

PG&E HEARING EXHIBIT PGE-11

A.20-04-023

PG&E'S SECURITIZATION 2020

Chapter 1 Introduction – Rebuttal (David Thomason)

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION – REBUTTAL

WITNESS: DAVID THOMASON

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION - REBUTTAL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. THE PROPOSED SECURITIZATION IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, MEETS ALL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS, AND SHOULD BE APPROVED. [ISSUES 1, 2, 7(A)].....	1-1
1. PG&E Has Demonstrated At Least \$7.5 Billion in “Stress Test Costs.”	1-2
2. PG&E Has Demonstrated That Securitization Supports and Accelerates the Path Back to Investment Grade.....	1-2
B. THE PROPOSED SECURITIZATION IS RATE NEUTRAL. [ISSUES 3, 4, 6]	1-3
1. Cal Advocates’ Approach Confirms PG&E’s Proposal Satisfies Rate Neutrality.....	1-4
2. Certain Parties Overstate the Risk to Customers.....	1-5
a. PG&E’s Forecast of Contributions to the Customer Credit Trust Is Reasonable.	1-6
b. The Projected Investment Returns Are Reasonable.....	1-6
c. The Conditions Proposed by Other Parties Are Unnecessary and Infeasible.	1-7
3. Neutrality Does Not Involve a Comparison of Customer to Shareholder Benefits.....	1-9
C. PG&E’S PROPOSED CAPITAL STRUCTURE ADJUSTMENTS ARE APPROPRIATE. [ISSUE 8]	1-11
D. OVERVIEW OF ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY	1-13
1. Chapter 10, Expert Rebuttal Regarding Customer Benefit (B. Cornell)	1-13
2. Chapter 11, Rebuttal Regarding Load Growth (J. Berman)	1-13
3. Appendix A Supplement: Statements of Qualifications	1-13
4. Appendix B: Data Responses Cited in PG&E Rebuttal Testimony	1-13

1 **PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY**
2 **CHAPTER 1**
3 **INTRODUCTION – REBUTTAL**
4 **WITNESS: DAVID THOMASON**

5 **A. The Proposed Securitization Is in the Public Interest, Meets All Legal**
6 **Requirements, and Should Be Approved. [Issues 1, 2, 7(a)]¹**

7 As recognized by the Public Advocates Office (Cal Advocates), the Coalition
8 of California Utility Employees (CUE), and the Governor, the proposed
9 securitization transaction will promote PG&E’s financial recovery, to the benefit
10 of PG&E’s customers. Securitization will enable PG&E to promptly move \$6
11 billion in debt off its balance sheet, thereby advancing the goal the Commission
12 articulated in the decision approving PG&E’s Plan²:

13
14 Consistent with PG&E’s plan we expect PG&E to expeditiously pay down
15 Temporary Utility debt over the projected five-year period and regain a closer
16 alignment between aggregate utility debt and the amount of recoverable
17 utility debt. PG&E may seek to achieve this th[r]ough its securitization
18 application, A.20-04-023 filed April 30, 2020, its commitment to use Net
19 Operating Losses to reduce leverage, its commitment to not pay common
20 dividends for a time, or through other forms of deleveraging it may identify in
21 the future.³

22 Several of the parties that recommend rejection or modification of the
23 proposed Securitization previously urged the Commission to take steps to
24 ensure that PG&E delever as quickly as possible. In the POR OII, these parties
25 argued that too much leverage impairs credit strength and increases risk
26 exposure and costs for the utility and its customers.⁴ Expeditious delevering is
27 precisely the outcome PG&E seeks to achieve with the proposed Securitization.

1 This and other “Issue” references in PG&E’s Rebuttal Testimony correspond to the
issues to be determined in this proceeding as set forth in the July 28, 2020 Assigned
Commissioner’s Scoping Memo and Ruling.

2 For this and the remaining chapters of rebuttal testimony, capitalized terms not defined
within the chapter have the meaning ascribed in PG&E’s application and the prepared
testimony updated on August 7, 2020.

