

May 17, 2019

Commissioner Clifford Rechtschaffen
Commissioner Genevieve Shiroma

California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Via Email Submission to Public.Advisor@cpuc.ca.gov

Re: Low Income Energy Assistance Program Subcommittee Findings, Discussion and Recommendations Regarding the Proposed Decision Issuing Guidance to Investor-Owned Utilities for California's Energy Savings Assistance Program Applications for 2021 – 2016

Dear Commissioner Clifford Rechtschaffen & Commissioner Shiroma:

As Chair of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (“LIEAP”) subcommittee, I am writing today to update you on the subcommittee’s discussion and consensus for recommendations for the Energy Savings Assistance (“ESA”) program post-2020 Decision. The subcommittee met on May 7, 2019 to discuss and make its recommendations regarding both the Proposed Decision and the Guidance Documents issued April 30, 2019.

This letter and attached summary are a result of that subcommittee meeting that was consistent with the direction given the Low-Income Oversight Board in the aforementioned Guidance Document.

The LIOB has agreed, and the LIEAP Subcommittee concurred that the post-2020 decision-making should provide for an *added* focus on identifying and helping low-income customers who are overburdened by high energy bill costs, fraud and utility disconnections.

Our ESA subcommittee has identified nine (9) areas of primary focus to guide the final decision-making for the ESA and CARE programs.

They are:

1. The Cost-Effectiveness Standard;
2. ESA Program Co-Benefits to be embedded in the programs;
3. Enhanced Energy Education;
4. Building on San Joaquin Valley;
5. Multifamily Housing;
6. Workforce Education and Training (WE&T);
7. Marketing Education and Outreach (ME&O) targeting hard to reach communities;

8. Bridge Funding;
9. Additional Program Metrics.

Consistent with the LIOB ESA post 2020 White Paper, the LIEAP subcommittee re-affirmed the LIOB's recommendations that included stepping away from a "template-oriented energy saving program effort" and developing a more flexible cost-effectiveness standard and a "need-based" formula to maximize low-income energy program co-benefits and energy efficiency opportunities. Other program metrics include identifying specific ways ESA can achieve more with health, comfort, safety, and resilience standards by harnessing public health and safety data.

We urge you to review the full LIEAP discussion and recommendations. We believe these recommendations for the post 2020 ESA program better serves the needs of California's low-income communities with evolving energy services that reduce hardship, energy burden, increase energy savings, reduce GHG and promote public health.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Castaneda

Chairman of the LIOB's Low Income Energy Assistance Program Subcommittee

Attachment

c.c. Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves
Commissioner Liane M. Randolph
Commission President Michael Picker
LIOB Chair Benito Delgado Olson
LIOB Member Lourdes Oliva
LIOB Member Marlene Murphy-Roach
LIOB Member Jeff Linam
LIOB Member Patricia Watts
LIOB Member Larry Gross
LIOB Member Charlie Toledo
LIOB Member Jason Wimbley
LIOB Vice Chair Maria Stamas
Goldberg, Sandy Comm. Rechtschaffen
Simon, Sean A. Comm. Rechtschaffen
Shmidt, Yuliya Comm. Rechtschaffen
Brown, Mary Claire (Evans) Comm. Shiroma
Tsfai, Leuwam Comm. Shiroma
Michael Minkus - Comm. Guzman Aceves
Sarah Sharpe - Comm. Guzman Aceves
Peterson, Rachel A. Comm. Randolph