RICARDO LARA
CALIFORNIA INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

August 12. 2026

Subject: Notice of New Regulation Effective August 11, 2026.

On August 11, 2026 the California Office of Administrative Law approved a new regulation regarding Intervenor and Administrative Hearing Bureau Fairness and Accountability. The regulation has been filed with the Secretary of State's Office and is effective August 11, 2026

You are receiving this email because you are currently eligible to participate as an intervenor or participant before the California Department of Insurance in certain types of proceedings involving Proposition 103.

To enhance transparency and consumer protection, regulatory changes as part of this regulation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Clarifying that administrative law judges ("ALJs") and the Administrative Hearing Bureau ("AHB") do not have jurisdiction over complete rate applications until the Insurance Commissioner either commences a rate hearing by issuing a notice of hearing or expressly delegates the matter to AHB.

- Requiring ALJs provide a public update on the status of proceedings at least every 30 days.

- Securing the right of intervenors to amend their petition to intervene at any time, so long as the amendment does not cause undue delay in the proceeding.

- Prohibiting intervenors from advocating on issues not raised in the petition to intervene without a showing of good cause.

- Requiring the Department's Public Advisor to maintain and update intervenor-related information on a public webpage.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
PROTECT • PREVENT • PRESERVE
1901 Harrison Street, 6th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
Tel: 415-538-4126
Teresa.campbell@insurance.ca.gov

- Specifying that the Commissioner will implement the statutory requirement that awarded fees be reasonable, by reducing the amount awarded to a reasonable amount based on whether the intervenor's services were "reasonably necessary to a fair resolution of the matter" at the time the services were performed.

- Providing a clearer definition of duplication that concerns the reasonableness of the intervenor fees awarded.

- Clarifying that "reasonable advocacy and witness fees and expenses" means that an intervenor's work is not duplicative, cumulative, wasteful, excessive, or non-substantive.

- Requiring non-profit intervenor groups (1) submit the most recently filed annual information return containing standardized information regarding its mission, governance, finances, and executive compensation (e.g. current IRS Form 990) when requesting a finding of eligibility to seek compensation; (2) disclose all actual or potential conflicts of interest within the past 24 months; and, (3) describe, with evidence, how they ascertain consumer views at large.

The full text of the final regulation can be found here and I encourage you to read it in its entirety.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me or the Department's Office of the Public Advisor.

TERESA R. CAMPBELL
General Counsel