3 D.20-05-053, pp. 84-85.

4 See, for example, POR OII, Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility (A4NR) Opening Brief,
p. 18; POR OII, City and County of San Francisco (CCSF) Opening Brief, p. 10; POR
OII, Energy Producers and Users Coalition and the Indicated Shippers (EPUC-IS)
Opening Brief, p. 26.

1 Securitization is more cost-effective (i.e., has more favorable interest rates)
2 than traditional forms of utility financing and provides significant benefits with
3 respect to PG&E’s credit profile. Securitization will also accelerate the final \$700
4 million payment to the Fire Victim Trust.

5 PG&E respectfully requests that the Commission make the determinations
6 necessary to issue a financing order to authorize the proposed Securitization.

7 **1. PG&E Has Demonstrated At Least \$7.5 Billion in “Stress Test Costs.”**

8 PG&E’s showing that it has at least \$7.5 billion in “Stress Test Costs”
9 under the Commission’s approved Stress Test Methodology attributable to
10 2017 wildfires is largely un rebutted. Accordingly, PG&E respectfully submits
11 that \$7.5 billion is the amount that should be authorized for recovery through
12 issuance of the Recovery Bonds.

13 **2. PG&E Has Demonstrated That Securitization Supports and Accelerates**
14 **the Path Back to Investment Grade.**

15 PG&E’s emergence from bankruptcy on July 1, 2020, its participation in
16 the Go-Forward Wildfire Fund, its governance changes (including those
17 adopted by the Commission in Decision (D.) 20-05-053), and its operational
18 improvements have set PG&E on a path to achieve an investment-grade
19 issuer credit rating. The testimony of Joseph Sauvage, Vice Chairman and
20 Global Head of the Power Group at Citigroup Global Markets, demonstrates
21 that the proposed Securitization will support and accelerate that path. As
22 explained by Mr. Sauvage, the Commission’s approval of the proposed
23 Securitization will meaningfully improve PG&E’s metrics under S&P’s
24 methodology; it will also signal a further improvement in the regulatory
25 environment, as compared to a scenario in which the Commission does not
26 approve securitization. As shown in Chapter 5, securitization will provide
27 PG&E the opportunity to achieve an investment-grade issuer credit rating
28 two years earlier than without securitization.

29 Cal Advocates and CUE agree that securitization will improve PG&E’s
30 credit profile and accelerate its path back to an investment-grade issuer
31 credit rating.⁵ Other parties’ contrary contention is based on a
32 misinterpretation of feedback from the rating agencies in connection with a

5 Cal Advocates, pp. 12-13; CUE-Earle, p. 1.

1 rating assessment process in March of 2020. As explained by Mr. Sauvage
2 in Chapter 5, Stress Test Methodology – Rebuttal (D. Thomason; J.
3 Sauvage) (Chapter 5 – Rebuttal), that feedback was limited to an
4 assessment of the immediate impact of securitization on PG&E’s credit
5 ratings, and did not address longer-term impacts of securitization on the
6 timing of an upgrade to investment grade, or on PG&E’s business risk.

7 **B. The Proposed Securitization Is Rate Neutral. [Issues 3, 4, 6]**

8 Consistent with PG&E’s commitment in the Chapter 11 cases and D.20-05-
9 053, the proposed Securitization is designed to be rate neutral. Pursuant to
10 PG&E’s proposal, the Customer Credit is expected to not only equal the FRCs in
11 each billing period, but to generate a substantial surplus, which PG&E proposes
12 to share with customers. Table 1-1 in Chapter 1 summarized the expected
13 values of the Customer Credit Trust, based on the testimony of Greg Allen of
14 Callan LLC in Chapter 6, Customer Credit Mechanism and Investment Returns
15 (D. Thomason; G. Allen). In his rebuttal testimony, Mr. Allen makes a small
16 correction to the present value calculations, which are reflected below in Table
17 1-1A. According to Mr. Allen’s rebuttal testimony, the nominal customer
18 expected value of the proposed Securitization remains \$990 million, but the net
19 present value has decreased slightly, from \$118 million to \$116 million.⁶ In
20 Chapter 10, Expert Rebuttal Regarding Customer Benefit (B. Cornell), Professor
21 Brad Cornell calculates the expected value of the Securitization using a slightly
22 different methodology than Mr. Allen, with similar results. Specifically, Mr. Allen
23 calculated expected investment returns using percentile increments from 5
24 percent to 95 percent, while Professor Cornell calculates the expected values
25 from all 2,000 trials in the Monte Carlo simulation model. As summarized in
26 Table 1-2, Professor Cornell’s method shows that the customer expected value
27 of the Securitization is \$1,048 million (nominal), or \$121 million net present value
28 (at a 7.34 percent discount rate)⁷ – slightly higher than Mr. Allen’s method.

