

# Keeping the Focus on Utility Bill Affordability

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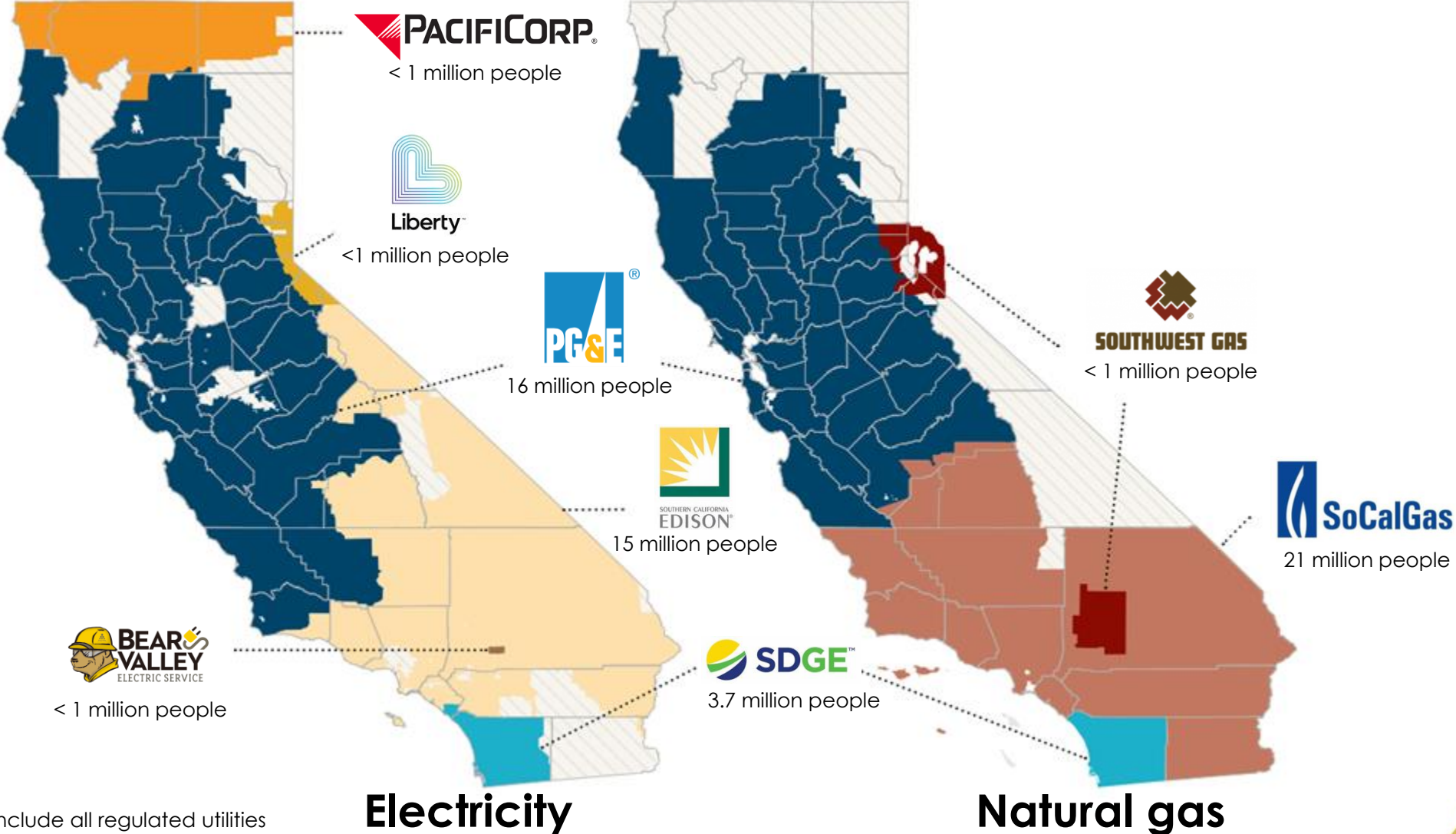


*The Public*  
ADVOCATES  
OFFICE

## Who we are




- Independent public advocate for affordable, safe, and reliable utility services across the **energy** (electricity & natural gas), **water** and **communications** sectors pursuant to PU Code Section 309.5.
- Our team of analysts, engineers, attorneys holistically evaluates investor-owned utility operations, proposals, and records – and are often the only entity that does so in their entirety.
- We develop unbiased recommendations for policymakers to consider when making decisions that impact customers, with a focus on rates.

