

The G2 Solution

G2 Solutions Dealer Support Corner
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August 2006

INDUSTRY UPDATE . . .

Phone Bills to Rise after PUC Ruling- CC Times Aug 2006

AT&T and three other providers of local telephone service now can raise prices without convincing regulators that their costs have increased, the California PUC recently unanimously ruled.

Business customers are faced with immediate hikes, with phone companies required to give only a 30-day notice. Residential customers will get a respite, in the form of a two-year rate freeze for basic service, but will be subject to price increases after that. Residential customers could also face immediate hikes in the price of caller ID, 900 call blocking and unlisted numbers.

“Existing price caps are no longer necessary in a fiercely competitive market”, says Rachelle Chong, the PUC member who sponsored the new set of rules in a market where the traditional providers are facing intense competition from wireless and Internet competitors. “This levels the playing field”, Chong says.

The Utility Reform Network (TURN), a consumer advocacy group immediately criticized the new rules for leaving “consumers defenseless against higher phone rates”.

The elimination of rate regulation also raises questions about the future of programs that subsidize basic phone services for rural and low-income consumers. Those programs are now funded through charges included in regulated rates in your phone bill. These new rules threaten substantial price increases for precisely the users who can least afford a price hike. Current rates shift billions of dollars from urban to rural communities. Without those subsidies, the cost of building networks to reach the isolated areas will need to be covered by charging higher prices for local service in those areas.

Two PUC members worried that the panel had acted without fully considering how much the changes would hurt the most vulnerable consumers. “We have to take affirmative steps beyond today’s ruling, and reliance on the market to protect those groups” said Dian Grueneich.

Other PUC members, however, argued to “remember that even imperfect competition is superior to costly and burdensome government regulation,” and “We are not ending regulation of the industry, just eliminating some that get in the way of competition.”

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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G2 Corner... **G2 to offer wireless**

G2 is pleased to announce the addition of wireless services to our ever-expanding suite of Agency relationships. Effective immediately, you can tell your customers that G2 can now handle wireless services from Sprint. Sprint services include Voice, Data and radio (Nextel). There is a one-time incentive commission paid on new activation only. Existing Sprint customers cannot be migrated over since there is no new activation. Billing and support will be provided by Sprint.

We can also offer services from Verizon, Cingular and T-Mobile. For these companies, the incentives are very low and many times there are not enough savings to be financially compelling. Nevertheless, there are often non-financial reasons why customers may prefer these companies. Now with LNP, the customer “owns” their cell number and so they can retain it as they change carriers.

G2 will handle bill analysis, generate paperwork and assist with the transition. Email copies of the existing cellular bills to wireless@g2sol.net. Make sure to note existing contract expiration dates.

G2 as Your Single Source

PRI, Local T1 (SuperTrunk) & Integrated Circuits (Voice & Data) are available from multiple providers.

LET'S TALK!

G2 Solutions works hard behind the scene to add and integrate additional services and providers aiming at becoming a true *Single Source for Telecommunications!*

To that end, we have developed two parallel tracks of services:

- A complete suite of services for which G2 Solutions provides the implementation, billing, and support. These services include:
 - Local – Business Lines, Centrex, PRI, Local T1 (SuperTrunk) and Integrated Voice & Data circuits.
 - Long Distance – Switched and Dedicated
 - Private Lines – P2P, MPLS, etc.
 - Data – Dedicated Internet Access (DIA)
- Since not all providers offers a wholesale program, G2 has established an **agency** relationships with ALL major and regional service providers where services can be placed to supplement and extend G2's coverage. These services include:
 - Local – lines, PRI, T1 (SuperTrunk) and Integrated Voice & Data circuits.
 - Private Lines – P2P, MPLS, etc.
 - Data – ADSL, SDSL, DIA.