

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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May 21, 2020
VIA E-MAIL

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On behalf of Lancaster Choice Energy

**Subject: Guidance on Energy Efficiency and Energy Savings Assistance Program
Suspensions**

Dear Energy Efficiency Program Administrators:

This letter provides guidance to California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving Assistance (ESA) Program Administrators

(PAs)¹ regarding the suspension of certain programs due to the statewide stay at home orders.

On March 19, 2020, to protect public health, all individuals living in the State of California were ordered to stay at home or at their place of residence to slow the spread of COVID-19. To comply with this order, energy efficiency and ESA PAs issued stop work orders to contractors providing home and other in-building energy efficiency and weatherization upgrades. Many PAs continue to suspend certain energy efficiency and ESA programs until at the earliest May 31, 2020. At the same time, while shelter at home orders continue in many counties until at least the end of May, a number of counties have begun to relax restrictions on construction projects.

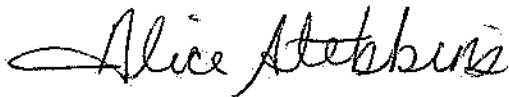
Energy Efficiency and ESA PAs should be following the appropriate state or local health orders and not adopting any special approach for these programs that differentiates Energy Efficiency or ESA activities from other work in their area. In order to help ensure an orderly return to work, PAs should direct energy efficiency implementers and ESA contractors to follow state or local guidance on the allowance of construction projects and in-building renovations, whichever is more restrictive. The PAs do not need to suspend program activities in a manner that is more restrictive than what has been deemed necessary and safe by the health experts and agencies. The CPUC held a public workshop on April 23, 2020 in which it sought stakeholder input on the challenges faced by industries focused on customer-oriented clean energy programs and heard about the importance of going back to work safely.

PAs do not need to interpret or revise stop work orders from the state or the counties, but rather can follow the guidance from the state and county health agencies directly.

¹ Energy Efficiency and ESA Program Administrators include: Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison, San Diego Gas & Electric, Southern California Gas, Marin Clean Energy, Bay Area Regional Energy Network, Southern California Regional Energy Network and Tri-County Regional Energy Network.

Where construction work is allowed under the most restrictive applicable order from the state or county health agencies, that guidance can be adopted by the PAs in their communication to their contractors.

Sincerely,



Alice Stebbins
Executive Director

cc: President Marybel Batjer, CPUC
Commissioner Liane Randolph, CPUC
Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves, CPUC
Commissioner Clifford Rechtschaffen, CPUC
Commissioner Genevieve Shiroma, CPUC
Edward Randolph, Deputy Executive Director and Director, Energy
Division, CPUC
Rachel Wagoner, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor
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