

DOCKETED

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Mutual Housing California - Interconnection Comments

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

May 24, 2023

RE: Accelerating Bulk Grid Connection

To California Energy Commission:

Mutual Housing California is an affordable housing developer based in Sacramento and a California Energy Commission Hall of Fame Awardee. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our experience with PG&E while interconnecting and operating Solar Panel systems at our affordable housing communities in Northern California. The process is typically time consuming, frustrating, and confusing. Most importantly, this is disrupting us from our mission of providing more affordable housing opportunities for all Californians.

One of our affordable housing communities completed construction over a year ago and has yet to be interconnected by PG&E. Adelante, a Mutual Housing Community is a 3-story, 38-unit affordable housing community located at 2050 5th Street, Davis, CA 95616. The project is all-electric with the exception of its central water heating system and laundry rooms with rooftop and carport solar panels designed to offset the electricity bills for its low-income residents. Our application for PG&E interconnection was submitted on 08/27/2021. The project completed construction and welcomed its first residents in early January 2022. The Solar Panel system was completed a month or two later. Our interconnection agreement with PG&E was executed on 6/21/2022.

Since June 2022, PG&E has been unable to make progress in the interconnection process due to their interdepartmental miscommunication, technicians not having necessary equipment, weather delays, requests for unnecessary account information, and not showing up to scheduled appointments. As of May 2023, this installed Solar Panel system is still not generating any electricity or lowering the electricity bills of the low-income households at this community.

Mutual Housing has previously installed solar panel systems at several of our other affordable housing communities also in PG&E territory. At those locations, we did not have these long, extended delays for interconnection as we are experiencing in the example above. However, once the projects were interconnected, it could take up to 6 months until the electricity credits show up on the utility bills. In some cases, residents don't receive any bills during that time, only to be surprised with large electricity bills once the PG&E billing system catches up.

The PG&E electricity bills at our communities with Virtual Net Metering for the solar panel systems are confusing. It's extremely difficult to determine how much electricity a household is using or how much solar credit is being applied. Particularly for residents who aren't proficient in English (or advanced electrical engineering and utility rate structuring).



Mutual Housing California recommends a quicker and more transparent interconnection process for on-site solar panel systems. We recommend that PG&E provide reliable scheduling and that they abandon the practice of providing a 12-hour time window for interconnection service calls. We also recommend a review of the billing practices for Virtual Net Metering locations so that rate payers can easily determine their usage, solar credits, and their total costs.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Saul Gomez", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Saul Gomez
Asset Manager