SEMPRA ENERGY JAMES F. WALSH, Esq. (CSB No. 58565) BETH EAGLESON, Esq. (CSB No. 118733) 101 Ash Street, 12th Floor San Diego, CA 92101-3017 Telephone (619) 699-5029 Attorneys for Counter-Claimant and Intervenor San Diego Gas & Electric Company 5 6 AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION **DALLAS OFFICE** 8 RELIANT ENERGY POWER GENERATION, INC., et al., CASE NO. 7119829599 10 Claimants. 11 COMMENTS OF COUNTER-CLAIMANTS AND VS. 12 INTERVENORS, SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY AND PACIFIC GAS & CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT SYSTEM 13 **ELECTRIC COMPANY, ON CALIFORNIA** OPERATOR CORPORATION, et al., INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR'S 14 MOTION TO STRIKE SOUTHERN Respondents. 15 CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY'S DEMAND FOR ARBITRATION 16 17 18 SAN DIEGO GAS AND ELECTRIC 19 COMPANY, et al., 20 Counter-Claimants. 21 VS. 22 CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR CORPORATION, a California 23 Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation; and 24 DOES 1-500, Counter-Respondents. 25 26 Counter-Claimants and Intervenors, SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY 27 ("SDG&E") and PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY ("PG&E"), have expressed their views 28 COMMENTS OF COUNTER-CLAIMANTS AND INTERVENORS, SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY AND PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY, ON CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR'S MOTION TO STRIKE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY'S DEMAND FOR ARBITRATION #61690

about Claimant RELIANT ENERY POWER GENERATION, INC.'s ("RELIANT") and Respondent and Counter-Respondent CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR

CORPORATION'S ("CAISO") position that they are not entitled to participate in any meaningful way in a dispute that directly implicates their financial interests. However, CAISO'S Motion to Strike Southern California Edison'S ("SCE") Demand for Arbitration and conversations which have occurred between the parties during the past week, require additional comments from SDG&E and PG&E on several issues.

A. <u>Failure To Serve SDG&E And PG&E With CAISO's Partial Opposition To Their Petition For Intervention.</u>

Until the service upon them of CAISO's Motion to Strike Edison's Demand for Arbitration, SDG&E and PG&E were completely unaware that any opposition to their intervention in this proceeding had been filed. Previously, SDG&E and PG&E have expressed their view that once they filed Counter-Claims, they became parties to the dispute, entitled to full participation, including service of all letters and pleadings. This, however, has not been the position of the American Arbitration Association ("AAA"), which has maintained that until a new party becomes an intervenor, information about the case may not be disclosed.

Regardless of which view is correct, it cannot possibly be correct that objections to an intervention would not be served upon the party who intervened! A true objection (which CAISO's admittedly would not be) would have engaged SDG&E and PG&E in a process before an arbitrator to determine their status – how can it be that they would not even be made aware of this?

It is understood that, generally, arbitration through the AAA is a private process. However, this policy has no application to proceedings before CAISO. The tariffs require publication of

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documents on CAISO's public website. Further, as the parties have already learned in this matter, it is the publication on the website which triggers action by anyone involved in the dispute.

Thus, it is certainly inequitable and nonsensical to allow AAA procedures to interfere with the rights of intervenors to proper notice of objections to their intervention.

B. SDG&E And PG&E's Status As Intervenors.

Given CAISO's failure to make a substantive objection to SDG&E, PG&E and SCE's Petitions for Intervention, they have been intervenors for quite some time. In fact, in its Partial Objection to Intervention, apparently filed with AAA on September 9, 1999, it states "The ISO has no objection to the intervention of PG&E, SDG&E or Edison." Its "partial objection" is really in the nature of affirmative defenses to claims made by each of the three intervenors. For reasons unknown to SDG&E and PG&E, however, it now appears that CAISO is attempting to evade its failure to object on a substantive basis when it had an opportunity to do so.

In footnote 2 of its Motion to Strike, CAISO baldly asserts that since no arbitrator has yet been selected and there has been no ruling on SCE's Petition for Intervention, SCE therefore is not an intervenor. In recent conversations with counsel for CAISO, SDG&E and PG&E have been informed that it takes this position as to their status as intervenors, as well. This position is unsupportable.

Even had CAISO not already conceded the propriety of intervention, its current position is directly contrary to its own tariff. Supplemental Procedure 3.3 provides for automatic intervention unless an objection is made within fifteen days. The AAA correctly viewed CAISO's "partial objection" for what it was, comments upon the intervention and not a substantive objection. As such, the AAA correctly viewed SDG&E and PG&E as intervenors upon expiration of the fifteen day comment period. CAISO cannot avoid this result.

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CAISO's attempt to alter the intervenors' status would make no sense, except for its current context. Footnote 2 concedes what the intervenors know and have argued – they are entitled to participate in the selection of the arbitrator for this matter. CAISO evidently figures the only way it can avoid this result is to avoid having intervenors.

Obviously, it is too late to make this argument with regard to SDG&E and PG&E. Their intervention is uncontested. Moreover, as set forth in previous filings, they have been entitled to participate in this process since the filing of their Counter-Claim, to which, to the best of their knowledge, no objection has ever been filed.

Both RELIANT and CAISO continue to ignore the status of SDG&E and PG&E as proper parties to this dispute, who are entitled to participate in the arbitrator selection. CAISO and RELIANT have continued to engage in the single arbitrator selection process set forth in Tariff 13.3.1.2 without any communication with, let alone input from, SDG&E and PG&E. This total disregard for the rights the Counter-Claimants and intervenors should not be allowed to continue.

CAISO, and perhaps RELIANT, will argue that Tariff 13.3.1.2 provides that if a single arbitrator cannot be chosen, each party shall designate a party arbitrator, and that "these two arbitrators" will choose a third. From this, CAISO concludes that only two parties will control any dispute, and that the rest are mere hangers-on, who must be content with whatever fate befalls them. This, of course, is not the purpose of arbitration. If the parties who have been truly injured by CAISO's improper administration of payments have no right to meaningful participation in this process, then it is a sham.

AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION **DALLAS OFFICE**

Title of Case (Abbreviated):

Reliant Energy, et. al. v. California Independent System Operator Corporation, et. al.

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Hearing Date-Time-Dept:

Case Number:

Attornev(s) for:

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE VIA FACSIMILE and U.S. MAIL

I, TERESA L. GONZALEZ, declare that: I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the action; I am employed in, or am a resident of the County of San Diego, California; where the mailing occurs; and my business address is 101 Ash Street, 12th Floor, San Diego, California, 92101-3017. I further declare that I am readily familiar with the business practice of collection and processing of correspondence via U.S. Mail, pursuant to which practice the correspondence will be delivered via Facsimile and/or U.S. Mail this same day in the ordinary course of business. I caused to be served via facsimile and/or U.S. Mail the following document(s): COMMENTS OF COUNTER-CLAIMANTS AND INTERVENORS, SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY AND PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY, ON CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR'S MOTION TO STRIKE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY'S DEMAND FOR ARBITRATION by placing a copy thereof in a separate envelope for each addressee:

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I then sealed each envelope and sent via U.S. mail, and placed each for collection and mailing on November 1, 1999, at San Diego, California, following ordinary business practices.

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

Executed on November 1, 1999, at San Diego, California.

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