# CPUC ratemaking impacts millions of Californians

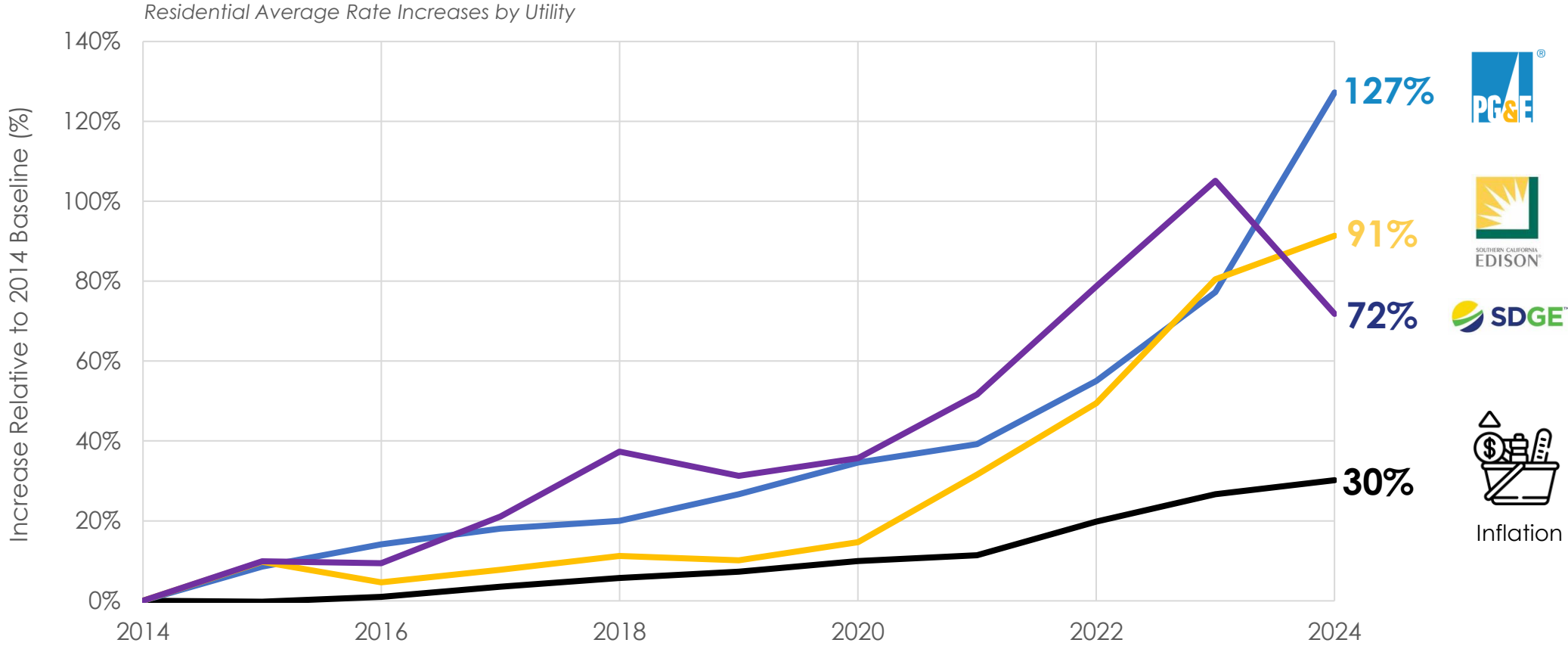


\*Note: the map does not include all regulated utilities

# Rate increases strain the **2+ million** households already behind on their bills

	# of Customers in Arrears	% of Customers in Arrears	Average Amount Owed
	1,215,433	22%	\$550
	876,121	19%	\$986
	355,551	26%	\$737
<b>Combined</b>	<b>2,447,105</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>\$733</b>

