



350 BAY AREA CELEBRATES BIG STEP TOWARDS A CLEAN, 21ST CENTURY GRID

*California's Public Utilities Commission Starts Planning for a Smarter,
Cleaner Electricity Future*

OAKLAND, CA, Nov 16, 2021 – Late on Monday November 15, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) released a new Scoping Plan that will begin the process of designing and implementing our future grid. 350 Bay Area is excited to see signs of real progress, and a victory over the entrenched interests of the big energy utilities. 350 Bay Area, along with many allied nonprofit groups, have spent many years arguing for a clean, smart and resilient grid, as well the utility business model revisions necessary to implement that 21st century grid.

This Scoping Plan will frame the rulemaking process that will shape our future grid 350 and the role of utilities as we shift from dirty energy sources to all-electric buildings and transportation, and anticipates a big role for local clean energy such as rooftop and other small solar projects, especially when combined with storage. 350 Bay Area is encouraged to see that the issues we've been fighting for - affordable, clean, resilient energy - have largely been included in the Scoping Plan, especially since the utilities are vehemently against nearly all of these steps forward, in favor of having the CPUC leave the planning to them.

Specifically, the CPUC's Scoping Plan defines a new planning process which opens the door for increased transparency and community involvement in infrastructure planning, better integrated customers' solar, storage and load shifting capacity to provide valuable grid services while sufficiently compensating for those services.

The new planning process, created in this Rulemaking, will also explore how the role of utilities should evolve to support the expansion of local, small energy generation and resilience projects, many of which can operate as microgrids, small contained networks that can operate independently from the larger grid. 350 Bay Area has and will continue to advocate for compensating utilities based on performance, rather than rote, high returns on big capital projects. This change would align utilities' revenue streams with ratepayers' welfare and California's climate goals, and end many of the distracting battles that serve to delay the transition to a clean grid.

350 Bay Area has legal standing to participate in several Rulemaking processes at the CPUC. We remain committed to making sure that all Californians have access to affordable, clean, reliable, and resilient energy and advocate for the policies and rules that will move us towards this future grid as quickly and fairly as possible.

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350 Bay Area is a volunteer-led grassroots climate organization working to eliminate carbon pollution and achieve a clean energy future with racial, economic, and environmental justice. With over 22,000 supporters in the San Francisco Bay Area, the organization advocates for equitable policies supporting the rapid transition to affordable, clean and safe energy and transportation, and clean indoor and outdoor air.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Sahm White, Clean Energy Team Lead
350 Bay Area
Sahm@350BayArea.org

Laura Neish, Executive Director
350 Bay Area
650-483-2827
Laura@350BayArea.org