



EAH HOUSING

A roof is just the beginning



**Self-Help
Enterprises**



Affordable Housing Development Corporation



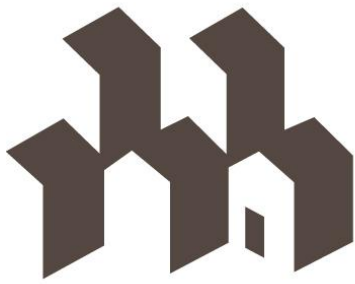


Shaping narrative, building power, and changing policy to end homelessness and create affordable homes for all.



Community
HousingWorks





MidPen

H O U S I N G

Governor Gavin Newsom
Marybel Batjer, President, CPUC
Martha Guzman Aceves, Commissioner, CPUC
Cliff Rechtschaffen, Commissioner, CPUC
Genieve Shiorma, Commissioner, CPUC
Darcie Houck, Commissioner, CPUC

RE: Maintain Net Metering for the Benefit of Low-Income Renters

The undersigned members of the affordable housing community support retaining existing net metering and virtual net metering credits so that more Californians can access solar. With skyrocketing housing costs, energy bills, wildfires, and climate emergencies, we must do everything in our power to bring the benefits of clean energy to more renters and working Californians.

Our organizations are on the front lines of bringing the savings and reliability of rooftop solar to families across the state. The Joint Utility Proposal and others in front of the Commission would make solar more expensive, limiting the number of renters and working families we could serve moving forward. Specifically, California's three investor-owned utilities are proposing that virtual net metering, the bedrock solar policy for multifamily homes, would have two tariffs going forward. For both the general market and income-qualified tariffs, the proposal would slash export compensation and subject rates to annual updates. The result is that most solar proposals for affordable housing would no longer make economic sense, making the benefits of rooftop solar once again inaccessible to low-income renters.

This proposal is completely counter to state goals and investments, including the California Energy Commission's Title 24 mandate and the \$1 billion Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH) program. SOMAH relies on virtual net metering to meet its target to install 300 megawatts of generating capacity on multifamily affordable roofs by 2030. Adopting the IOUs' proposal would make this near-impossible to meet.

The solar savings low-income renters, multifamily tenants, and affordable housing nonprofits are currently receiving bring real value. For instance, farmworkers with irregular work schedules now have reduced energy burdens and predictable savings. For some in our community, savings generated by solar electricity helps build *more* affordable housing that our state desperately needs. For others, savings free up money for common area amenities and services for the community. Please don't destroy this valuable resource.

Rather than putting up barriers, California should double down on solar and storage access so that we can bring more savings and resilience to low-income communities.

According to a recent Lawrence Berkeley National Labs report, intentional policy design is one reason why solar is becoming more accessible across the state. Today, nearly half of all solar in California is in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. Let's uphold this remarkable record and continue to lead the way.

We urge lawmakers who want to create a clean energy future that includes low-income Californians to protect net metering. They should embrace the numerous proposals before the California Public Utilities Commission that would make solar more equitable by expanding net metering to more renters and working Californians. It is imperative that existing solar projects on multifamily affordable properties also maintain full virtual net metering credits.

More rooftop solar for all, including for the nearly 50% of Californians who rent, is the path to helping Californians struggling under the burden of ever-increasing energy bills and power outages.

Sincerely,

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