# California electric rates are outpacing inflation



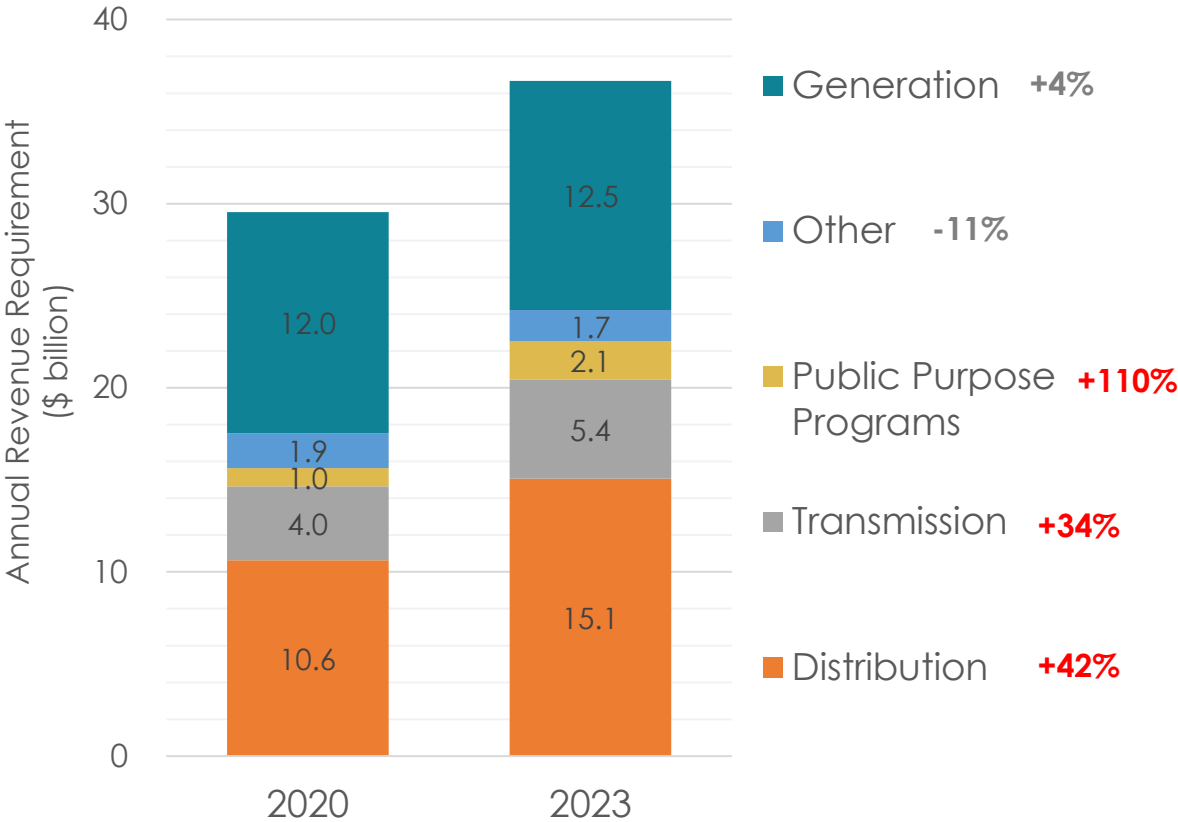
Inflation

2024 USA Average Values Based on Q3 2023 data, the latest for which there was available information at the time of publication. Source: Investor-Owned Utility Advice Letters (California Rates) & Consumer Price Index (Inflation)

# Costs unrelated to consumption are going up

## What are customer bills paying for?

Combined revenue requirement (PG&E, SCE, SDG&E)



