AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 9, 2018 AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 15, 2018

SENATE BILL

No. 1088

Introduced by Senator Dodd

February 12, 2018

An act to add Section 8587.13 to the Government Code, and to *amend* Section 454 of, and to add Chapter 11 (commencing with Section 2899) to Part 2 of Division 1-of of, the Public Utilities Code, relating to disaster preparedness.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1088, as amended, Dodd. Safety, reliability, and resiliency planning.

Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission has regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations and gas corporations. Existing law authorizes the commission, after a hearing, to require every public utility to construct, maintain, and operate its line, plant, system, equipment, apparatus, tracks, and premises in a manner so as to promote and safeguard the health and safety of its employees, passengers, customers, and the public. Existing law requires electrical corporations to annually prepare and submit a wildfire mitigation plan to the commission for review. Existing law requires the commission to establish standards for disaster and emergency preparedness plans, as specified, and requires an electrical corporation to develop, adopt, and update an emergency and disaster preparedness plan, as specified.

The California Emergency Services Act, among other things, establishes the Office of Emergency Services for the purpose of mitigating the effects of natural, manmade, or war-caused emergencies

and makes findings and declarations relating to ensuring that preparation within the state will be adequate to deal with those emergencies.

This bill would require the office, in consultation with specified public entities, by September 30, 2019, to adopt standards for reducing risks from a major event, as defined. The bill would require that those standards include model policies for implementation by local governments regarding, among other things, defensible space, and actions to be undertaken by an electrical or gas corporation, a local publicly owned electric or gas utility, or a water utility to reduce the risk of fire occurring during a major event. The bill would require the office to update the standards at least once every 2 years.

The bill would require each electrical corporation or gas corporation, beginning January 15, 2019, and by January 15 every 2 years thereafter, to prepare and submit a safety, reliability, and resiliency plan, containing specified elements, to the commission for review and approval. The bill would require the commission to approve, or approve with modifications, the submitted plan by December 31 of the year in which the plan is submitted. The bill would require the commission to authorize recovery of the costs-in of implementing the plan through rates, as provided. The bill would require the commission to conduct an annual proceeding to review each electrical corporation's and gas corporation's compliance with its plan, as provided. The bill would require, if, after completing the compliance review, the commission determines that an electrical corporation or gas corporation is in substantial compliance with its plan, that the commission deem the performance, operations, management, and investment addressed in the plan to be reasonable and prudent. The bill would require the commission to assess a penalty on an electrical corporation or gas corporation for noncompliance with its plan. The bill would, except as provided, prohibit an electrical corporation from delegating, transferring, or contracting out any of its distribution safety or reliability performance obligations, as defined, and would prohibit the commission from authorizing an electrical corporation to do so.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares as follows:

1 (a) The effects of climate change are happening now and will 2 continue to increase both around the world and in California.

3

3 (b) There will be more frequent and increasingly severe storms,4 floods, mudslides, and wildfires.

5 (c) Eight of the 20 most destructive fires in California's history 6 have occurred since 2015, with five occurring in 2017 alone.

7 (d) Greenhouse gas emissions from wildfires undermine 8 California's plans to reduce emissions. The emissions from the 9 2017 wildfires were estimated to be nearly as much as the total

10 2017 emissions from electric generation.

(e) The electric and gas transmission and distribution systems
can be the cause of *fires fires*, which, because of climate change,
can be much more severe.

(f) Catastrophic storms, floods, mudslides, fires, earthquakes *earthquakes*, and other major events cause loss of life, tremendous
property damage, public health impacts, environmental
degradation, and damage to local economies. These events can
also adversely impact electric electrical and gas transmission and
distribution systems.

20 (g) California is overdue for a major earthquake.

(h) Natural disasters can cause vast economic damage. The
North Bay and Southern California suffered major economic
impacts to businesses and many jobs were lost as a result of the
2017 wildfires.

(i) Failure to prepare for the effects of climate change wouldadversely affect the credit rating of California and localjurisdictions.

