

# **CINDY CHAVEZ**

**PRESIDENT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT  
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September 3, 2020

Genevieve Shiroma, Commissioner  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 95814

Dear Commissioner Shiroma,

I write regarding the CPUC Microgrids and Resiliency Rulemaking (R.1909009). The County of Santa Clara provides essential and emergency services to meet the social, economic, physical, and equal justice needs for our county of two million people. As the Public Utilities Commission (the Commission) drafts these important regulations, I want to share my view and interest on this important issue.

We provide many essential services at dozens of facilities, including hospitals and clinics, law enforcement, fire stations, emergency child protection, emergency dispatch, ambulance service and food programs. These include first responders such as the Sheriff's Department, fire operations, and the Emergency Operations Center, which is the command center for our minute-by-minute response to COVID-19.

Many facilities, such as emergency dispatch, our three hospitals, our jails and our fire stations are, by necessity, 24/7 operations which must remain open and operating to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of our community.

Now more than ever we need access to innovative technologies to ensure we can maintain power during outages which allows us to continue to provide vital services to our residents. We have invested in microgrid technologies to ensure our essential services maintain power through PSPS events, natural disasters or any other unexpected grid outages. These are locations that need access to power all day, every day of the year. And just as importantly, we need these investments to be economical and not be burdened by punitive fees and charges.

We ask the Commission to recognize the importance of these investments and not force us to continue to depend on an increasingly unreliable grid. We ask you to prioritize policies that enhance access to clean power solutions and clear the path for innovative microgrid configurations by creating fair tariff structures and technology flexible regulations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cindy Chavez

President, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors

cc. Marybel Batjer, President, California Public Utilities Commission  
Martha Guzman-Aceves, Commissioner  
Liane M. Randolph, Commissioner  
Clifford Rechtschaffen, Commissioner