

**MEETING MINUTES: Low Income Oversight Board Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Meeting**

March 26, 2026 | 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Agua Caliente Cultural Museum, 140 N Indian Canyon Dr, Palm Springs, CA 92262

**LIOB and CPUC Attendees**

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>In-Person</b>	<b>Virtual</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Chair Benito Delgado-Olson Gov. Appointee	X		
Vice Chair Jason Wimbley, CSD Rep.	X		
Robert Castaneda, Public Member	X		
Pat Watts, Weatherization Contractor		X	
Lisa Castilone, Public Member		X	
Paul Irwin, Public Member	X		
John Tang, Water Corporation	X		
Lourdes Medina, Public Member	Joined at 9:50 a.m.	X	
Marlene Murphy-Roach, Electrical/Gas Corporation	X		
Ann Kloose, Public Member		X	
Matthew Baker, CPUC Commissioner	X		
<b>Energy Division Staff</b>			
Jen Gordon	X		
Ankit Jain	X		
Cheryl Wynn	X		
Mia Hart		X	
Elisia Hoffman		X	
Leo Dosanjh		X	
Coby Randolph		X	
Kapil Kulkarni		X	
Ana Zapata		X	
Cherie Chan		X	
Joseph Remillet		X	
Ilona Mantachian		X	
<b>Commissioner Baker’s Office</b>			
Sarah Meyerhoff	X		
<b>Darcie L. Houck, CPUC Commissioner</b>	X	Joined at 9:37 a.m.	
<b>Commissioner Houck’s Office</b>			
Caleb Jones	X		
<b>Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion and EEO Office</b>			
Nancy Diaz	X		

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

Board Chair Delgado-Olson opened the Low Income Oversight Board (LIOB) 1st quarterly meeting and welcomed attendees to Palm Springs. He acknowledged that the meeting was being held within the ancestral homeland and reservation lands of the Agua Caliente Band

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of Cahuilla Indians, recognized the Tribe's enduring presence and history in the region, and expressed appreciation for being allowed to hold the meeting there.

Commissioner Baker provided brief opening remarks, thanking the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and acknowledging Tribal Energy Alternatives for joining the Board and presenting later in the agenda.

Vice Chair Wimbley offered brief welcome remarks.

### **2. Approval of the December 11, 2025, LIOB Meeting Minutes – Action Item**

Board Member Castaneda moved to approve the meeting minutes, and Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed with 10 in favor and 1 abstained. (Vice Chair Wimbley)

Board Member Medina indicated that she was present and had been on the call since roll call.

Members of the Board introduced themselves. CPUC and Energy Division staff were introduced.

### **3. Public Comment**

There were no comments virtually or in person.

### **4. CPUC Standing Reports**

#### **4.1 Office of Governmental Affairs [Presented After 4.2]**

Erin Rodriguez, Director of the Commission's Office of Governmental Affairs (OGA) provided a legislative update regarding affordability, wildfire-related costs, utility accountability, broadband, and energy reliability. OGA also noted it is tracking Senate Bill 254 and other legislation that could impact low-income utility programs.

Commissioner Baker encouraged interested parties to review the CPUC's Senate Bill 254 report, stating that it clearly connected wildfire-related costs to high utility rates. He noted that the report also discussed insurance issues and liability concerns and described it as a concise explanation of the major drivers of rising rates.

#### **4.2 Energy Division Updates [Presented Before Item 4.1]**

Kapil Kulkarni with Energy Division provided a high-level update on the status of ESA, the Bridge Funding Applications and the Full Cycle Proceedings. He summarized the current

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implementation cycle, the IOUs' bridge period and full cycle proposals, key procedural milestones completed to date, and upcoming activities, including reply briefs, development of the scoping memo, possible workshops, future party testimony, and a proposed decision timeline.

Board Chair Delgado-Olson introduced Commissioner Houck who joined at 9:37 a.m.

Commissioner Houck provided brief remarks, expressing appreciation for the LIOB's time, attention, and continued engagement. She noted that the LIOB is an important Board to the Commission and emphasized that the advice and information provided by members is critical. Commissioner Houck also acknowledged the strong meeting attendance and stated that she looked forward to the discussion.

### **4.3 Water Division Update**

Kevin Troung of Water Division provided an overview on Proposition 218 and related legal limitations affecting low-income water assistance and conservation-based tiered rates.

Board Members discussed affordability impacts and potential future flexibility for water assistance programs.

Board Member Kloose noted that the City of Fresno provides a general fund-supported discount on water and sewer bills for customers who qualify for PG&E's CARE program. She also stated that Fresno previously used tiered water rates but moved away from them due to legal challenges, and she expressed support for future flexibility to use tiered rates for water conservation.

