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California Utilities Vow to Accelerate the Widespread Adoption of Electric Vehicles

Sacramento, California – January 20, 2017 – As the California Air Resources Board releases its Proposed 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan Update and on the heels of its Midterm Review of the Zero-Emission Vehicle Program, major utilities across California are excited to renew their commitment to a zero-emission vehicle future. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE), and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) submitted applications to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) outlining programs and investments aimed at achieving multiple clean-transportation and emission-reduction goals set by the governor and state agencies.

“SDG&E has spent more than a decade reducing our carbon footprint through the rapid expansion of clean energy. We all want to breathe cleaner air, which means slowing down the impacts of climate change will require an increased focus on the areas that produce the most harmful emissions,” said Caroline Winn, Chief Operating Officer of SDG&E. “We are committed as a business and a community partner to improving lives by developing meaningful solutions.”

These three utilities are helping move California closer to its zero-emission vehicle goals, increasing access to electric-vehicle (EV) charging and raising consumer awareness about zero-emission vehicles.

“California continues to lead the nation in the fight against climate change, and electrifying our transportation sector is the next game changer. By expanding the state’s electric-vehicle infrastructure, PG&E is continuing to help California meet its climate goals while making it more convenient for our customers to choose clean, affordable electricity to fuel their vehicles,” said Geisha Williams, PG&E President, Electric.

The programs and investments proposed in the applications filed today are essential to meeting the ambitious clean-air goals in California and demonstrate the utilities’ commitment to a zero-emission transportation future.

“Southern California Edison’s filing lays out a clear plan to accelerate the adoption of electric transportation, which is critical to California achieving its climate change and environmental goals,” said Ron Nichols, President of SCE. “The benefits of electric vehicles are growing, but barriers to

their adoption still exist—and utilities and other market participants have a clear role to play in overcoming those barriers.”

The applications filed today demonstrate the utilities’ support of the objectives in Senate Bill 350 (De León) [Chapter 547, Statutes of 2015] which called upon utilities “to file applications for programs and investments to accelerate widespread transportation electrification to reduce dependence on petroleum, meet air quality standards, achieve the goals set forth in the Charge Ahead California Initiative, and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.”

“California’s three investor-owned utilities are committed to electric vehicles and the environmental and economic benefits of shifting to electricity as a transportation fuel,” said Eileen Wenger Tutt, Executive Director of the California Electric Transportation Coalition. “This commitment is essential to the state’s efforts to protect public health and economic prosperity.”

SDG&E is proposing to install tens of thousands of EV charging stations in new, key areas to help accelerate the transition to electric transportation. If the proposals are approved, charging stations would be installed at the San Diego International Airport and the Port of San Diego, for delivery fleets, for taxis/ridesharing, at Park-and-Rides, and at 90,000 residences in an effort to reduce air pollution. The proposal also includes a special rate that incentivizes EV owners to charge their cars at off-peak times of day when energy is plentiful and prices are low.

PG&E’s proposal is aimed at accelerating widespread EV adoption and combatting climate change by reducing greenhouse-gas emissions related to transportation. For the seven proposed projects, PG&E is requesting a total budget of approximately \$253 million. PG&E addresses three specific areas: expanding electrification for fleets with medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, responding to consumer demand for fast-charging stations, and exploring new uses for vehicle electrification through five, one-year projects.

SCE is proposing a portfolio of projects tailored to meet the needs of its customers. In addition to innovative programs for passenger vehicle adoption, SCE is proposing to install charging infrastructure for heavy commercial and industrial vehicles at ports, warehouses, and along its freeways. These projects will benefit all SCE customers, with a particular focus on disadvantaged communities, often located along transportation corridors, that are disproportionately affected by pollution and economic hardship.

“Utilities’ support of the zero-emission vehicle market is essential to meeting California’s environmental and economic goals. Utility support ensures that the transition to electric transportation results in efficient management of the grid and renewable resources, as well as safe, reliable and affordable electricity for all” said Tutt.

Governor Brown and the Legislature recognize that utilities’ involvement is necessary to achieve the goal of Executive Order B-16-2012, which calls for 1.5 million zero-emission vehicles on California roads by 2025, and zero-emission vehicle infrastructure able to support 1 million vehicles by 2020.

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The California Electric Transportation Coalition (CaETC) is a non-profit association, created over 20 years ago, promoting economic growth, clean air, fuel diversity and energy independence, and combating climate change through the use of electric transportation. We are committed to the successful introduction and large-scale deployment of all forms of electric transportation including plug-in electric vehicles, transit buses, port electrification, off-road electric vehicles and equipment, and rail. We have worked tirelessly to support all forms of electric transportation, as we continue to do today. This has resulted in significantly lowering the use of petroleum in these various categories and has paved the way for the next large-scale deployment of electric vehicles. With every major automaker producing or announcing production of some type of electric vehicle, California will continue to lead the transition of the transportation sector away from petroleum and towards electricity. CaETC will continue to support all aspects of the shift to electric transportation, working closely with our government, environmental, and industry partners to ensure a successful transition and cleaner air in California.