This Brief compares the residential fixed charges proposed by California’s three major investor-owned utilities (IOUs) in California Public Utilities Commission Docket No. R.22-07-005 in testimony submitted April 7, 2023 with those charged by utilities throughout the United States. The amounts proposed by California’s major IOUs, if adopted, would be the highest in the country, exceeding the current highest residential fixed charges of $37.41/month levied by Mississippi Power and $23.39/month levied by Montana-Dakota Utilities (Wyoming).

Figure 1 shows the proposed charges by utility for typical customers taking service under the IOU’s respective default time-of-use rate in relation to the national average residential fixed charge based on a survey of 171 IOUs. The national average is likewise based on the utility’s default residential rate and was current as of March 30, 2023. The utilities in the national survey comprise all large IOUs and most smaller IOUs throughout the country.

Figure 2 shows a contrast between the utilities in the national survey with the lowest current residential fixed charges, which includes California’s major IOUs, and the major IOUs’ April 7, 2023 proposals. The major California IOUs’ current residential fixed charges are shown on the left hand side of Figure 2, with the proposed charges shown for each on the right hand side of the figure.