6 This result is calculated by taking 25 percent of Mr. Allen’s calculation of the expected value of the positive outcomes (\$1,142 million is 25 percent of \$4,566 million nominal; \$136 million is 25 percent of \$545 million NPV) minus the expected value of the negative outcomes (\$152 million nominal, \$20 million NPV).

7 See footnote 6 for calculation methodology.

TABLE 1-1A
EXPECTED VALUES OF POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE OUTCOMES, SURPLUS/(DEFICIT),
INCLUDING PRINCIPAL TAX GROSS-UP – GREG ALLEN METHODOLOGY
(MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)

Line No.		Nominal Surplus (Deficit)	NPV ^(a) Surplus (Deficit)
1	Expected Value (EV) ^(b)	\$4,414	\$535525
2	EV Positive Outcomes	\$4,566	\$555545
3	EV Negative Outcomes	(\$152)	(\$20)
4	EV 25% of Positive, Minus Negative	\$990	\$148116

- (a) Net present value was calculated using the authorized return on rate base of 7.34 percent.
- (b) Where the expected value is equal to the difference between the expected value of the positive and negative outcomes.

TABLE 1-2
EXPECTED VALUES OF POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE OUTCOMES, SURPLUS/(DEFICIT),
INCLUDING PRINCIPAL TAX GROSS-UP – BRAD CORNELL METHODOLOGY
(MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)

Line No.		Nominal Surplus (Deficit)	NPV ^(a) Surplus (Deficit)
1	Expected Value (EV) ^(b)	\$4,858	\$576
2	EV Positive Outcomes	\$5,079	\$607
3	EV Negative Outcomes	(\$221)	(\$30)
4	EV 25% of Positive, Minus Negative	\$1,048	\$121

- (a) Net present value was calculated using the authorized return on rate base of 7.34 percent.
- (b) Where the expected value is equal to the difference between the expected value of the positive and negative outcomes. The EV of negative outcomes includes interim shortfalls and repayments, if any.

1 **1. Cal Advocates’ Approach Confirms PG&E’s Proposal Satisfies Rate**
2 **Neutrality.**

3 Although Cal Advocates asserts that PG&E’s proposal is not rate
4 neutral, it nevertheless confirms PG&E’s proposal satisfies rate neutrality by
5 recommending that the Commission authorize an alternative securitization
6 transaction with the same probability of surplus, roughly 84 percent.⁸

⁸ Cal Advocates recommends a lower securitization amount of \$6 billion, which should not be adopted for the reasons set forth in Chapter 5 – Rebuttal.

1 **2. Certain Parties Overstate the Risk to Customers.**

2 Although there is some risk to customers, the risk is not nearly as great
3 as parties claim, and is amply compensated by the benefits of the proposed
4 Securitization. As explained in more detail in Chapter 6, Customer Credit
5 Mechanism and Investment Returns – Rebuttal (D. Thomason; G. Allen)
6 (Chapter 6 – Rebuttal) and Chapter 10, Expert Rebuttal Regarding
7 Customer Benefit (B. Cornell), the risk to customers is the risk of a shortfall
8 in the Customer Credit Trust. Mr. Allen and Professor Cornell each show
9 that the expected value of the 25 percent of the surplus exceeds, by a
10 substantial margin, the value of the risk to customers.

