

DOCKETED

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Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB)

Presented by Jen Gordon, Low Income Oversight Board Liaison
October 18, 2024

Purpose of LIOB

- **LIOB Overview:** Established in 2001 to advise the Commission on low-income electric and gas customer issues and programs and serve as a liaison for the Commission's ratepayers and representatives; expanded in 2005 to include low-income water.
- **Vision:** “Maximize the benefits of utility, state and federal low-income programs to improve the health, safety and comfort of low-income customers while reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.”
- **Mission:** “Advise the Commission on low-income electric, gas and water corporation customer programs and to serve as a liaison for the Commission to low-income customers and representatives.”

LIOB Board Members



Matthew Baker
CPUC Commissioner



Benito Delgado-Olson
Chair



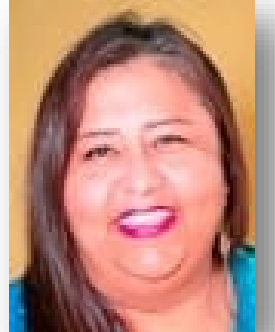
Jason Wimbley
Vice-Chair/ CSD



Robert Castaneda
Public



Lisa Castilone
Public



Lourdes Medina
Public



Paul Irwin
Public



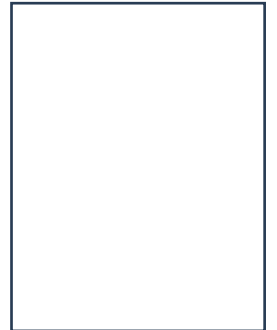
Patricia Watts
**Weatherization
Contractor**



John Tang
Water



Hollie Bierman
Electric/Gas



Vacancy
Public

Board Structure and Membership

- **Eleven board members (one public member position is currently vacant)**
 - One Member is appointed by Governor Newsom
 - One Member selected by CSD
 - Five with expertise in low-income communities
 - One Commissioner
 - One private weatherization contractor
 - One energy corporation member
 - One water corporation member
- **Board members serve two-year terms and requires approval by the Commission**
- **Chair and Vice Chair chosen by members**
- **Electric and Gas Board Member serves two-year rotating term amongst the IOUs**

Recent Board Members Re-Appointed on 6/20/2024 by the Commission:

- John Tang
- Jason Wimbley
- Patricia Watts
- Lisa Castilone
- Paul D. Irwin
- **As of 09/26/2024 Marlene Murphy-Roach (Gas/Electric) will be appointed.**
- **FULL BOARD MEETS QUARTERLY**

Subcommittees

1. Low Income Energy Assistance Programs (LIEAP) Subcommittee

- **Members:** Robert Castaneda (Chair), Pat Watts, Jason Wimbley, Lourdes Medina, Paul Irwin, Lisa Castilone, Hollie Bierman
- **Purpose:** To evaluate and improve programs that provide financial assistance to low-income households for their energy needs and operates in accordance with statutory regulations.
- **Current Focus:** Enhancing programs, such as ESA, outreach, relationship with contractors and accessibility, assessing the impact of energy rate changes on low-income customers, and exploring new funding opportunities.

2. Water & Climate Change (WCC) Subcommittee

- **Members:** John Tang (Chair), Robert Castaneda, Lourdes Medina, Benito Delgado-Olson, Paul D. Irwin
- **Purpose:** To address issues related to water affordability and access for low-income households.
- **Current Focus:** Investigating the effects of drought and water conservation measures on low-income communities and developing strategies to ensure equitable bill assistance.

3. Low Income Needs Assessments (LINA) Subcommittee

- **Members (no chair):** Benito Delgado-Olson, Robert Castaneda, Lourdes Medina, Lisa Castilone, John Tang
- **Purpose:** To assist in the Commission in the Low Income Needs Assessment (LINA) as required by PUC Code 382. The assessment considers whether existing programs adequately address low-income electricity and gas customers' energy expenditures, hardship, language needs, and economic burdens.
- **Current Focus:** The 2025 LINA is currently in the data collection planning phase.

