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## **CFEE SEMINAR**

### ***Water, Electricity, and Gas - Who Pays?***

**Wednesday, June 10th**

**11:00am - 12:15pm**

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***Our distinguished guest speakers:***

- ***Martha Guzman Aceves***, Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission
- ***Jennifer Davidson***, Chief Financial Officer, Sacramento Municipal Utility District
- ***Emily Lam***, Director, Policy and Government Affairs, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

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## AGENDA

As the economy grinded to a halt this spring and millions of Californians found themselves out of work, utility companies and local agencies offered unprecedented flexibility to help customers cope with bills that began to pile up for essential services like energy and water. Those private utilities regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission were also mandated to provide utility service regardless of payment by suspending the ability to disconnect service for twelve months. Preventing further harm to those Californians already severely impacted by COVID-19 is a humane and stabilizing response but the buck stops somewhere.

As we very slowly restart our debilitated economy when should these bills become due and who ultimately will end up paying? This Seminar will consider how policymakers can help our most vulnerable households and small businesses while enabling the continuity of utilities that keep our lights on, our water running, and natural gas flowing.

- How many consumers are not paying their bills during this period of leniency? How are utilities adapting to declining revenues?
  - Can existing payment assistance programs absorb the increase in qualifying customers?
  - How many of these deferred payments are expected to be successfully collected once temporary measures are lifted?
  - Should we consider permanently ending the practice of service disconnections that can result from non-payment? Who would pay for delinquent bills if this became our new normal?
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After speakers deliver their brief remarks, CFEE President Jay Hansen will facilitate a Q&A between speakers and you, our registered Seminar participants. If you have questions about the Seminar please email Wyatt Lundy at [wyatt@cfee.net](mailto:wyatt@cfee.net).

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### **Seminar Guidelines**

- **Name:** Please input your full name and organization when you join by clicking on the three dots in the upper right hand corner. Our guests and other participants appreciate knowing who you are.
- **Submitting Questions:** You may 1) type your questions into the chat window or 2) use the "raise your hand" function on Zoom to indicate you would like to ask your question directly and you will be called on.
- **Video and Audio:** As you enter the Seminar, your audio will be turned off and the video on. As you are called on to ask a question the audio can be turned on. You may choose to turn off your video feature if you would like.
- **Chatham House Rule - Cyber Edition:** Those of you familiar with CFEE conferences are aware of the time-honored "Chatham House Rule" by which the Foundation operates. This means specific comments are not to be attributed to any one person in the goal of promoting a more candid exchange of knowledge and insights. At this time video conferencing is an inherently less private forum and confidentiality is not guaranteed; however, we ask that you help us to uphold our long and respected tradition. While we may make changes at subsequent Seminars, this Seminar will not be recorded. Accordingly, we ask you not to record the Seminar in any fashion or to share specific remarks. We appreciate you respecting and supporting the Chatham House Rule.

