



CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE ALLIANCE



Central California
Asthma Collaborative



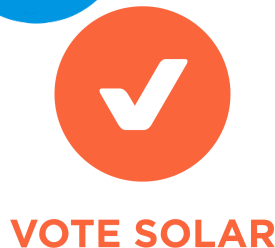
COMMUNITIES *for a*
BETTER
ENVIRONMENT



RECLAIM OUR POWER!
Utility Justice Campaign



**PROTECT OUR
COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION**



August 4, 2026

Dear California Governor Newsom and State Legislature,

RE: Request for Public Process to Advance Wildfire Policy

We write to you as The Affordable Energy Campaign, a coalition of environmental, environmental justice, consumer, and economic justice organizations working to make energy more affordable for California families. California's broken system for paying for utility wildfire costs and liability is a central driver of the state's skyrocketing electricity bills for residents, and must be fixed. **While we agree that passing meaningful reforms are critical given the affordability crisis, these reforms must be considered through a transparent, inclusive, and deliberative public process.** The issues at stake are too consequential to be resolved through last-minute, closed-door negotiations.

We have seen this play out before. Last year, the Legislature had to extend its session to meet the constitutional 72-hour review requirement. Late amendments resulted in [an effective bailout](#) of Southern California Edison, which resulted in raised rates and an [enormous increase in utility profits](#). We demand no more bailouts of the electric monopolies negotiated behind closed doors and instead solutions that hold the utilities accountable.

The Affordable Energy Campaign has developed a [Wildfire Platform](#) that outlines critical policy solutions that protect California ratepayers. We are eager to partner with you to advance these policy solutions, some of which include:

1. Hold Utilities Accountable for Utility-Caused Wildfires

- a. No More Ratepayer-funded Utility Bailouts – phase out and prohibit future ratepayer contributions to the Wildfire Fund, develop a framework that protects survivors' legal rights

and ensures timely, reliable compensation, and advance concrete pathways toward greater public or community ownership

- b. Meaningfully Tie Executive Compensation to Wildfire Safety – require that at least 25% of utility executives incentive compensation be tied to measurable wildfire safety performance

2. Reduce Electric Bills for Families

- a. Require Upfront Approval of All Wildfire Spending – require all wildfire mitigation spending to be reviewed and approved in advance through the General Rate Case process with regular audits, and prohibit utilities from using memorandum or balancing accounts to recover costs
- b. End Profit on Wildfire Spending – permanently exclude wildfire spending from utility profits by removing expenditures from the equity rate base

3. Ensure Robust Statewide Investment in Community-Focused Prevention

- a. Significantly Increase Wildfire Prevention Funding – increase state government wildfire spending focused on prevention up from current nominal amount, considering funding sources including insurance shareholders and climate polluters.

Action is needed to reform our approaches to wildfire prevention and liability before another catastrophic wildfire disaster. **We urge the Governor and State Legislature to reject any last minute, closed door deal and ensure a transparent and a deliberative process by which our organizations and other stakeholders have a meaningful opportunity to review and shape any proposal.** We are ready to thoughtfully engage to advance these and other critical policy solutions.

Signed,

1. **Affordable Energy Campaign**, Jose Torres, Executive Director
2. **Alliance of Californians For Community Empowerment (ACCE)**, Eric Lerner, Climate Justice Director
3. **Brightline Defense**, Alexis Sutterman, Senior Policy Manager
4. **California Environmental Justice Alliance**, Feby Boediarto, Senior Energy Justice Manager
5. **Center for Biological Diversity**, Roger Lin, Senior Attorney
6. **Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment**, Sabrina Molina, Environmental Justice Policy Analyst
7. **Central California Asthma Collaborative**, Jenna Roper, Senior Policy Associate
8. **Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE)**, Lucia Marquez, Policy Director
9. **Climate Action Campaign**, Ayn Craciun, Orange County Policy Director
10. **Communities for a Better Environment**, Shana Lazerow, Legal Co-Director
11. **Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability**, Mariela Loera, Energy & Climate Policy Manager
12. **Reclaim Our Power Utility Justice Campaign**, Travis Gibrael, Research and Education Organizer
13. **SanDiego350**, Parke Troutman, Utilities Campaign Manager
14. **Sierra Club California**, Miguel Miguel, Director
15. **The Protect Our Communities Foundation**, Malinda Dickenson, Legal & Executive Director
16. **Vote Solar**, Claudine Y. Custodio, West Regulatory Director