

**DOCKETED**

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March 16, 2022

To: The Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group

**Memo on the Disadvantaged Community Advisory Group's Viewpoints on Gas Decommissioning for Discussion at the California Public Utilities Commission's March 29, 2022 Equity Workshop in Long-Term Gas Planning Rulemaking R.20-01-007**

Dear members of the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group,

The California Public Utilities Commission has requested I speak at the March 29, 2022 Equity Workshop in Long-Term Gas Planning (Rulemaking R.20-01-007), representing myself, my organization PSE Healthy Energy (PSE), and as appropriate, the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG). This memo, for your consideration, is meant to outline the viewpoints for which I can speak on behalf of the DACAG; on other topics, I will present my own independent viewpoint. The issues and viewpoints I propose discussing at the workshop on behalf of the DACAG include:

- **Indoor air quality:** Combustion of natural gas in the home produces health-damaging air pollutants such as nitrogen oxides which are particularly harmful to those with pre-existing conditions such as asthma, the young, the elderly, and those living in homes without fume hoods or proper ventilation, many of whom are renters or low-income households. I may cite relevant scientific evidence on this topic, including research by my colleagues at PSE, and discuss the value of addressing public health when developing electrification strategies and emphasizing the need to rapidly decommission gas infrastructure.
- **Fossil fuels and combustion:** Fossil fuel and biomass combustion are associated with the production of health-damaging air pollutants. The DACAG supports the rapid transition away from combustion-based energy generation and fossil fuel sources at large to mitigate the emissions of greenhouse gases and health-damaging air pollutants both at the site of combustion as well as throughout the production, processing, transmission, and distribution of these fuels. These emissions include, but are not limited to, fugitive methane that leaks throughout the gas infrastructure. In the context of building decarbonization, this means supporting the electrification of current fuel end-users in the home (which may include investments such as panel upgrades which enable electric vehicle charging as well) and the expansion of renewable energy in the power supply to provide clean electricity to these electrified appliances. The DACAG supports advancing building decarbonization in an equitable manner with significant support in the near term for decarbonization in disadvantaged communities.
- **Data collection and transparency:** The DACAG supports increased data collection on existing building conditions, building types and ownership (e.g. multifamily, renter-occupied), fuel use, energy cost burdens, broadband access, and appliance saturation in low-income households and disadvantaged communities; the collection of data on adopters of efficiency and electrification measures; and the transparent sharing of these

data (with privacy protected as needed) to both develop strategies to prioritize these communities and measure progress in electrification moving forward.

- **Technology transfer and access to equipment:** The DACAG recommends strategies that promote education on building electrification, appliance types (e.g. heat pump water and space heating and cooling, electric resistance and induction stoves), electric panel upgrades, and other technologies and financing strategies to facilitate broader participation in building decarbonization, for distributors, contractors, and end-users, in single-family and multi-family homes. Strategies for accelerating technology adoption should be coupled with quality assurance programs to ensure fair access, pricing, trust, and positive experiences for all parties.

Thank you for your consideration and feedback.

Sincerely,

Elena Krieger