

Party People: How to Become a Party to a CPUC Proceeding

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- CPUC makes important decisions that affect your community every day
- CPUC: Regulatory agency that functions quasi-judiciously
 - If it's in the public utilities code, CPUC works on it
- What does the CPUC cover?
 - YES: Rail transit, Water utilities, Energy utilities (besides investment in own utilities), telephone coverage, Uber/Lyft
 - NO: Garbage Collection (local gov't does)
- For rate increases, the providers have to go through CPUC, and they determine if the rate can be increased (They listen to communities, the utility providers, and other stakeholders)
- Local Gov't is what influences State-wide Policy and change.
- You don't need to be an attorney to request party status (they are often comprised of individuals, community groups, small and large business, local gov't, gov't agencies)
- The CPUC Proceedings are dedicated forums for CPUC and party to weigh in on an issue. They include applications or rule makings, and within, they have "decisions" which are then decided in part (i.e. a, b, c, d) "Ex: Long Term Gas Planning" (decarb, removing gas lines, SB1221)
- Party Planning: attend voting meetings (function like city council meetings), public participation hearings (chance to speak on the record), workshops (informal, collaborative sessions), written comments, submitted via cpuc.ca.gov/docket - often the simplest way to participate.
 - Some comment periods are short (<2 weeks, sometimes even days)
 - Scoping ruling will tell you when the comment period will be (sometimes the scoping can change, especially after comment from stakeholders)
 - Signing up for the "service list" will share the scoping list with you
- Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition (LGSEC) supports local governments in shaping California's clean energy future (equipping them with the time and resources to provide comments and opinions on CPUC hearings)
- TIPS:
 - You don't need to be a policy expert to engage
 - Consider attending a proceeding and finding a similar other group, then adapt it for your purposes.
 - Meetings are just as important as written comments

How to become a party to a proceeding:

- 1) Create an account on efile.cpuc.ca.gov
- 2) Join a service list

- 3) Subscribe to updates (consider doing this first, once you've identified which item you'd like to influence/comment on)
- 4) File for a party status to a proceeding

Informal Comments become part of the part record

- Copying and pasting templates is more than acceptable! The templates are there for you to use them.
- Comments must be saved and shared as PDF/A format
- If you need help, you can email the CPUC help email, it's a real person