

**Southern California Joint Pole Committee**

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October 15, 2025

A meeting of the **ad hoc Authorized Cost Elements Committee** took place on the above date, at 11:09 a.m. via teleconference. Those in attendance were:

Mr. Nick Van Stryk	City of Vernon (Petrelli Electric)
Mr. John Bacon	City of Los Angeles
Mr. Lex Treepaisan	Frontier Communications
Ms. April DeBarge	Southern California Edison
Ms. Carla Stephen	Southern California Edison
Ms. Shelby Mulvehill	Southern California Edison
Ms. Marisol Bailey	Southern California Edison
Mr. Micheal Pearson	Southern California Edison
Mr. Samuel Picazo	Southern California Edison
Mr. Kevin Flores	Southern California Edison
Mr. Todd Dailey	AT&T California
Ms. Kay Black	AT&T California
Mr. Aaron Cochran	AT&T California
Mr. Barry Consulter	AT&T California
Mr. Robert Stanard	AT&T California
Ms. Joy Young	AT&T California
Ms. Veronica Casanova	AT&T California
Ms. Aarize Dizon	Crown Castle NG West Inc.
Ms. Jacqueline Costa	Crown Castle NG West Inc.
Mr. Jeremy Effinger	Crown Castle NG West Inc.
Mr. James Todaro	Verizon Wireless
Mr. Alex Parra	City of Riverside
Mr. Edward Khashadourian	City of Glendale
Mr. Salvador Zambrano	City of Burbank
Ms. Katia Muradian	City of Pasadena
Ms. Lynne LaFrenais	Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc.
Mr. David Navar	City of Colton
Mr. Ben Coffey	City of Banning
Ms. Yesenia Delgado	Time-Warner Cable
Ms. Alicia Smith	Sprint Nextel/Sprint Communications
Ms. Shawn Henderson	T-Mobile USA
Ms. Linda McLean	Extenet Systems
Ms. Heidi Seropian	Extenet Systems
Ms. Tamara Zaki	Boldyn Networks US LLC
Ms. Angela Pranata	Committee Staff
Ms. Kathleen Allen	Committee Staff

Mr. Van Stryk called the meeting to order at **11:09 a.m.**

### **Agenda Item 1 – Review of prior month’s minutes**

Mr. Van Stryk opened the meeting by asking if there were any questions or concerns regarding the previous month’s meeting minutes. No members commented or expressed any concerns.

### **Agenda Item 2 – Item 1801: Review of Pole Price Calculations (K. Black, AT&T California - 2/19/2025)**

- Action item: Ms. Black to revise documents and distribute to members of the Authorized Costs Committee.

Ms. Black requested that the item be placed on hold for one to two months, which was agreed upon by the members.

Ms. DeBarge raised a question regarding the frequency of pole price updates, inquiring whether there was interest among the members in potentially extending the update cycle. She proposed a five-year interval for updating pole prices. Mr. Van Stryk responded that while the concept was feasible, it would depend on various factors, including the difficulty of predicting labor and material costs over such a long period. He illustrated this by referencing pre-pandemic pricing and the lack of updates in subsequent years, which could result in outdated reimbursement figures.

Mr. Van Stryk further noted that inflation had been significant during those years, which could adversely affect reimbursement accuracy. Ms. Pranata then proposed a two-year update cycle to align with the authorized costs update schedule. Some members expressed agreement with the suggestion. Ms. Black mentioned that AT&T California was considering rolling forward last year’s prices due to the volume of work involved. She stated that using last year’s prices was also an option available to other members.

Mr. Treepaisan contributed insights from discussions held in Northern California, suggesting the use of a multiplier such as the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or the Handy Whitman Index to adjust prices incrementally over time. He emphasized that while not an exact science, such mechanisms could reduce the burden of recalculating prices annually. He proposed a three-to-five-year deep dive with annual adjustments based on inflation or other significant changes, allowing for flexibility in extraordinary circumstances.

Ms. DeBarge stated that SCE’s internal evaluations might result in using prior year pole prices if no significant changes were observed. Mr. Van Stryk stated that he would continue performing annual pole price updates due to notable fluctuations in material and labor costs. He cited examples from recent years in which pole prices initially increased and then decreased, while labor costs rose. He emphasized that although the overall price might appear unchanged, the underlying cost components had shifted.

Ms. DeBarge shared similar observations from her own analysis, noting that labor costs had increased while material costs remained stable. She expressed uncertainty about the extent of changes for the current year and questioned whether the effort required to update pole prices was justified. Mr. Van Stryk explained that for him, the process involved sending an email and completing the form in half a day, but acknowledged that it could be more complex for larger organizations. Ms. DeBarge acknowledged the scale and complexity of the task for SCE.

Ms. Black raised a point regarding the Handy Whitman Index, noting that there was no member in the north who subscribed to or received data from the index. She had attempted to contact the organization to request data specific to utility poles but was unsuccessful due to not being a member. She encouraged others to reach out or assist in obtaining more targeted information.

Mr. Van Stryk speculated that the index might derive its data from regulatory sources. Ms. Black commented that the Handy Whitman Index is a respected industry tool but reiterated her difficulty in obtaining specific data. Mr. Treepaisan recalled that the index had previously shown higher percentage increases than the CPI and offered to investigate further.

Mr. Van Stryk commented that SCE might be a member, as the Handy Whitman Index was included in their forecast submitted to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

### **Agenda Item 3 – Item 1802: Review of Authorized Cost Calculations (K. Black, AT&T California - 2/19/2025) – ON HOLD**

This item was placed on hold until further discussions on pole prices are completed.

### **Agenda Items 4 - Review of Pole Prices (Yearly – Standing Agenda/Placeholder)**

Mr. Van Stryk inquired whether there were any questions regarding the definitions or the process for completing the pole prices spreadsheet. As no questions or comments were raised by the members, Mr. Van Stryk concluded that all members should be able to submit their pole prices by October 31, 2025.

### **Agenda Item 5 - Review of Authorized Costs (Every two years – Standing Agenda/Placeholder)**

The committee will reopen this item in September 2026.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Miscellaneous / New Item Numbers**

Mr. Van Stryk asked if there were any other miscellaneous items. There were no questions or comments.

### **Agenda Item 7 – Review of Action Items**

- Members are to submit the 2026 Pole Price Matrix to Ms. Pranata by October 31, 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2025.

Transcribed by Angela Pranata – Committee Staff