11 Customers will also receive benefits from the lower cost of debt that will
12 result from PG&E’s improved credit profile, which will be significant in light of
13 the substantial investment in rate base in the coming years. PG&E
14 forecasts roughly \$30 billion or more in capital investments from 2021
15 through 2024, and anticipates that substantial capital investments will
16 continue into the future in connection with wildfire mitigation and grid
17 modernization efforts.⁹ PG&E’s illustrative calculation, explained in more
18 detail in Chapter 5 – Rebuttal, shows \$441 million of nominal interest cost
19 savings based on a two-year acceleration of PG&E achieving investment-
20 grade issuer status. Although certain parties, including The Utility Reform
21 Network (TURN)¹⁰, take issue with PG&E’s calculation, they do not dispute
22 that customers will see concrete benefits as a result of PG&E’s improved
23 credit profile. PG&E has also agreed to waive any right to seek recovery in
24 rates of 2017 wildfire claims costs other than through the proposed rate-
25 neutral securitization.

26 While there is some uncertainty about the outcome, the uncertainty goes
27 in both directions. The results could be better than the forecast presented

9 2020 Third Quarter Earnings Presentation (Oct. 29, 2020), p. 8, available at
[http://s1.q4cdn.com/880135780/files/doc_presentations/2020/10/PGE_Q3_2020-
Earnings-Presentation_FINAL.pdf](http://s1.q4cdn.com/880135780/files/doc_presentations/2020/10/PGE_Q3_2020-Earnings-Presentation_FINAL.pdf).

10 On the afternoon of November 10, 2020, the day before this testimony was due, TURN
served revised testimony and workpapers from Mr. Ellis and errata testimony from Ms.
Dowdell. There has not been time to evaluate those changes, or to address them in
rebuttal testimony, and PG&E reserves the right to address those changes at a later
date.

1 by PG&E. Moreover, the benefits are sufficiently large that the proposed
2 Securitization transaction is beneficial to ratepayers under a wide range of
3 outcomes, as explained further in Chapter 10, Expert Rebuttal Regarding
4 Customer Benefits (B. Cornell).

5 **a. PG&E’s Forecast of Contributions to the Customer Credit Trust Is**
6 **Reasonable.**

7 PG&E has committed to fund the Customer Credit Trust with a \$1.8
8 billion Initial Shareholder Contribution and up to \$7.59 billion in
9 Additional Shareholder Contributions. There is no risk to customers
10 related to the \$1.8 billion Initial Shareholder Contribution, which will
11 immediately fund Customer Credits equal to the FRCs and is projected
12 to do so until Additional Shareholder Contributions begin in 2024.
13 Further, while there is some risk that PG&E’s \$7.59 billion in Additional
14 Shareholder Contributions will be made more slowly than anticipated,
15 there is also a possibility that the contributions will be made more
16 quickly. The uncertainty relates to the timing of the Additional
17 Shareholder Contributions, which is driven by PG&E’s taxable income
18 forecast and income tax rates. As set forth below and in Chapter 6 –
19 Rebuttal, PG&E’s forecast is reasonable, and perhaps conservative,
20 based on historical rate base growth, the substantial capital investments
21 PG&E will make in the coming years including those related to wildfire
22 risk mitigation, and President-Elect Joseph Biden’s proposed increase in
23 the corporate tax rate. As shown in Chapter 6 – Rebuttal, the projected
24 rate base growth underlying PG&E’s forecast is consistent with historical
25 rate base growth and projections of the other large investor-owned
26 utilities in California.

27 **b. The Projected Investment Returns Are Reasonable.**

28 As described in Chapter 6 – Rebuttal, PG&E’s projected returns for
29 the Customer Credit Trust are based on reasonable and conservative
30 assumptions provided by Greg Allen. In fact, the projected rates of
31 return are lower than the 30-year annualized rates of return for observed
32 periods going back to 1926. Moreover, the methodology for projecting
33 investment returns is reasonable, and the projected returns for equity

1 and fixed income are conservative, in light of those used for funding the
2 Nuclear Decommissioning Trusts (NDTs) that have operated
3 successfully under Commission oversight for many years and have
4 previously been accepted by the Commission. Mr. Allen also prepared
5 an appropriate set of comparable investment returns, which further
6 underscore that Callan's investment returns are reasonable and
7 conservative.

