



California Municipal Utilities Association

Capitol Day 2016



WHAT IS A PUBLICLY OWNED UTILITY?

Publicly Owned Utilities & CMUA

Publicly owned electric utilities and water districts are operated by local governments to provide reliable and affordable electric and water service to their customers. These electric utilities and water agencies are directly accountable to the local communities they serve through appointed or elected governing boards or local city councils. Nationwide there are over 2000 electric utilities and 52,000 community water systems.

In California, CMUA is composed of more than 60 publicly owned electric, water and gas utilities (POUs). Collectively, CMUA's electric utility members provide 25% of the state's power, and our water district members provide water to over 70% of the state's population.

Our Goals:

- Provide reliable and safe utility service to our customers at the lowest practical cost while also contributing to other needs of the local community.
- Implement the state's electricity, water, and greenhouse gas policies.
- Support policies that promote the sustainable development, management, and conservation of water and energy, the environment, and water quality.

Some Benefits of POU's include:

- Decision making and accountability by local governing bodies.
- Elected officials more responsive to the needs of customers and communities.
- Projects and programs tailored for local or regional needs.
- Not for profit utilities therefore lower rates compared to investor owned utilities.
- Support local economic development and job creation.