

CPUC Public Participation Hearings

Background

In March 2023, AT&T submitted two applications to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to start the process for an orderly transition to IP-enabled wireless and fiber networks.

One of AT&T’s CPUC applications, if approved, would remove AT&T’s obligation under California law to provide traditional phone service in a large portion of our service territory in California – known as Carrier of Last Resort (COLR). AT&T’s COLR obligation means that we must provide traditional landline phone service to any potential customer in our service territory. However, the COLR obligation no longer makes sense given that almost everyone in AT&T California’s service territory can choose among several comparable or lower-priced wireline and wireless alternatives to traditional telephone landlines for voice service.

Why this is Important

AT&T believes that it’s imperative all California consumers have access to modern communications services and technologies, and our ongoing, significant investments complemented by those of other providers are establishing a modern communications infrastructure across the state. By transitioning away from the underutilized landline telephone network, we can invest more resources in high-speed fiber-based infrastructure to expand broadband access and adoption.

If the CPUC approves AT&T’s applications as proposed:

- AT&T would continue providing traditional landline phone service to existing customers until all federal and state regulatory processes are completed. AT&T has also committed to providing service to existing traditional landline phone customers for at least six months after the CPUC approves the application for COLR relief.
- AT&T would still be required to provide telephone service in areas where no alternative voice services are yet available and continue to provide traditional landline phone service to our customers until proven alternatives become available.

Upcoming Public Participation Process

As part of the process, the CPUC is hosting in-person and virtual public forums to receive public comments, concerns and opinions regarding AT&T’s filings. During the hearings, stakeholders can provide public comments and speak with a CPUC Administrative Law Judge regarding this proceeding. By participating and sharing your perspective, you can assist the CPUC in making a well-informed decision.

Date & Time	Venue
February 6, 2024 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm	Clovis City Council Chambers 1033 5 th St., Clovis, CA 93612
February 22, 2024 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm	Mendocino County Board of Supervisors 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1070, Ukiah, CA 95482
March 14, 2024 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm	Indio City Hall Council Chambers 100 Civic Center Mall, Indio, CA 92201
March 19, 2024 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm	Virtual

We believe that these PPHs serve as a valuable opportunity for stakeholder input and public comment and encourage California residents and businesses to participate.