## **5. Energy Disconnections and Reconnections (Disconnections) Rulemaking (R.18-07-005)**

Paul Phillips with CPUC presented on the disconnections rulemaking, including possible changes to disconnection caps and the status of pilot programs scheduled to sunset in 2026, including Arrearage Management Plans (AMPs), Percentage of Income Payment Plans (PIPPs), and Community-Based Organization (CBO) pilots. He discussed statewide arrearages, evaluation findings and next-step policy questions, including whether any pilot elements should be continued, modified, or scaled. He also sought input on how to minimize impacts to vulnerable customers if the pilots sunset as scheduled and disconnection caps are modified, including coordination between IOUs and other entities to support customers at risk of disconnection.

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Commissioner Houck noted that more recent utility feedback suggests AMP may be performing better than earlier evaluations indicated, and that continued operation of the program could produce different results under more normal conditions. She emphasized that no decisions have yet been made on the pilot programs or disconnection caps and noted the need to balance customer protections with the issue of high arrearages.

### **6. Community and Tribal Engagement Presentation**

TeMashio Anderson, California Tribal Program Director for GRID Alternatives' Tribal Energy Alternatives (TEA) Program, presented on TEA's low-income tribal renewable energy, workforce, and technical assistance efforts, including DAC-SASH, SOMAH, SGIP, and related clean energy programs. He discussed coordination with IOU programs, including referrals for CARE, FERA, and ESA enrollment, and described partnerships supporting workforce development and low-income tribal communities, including collaboration with tribal-serving organizations such as TANF programs. He also highlighted barriers to tribal participation, including outreach, infrastructure, and enrollment challenges.

Board Member Medina thanked the presenter and asked how IOU pilot and low-income assistance programs could be better communicated and tailored to Tribal communities. She questioned whether cultural or language barriers may be limiting participation and asked how Tribal Nations could be better supported in accessing and benefiting from programs such as ESA, CARE, and solar initiatives.

TeMashio Anderson stated that trust, stronger tribal consultation, and better customer education are key factors in improving tribal participation in utility programs. He also noted the importance of reliable backup power for tribal resilience centers, the difficulty many customers face with ongoing program enrollment and recertification and suggested that automatic enrollment could help reduce barriers for eligible participants.

Board Member Irwin commented that the presentation helped connect several longstanding barriers to tribal program participation. He noted that, in addition to tribal outreach efforts, reimbursement structures or contractor rates may need to be better tailored to tribal, rural, and harder-to-serve communities, given the additional work required to reach those households. He also noted ongoing challenges related to accessing and implementing DAC-SASH funding.

Commissioner Houck emphasized the importance of direct technical assistance for tribes in navigating complex energy programs. She noted that successful models, including tribal-focused consortia and organizations such as GRID Alternatives, help reduce the burden on

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tribal leaders by providing direct community support and education. She stated that expanding these types of support structures in the energy sector will be important to achieving an equitable clean energy transition.

Board Chair Delgado-Olson thanked the presenter and noted that DAC-SASH tribal installation data demonstrates the value of specialized outreach and contractor expertise in tribal communities. He suggested this may warrant further discussion as the next program cycle is developed, particularly as a potential model for improving tribal participation in ESA and related programs.

**[The Board recessed for lunch at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at approximately 1:10 p.m.]**

### **7. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

The LIOB reviewed and discussed the Technical Advisory Committee's recommendations for the next program cycle, including modifications made during the meeting, and agreed to advance the finalized recommendations.

Board Chair Delgado-Olson moved approval of the recommendations, and Board Member Kloose seconded the motion. The motion passed with 8 in favor and 3 abstained.

Approved by Members: Board Chair Delgado-Olson, Vice Chair Wimbley, Castaneda, Watts, Irwin, Kloose, Castilone, and Medina

Members Abstaining: Commissioner Baker, Murphy-Roach, and Tang

The ratified Low Income Oversight Board recommendations regarding the 2028–2033 Full Cycle IQP Applications are available in the linked document [Item 7 -- LIOB Recommendations for Scoping Memo and Ruling FINALIZED](#).

### **8. Joint Investor-Owned Utilities Status Reports**

Due to time constraints, the IOUs' report on the CARE, FERA, and ESA programs was not presented.

### **9. Subcommittee Reports**

**Low Income Energy Assistance Programs (LIEAP) Subcommittee** did not meet this quarter.

**Legislative Subcommittee** did not meet this quarter but anticipates future meetings as legislation progresses.

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**Low Income Needs Assessment (LINA) Subcommittee** held a joint meeting with the Technical Advisory Committee on March 10. A LINA topic is expected to be chosen by April, and a meeting will be scheduled in late April or early May to discuss the draft scope.

**Water & Climate Change Subcommittee** did not meet this quarter.

**10. Wrap Up and Closing Remarks**

Commissioner Baker Board and Chair Delgado-Olson presented Board Member Tang with a Certificate of Achievement as this will be Board Member Tang’s last LIOB meeting.

Chair Delgado-Olson thanked staff with the Energy Division, the venue hosts, Commissioner Houck, GRID Alternatives, the IOUs for their participation and presentations. He thanked everyone for contributing to a successful LIOB meeting and adjourned the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:01 p.m.