February 25, 2020

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

RE: Opposition to Application 17-12-011

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to urge your support for the proposed decision in the default residential TOU proceeding that rejects nearly every utility proposal for fixed charges and minimum bills and to stop San Diego Gas and Electric’s outrageous proposal for new fees, which would hurt low income communities of concern and are specifically designed to halt the growth of local, clean solar energy in San Diego.

The City of San Diego has one of the most ambitious, progressive and forward-thinking Climate Action Plans in the nation. As part of that plan, we as a City have committed to a legally binding obligation to reach 100% renewable electricity by 2035.

To reach our 100% renewable energy goal, the City of San Diego along with the cities of Chula Vista, Encinitas, Imperial Beach and La Mesa recently established San Diego Community Power (SDCP), a regional Community Choice Energy (CCE) program. Through SDCP, the City is committed to offering affordable rates to our residents and accelerating the adoption of local renewable energy projects to meet our environmental goals, while providing economic benefits to our local communities, especially communities of concern.

With those goals in mind, we are concerned that San Diego Gas & Electric’s application 17-12-011, a proposal to increase the minimum bill from $10 to $38 and to add a fixed charge of $10 to all ratepayers’ bills, is directly antithetical to our goals of increasing local renewable energy and to prioritizing economic and environmental benefits to communities of concern.

Therefore, we strongly urge the Commission to support the proposed decision in the default residential TOU proceeding and reject the SDG&E rate increase that will raise electricity bills for the lowest income residents of our city, disincentivize new residential solar installations, and discourage both energy efficiency upgrades and energy conservation.
These impacts are directly counter to the goals of the City of San Diego’s Climate Action Plan and the ethical obligations we have as elected officials to protect all residents, especially low-income residents, from an unjustified increase in their electric bill.

Thank you,
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