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SoCal Leaders Pivot to Sacramento as Nearly [80%](#) of Voters Demand Rate Relief *High Energy Bills Force Leaders to Weigh Local and State Solutions*

San Diego, March 4 — Southern California leaders convened today to study rate relief strategies amid mounting frustrations over rapidly rising utility bills.

Hosted by Climate Action Campaign (CAC), the Roundtable coincides with a slate of new state bills designed to give regulators the ‘teeth’ needed to rein in utility profits. This legislative package targets corporate profit structures by limiting rate increases, reevaluating allowed returns, and ensuring data centers finally pay their fair share.

Consumer advocates and policy experts outlined how rising energy costs are straining household budgets.

“What we are seeing in monthly bills is just the tip of the iceberg,” said **Mark Toney, Executive Director at The Utility Reform Network (TURN)**. “SoCal Edison has 10 separate rate increase requests sitting on the CPUC's desk right now; Sempra has 16. There are many more increases to come.”

Representatives from the **City and County of San Diego, Irvine, Imperial Beach, Fountain Valley, Costa Mesa, Lemon Grove, San Marcos, Laguna Woods, Buena Park, and Carlsbad** joined the roundtable to learn about solutions for runaway utility profits and energy rates.

“These state bills give local leaders a tangible target they can champion on behalf of their communities,” said **Anthony Dang, Policy and Community Outreach Manager at Climate Action Campaign**. “When regional leaders amplify affordability as a community priority, it shapes the conversation in Sacramento.”

The strategy of leveraging local political power to apply pressure in Sacramento is a [proven](#) model. During the last legislative session, four local governments publicly backed state utility reform to increase ratepayer protections and oversight of for-profit utilities.

Despite community demands for relief, California energy rates have skyrocketed over the last decade, with up to [35%](#) of households in arrears. Visible local leadership can help restore public confidence, says Climate Action Campaign’s CEO Nicole Capretz.

“Communities are paying attention, and it was encouraging to see leaders across Southern California come together to focus on solutions,” said **Capretz**. “The response was overwhelmingly positive. We are encouraged by the interest shown today and expect to see several cities move toward formalizing their support for these critical state reforms.”

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[Climate Action Campaign](#) is a climate justice powerhouse working to secure a 100% clean, affordable energy future for all. We relentlessly organize and empower Southern California communities by building grassroots power, holding leaders accountable, and creating roadmaps for people-centered climate solutions.