8 **c. The Conditions Proposed by Other Parties Are Unnecessary and**
9 **Infeasible.**

10 Other parties ask the Commission to place various conditions on the
11 securitization transaction. These conditions undermine the benefits of
12 the proposed Securitization, are unnecessary, and/or are infeasible.

13 Some parties argue that the Commission should require a dollar-for-
14 dollar credit. If PG&E were to guarantee a dollar-for-dollar credit, S&P
15 would likely treat it as an enforceable contractual commitment and
16 therefore treat the securitization transaction as on-credit.¹¹ That would
17 preclude the forecasted improvement in financial metrics and undermine
18 key benefits of the securitization transaction.

19 Other parties argue that the Commission should require PG&E to
20 use proceeds from the Securitization to fund the Customer Credit Trust,
21 and/or to otherwise leave in place some or all of the \$6 Billion
22 Temporary Utility Debt.¹² Such proposals undermine the shared goal of
23 deleveraging articulated in D.20-05-053, which benefits both PG&E and
24 its customers, and delay improvement of PG&E's financial metrics and,
25 as a result, the path back to investment-grade. The proposed use of
26 proceeds to fund the Customer Credit is not appropriate under the
27 statute, and, in any event, is not necessary because the Customer
28 Credit Trust is anticipated to end up with a substantial surplus that will
29 be shared with customers.

¹¹ Certain parties, including the California Large Energy Consumers Association (CLECA) and Wild Tree Foundation (Wild Tree) recognize that such a guarantee would likely be treated as on-credit. CLECA-Yap, p. 14; Wild Tree-Rothschild, p. 12.

¹² CLECA-Yap, p. 14; Cal Advocates, p. 14.

1 A few parties argue that the Commission should require PG&E's
2 proposal to yield a 95 percent or even 99.995 percent probability of
3 surplus.¹³ These parties implicitly recognize that a Securitization that
4 involves some risk to customers is acceptable and consistent with the
5 neutrality concept. But their recommendation to reduce the probability
6 of loss is arbitrary. Moreover, their proposals are not feasible because
7 they would make the proposed Securitization prohibitively expensive,¹⁴
8 and would undermine deleveraging and the benefits of the transaction.
9 Such conditions also are not necessary to satisfy rate neutrality because
10 the Customer Credit is expected to not only equal the FRCs, but to
11 generate a substantial surplus.

12 The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility (A4NR) contends that the
13 \$7.59 billion in Additional Shareholder Contributions should not be
14 considered as a shareholder contribution because the Commission has
15 determined that the NOLs should be credited to ratepayers.¹⁵ In its
16 decision approving PG&E's Plan, however, the Commission expressly
17 contemplated that PG&E could apply the monetized value of the NOLs
18 to amortize the \$6 Billion Temporary Utility Debt (if Securitization were
19 not approved).¹⁶ The Securitization is a more efficient means of
20 financing the NOLs. This conclusion is logical and consistent with
21 Commission precedent holding that the tax deductions associated with
22 disallowed costs belong to shareholders.¹⁷ A4NR's citations do not
23 support its contrary position. In D.19-06-027, the Commission stated
24 that it retained discretion to preserve for the benefit of customers NOLs

13 See, for example, A4NR-Geesman, p. 30; TURN-Ellis, p.24-26.

14 For example, TURN argues that the \$1.8 billion Initial Shareholder Contribution should be increased by more than \$4 billion. TURN-Ellis, p. 24.

15 A4NR-Geesman, p. 22.

16 D.20-05-053, pp. 84-85 (“we expect PG&E to expeditiously pay down Temporary Utility debt ... through its securitization application ... [and] its commitment to use Net Operating Losses to reduce leverage...”).

