



ORA

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ORA DIRECTOR ELIZABETH ECHOLS CONFIRMED BY STATE SENATE

SAN FRANCISCO, March 13, 2017 – The Office of Ratepayer Advocates (ORA) is pleased to announce that the State Senate today confirmed the appointment of Elizabeth Echols as Director of ORA.

“I am thankful and honored to have the trust and confidence of Governor Brown and the State Senate in this important role. ORA provides a critical voice for millions of hard working consumers,” said Director Echols. “I look forward to continuing to work with the public, the Governor, the Legislature, the CPUC and other stakeholders to make sure that all consumers have access to affordable and safe utility services, and that no one is left behind.”

Director Echols has brought a wealth of knowledge and talent to this position, with a distinguished career in public service. She understands the needs of consumers in the rapidly changing marketplace and the importance of the state’s environmental policies. She will be an effective advocate for consumers.

Director Echols was appointed by Governor Brown to serve as Director of ORA in 2016. ORA is the independent consumer advocate within the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Its mission is to advocate for the lowest possible rates for customers of California's regulated utilities consistent with safe, reliable service levels, and the state's environmental goals.

In 2016, ORA saved ratepayers the unprecedented amount of almost \$7 billion in the form of lower utility revenues, avoided rate increases, and customer refunds. Read more about ORA’s accomplishments on behalf of California’s consumers across the regulated industry sectors - energy, water, and telecommunications in its [Annual Report](#).

Ms. Echols previously served as Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration Pacific Region under President Obama and as Director of the Northern California chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council. Before that, she was a member of the Obama-Biden Presidential Transition Team, Director of Policy at Google Inc., and Chief Executive Officer at OpNet Community Ventures. Earlier in her career, Ms. Echols also served as Executive Director of the E-Commerce Working Group at the White House and Senior Advisor on telecommunications and Internet policy at the U.S. Department of Commerce. Ms. Echols earned a Juris Doctor degree from Stanford Law School and a Bachelor’s Degree in Economics and Political Science from Yale University.

For more information on ORA, please visit www.ora.ca.gov.