which could take 1-2 years.

The Medi-cal Aged and Disabled Program has a maximum monthly income of \$1271, and many of the long term disabled must survive on approximately \$950/mo. How do you expect folks to come up with funding to afford solar or pay a contractor?

Middle class people on medical baseline in the fire zones will benefit from this program, but they are the folks more likely to have other resources to handle power shutoffs.

Please urge the CPUC to go back to the drawing board and develop a REALISTIC program to help the tens of thousands of us who will face life threatening conditions every year because of these so called PSPS. WE need a simple, and accessible

program which addresses to this problem based in equity instead of the current fragmented, complicated, ableist ableist program that middle class people can afford but leave behind the rest of us. For example, someone who qualifies for a back up battery should be able to contact one entity, apply for a battery, have it installed and paid for-period.

Please let me know how you plan to proceed to address this problem.

Sincerely

Marg Hall

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Member of Electricity Equals Life

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