28 (j) Executive Order B-30-15 addresses the need for climate 29 adaptation by incorporating climate change impacts into the state's 30 Five-Year Infrastructure Plan, updating the state's climate 31 adaptation strategy by identifying how climate change will affect 32 infrastructure and industry and what actions can be taken to reduce the risks posed by climate change, factoring climate change into 33 34 state agencies' planning and investment decisions, and 35 implementing measures under existing agency and departmental 36 authority to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

37 (k) Chapter 608 of the Statutes of 2015 requires that cities and

38 counties address climate adaptation and resilience strategies in

39 local planning.

1 (1) Chapter 606 of the Statutes of 2015 establishes the Integrated 2 Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program to be administered 3 by the Office of Planning and Research to coordinate regional and 4 local efforts with state climate adaptation strategies to adapt to the 5 impacts of climate change. (m) Chapter 603 of the Statutes of 2015 requires the Natural 6 7 Resources Agency to update the state's climate adaptation strategy 8 every three years to address vulnerabilities to climate change by 9 sector, including the energy sector, and requires state agencies to maximize promoting the use of the climate adaptation strategy to 10 inform planning decisions and ensure that state investments 11 12 consider climate change impacts. 13 (n) Chapter 580 of the Statutes of 2016 requires state agencies 14 to take into account the impacts of climate change when planning, 15 designing, building, operating, maintaining, and investing in state infrastructure. 16 17 (o) Preventing or mitigating property and infrastructure damage 18 and injury from catastrophic storms, floods, mudslides, fires, 19 earthquakes, and other major events is much safer, better for local 20 economies, and far less expensive than emergency repair and reconstruction. 21

22 (p) Responding to catastrophic storms, floods, mudslides, fires, 23 earthquakes, and other major events requires a substantial, well-trained local utility workforce. After the 2017 North Bay 24 25 wildfires, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company utilized 4,300 26 employees to quickly repair and restore utility service to its 27 customers. The Public Utilities Commission should require each 28 electrical and gas corporation to have a sufficiently sized and 29 trained workforce available, including employees of other utilities 30 pursuant to mutual aid agreements and employees of entities that 31 have entered into contracts with utilities, to quickly respond to 32 major events. (q) Investment in reducing the risk of wildfires has a proven 33

(q) Investment in reducing the risk of wildfires has a proven
 cost savings ratio of at least three to one, but the Public Utilities
 Commission has failed to establish adequate standards to reduce
 the risk of wildfires caused by utility equipment and to make
 electrical and gas corporation equipment more resilient and
 resistant to damage.

39 (r) The Public Utilities Commission should establish fire risk 40 reduction and mitigation standards, including protocols for

1 disabling reclosers and deenergizing lines. All protocols should

2 meet or exceed industry best practices. Disabling reclosers and

3 deenergizing lines can cause impacts to fire and police response,4 the availability of water, hospitals, schools, evacuation centers,

5 and other critical facilities.

6 (s) Electric and gas reliability is a critical component of public 7 safety.

8 (t) The Public Utilities Commission should require electrical 9 and gas corporations to harden their systems to reduce damage 10 from catastrophic storms, floods, mudslides, fires, earthquakes, 11 and other major events.

(u) The Public Utilities Commission should require electrical
corporations to evaluate, construct, operate, and maintain
technological solutions, including microgrids, so that critical
facilities maintain electrical service during and after catastrophic
storms, floods, mudslides, fires, earthquakes, and other major
events.

(v) The Public Utilities Commission should not rely on
unregulated entities in lieu of public utilities to provide electric
safety or reliability.

21 (w) Electrical corporations and gas corporations should file with 22 the Public Utilities Commission safety, reliability, and resiliency 23 plans, which should address all relevant rules, regulations, 24 standards, and practices to prevent and mitigate risk from 25 catastrophic storms, floods, mudslides, fires, earthquakes, and 26 other major events that affect the safety and reliability of the 27 electric electrical and gas system. Safety and reliability should be 28 the highest priority in all commission decisions.

