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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of Southwest Gas Corporation (U 905 G) for Approval of Program Years 2007-2008 Low-Income Assistance Program Budgets.

Application 06-06-002
(Filed June 1, 2006)

In the Matter of the Application of PACIFICORP (U 901 E) for Approval of 2007 and 2008 Low-Income Assistance Program Budgets.

Application 06-06-003
(Filed June 1, 2006)

In the Matter of the Application of West Coast Gas Company (U 910 G) for Approval of Program Years 2007 and 2008 Low-Income Assistance Program Budgets.

Application 06-06-007
(Filed June 5, 2006)

In the Matter of the Application of Sierra Pacific Power Company (U 903 E) for Approval of its 2007 and 2008 Low Income Energy Efficiency and California Alternate Rates for Energy Plans and Budgets.

Application 06-06-009
(Filed June 1, 2006)

In the Matter of the Application of Alpine Natural Gas Company Operating Company No. 1 LLC (U 909 G) for Approval of Program Years 2007-2008 Low Income Assistance Program Budgets.

Application 06-06-011
(Filed June 7, 2006)

In the Matter of the Application of Golden State Water Company for an Order Approving Its Low Income Energy Efficiency and California Alternate Rates for Energy Plans and Budgets for Program Year 2007 and 2008.

Application 06-07-008
(Filed July 10, 2006)

ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S SCOPING MEMO AND RULING

This scoping memo and ruling follows a telephonic prehearing conference conducted by Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Kim Malcolm in these proceedings on August 9, 2006. It reschedules dates for filing comments on the staff report, addresses the scope of the proceedings, and consolidates these proceedings with Application (A.) 06-07-008, Golden State Water Company, which filed for Bear Valley Electric Service (Bear Valley).

Scope of Issues

Each utility application in these consolidated proceedings proposes program budgets, plans and policies for its low income energy efficiency (LIEE) and California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE). The scope of issues in these consolidated proceedings should be the issues raised in the applications and any related policy matters.

Proceeding Schedule

In a ruling dated August 4, 2006, the assigned ALJ set forth a schedule that the parties have subsequently agreed should be changed. Therefore, the new schedule is as follows:

Utilities file corrections to numbers	August 25, 2006
Comments on Energy Division Staff Report	September 4, 2006
Replies to comments	September 18, 2006

It is my intent that the conduct of these proceedings minimize administrative burdens on the small utility applicants and that the Commission issue a timely decision that encourages the successful implementation of LIEE and CARE programs in utility territories. The assigned ALJ may modify this

schedule as necessary for the efficient and effective management of these proceedings.

Pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 1701.5,¹ this scoping memo clarifies that all issues in both phases of these proceedings are likely to be resolved within 18 months of this scoping memo.

Consolidation of Bear Valley

The application of Bear Valley for approval of LIEE and CARE programs, A.06-07-008, is hereby consolidated with these proceedings. The purpose of this consolidation is to simplify notice, service, and information exchange in these proceedings.

Notice of Prehearing Conference

It has come to my attention that some parties may not have received notice of the August 9 prehearing conference in these consolidated proceedings, which was scheduled in the ALJ's August 4 ruling. The matters addressed at the prehearing conference are described herein, namely, scheduling changes and the ALJ's intent to consolidate Bear Valley with these proceedings. If any party who was not served with the August 4, 2006 ruling believes the Commission should revisit these procedural matters or address other matters that are not addressed here, that party should contact the assigned ALJ for such accommodation.

Applicable Ex Parte Rules, Category of Proceeding, and Presiding Officer

The *ex parte* rules as set forth in Rule 7(c) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure and § 1701.3(c) apply in this proceeding, which rules

¹ All section references are to the Public Utilities Code unless otherwise indicated.

generally require prior notice to parties of a scheduled meeting with a decision-maker, and the filing of an ex parte notice after the meeting.

The Commission preliminarily determined that these consolidated applications are ratesetting proceedings for which hearings are not required. This ruling confirms these determinations. This ruling, as to categorization, is appealable under Rule 6.4.

Dian M. Grueneich is the Assigned Commissioner in these proceedings and ALJ Kim Malcolm is the principal hearing officer.

IT IS RULED that:

1. The scope and schedule for these proceedings are as set forth herein.
2. Application 06-07-008 is hereby consolidated with these proceedings.

Dated August 15, 2006, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ DIAN M. GRUENEICH

Dian M. Grueneich
Assigned Commissioner

INFORMATION REGARDING SERVICE

I have provided notification of filing to the electronic mail addresses on the attached service list.

Upon confirmation of this document's acceptance for filing, I will cause a copy of the filed document to be served upon the service list to this proceeding by U.S. mail. The service list I will use to serve the copy of the filed document is current as of today's date.

Dated August 15, 2006, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ ELVIRA NIZ

Elvira Niz

***** SERVICE LIST *****
Last Update on 14-AUG-2006 by: DYK
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