

Editorial: Florio has better idea on electricity rates

By The Bee Editorial
Board

The California Public Utilities Commission could vote as soon as Thursday on changing the pricing tiers for residential electricity provided by Pacific Gas & Electric Co., Southern California Edison Co., and San Diego Gas & Electric Co.

The commission will hear two proposals — one favored by CPUC President Michael Picker and the mammoth power providers that would result in two tiers, instead of the current four, and add a monthly fixed charge of \$5 or \$10 depending on household income.

Picker's proposal tilts too far in favor of energy guzzlers. Says The Utility Reform Network: "This would mean higher bills for about 75% of customers in the coming years. The vast majority of rate reductions would go to the top 5% of users in each climate zone."

CPUC Commissioner Mike Florio has a three-tier proposal that provides relief for people with big electricity bills but rewards conservation and protects low- and moderate-income ratepayers. Instead of a fixed monthly charge to help pay for the electrical grid, Florio's plan would set a minimum bill of \$10 so that solar users contribute to grid maintenance.

Florio's proposal is better. The commission should adopt it.