Appoint Affordable Energy Leaders to California Public Utilities Commission



Affordable Energy Campaign™
LOWER BILLS. BRIGHTER FUTURE.



brightline DEFENSE





California Alliance for Community Energy



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE

CALPIRG Education Fund





CRPE CENTER ON RACE, POVERTY & THE ENVIRONMENT

CCAC Central California Asthma Collaborative



EARTHJUSTICE

CLIMATE ACTION CAMPAIGN

COMMUNITIES for a BETTER ENVIRONMENT
est. 1978



ELDERS CLIMATE ACTION
NorCal Chapter



GRID ALTERNATIVES



EVERY FIRE SURVIVOR'S NETWORK



LEADERSHIP COUNSEL FOR JUSTICE & ACCOUNTABILITY

nextgen california



RECLAIM OUR POWER!
Utility Justice Campaign





RISING SUN
CENTER FOR OPPORTUNITY





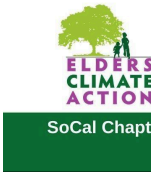


SIERRA CLUB















Save Porter Ranch



PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION



VOTE SOLAR

November 19, 2026

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Governor-Elect, State of California

Re: Appoint Affordable Energy Leaders to California Public Utilities Commission

Dear Governor-Elect Becerra,

Congratulations on your election as California's 41st governor. On behalf of the 32 undersigned environmental, environmental justice, consumer advocacy, and economic justice organizations working together to lower California families' energy bills, we write this letter regarding a critical decision you will make in the earliest days of your administration – appointments to the California Public Utilities Commission.

Over the last decade, California families have seen electricity bills increase dramatically, far surpassing the rate of inflation. The commissioners you appoint will decide whether our electric bills become affordable and whether California's clean energy transition moves at the pace our communities and climate require.

We ask you to appoint community-focused leaders committed to fixing the structural problems of our energy system and willing to make difficult decisions that challenge the status quo. Specifically, we ask that appointees meet these criteria:

- A demonstrated commitment to lowering utility bills and protecting ratepayers.
- A demonstrated commitment to accelerating California's clean energy transition through community-owned power and by enabling families to own their power through distributed energy resources.
- A demonstrated commitment to environmental justice, including a proven record of meaningful engagement with frontline communities and community-based organizations and a willingness to ensure that the concerns and priorities of disproportionately impacted communities meaningfully influence regulatory decisions.
- A demonstrated track record of uplifting community priorities above corporate interests.
- Proven independence from regulated interests, with no significant financial ties, undisclosed relationships, or conflicts of interest with investor-owned utilities, data centers, fossil fuel companies, or other entities overseen by the CPUC.
- A commitment to holding utilities accountable – with enforceable commitments, transparent reporting and real consequences for noncompliance.
- A commitment to creating high-road career paths in environmental justice communities in alignment with the Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan and working collaboratively with labor and workforce groups.

California families need commissioners that will put their interests ahead of monopoly utility profits. Our communities fought for the energy affordability legislation signed into law last session, but it will only be as strong as the regulators who enforce it.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your team to discuss these priorities and the candidates who meet them.

Sincerely,

Affordable Energy Campaign, Monica Embrey, Founder

Alliance of Californians For Community Empowerment (ACCE), Eric Lerner, Climate Justice Director

Brightline Defense, Alexis Sutterman, Senior Policy Manager

California Alliance for Community Energy, Tekira Briscoe, Operations Coordinator

California Environmental Justice Alliance, Feby Boediarto, Senior Energy Justice Manager

California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG), Jenn Engstrom, State Director

Californians for Energy Choice, Eric Brooks, Campaign Coordinator

Center for Biological Diversity, Meya Saenz Zagar, Energy Justice Campaigner

Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment, Sabrina Molina, Policy Analyst

Central California Asthma Collaborative, Jenna Roper, Senior Policy Associate

Climate Action Campaign, Ayn Craciun, Policy Director

Communities for a Better Environment, Shana Lazerow, Legal Co-Director

Earthjustice, Matt Vespa, Senior Attorney

Elders Climate Action (ECA) Northern California (NorCal) Chapter, Todd Weber, Volunteer, Chapter Co-Leader

Elders Climate Action (ECA) Southern California (SoCal) Chapter, Richard Burke, Founder, Chapter Leader

Every Fire Survivor's Network, Joy Chen, Executive Director

GRID Alternatives, Emma Searson, Managing Policy Director

Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, Mariela Loera, Energy & Climate Policy Manager

NextGen California, Arnold Sowell Jr., Executive Director

Oil and Gas Action Network, Matt Leonard, Director

Reclaim Our Power: Utility Justice Campaign, Emi Yoko-Young, Policy Organizer

Rising Sun Center for Opportunity, Sneha Ayyagari, Director of Policy

SanDiego350, Tyler Andre, Affordable Energy Campaign Coordinator

San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility, Robert M. Gould, MD, President

Save Porter Ranch, Kyoko Hibino, Co Founder | Director

Sierra Club, Tami Chipeco, Senior Campaign Organizer

The Climate Center, Barry Vesser, Chief Program Officer

The Greenlining Institute, Carmelita Miller, Energy Strategist

The People Concern, Michael Lueras, Client

The Protect Our Communities Foundation, Malinda Dickenson, Executive Director

TURN–The Utility Reform Network, Mark W. Toney, Ph.D., Executive Director

Vote Solar, Claudine Y. Custodio, West Regulatory Director