

CALIFORNIA CITY-COUNTY STREET LIGHT ASSOCIATION
CAL-SLA

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The California City-County Street Light Association (Cal-SLA) was organized in 1981 to represent cities and counties before the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) on street light rates and to provide information to cities and counties on lighting issues. Currently we address both street lights and traffic signals.

Since 1984 Cal-SLA has intervened and actively worked on every major rate case concerning the three utilities: Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE) and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E). Cal-SLA has saved California cities and counties more than \$100 million in lower electric rates for street lighting.

Street lighting is a unique public service. The CPUC treats street lighting as a separate customer class. Cal-SLA is the only organization that speaks solely for street light customers—cities and counties in California.

In 2007 Cal-SLA was involved in rate cases for all three major electric utilities: PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E. The major general rate case for 2008 will involve Southern California Edison. Cal-SLA submitted expert witness testimony on street light rates and how much of the utility's revenue requirement should be assigned to the street light class. A summary of Cal-SLA's recent activity and achievements are presented below.

REPRESENTATION BEFORE CPUC

Pacific Gas & Electric

Cal-SLA, with other parties, negotiated a settlement of the rate case, and the CPUC adopted the settlement. The general rate case decision shows that street light rates will be reduced by 9%. This results in a \$6.0 million savings to the cities and counties in PG&E service territory.

Southern California Edison

In November 2007 SCE filed a general rate case requesting approval from the CPUC to increase electric rates by \$726 million in 2009, \$216 million in 2010, and \$287 million in 2011. The sum of the three year increases totals \$1.229 billion. Cal-SLA has intervened in this rate case.

In March 2008 SCE filed its second application proposing an overall rate increase of 12.1%, but for street lighting SCE is requesting a 20.5% increase over current rates. Cal-SLA estimates that this could be a \$50.0 million increase to street light customers—cities and counties in SCE’s service territory. Cal-SLA intends to actively participate in this phase of the general rate case to make sure that street light rates are more reasonable and fair to local governments.

In 2006 Cal-SLA was successful in getting the rate increase proposed by SCE reduced from 20% to 3.7%.

San Diego Gas & Electric

In January 2007 SDG&E filed its rate case proposing a \$2.3 million, or 13.8%, increase in street light rates. Cal-SLA intervened and after submitting expert witness testimony there was a negotiated settlement that there would be a zero increase in the overall street light rate. Cal-SLA’s effort at the CPUC will more than likely result in a savings of \$2.3 million to cities and counties in SDG&E’s service territory.

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

Cal-SLA keeps its members informed on developments in street lighting and related issues. Cal-SLA encourages energy efficiency and suitable lighting of public streets and neighborhoods. Through the efficient use of street lighting Cal-SLA seeks to promote sustainable energy. Cal-SLA is a strong proponent of LED traffic signals, which can reduce electric consumption by 80-90%. Cal-SLA provides information on street lighting and traffic signals through workshops and energy conferences.

In our latest conference on April 4, 2008 in Monterey the topics covered included economic uncertainty now facing the state and how it affects local budgets; financing energy efficiency projects for cities, counties, and special districts; energy saving measures in municipal facilities; LED street lighting studies in San José and Oakland; community choice aggregation and related by-products; review of energy legislation; and street light acquisition.

We are currently planning a fall conference in Southern California. This may be a good opportunity for you to share with your colleagues a successful program within your city or county. Please contact Cal-SLA (contact information listed above) if you would like to make a presentation or if there is a particular topic you would like to see addressed at the next conference.