

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

January 30, 2025

Alice Busching Reynolds
President, California Public Utilities Commission
300 Capitol Mall, Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Southern California Edison Rate Hike Proposal: Thomas and Woolsey Fires Liability

Dear Ms. Reynolds,

We the undersigned members of the State Legislature write to express our concern about the rate hike proposal that was approved this morning related to Southern California Edison's (SCE) liability for the 2017 Thomas Fire. By allowing SCE to raise rates in order for customers to cover these damages, we are failing to hold them accountable, and instead passing their liability onto the residents of the region that bare no responsibility for the disaster.

We recognize that for fires after 2019, the Legislature established a \$21 billion Wildfire Insurance Fund, enacted through [Assembly Bill 1054 \(Holden, 2019\)](#), to authorize utilities to securitize wildfire damage-related costs over many years, which greatly reduces the impact on ratepayers. Unfortunately, that fund will not help with the decision here today, nor an additional SCE proposed rate hike to cover their \$5.4 billion liability from the 2018 Woolsey Fire.

Those in regions prone to wildfires have already suffered the consequences of utility failure by being forced to endure power outages, property destruction, and displacement. It is reprehensible to require these same consumers to assume the financial responsibility for corporate mismanagement and infrastructure deficiencies. If SCE is allowed to pass these costs onto its customers, ratepayers will be seeing surcharges on their bills in relation to these fires for 30 years into the future. Further, this would be done at a time when, according to recent CalMatters reporting, SCE's approved shareholder rate of return is already the highest in California, and the company boasted a net income for the 2024 third quarter of over a half billion dollars, a 232.9% increase year-over-year.

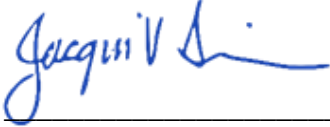
The cost of living in California has become a primary point of concern for our constituents, especially the many individuals on fixed income who are sending larger and larger portions of their monthly income to the pockets of these shareholder-run utilities. Legislative leadership recently called out the cost of living as a top priority for the 2025-26 Session ahead, and we now have an excellent opportunity to take action in this righteous cause.

We urge you to adopt a more equitable framework to minimize ratepayer costs going forward. We stand ready to work with you to implement these changes.

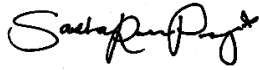
Sincerely,



BEN ALLEN
Senator, 24th District



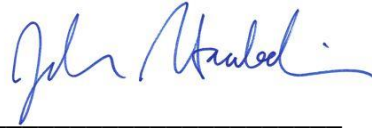
JACQUI IRWIN
Assemblymember, 42nd District



SASHA RENÉE PÉREZ
Senator, 25th District



HENRY STERN
Senator, 27th District



JOHN HARABEDIAN
Assemblymember, 41st District



MONIQUE LIMÓN
Senator, 21st District



PILAR SCHIAVO
Assemblymember, 40th District