Subcommittees (cont.)

4. Legislative Subcommittee

- **Members:** Patricia Watts (Chair), Robert Castaneda, Benito Delgado-Olson
- **Purpose:** To monitor and influence legislative developments that impact low-income utility customers.
- **Current Focus:** Reviewing proposed legislation, advocating for policies that support low-income households, and working with legislators to promote beneficial laws. [SB 1480](#) (expand LIOB to include low-income telecom programs; held), [AB 2672](#) (expand CARE to customers in publicly-owned low-income housing), [SB 1130](#) (expand FERA to households with fewer than 3 persons). Both are both on the Governor's desk and are awaiting to sign or veto them.

5. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

- **Members:** Robert Castaneda (Chair) Benito Delgado-Olson, Jason Wimbley
- **Purpose:** To provide technical advice and support to the LIOB on matters affecting low-income customers, including program development and policy implementation. Additionally, to provide structured feedback for the Low-Income Decision or Decisions, previous decisions and related matters. Provide the LIOB guidance
- **Current Focus:** Developing feedback and providing guidance for the upcoming Low-Income proceeding (for the CARE FERA ESA programs) and identify priority areas of focus for the LIOB within all policy areas relevant to low-income customers.

Subcommittees meet upon request and must follow Bagley Keene Rules

Board Structure and Membership

Robert's Rules

Structured Meeting Flow: Meetings follow a predefined agenda with detailed minutes recorded.

Motions and Voting: Members propose, debate, amend motions, and vote for decisions.

Roles and Responsibilities: The chairperson facilitates, members participate, and subcommittees focus on specific areas, reporting back to the full board.

The public has access in 3 ways to interact in LIOB Meetings:

- In person
- Hybrid
- Telephone



In order to comply with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, Webex plays a crucial role in ensuring accessibility, transparency, and public participation during Low Income Oversight Meetings.

Bagley-Keene (Open Meeting Act)

Public Access: All meetings are open to the public, and notices are posted at least 10 days in advance.

Transparency: Agendas are made available to the public, and detailed minutes are recorded and accessible.

Public Participation: The public is allowed to comment on agenda items, ensuring their input is considered.

Income-Qualified Programs

Energy Savings Assistance (ESA)

- Treated 5 million homes since 2002.
- Invested approximately \$1,000 per home.
- Total funding of \$5 billion since 2002.

California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE)

- Provides a 30-35% discount on electric bills and a 20% discount on gas bills.
- Achieves 90% enrollment consistently.

Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA)

- Supports households not eligible for CARE and provides an 18% discount on electric bills.
- Enhanced enrollment through coordination with CARE.

DACAG/LIOB Alignment



SHARED MISSION ON EQUITY AND ACCESS:

BOTH LIOB AND DACAG WORK TO ENSURE UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES HAVE RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE ACCESS TO ENERGY SERVICES AND BENEFIT FROM CLEAN ENERGY POLICIES.



ENERGY AFFORDABILITY AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS:

LIOB OVERSEES CARE, FERA AND ESA PROGRAMS; DACAG FOCUSES ON ENSURING CLEAN ENERGY INITIATIVES REACH DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES.



JOINT ADVOCACY:

POTENTIAL FOR COLLABORATION THROUGH INFORMATION SHARING, COORDINATION, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH.

Opportunities for Collaboration

- Information sharing
 - Example – Share information about studies of interest that each group is tracking
- Identify opportunities for input
 - Example – Highlight comment periods for proceedings of interest that each group is involved in
- Enhanced coordination
 - Recommendation – Support staff for LIOB/DACAG could review agenda of prior DACAG/LIOB meeting to identify topics for info sharing





Links to Resources

Example of previous LIOB meeting (September 2022): [Meeting Recording](#) and [Agenda](#)

[LIOB Guiding Principles – Vision and Mission Statement](#)

[Resolution E-4095](#) (adopted in 2007, describes LIOB's governing structure)

[SB 1208 REPORT](#)

THANK YOU!