17 D.14-08-032, p. 584 (“The Commission also determined that when deductions were not part of utility cost of service, but were generated with shareholder funds, the deductions are the property of shareholders and not ratepayers. This included deductions derived from disallowed costs incurred in excess of those included in rates, as well as deductions for discretionary uses of net earnings by shareholders.”).

1 associated with losses from events that resulted in rate recovery under
2 the Stress Test.¹⁸ That is exactly what PG&E’s application does: it
3 gives customers the benefit of not just the NOLs associated with the
4 2017 wildfires costs being securitized, but an even larger amount of
5 NOLs, through the Additional Shareholder Contributions to the
6 Customer Credit Trust. A4NR’s assertions to the contrary are no more
7 persuasive now than they were when A4NR made them to the
8 Commission in the POR OII. A4NR’s reliance on D.20-05-019 is
9 likewise misplaced. There, the Commission allocated to customers the
10 benefits of certain NOLs associated with disallowed operating expenses.
11 In portions of that decision A4NR does not quote, however, the
12 Commission made clear that this determination was justified only
13 because the disallowances were penalties.¹⁹ That reasoning does not
14 apply to the wildfire claims costs, which are disallowed by virtue of
15 PG&E’s agreement and not as a penalty.

16 **3. Neutrality Does Not Involve a Comparison of Customer to Shareholder**
17 **Benefits.**

18 Some parties assert that the Commission should deny the application,
19 or should require changes that benefit customers, because the
20 Securitization will result in greater benefits to shareholders than to

¹⁸ D.19-06-027, App’x A at p. 14.

¹⁹ D.20-05-019, p. 44 (“The argument that the tax benefit provision is contrary to Commission precedent is not persuasive. PG&E argues that the Commission’s general rule is ‘that when deductions were not part of utility cost of service, but were generated with shareholder funds, the deductions are the property of shareholders and not ratepayers. This include[s] deductions derived from disallowed costs incurred in excess of those included in rates.’ Although this general rule may apply in rate cases such as those cited by PG&E, it does not necessarily apply to penalties. Penalties are intended to punish and deter unlawful conduct. Therefore, the Commission may find that it is not appropriate for disallowances or expenditures intended as penalties to be treated as they would ordinarily be treated for ratemaking purposes.” (footnotes omitted). See also *id.* at pp. 45-46 “The financial obligations adopted in this decision are intended as penalties for the purpose of punishment and deterrence, and therefore, it is not appropriate for these expenditures to be treated as they would be treated during the course of ordinary business. In order for the financial obligations adopted in this decision to have the appropriate punitive and deterrent impact, the Commission finds that ratepayers, rather than shareholders, should receive the benefit of any tax savings associated with these financial obligations.”) and p. 47 (“This will ensure that ratepayers, not PG&E shareholders, benefit from the tax savings associated with treating the penalty as an ordinary business expense.”).

1 customers. The City and County of San Francisco (CCSF), for example,
2 assert that “shareholder benefits exceed ratepayer benefits.”²⁰ TURN
3 argues that the securitization is a “windfall” to shareholders in the form of a
4 lower cost to finance wildfire liabilities.²¹ TURN further notes that
5 shareholders benefit from the tax deduction on the Securitized Bonds.²²
6 These arguments are misplaced. Consistent with Commission
7 precedent approving transactions that do not harm customers,²³ the
8 Commission should approve the Securitization if it finds that the transaction
9 is “neutral” to customers.²⁴ PG&E has shown that the Securitization is not

20 CCSF-Meal, p. 28 and Figure 1.

21 TURN-Dowdell, p. 22. A4NR appears to make a similar suggestion, noting that the Securitization reduces the annual revenue requirements by \$6.7 billion over 30 years. A4NR-Geesman, p. 26, lines 16-19. This comparison is based on Chapter 7, Comparison of Traditional Financing and Securitization (D. Thomason), which presents the statutorily required comparison to the cost of financing the principal amount at the utility’s authorized return on rate base. That comparison is inapt here, however, because the alternative to Securitization is to refinance the \$6 Billion Temporary Utility Debt. In no scenario would PG&E earn an equity return on this amount. Although A4NR asserts in testimony that ratepayers should be compensated because the Securitization reduces “revenue requirements,” A4NR acknowledged in a data response that no portion of the \$7.5 billion that PG&E seeks to securitize would be recovered in rates if the proposed Securitization were denied. A4NR’s Response to Data Request PGE_A4NR002, Question 23a, dated Nov. 3, 2020.

