

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-\_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF MERCED, CALIFORNIA, IN  
OPPOSITION TO PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC  
(PG&E) COMPANY'S JUNE 2021 GENERAL  
RATE CARE (GRC) FILING TO THE  
CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
(CPUC) REQUESTING SUBSTANTIAL RATE  
INCREASES**

WHEREAS, PG&E as the State's largest Investor Owned Utility (IOU) is required to submit all requests for rate increases to the CPUC which includes extensive public outreach and participation in the communities served and customers impacted by its rates and services;

WHEREAS, PG&E's rate filing to the CPUC includes proposed residential rate increases as high as 18% in 2023 and a cumulative increase of over 22% by 2026;

WHEREAS, the changing climate conditions in the State, aggressive renewable energy goals, and inverse condemnation laws have all played significant roles in the escalation of rates charged by the State's IOUs and have been inequitably added to the kilowatt-hour (kWh) price burdening the San Joaquin Valley's (SJV) most vulnerable;

WHEREAS, a report issued by the Haas Energy Institute at UC Berkeley, in conjunction with CAL Matters, determined that PG&E customers on average pay 80% more per kWh than the national average, and low-income households enrolled in the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program pay more than the average American household for undiscounted energy;

WHEREAS, the upward trajectory of PG&E's rates have been deemed a "rate crisis" with costs growing faster than inflation and wages which are of significant concern due to the burden placed on disadvantaged communities and local economies;

WHEREAS, PG&E's flawed kWh rate structure is severely inequitable and includes costs like Wildfire Fund Charges, Electric Public Purpose Programs, and

Nuclear Decommissioning subsidies that are disproportionately paid by San Joaquin Valley (SJV) customers;

WHEREAS, due to our climate, SJV customers buy more electricity annually than coastal, northern, or mountain regions, which means SJV customers unfairly carry an excessive and disproportionate share of the electricity costs and rate burden; and,

WHEREAS, City of Merced leaders believe that the CPUC, State leaders, and PG&E must commit to comprehensive energy policy discussions to facilitate true electricity rate reforms which are essential to protect the unsustainable burden to our citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCED DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DETERMINE, FIND, AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City of Merced hereby calls upon PG&E and the CPUC to reconsider the GRC filing for 2023-2026 and requests a “Rate Freeze” be executed, prior to the approval of any additional rate increases.

SECTION 2. The “Rate Freeze” shall only be lifted upon the implementation of true and equitable rate reforms.

SECTION 3. PG&E shall continue to identify internal cost cutting and spending control measures, including substantial reduction of non-essential expenses within their existing organization.

SECTION 4. This Resolution shall be effective upon final approval and submittal to the CPUC through the public participation process required during the GRC filing.

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