

Vice President, CFO, and Controller 300 Lakeside Drive Oakland, CA 94612

RECEIVED APR 10 2023

By Certified U.S. Mail, Return Receipt Requested: 7022 2410 0001 9154 7603

April 5, 2023

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors County of Humboldt 825 5th Street, Room 111 Eureka, CA 95501

> Re: Claim for Refund of Property Taxes Paid Claimant: Pacific Gas and Electric Company Tax Year: 2018-2019 Assessment #: 799-000-001-000

To the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Humboldt:

Pacific Gas and Electric Company hereby claims a refund of property taxes paid, pursuant to Division 1, Part 9, Chapter 5, Article 1 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code sections 5096 and 5097, et seq., erroneously and illegally assessed against Claimant by the County of Humboldt, California for Tax Year 2018-2019, and erroneously and illegally collected from Claimant by the County Tax Collector for that Tax Year.

Claimant requests that an order of the Board of Supervisors be issued directing the proper officials of the County of Humboldt to refund to Claimant the sum of \$2,087,377 for property taxes levied on and paid by Claimant to the Humboldt County Tax Collector for Tax Year 2018-2019, including interest thereon and attorney's fees and costs as required by law, statute, or rule.

In support of this Claim for Refund, Claimant states:

 Claimant is and at all times herein mentioned was a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of California, with its principal place of business located at 300 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, California. Clerk of the Board of Supervisors County of Humboldt April 5, 2023 Page 2

- 2. For Tax Year 2018-2019, the California State Board of Equalization determined the assessed value of Claimant's unitary and nonoperating California property pursuant to its authority under Article XIII, section 19 of the California Constitution and of Revenue and Taxation Code section 721. Pursuant to its authority under Revenue and Taxation Code section 756, the State Board of Equalization transmitted assessment roll values showing Claimant's unitary and nonoperating property in the County of Humboldt. On the basis of this assessment, unitary taxes were calculated and levied on Claimant's property in the County of Humboldt for the Tax Year 2018-2019 in the sum of \$7,443,887.94 (Exhibit 1). Claimant paid these taxes in full on or about December 10, 2018 and April 10, 2019 (Exhibit 2).
- 3. Claimant is entitled to a refund of a portion of these taxes in the amount of \$2,087,377, plus appropriate interest, on grounds that such taxes were illegally assessed and levied, and/or erroneously and illegally collected, for the following reasons:
  - a. The property tax rate used to compute Claimant's property taxes for Tax Year 2018-2019 exceeded the rate applied in the same Tax Year to other locally-assessed property in the County of Humboldt in violation of Article XIII, section 19 of the California Constitution and *ITT World Communications v. City and County of San Francisco*, 37 Cal. 3d 859 (1985).
  - b. The property tax assessment against Claimant's property in the County of Humboldt and the taxes collected on that assessment, which were assessed and collected pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code section 100(b)(2), violated Article XIII, section 1 of the California Constitution ("Uniformity Clause").
  - c. The property tax assessment against Claimant's property in the County of Humboldt and the taxes collected on that assessment, which were assessed and collected pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code section 100(b)(2), violated the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution ("Equal Protection Clause").
  - d. The taxes collected on Claimant's property in the County of Humboldt were in excess of the amount permitted under Article XIIIA, section 2(a) of the California Constitution ("Proposition 13").

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors County of Humboldt April 5, 2023 Page 3

- e. If, in the future, Claimant identifies additional grounds for its Claim for Refund herein, Claimant reserves its right to supplement or amend this Claim for Refund to state additional facts to support such grounds.
- 4. Claimant has duly and timely paid all property taxes assessed and levied by the County of Humboldt. No refund of the aforementioned taxes, or any part thereof, has been previously paid to Claimant.

If you have questions, please contact Becky Zhu directly by email at becky.zhu@pge.com. Please send all correspondence directly to Becky Zhu, Attention: Tax Department, 300 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, California, 94612.

Respectfully submitted,

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

By: 🚬 Stephanie Williams

Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Controller

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### VERIFICATION

## STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

I, Stephanie Williams, am the Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Controller for Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Claimant in the foregoing Claim for Refund ("Claim"). I am authorized to make this Verification for and on behalf of Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

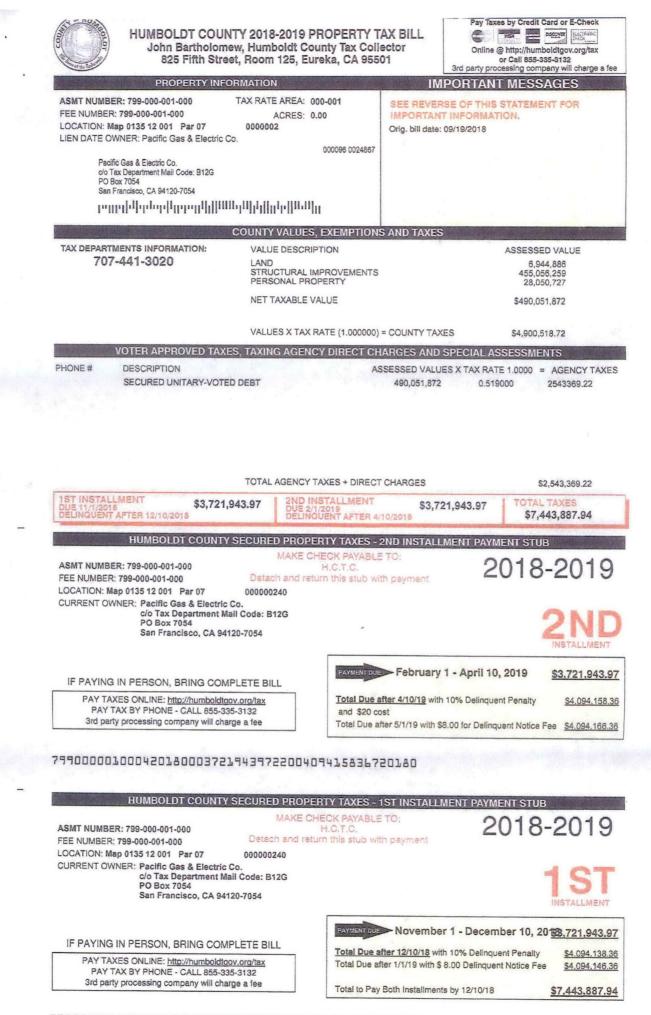
I have read the foregoing Claim and know its contents. I am informed and believe, and on that basis allege, that the matters stated in the Claim are true.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on (date) 4523, in Danville, California.

Stephanie Williams

# EXHIBIT 1



# EXHIBIT 2

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Tax Department 300 Lakeside Drive Oakland, CA 94612

# Tax Year 2018-2019 Property Tax Proof of Payment

Note: Included below are screen shots of PG&E's accounting system indicating the clearing of the payment made by electronic transfer.

1<sup>st</sup> Installment: \$3,721,943.97

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Installment: \$3,721,943.97

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Tax Department 300 Lakeside Drive Oakland, CA 94612

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Humboldt County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors 825 5th Street, Room 111 Eureka, CA 95501

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