### Notable Cost Drivers

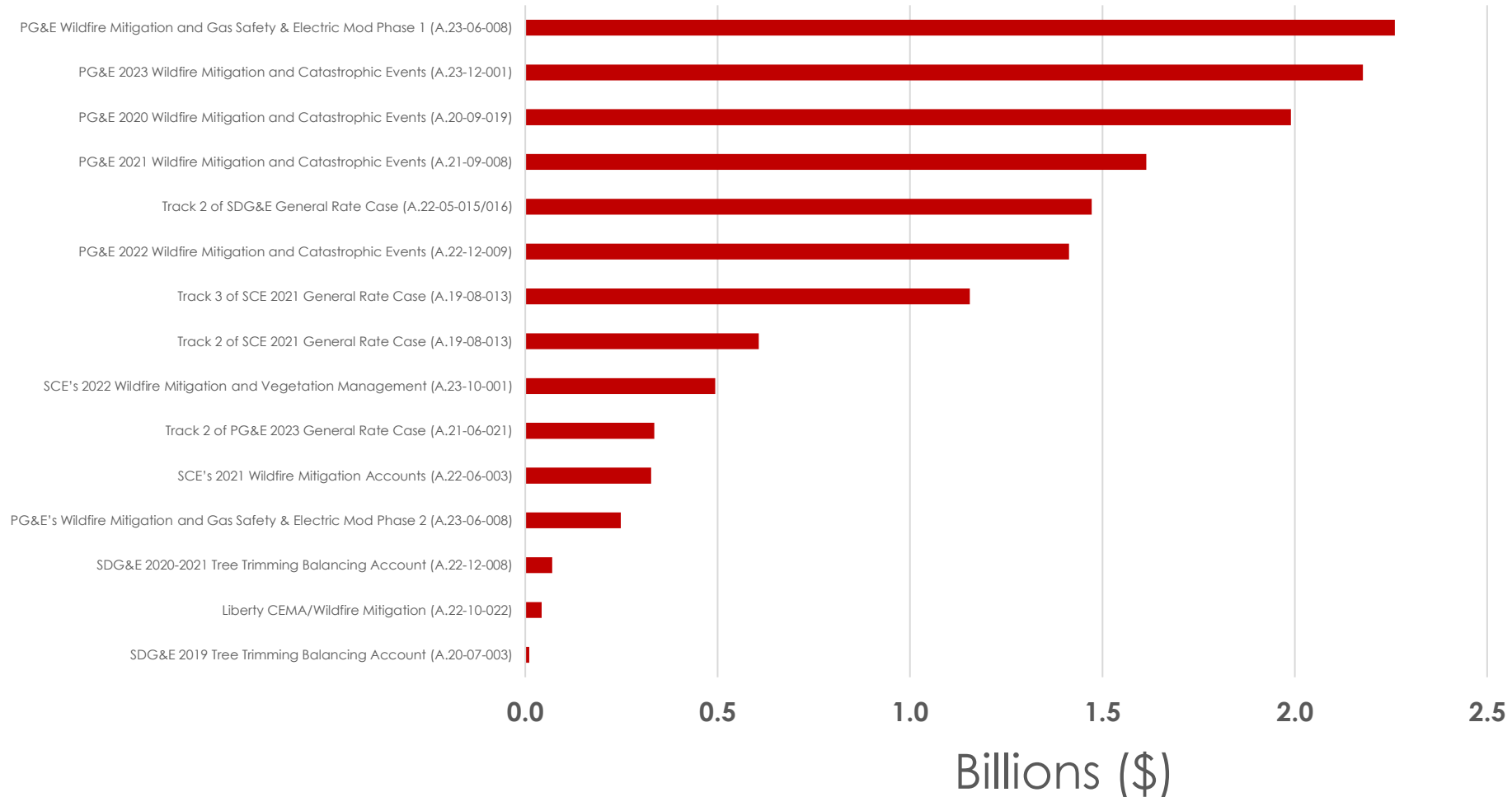
- Wildfire-related expenses
- Distribution system maintenance & upgrades
- Transmission buildout

### Notable Rate Drivers

- Rate-based subsidies

Source: California Public Utilities Commission. Recreated from data in 2023 Senate Bill 695 Report: Report to the Governor and Legislature on Actions to Limit Utility Cost and Rate Increases Pursuant to PUC Code Section 913.1. (May 2023)

# \$14+ billion of utility wildfire-related requests since 2020



Note: These represent the major, incremental wildfire-related applications to increase revenue requirements reviewed by the Public Advocates Office



### **More information**

We are a State entity charged with helping ensure Californians are represented at the California Public Utilities Commission and in other forums. We develop recommendations that advance the state's energy and climate goals in the most affordable ways for ratepayers.

Visit our website at [www.publicadvocates.cpuc.gov](http://www.publicadvocates.cpuc.gov)