22 TURN-Ellis, p. 3. TURN further claims that this deduction results in a higher effective interest rate on the Recovery Bonds paid by customers. This argument is flawed because customers are not paying the interest on the bonds as long as the Customer Credit equals the FRC. In the unlikely event the Customer Credit does not equal the FRC, customers would receive the benefit of the interest deduction. This point is discussed further in Chapter 10, Expert Rebuttal Regarding Customer Benefit (B. Cornell), at pages 10-20 to 10-21.

23 See, for example, Commission decisions reviewing proposed transactions under Sections 851 and 854. D.18-07-015, pp. 7-8 (“The primary question in a transfer of control proceeding under § 854(a) is whether the transaction will be ‘adverse to the public interest.’”); D.04-08-018, p. 5 (“California reaps enormous benefits from the services provided by public utilities. Thus, it is in the public interest to foster a business climate in California that is hospitable to utilities. Accordingly, ordinary transactions that are subject to Section 854(a) . . . should be approved absent a compelling reason to the contrary.”); D.09-10-056, p. 15 (same); see also D.19-03-024, p. 9 (“Section 851 does not specify the standard by which the Commission is to review such requests. In previous Commission decisions, the Commission has a long-standing policy to apply the standard of ‘not adverse to the public interest’ as a standard of review for applications requesting approval under Pub. Util. Code § 851.”).

24 See Assigned Commissioner’s Scoping Memo and Ruling (Mar. 8, 2019) A.18-12-009, Issue 3.

1 just neutral, but is actually beneficial for customers. PG&E acknowledges
2 that the Securitization also benefits shareholders, for example, by reducing
3 leverage (which also benefits customers) and by more efficiently monetizing
4 the NOLs. But the extent of those shareholder benefits, either in absolute
5 terms or relative to customer benefits, is not a basis to reject or revise
6 PG&E's proposal.

7 **C. PG&E's Proposed Capital Structure Adjustments Are Appropriate. [Issue**
8 **8]**

9 PG&E has requested certain capital structure adjustments related to the
10 securitization transaction. These adjustments are appropriate and should be
11 approved in this proceeding.

- 12 • Securitized Debt. PG&E's proposal to exclude the securitized debt
13 from its ratemaking capital structure even though it will appear on
14 PG&E's consolidated financial statements is consistent with
15 Commission precedent. In the 2006 cost of capital proceeding, the
16 three large investor-owned utilities confirmed that previously-issued
17 securitized bonds, including energy recovery bonds (ERBs) and rate
18 reduction bonds (RRBs), were appropriately excluded from their
19 ratemaking capital structures because they were not financing assets
20 in rate base.²⁵ This same approach has been adopted by the
21 Commission in the decision issued in the Southern California Edison
22 Company securitization proceeding, Application (A.) 20-07-008.²⁶
- 23 • Equity Adjustment. PG&E proposes to exclude from its ratemaking
24 capital structure any non-cash accounting charges related to future
25 revenue credits associated with the Customer Credit Trust. These

²⁵ 2006 Cost of Capital Supplemental Testimony by PG&E in A.05-05-006; Southern California Edison in A.05-05-011; and San Diego Gas & Electric Company in A.05-05-012.

²⁶ D.20-11-007 (Nov. 10, 2020), pp. 68, 126 (Ordering Paragraph 51: "Recovery Bonds shall be excluded from Southern California Edison Company's ratemaking capital structure.").

