



August 24th, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

California State Legislature
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Urgent Need to Extend California's Energy Shutoff Moratorium for both IOU and POU Customers

Dear Governor Newsom and Members of the CA State Legislature,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we would like to thank you for your leadership in allocating \$2 billion in relief funding to address COVID-related energy and water arrearages through the California Arrearage Payment Program (CAPP) and California Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program (CWWAPP) respectively. This enormous initiative will undoubtedly bring much needed help to many struggling households. Yet, many remain vulnerable to suspension of vital utility service. Therefore, we strongly urge you to extend the energy shutoff moratorium to January 31, 2022, for both IOU and POU customers.

AB 135 is set to provide vital relief for investor-owned utilities' (IOUs) and publicly owned utilities' (POUs) customers, but the protections until that relief is received are not enough and need bolstering for the medically vulnerable and disadvantaged communities throughout the state. IOUs are expected to implement and distribute funds by September 30th in accordance with the existing shutoff moratoriums passed by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), while the customers of POUs currently have no shutoff protections. While we appreciate that the shutoff moratorium was partially extended for IOUs, we strongly urge you to extend it through January 31, 2022. This date is much more realistic to meet the needs of disadvantaged communities. *Furthermore, this extension should also apply to POUs in order to protect all Californians regardless of utility service territory.* This extension further protects vulnerable populations within said service areas while the implementation and distribution of arrearage relief for both IOUs and POUs can be executed equitably.

Furthermore, the need for timely and accurate reporting of customer data to CSD regarding both IOU and POU customers is critical. Extending the moratorium will allow the necessary time to do this reporting.

Current policy puts IOU customers enrolled in the CPUC designated COVID-19 Residential Relief Payment Plan at risk of disconnection after 60 days due to a missed payment or after 90 days after a credit payment is made on their arrearage account. This is extremely dangerous,

inequitable, and does not consider the multitude of financial barriers residents are facing during this pandemic.

An extension of the utility shutoff moratorium through January 31, 2022, will ensure that the arrearage funding from CSD can be distributed equitably before the end of the extended utility shut off moratorium date while creating additional protections for POU customers. Doing so also aligns with recommendations from water equity advocates and ensures these two essential needs remain protected for the state's disadvantaged communities.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue – we would be happy to meet with you or your staff to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Agustin Cabrera, Director
LA Alliance for a New Economy

Alexis Cureton, Clean Energy/Equity Advocate
Natural Resources Defense Council

Martha Dina Arguello, Executive Director
Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles

Maleeka Marsden, Chair
San Diego Green New Deal Alliance

Miya Yoshitani, Executive Director
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Carmelita Miller, Sr. Director of Climate Equity
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Alexandra Suh, Executive Director
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Andy Brooks, Director of Technical Services
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Stan Greschner, Chief Policy Officer
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Lauren Cullum, Policy Advocate
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