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PRESS RELEASE

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SCE ORDERED TO REFUND RATEPAYERS \$82.9 MILLION FOR FRAUDULENT ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

SAN FRANCISCO, September 14, 2022 – The Public Advocates Office, the consumer advocate at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), commends the CPUC’s decision last week that determined Southern California Edison Company (SCE) mismanaged important energy efficiency (EE) program funds intended for communities most in need. In a big win for ratepayers, SCE must now return over \$82 million to its customers and incur \$19 million in penalties. Given that customer electric bills are already high and expected to go higher, this return to customers could not come at a better time.

The purpose of SCE’s Upstream Lighting Program was to provide their customers with lights bulbs to help make their monthly electric bills more affordable. The program, which ended in early 2020, was a part of a larger CPUC EE initiative that incentivized the state’s utilities to encourage residential customers to purchase energy efficient lightbulbs. Unfortunately, SCE did not deliver on its commitment to California to advance its EE goals or on its commitment to serve and protect its customers. In its decision, the CPUC incorporated many of the Public Advocates Offices’ and The Utility Reform Network’s (TURN) analysis and recommendations to assess penalties because “SCE knowingly and repeatedly submitted information in its energy efficiency annual reports and quarterly filings that it knew or should have known was inaccurate and misleading.”

“Ratepayers were unjustly billed for unaccounted-for light bulbs that were reported by SCE to have been shipped to grocery and discount stores,” said Matt Baker, Director of the Public Advocates Office. “SCE was appropriately held accountable for its continued attempts to mislead the public on energy efficiency cost savings at the expense of ratepayers, the very people programs like this are designed to help.”

The CPUC decision can be found [here](#).

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