(x) The Public Utilities Commission should impose penalties
 on an electrical corporation or gas corporation that fails to comply
 with an approved plan. The amount of the penalty should be

31 with an approved plan. The amount of the penalty should be 32 correlated with the nature and severity of the failure to comply

33 with the approved plan. Any penalties should be paid exclusively

- 34 by shareholders of the electrical corporation or gas corporation.
- (y) The Office of the Safety Advocate should participate in all
 proceedings authorized by Chapter 11 (commencing with Section

37 2899) of Part 2 of Division 1 of the Public Utilities Code.

38 (z) Electrical corporations and gas corporations should notify

39 their customers, including local governments and agencies, of

40 proceedings authorized by the Utility Infrastructure, Safety,

1 Reliability, and Accountability Act (Chapter 11 (commencing with

2 Section 2899) of Part 2 of Division 1 of the Public Utilities Code).

3 (aa) The commission should encourage public comment at

4 hearings for proceedings authorized by the Utility Infrastructure,

5 Safety, Reliability, and Accountability Act (Chapter 11 6 (commencing with Section 2899) of Part 2 of Division 1 of the

6 (commencing with Section 2899) of Part 2 of Division 1 of the
7 Public Utilities Code).

8 SEC. 2. Section 8587.13 is added to the Government Code, to 9 read:

10 8587.13. (a) For purposes of this section, "major event" means

11 a large storm, flood, mudslide, fire, earthquake, or other occurrence

that significantly affects the safety and reliability of the electricalor gas distribution system.

(b) On or before September 30, 2019, and on *or before*September-30th 30 of every 2 years thereafter, the office, in
consultation with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection,
the Public Utilities Commission, and other appropriate state and
local agencies, shall adopt or update standards for reducing risk

19 from a major event.

20 (c) The standards shall include both of the following:

21 (1) Model policies to be undertaken by local governments

regarding zoning, defensible space, fire-resistant building materials,and other measures applicable to properties at risk during a major

24 event.

(2) Actions to be undertaken by electrical corporations, gas
corporations, local publicly owned electric utilities, local publicly
owned gas utilities, and water utilities to reduce the risk of fire
during a major event.

29 SEC. 3. Section 454 of the Public Utilities Code is amended 30 to read:

31 454. (a) (1) Except as provided in Section 455, a public utility 32 shall not change any rate or so alter any classification, contract, 33 practice, or rule as to result in any new rate, except upon a showing 34 before the commission and a finding by the commission that the 35 new rate is justified. Whenever any electrical, gas, heat, telephone, 36 water, or sewer system corporation files an application to change 37 any rate, other than a change reflecting and passing through to 38 customers only new costs to the corporation-which that do not 39 result in changes in revenue allocation, for the services or 40 commodities furnished by it, the corporation shall furnish to its

1 customers affected by the proposed rate change notice of its 2 application to the commission for approval of the new rate. This 3 notice requirement does not apply to any rate change proposed by 4 a corporation pursuant to an advice letter submitted to the 5 commission in accordance with commission procedures for this 6 means of submission. The procedures for advice letters may include 7 provision for notice to customers or subscribers on a case-by-case 8 basis, as determined by the commission. The corporation may 9 include the notice with the regular bill for charges transmitted to 10 the customers within 45 days if the corporation operates on a 11 30-day billing cycle, or within 75 days if the corporation operates 12 on a 60-day billing cycle. If more than one application to change 13 any rate is filed within a single billing cycle, the corporation may 14 combine the notices into a single notice if the applications are 15 separately identified. The notice shall state the amount of the 16 proposed rate change expressed in both dollar and percentage terms 17 for the entire rate change as well as for each customer 18 classification, a brief statement of the reasons the change is required 19 or sought, and the mailing, and mailing and, if available, the email 20 address of the commission to which any customer inquiries may 21 be directed regarding how to participate in, or receive further 22 notices regarding the date, time, or place of, any hearing on the 23 application, and the mailing address of the corporation to which 24 any customer inquiries relative to the proposed rate change may 25 be directed.

