

Dear Mono County Supervisors,

On behalf of the Antelope Valley Regional Planning Committee and the citizens of the Antelope Valley, we would like to request that the Board provide a letter to the CPUC in opposition of the current rate request before them for Liberty Utility.

The citizens of Antelope Valley experienced a substantial rate increase in the fall of 2023. Although the specifics of the rate increase have been requested of Liberty Utilities, no information of that rate increase have been forthcoming. One senior citizen's documented rate increased from \$256.09 based on 1080 kwh in August of 2023 to \$401.16 based on 1187 kwh in August of 2024.

These rate increases have been particularly difficult for small businesses. One small business's July 2023 electric bill was \$1379.89 and their bill for July 2024 was \$2101.68 with no new usage or equipment. Additionally, rates per kwh are no longer a part of our monthly bills.

The current proposed increase before the CPUC, which would go into effect beginning in 2025, would increase residential rates approximately 22.7% and a small to medium commercial from 20.1%-30.7%. These are on top of the increases which went into effect in the fall of 2023.

The reasons listed by Liberty for the increase is to continue to operate and maintain its distribution system, to continue to implement its wildfire mitigation plan, and maintain sufficient staffing. All of these lofty reasons are on the back of the consumer.

We have included a copy of the request to increase electric rates with this letter.

For a community such as ours which is still recovering from the Mt. Gate fire, we believe these continuous rate increases are prohibiting economic growth and residency.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Katy Buell, Chair  
Antelope Valley Regional Planning Committee