Coalition Letter Calling on CPUC to Reject Proposed SDG&E Rate Hike

Letter by San Diego Energy Justice Coalition (ACCE, Climate Action Campaign, In Good Company, Public Power San Diego, SanDiego350, and Sierra Club San Diego)

Dear Commissioners of the California Public Utilities Commission,

We, the undersigned organizations representing a broad coalition of San Diego County residents, workers, students, faith communities, and community groups, write to express our serious concern about San Diego Gas & Electric's pending General Rate Case (Application A.26-06-015).

SDG&E is requesting $280 million more in annual revenue in 2028[1], and $1.07 billion more by 2031. This forces families to pay nearly $270 more on their average utility bill annually in 2028[1], increasing to $994 more in 2031, an increase of about 32% from 2027 rates.[2] San Diegans already pay some of the highest utility rates in the nation[3] and cannot afford the current rates.

In fact, SDG&E just reported 3rd quarter profits of $386 million, an increase of 16% from last year, bringing their year to date profits to $862 million and putting them on track to exceed a billion dollars in profits for the first time this year[4].

Our members are burdened by these rates and we can't let them increase. Roughly 260,000, or 1 in 5, residential customers in San Diego are behind on their utility bills.[5] The burden falls hardest on lower-income families and communities of color, who are forced to choose between keeping the power on and covering rent, groceries, and medical care. Meanwhile, SDG&E extracts close to a billion dollars in annual profit from our communities.[6] Families should not be asked to pay more so that shareholders can earn more.

It is the California Public Utilities Commission’s role and mission to protect energy ratepayers, and we are counting on you to do that. We urge the Commission to reject SDG&E's proposed rate increases and to scrutinize every dollar of requested spending, including infrastructure, transmission, wildfire, and undergrounding projects, so that investment goes to what is most important and effective at the lowest cost.

Local, distributed renewable energy is among the most cost-effective sources of power available, and it can lower bills while creating green local jobs. Ratepayers should not be asked to subsidize unnecessary or inflated spending.

In Solidarity,

San Diego Energy Justice Coalition

José López, Director
Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment San Diego

Jessie Anderson, Outreach & Education Coordinator
In Good Company

Charles Rilli, Deputy Chapter Director
Sierra Club San Diego

Tyler Andre, Affordable Energy Campaign Coordinator
SanDiego350

Isaiah Glasoe, Program Director
Public Power San Diego

Anthony Dang, Policy and Community Outreach Manager
Climate Action Campaign

Elected Officials

Teresa Acosta, Councilmember, Carlsbad

Paloma Aguirre, San Diego County Supervisor (District 1)

Priya Bhat-Patel, Mayor Pro Tem, Carlsbad

Senator Catherine Blakespear (District 38)

Assemblymember Tasha Boerner (District 77)

Raul Campillo, Councilmember, San Diego (District 7)

Lauren Cazares, Councilmember, La Mesa

Patricia Dillard, Councilmember, La Mesa

Sean Elo-Rivera, Councilmember, San Diego (District 9)

Lesa Heebner, Mayor, Solana Beach

Jenny Maeda, Deputy Mayor, Poway

Maria Nuñez, Councilmember, San Marcos

Dan O'Donnell, Deputy Mayor, Vista

Senator Steve Padilla (District 18)

Alysson Snow, Mayor, Lemon Grove

Genevieve Suzuki, Vice Mayor, La Mesa

Marni Von Wilpert, Councilmember, San Diego (District 5)

Assemblymember Christopher Ward (District 78)

San Diego Organizations and California Organizations with San Diego Membership

Monica Embrey, Founder
Affordable Energy Campaign

Jim Miller, Vice President
American Federation of Teachers Guild, Local 1931

Kara Ballester, President
BQuest Foundation

Mikey Knab, Co-Founder
Business for Good

Tazheen Nizam, Executive Director
CAIR-CA, San Diego

Tekira Briscoe, Operations Coordinator
California Alliance for Community Energy

Carmen Comsti, Government Relations Director
California Nurses Association

Jenn Engstrom, State Director
CALPIRG

Emmy Jordan, Group Leader
CBFD Indivisible

Roger Lin, Senior Attorney
Center for Biological Diversity

Jose Torre-Bueno, Executive Director
Center for Community Energy

Dan Nyamangah, CBA Organizer
Center for Policy Initiatives San Diego

Tama Becker-Varano, Lead Organizer
Change Begins with ME Indivisible

Rhea Kuhlman, Co-Chair
Climate Justice Action, First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego

Cherry Robinson, Chapter Chair
Climate Reality Project, San Diego

Isaiah Glasoe, Secretary
DSA San Diego

Pamela Heatherington, Director
Environmental Center of San Diego

José Franco Garcia, Executive Director
Environmental Health Coalition

Laura Hunter, Board Member
Escondido Neighbors United

Laura Hunter, Coordinator
Escondido Indivisible

Emma Rodriguez, Steering Committee Member
Green New Deal at UCSD

Karinna Gonzalez, Deputy Director
Hammond Climate Solutions

Mist O'Healy, Leadership Team
Indivisible49

Phil Petrie, Co-Chairperson
Interfaith Coalition for Earth Justice

April Moo, Operations Manager
Karen Organization of San Diego

Chris Pearson, President
La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club

John Brady, Executive Director
Lived Experience Advisors

Janis Jones, Board Member
North County Climate Change Alliance

Nicole Lillie, Executive Director
Our Time to Act

Charlie Nieto, President
Pacific Beach Town Council

Josh Komo, Associate Minister
Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Carlsbad

Kelly Lyndon, Co-Chair
San Diego Building Electrification Coalition

Malik Thornton, President
San Diego County Young Democrats

Crystal Irving, President
SEIU Local 221

Dave Rosenfeld, Executive Director
Solar Rights Alliance

Colin Mathewson, Pastor
St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Liz Murphy, Founder
Sustainability is Sexy

Wendy Gelernter, Group Leader
Take Action San Diego

David Rosenstein, Organizer
Third Act Socal

Edward Lopez, Executive Director
Utility Community Action Network

Claudine Custodio, West Regulatory Director
Vote Solar

Maria Echevarria, Youth v. Oil Intern
Youth v. Oil Campaign

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[1] SDG&E, 2028 Rate Request fact sheet. The fact sheet lists a typical residential increase of about $14.03 per month for electric and $8.45 per month for gas, a combined $22.48 per month, or about $270 per year. It notes the comparison is between illustrative 2027 bills and projected 2028 bills.

[2] SDG&E, 2029-2031 post-test year rate request workpaper (SDGE-33-WP_PTY).

[3] CPUC Public Advocates Office, Q1 2026 Electric Rates Report (March 2026), comparing residential average electric rates across California's investor-owned utilities.

[4] SEC Filing, Sempra Form 10-Q 2026 Q3 (September 30, 2026)

[5] SDG&E, Opening Comments on Assigned Commissioner's Ruling, R.18-07-005 (Mar. 25, 2026), p. 4: "nearly 260,000 SDG&E residential customers are past due." The "1 in 5" share is derived from the filing: 260,000 past-due customers against roughly 1.37 million residential customers implied by the filing's 3% disconnection cap (about 41,000 customers).

[6] Sempra Energy, Form 10-K for fiscal year 2024, segment information for SDG&E: earnings attributable to common shares of $915 million (2022), $936 million (2023), and $891 million (2024).