



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
MARNI VON WILPERT
COUNCILMEMBER • FIFTH DISTRICT

Councilmember Marni von Wilpert
City of San Diego, District 5
202 C Street
San Diego, CA 92101

January 20, 2023

Alice Busching Reynolds
President
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Commission President Reynolds,

Thank you for your service on the California Public Utilities Commission (“CPUC”). As you know, over the last few months residents across California have experienced a sharp increase in their gas and electric utility bills. Here in San Diego, customers have seen their electricity and natural gas bills skyrocket from our utility company San Diego Gas & Electric (“SDG&E”). In the last month alone, SDG&E has more than tripled its gas rates per therm, citing a host of reasons related to the regional cost of providing service.

I read your comments in the recent article, “California looks at ways to curb soaring natural gas bills for SDG&E and other consumers,” printed in the January 12, 2023 edition of the San Diego Union Tribune.

A portion of the article stated as follows:

“CPUC president Reynolds said the commission will convene a meeting to examine what led to natural gas bills shooting through the roof. ‘The date will be announced soon and we will be using this to bring in market experts to highlight publicly what we are seeing with gas prices and electric prices, examining all the possible drivers behind the gas price spikes and exploring potential actions that can be taken,’ Reynolds said.”



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“CPUC staff will also contact the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission — which oversees transmission and wholesale sale of electricity and natural gas in interstate commerce — and ask ‘that their market surveillance and enforcement staff take a serious look at what is going on in the gas and electric markets in the West.’”

I am writing to strongly support your call for the California Public Utilities Commission to investigate the rising natural gas and electricity prices that San Diego residents are being charged.

As the Councilmember for the City of San Diego’s Fifth District, I represent over 150,000 residents who are depending on you and the CPUC, as the regulator of public utility companies like SDG&E, to help bring transparency and stability to such essential services as gas and electricity. I have heard from many of my residents who are struggling to keep up with these ever-increasing bills, that exasperate the rising cost of living in our state and region.

I am pleased that this issue is being examined by regulators, as our residents deserve a much more robust explanation today than what is being provided by the utility companies alone.

Please let me know if my office can assist in any way and thank you for acting urgently to address these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marni von Wilpert".

Marni von Wilpert
City Councilmember
City of San Diego, District 5