

WE BRING TO THE TABLE THE TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE REGULATIONS AND A PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO HANDLE THE PROCEEDINGS.

CPUC Services

- Advice, counseling and representation in CPUC proceedings: investigations, ratemaking, complaints, and rulemaking
- Coordination with CPUC's safety and ratepayer divisions: Safety and Enforcement Division and Division of Ratepayer Advocates on safety, rulemaking, investigations and complaints
- Joint participation with other intervenors, cities, and stakeholders in investigations, ratemaking, complaints, and rulemaking
- Monitor pipeline safety developments for cities
- Advise and advocacy on compliance for CPUC projects
- Advise clients on construction of renewable energy facilities in compliance with the California Solar Initiative
- Advise landowners on rebuilding and upgrading projects in CPUC proceedings
- Represent cities in Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity matters
- Assist public agencies in filing complaints with the CPUC regarding video franchising and telephone providers
- Assist public agencies on compliance with California Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32) greenhouse gas emissions

With escalating energy and water rates, ever-changing field of technology and the recent tragedy that followed a pipeline explosion in a California community, stakes are higher than ever for our public and private clients who deal with utilities, telecommunications and transportation services. As legal counsel, we play a significant role in helping them maneuver the regulatory proceedings governed by the California Public Utilities Commission.

Meyers Nave represents a range of public entity clients before the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in electric, natural gas, transportation and railroad safety regulatory matters. We counsel clients in CPUC policy and planning proceedings, rulemakings, complaints, enforcement actions and investigations.

For example, soon after 2010 pipeline explosion in the City of San Bruno in which lives were lost and homes were destroyed, the City engaged us as special counsel to handle the CPUC and federal investigations. Our in-house public relations team also advised the City on liability and crisis management issues.

ELECTRIC POWER AND NATURAL GAS

Our attorneys have held positions at major investor-owned utilities and have represented conventional and renewable energy developers, generators and public entities before the CPUC. In addition, we frequently represent operators, working interest owners, mineral and land owners, and public agency clients in the oil and gas industry.

For San Bruno, we represented the city as lead counsel in the following high profile CPUC proceedings involving unprecedented penalties:

- Order Instituting Investigation on the Commission's Own Motion into the Operations and Practices of Pacific Gas and Electric Company with Respect to Facilities Records for its Natural Gas Transmission System Pipelines
- Order Instituting Rulemaking on the Commission's Own Motion to Adopt New Safety and Reliability Regulations for Natural Gas Transmission and Distribution

Pipelines and Related Ratemaking Mechanisms

In addition, Meyers Nave has represented:

- Landowners in a CPUC proceeding involving a major out-of-state generator's request to rebuild and upgrade its substation in Northern California
- A city in a proceeding involving PG&E's request for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing the Construction of the Jefferson-Martin 230 kV Transmission Project
- A public agency in a proceeding involving Southern California Edison request for authority to institute a rate stabilization plan with a rate increase and end of rate freeze tariffs

TRANSPORTATION & RAILROAD SAFETY

Given our statewide presence in California, our attorneys frequently work with city councils, city staff, developers and environmental consultants on transportation projects. CPUC is a key player in approval process of these projects.

To this end, we coordinate development plans, environmental review and necessary CPUC application materials to ensure that proposed railroad crossing construction, relocation or upgrades undertaken by public agencies or developers secure all necessary CPUC approvals.

For example, as City Attorney for the City of Petaluma, our firm secured the necessary CPUC approval to permanently authorize the City's relocation of an at-grade crossing of the railroad tracks of the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District (SMART).

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

On behalf of our city clients, we have filed complaints with the CPUC regarding actions of video franchising and telephone providers in their region. We have also been helping several of these clients weigh their options in CPUC proceedings that will limit rate increases in a difficult economy.

CLIMATE CHANGE REQUIREMENTS

Greenhouse gas emissions legislation, in particular California Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32), has become a crucial component of CPUC proceedings.

To comply with AB 32, utility companies will face uniquely significant challenges to curb greenhouse gas emission. We know how to help utilities identify and choose one or more of the options available to them. For example, we have negotiated and prepared agreements to exchange and/or purchase emission reduction credits—giving us insight into potential cap and trade programs for carbon emissions.

With the California Solar Initiative, which was created by the CPUC and the California Energy Commission, we have advised clients on the construction of renewable energy facilities to meet the standards set by this new initiative.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

We stay abreast of the new regulations set by CPUC. When a development emerges, we send our clients electronic alerts to inform them immediately of the news.

Our team is also involved with such key organizations as the Power Association of Northern California, the Association of Women in Water, Energy and the Environment, and Women in Clean-tech and Sustainability.