



RICARDO LARA
CALIFORNIA INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

March 10, 2022

The Honorable Clifford Rechtschaffen
Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Proposed Decision on Rulemaking 21-03-010 – Advancing LGBT Business Enterprises Opportunities

Dear Commissioner Rechtschaffen,

I applaud the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) [proposed decision](#) that seeks to establish a progressive voluntary procurement goal for LGBT-owned business enterprises. In particular, I believe the creation of a benchmark goal of 0.5% in 2022 that incrementally increases by 0.5% annually, thereafter, thru 2024 as part of its long-standing Supplier Diversity Program in accordance with General Order 156 is a major step forward to creating greater access to economic opportunities for California's LGBTQ+ business community.

As the chief regulator of California's \$371 billion-dollar insurance industry, I recognize that creating public policies that aim to address generations of systemic inequalities for historically underserved and underrepresented communities is no small feat. However, I also realize that bold aspirations backed by tangible goals with a multi-concerted commitment to see them through can also yield significant impact for thousands of businesses owned by LGBTQ+ people in California, especially those that continue to suffer from a history of legally-sanctioned discriminatory policies coupled with the fallout from the COVID-19 public health crisis.

Therefore, I greatly appreciate the CPUC's thoughtful consideration of my [prior comments](#) in your proposed decision. I believe your proposal provides opportunities to enhance stakeholder engagement between utility companies and key community leaders, while also building in a mechanism for evaluation and accountability in delivering measurable outcomes related to the achievement of this procurement goal for LGBT-owned business enterprises. Collectively, these two elements will help ensure the success of the proposal.

Thank you very much for your continued leadership and commitment on this important economic opportunity proposal. Please contact me or Michael Martinez, Senior Deputy Commissioner and Legislative Director, at (916) 492-3565 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ricardo Lara".

RICARDO LARA
Insurance Commissioner

cc: Alice Busching Reynolds, President, California Public Utilities Commission
Darcie L. Houck, Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission
John Reynolds, Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission
Genevieve Shiroma, Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission
Regina DeAngelis, Assigned Administrative Law Judge, California Public Utilities Commission