



San Diego Community Power

Rate Development Policy

Policy Number 2022-12 approved at Board Meeting on November 17, 2022

Effective Date: November 17, 2022

BACKGROUND:

San Diego Community Power (SDCP) advocates for ratepayers by providing a choice of electricity providers and shifting control of local energy decisions from profit-driven, incumbent utility into the hands of residents and businesses located in our service jurisdiction. This creates competition in rates that benefits customers, increased transparency and ensures a better overall customer experience.

PURPOSE

This policy provides the framework for SDCP's Board of Directors and staff to ensure SDCP's rate design, development and implementation process remains transparent, fiscally responsible and centered on the customer.

As a public not-for-profit agency, SDCP must, at a minimum, set rates to recover costs associated with debt service and the purchase of power and operational costs. It is in the best interest of SDCP and its customers to design and implement rates that meet revenue requirements as well as targeted reserves, while maintaining rate competitiveness, stability and long-term financial viability.

GENERAL CRITERIA

SDCP has established various objectives and priorities that shall be considered as part of SDCP's rate design process. SDCP's rate setting objectives are as follows:

1. **Cost Recovery**: rates must be sufficient to recover all expenses, debt service and other expenditure requirements.
2. **Reserves**: rates must be sufficient to build prudent reserves in line with [SDCP's Reserve Policy](#), which will provide funds to cover unanticipated expenditures, secure favorable terms with vendors, secure a standalone investment-grade credit rating and meet strategic objectives.
3. **Rate Competitiveness and Customer Value**: rates must allow SDCP to successfully compete to retain and attract customers while offering superior electricity service offerings with higher renewable content compared to the incumbent investor-owned utility.
4. **Rate Stability**: rate changes should be minimized to reduce customer bill impacts with a preference for annual rate adjustments. Additionally, a Rate Stabilization Fund may be established and over time sufficiently funded to help mitigate significant swings in rates.

5. **Equity among customers:** rate difference among customers should be justified by differences in usage characteristics and/or cost of service. Additionally, to the extent possible, rates shall be equalized from a value proposition perspective among customers enrolled during different Power Charge Adjustment Indifference (PCIA) Vintage Years.
6. **Rate Structures:** as new rates are developed, emphasis shall be put on rate-design simplicity and comparability as well as overall customer experience. SDCP reserves the right to design pilot rates as reviewed and approved by the Board.
7. **Transparency:** SDCP's Board will review and approve rates at an open and public meeting held in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act. SDCP shall post a copy of the adopted rates in both English and Spanish on its website within 14 calendar days of approval or by the rates' effective date, whichever is sooner. SDCP shall also make any rate design documents promptly available upon request under the California Public Records Act.
8. **Cost Shifting:** SDCP shall avoid, to the best of its ability, cost shifting between customer classes.
9. **Cost of Service:** SDCP may explore a cost-of-service model for rate design. Cost-of-service studies are used to determine the total costs incurred by a utility in providing service to its customers and the allocation of those costs through rates back to customer classes. Revenue collected from each customer class then may be compared with that class's cost responsibility to determine the extent to which each class is reimbursing the utility for the costs it incurred in providing service.

SDCP's RATE SETTING TIMELINE

SDG&E's Energy Resource Recovery Account (ERRA) application is usually approved by the CPUC in December, which provides the trajectory of bundled service commodity rates including the above market costs and other fees¹ that will be passed on from SDG&E to all customers. Once the ERRA is approved, SDCP staff shall present proposed rates for the year to the Board in January of each year for review, deliberation and approval to be effective no later than February 15. With ever-changing market developments and regulatory climate, there may be instances where SDCP staff also proposes intra-year changes to rates.

To the greatest extent possible, SDCP's rates will be competitive with SDG&E's rates. With each SDG&E and SDCP rate change, both entities are required to work collaboratively to co-publish and post a Joint Rate Comparison on their respective websites to allow customers to easily see how rates compare.

IMPLEMENTATION OF SDCP's RATES

SDCP's rate setting process is and will always be open and transparent to the public. SDCP's Board of Directors, which is composed of a representative from each of its member agencies, will set rates according to agreed-upon strategic goals of SDCP and the cost of service.

Prior to the implementation of new rates, the Board will review and deliberate the proposed rates in a public setting and take comments from the public.

Once the Board approves proposed rates, the rates will be published on SDCP's website in advance of their effective date, giving customers time to compare, budget and better understand what to expect on their bills going forward. For more information on SDCP's rates, visit

<https://sdcommunitypower.org/billing-rates/residential-rates/> for residential rates or

<https://sdcommunitypower.org/billing-rates/commercial-rates/> for commercial rates.

¹ Fees passed on by SDG&E to "departing load" customers such as SDCP include the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) and Franchise Fees. The PCIA is a charge to ensure that both SDG&E customers and those who have left SDG&E service to purchase electricity from other providers pay for the above market costs for electric generation resources that were procured by SDG&E on their behalf. "Above market" refers to expenditures for generation resources that cannot be fully recovered through sales of these resources at current market prices.

The Franchise Fee is a surcharge applied to electricity transported over SDG&E systems that are constructed in public streets and highways. SDG&E collects the surcharge from customers and remits them to the appropriate municipality. The surcharge is charged equally to customers regardless of who provides their electric generation.

The PCIA and the SDG&E commodity portion of the Franchise Fee are included within the generation rate of SDG&E's standard bundled service. In other words, they are paid by all customers, regardless of who provides their electricity generation.