1 charges will not affect equity that is used to finance rate base, and as
2 such are properly excluded.²⁷

3 The sole party to object in its prepared testimony to the requested capital
4 structure adjustments is A4NR.²⁸ A4NR asserts that the Commission should
5 require a dollar-for-dollar rate credit, which A4NR characterizes as a contingent
6 liability that should be reflected in the capital structure. For reasons stated
7 elsewhere, the Commission should not adopt A4NR's recommendation for a
8 dollar-for-dollar credit. A4NR's testimony does not address the adjustments to
9 the capital structure PG&E has proposed for its proposed Securitization. A4NR
10 cites an exchange from the hearings in the POR OII,²⁹ and asserts that PG&E's
11 "request to extend the temporary waiver granted by D.20-05-053 to 2050 would
12 turn [that exchange] upside down."³⁰ PG&E's primary request in this
13 proceeding, however, is not an extension of the temporary waiver granted by
14 D.20-05-053. Instead, PG&E is requesting approval for a method of calculating
15 its regulated capital structure that appropriately reflects how its rate base is
16 financed.³¹ The context for the quoted exchange was the hypothetical
17 assumption that the Commission did not grant the securitization application. It
18 does not address the adjustments to the regulated capital structure if the
19 Commission does grant the application. Accordingly, PG&E respectfully
20 requests that the Commission approve the requested capital structure
21 adjustments.

27 See PG&E Prepared Testimony (Updated), Chapter 1, pp. 1-16 to 1-17. The equity charge and corresponding adjustment would be the after-tax amount of the accelerated GAAP accounting charges. Those charges have not yet been determined. As an illustration, if the charges were \$1.8 billion + \$7.59 billion = \$9.39 billion, then the after-tax amount of \$6.76 billion would be added back to equity.

28 CUE supports exclusion of the securitized debt from PG&E's ratemaking capital structure. See CUE-Earle, pp. 8-10.

29 POR OII, William Johnson Examination (Feb. 26, 2020), pp. 267:18-268:1 (indicating that PG&E would plan to request a permanent waiver in the capital structure condition if securitization is not approved).

30 A4NR-Geesman, p. 36.

31 If the Commission does not grant the requested approval, then, in the alternative, PG&E requests an extension of the waiver for the life of the Recovery Bonds. See PG&E Prepared Testimony (Updated), Chapter 1, p. 1-17 footnote 29.

1 **D. Overview of Additional Testimony**

2 **1. Chapter 10, Expert Rebuttal Regarding Customer Benefit (B. Cornell)**

3 This Chapter contains the testimony of expert Brad Cornell, a Professor
4 Emeritus of Finance at the University of California at Los Angeles.
5 Presenting an economic analysis that looks at the expected value of the
6 transaction as a whole, Professor Cornell rebuts intervenors' calculations
7 relating to customer risks and benefits, and opines that the proposed
8 Securitization has a substantial net positive value to PG&E's customers. As
9 part of that analysis, Professor Cornell critiques intervenors' approach to
10 discounting separate payment streams to a net present value.

11 **2. Chapter 11, Rebuttal Regarding Load Growth (J. Berman)**

12 This Chapter responds to TURN's assumption of nearly zero load
13 growth from 2025 to 2050 in connection with the alternative taxable income
14 forecast it presents in prepared testimony and its critique of PG&E's taxable
15 income forecast. The California Energy Commission 2019 forecasts cited
16 by TURN reflect anticipated electric and gas demand through 2030 and do
17 not address load growth beyond 2030. Moreover, there is good reason to
18 anticipate significant increased electric load growth over the long term as
19 California continues to ramp up efforts to meet its ambitious Greenhouse
20 Gas emission reduction targets, including through transportation and
21 building electrification.

22 **3. Appendix A Supplement: Statements of Qualifications**

23 This supplement to Appendix A sets forth the qualifications of the
24 additional witnesses sponsoring rebuttal testimony in support of this
25 application.

26 **4. Appendix B: Data Responses Cited in PG&E Rebuttal Testimony**

27 This appendix contains excerpts of questions and answers in data
28 request responses that are cited in PG&E's Rebuttal Testimony.