



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

TODD GLORIA

MAYOR

July 19, 2021

The Honorable Marybel Batjer, President
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Rulemaking 21-03-010 -- Establishing a 1.5 Percent Procurement Goal for LGBT Business Enterprises

Dear President Batjer:

I write to urge the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to adopt a 1.5 percent participation procurement goal for lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) business enterprises in the Utility Supplier Diversity Program. While it is encouraging that the CPUC is revising its goals to include LGBT enterprises, the current 0.5 percent goal does not live up to the Program's past success or the diversity of our state.

Nearly 40 years ago, the CPUC established its Utility Supplier Diversity Program to create a more diverse and equitable utility sector. Today, more than 35 percent of utility procurement goes to minority, women, and disabled veteran-owned businesses. An important contributor to this success was the CPUC's aspirational procurement goals: 15 percent with minority business enterprises, 5 percent with women business enterprises, and 1.5 percent with disabled veteran business enterprises. Establishing a 1.5 percent goal for LGBT business enterprises would place them on equal footing with other program-supported enterprises.

Perhaps more importantly, a 1.5 percent goal would better reflect the impact of LGBTQ Californians. The National LGBT Chamber of Commerce reports that LGBT business enterprises contribute an estimated \$1.7 trillion to the economy. Given that over 200 of these businesses are in California, LGBT businesses clearly play a critical role in our state's economy. With a 1.5 percent procurement goal, the CPUC can both acknowledge and benefit from these contributions.

I am confident that by implementing this initial 1.5 percent goal, the CPUC will empower increased participation by the LGBT community. This will increase competition, lower prices for all California ratepayers, and help to fulfill the laudable goals of the Utility Supplier Diversity Program. Therefore, I strongly recommend that as part of its commitment to equity, the CPUC join our coalition of partners in supporting a 1.5 percent procurement goal.

Sincerely,

TODD GLORIA

Mayor

City of San Diego