26 (2) For a safety, reliability, and resiliency plan submitted by 27 an electrical or gas corporation pursuant to Section 2899.2, the 28 corporation shall furnish to its customers written notice with the 29 regular bill for charges for the two billing cycles before it submits 30 the plan. The written notice shall include a link to the Internet Web 31 site where the plan will be available electronically upon its 32 submission. 33 (b) For a water corporation with more than 2,000 service 34 connections, the notice required in subdivision (a) shall include

estimated rate impacts on the various customer classes of the
corporation. The commission may require the corporation to inform
customers in a separate letter or through a bill insert, at the
corporation's discretion, of the outcome of the general rate case,
within 60 days if the corporation operates on a 30-day billing cycle,

40 or within 90 days if the corporation operates on a 60-day billing

1 cycle, of the commission's final decision, including the approved

2 rates and the approved capital projects that will subsequently be3 executed by way of an advice letter.

4 (c) The commission may adopt rules it considers reasonable 5 and proper for each class of public utility providing for the nature of the showing required to be made in support of proposed rate 6 7 changes, the form and manner of the presentation of the showing, 8 with or without a hearing, and the procedure to be followed in the 9 consideration thereof. Rules applicable to common carriers may provide for the publication and filing of any proposed rate change 10 together with a written showing in support thereof, giving notice 11 12 of the filing and showing in support thereof to the public, granting 13 an opportunity for protests thereto, and to the consideration of, 14 and action on, the showing and any protests filed thereto by the 15 commission, with or without hearing. However, the proposed rate change does not become effective until it has been approved by 16 17 the commission. 18 (d) (1) The commission shall permit individual public utility 19 customers and subscribers affected by a proposed rate change, and organizations formed to represent their interests, to testify at any 20

hearing on the proposed rate change, except that the presiding
officer need not allow repetitive or irrelevant testimony and may
conduct the hearing in an efficient manner.

24 (2) The commission shall permit any member of the public to 25 testify at any hearing or proceeding authorized under the Utility 26 Infrastructure, Safety, Reliability, and Accountability Act (Chapter 27 11 (commencing with Section 2899) of Part 2 of Division 1 of the 28 Public Utilities Code), except that the presiding officer need not 29 allow repetitive or irrelevant testimony and may conduct the 30 hearing in an efficient manner. 31 SEC. 3. 32 SEC. 4. Chapter 11 (commencing with Section 2899) is added

32 SEC. 4. Chapter 11 (commencing with Section 2899) is added
 33 to Part 2 of Division 1 of the Public Utilities Code, to read:

34

35	Chapter 11. Utility Infrastructure, Safety, Reliability,
36	and Accountability

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38 2899. This chapter shall be known, and may be cited, as the

39 Utility Infrastructure, Safety, Reliability, and Accountability Act.

1 2899.1. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions 2 apply:

3 (a) "Major event" means a large storm, flood, mudslide, fire,
4 earthquake, or other occurrence that significantly affects the safety
5 and reliability of the electrical or gas distribution system.

6 (b) "Plan" means the safety, reliability, and resiliency plan filed
7 by an electrical or gas corporation pursuant to Section 2899.1,
8 2899.2, including measures addressing both routine operations
9 and major events.

10 (c) "Utility" means an electrical corporation or gas corporation.

11 2899.2. (a) On or before January 15, 2019, and on or before 12 January 15 every two years thereafter, each utility shall prepare 13 and submit to the commission for review and approval a safety, 14 reliability, and resiliency plan. The plan submitted on or before 15 January 15, 2019, shall be limited to addressing fire risks, with 16 subsequent plans addressing risks associated with routine operation 17 and all major events.

18 (b) The plan shall include all of the following elements:

(1) All relevant safety rules, regulations, standards, and practices
adopted by the commission and, after January 1, 2021, all
applicable standards adopted or updated by the Office of
Emergency Services pursuant to Section 8587.13 of the
Government Code.

(2) A program to comply with applicable safety rules,
regulations, standards, and practices adopted by the commission
and, after January 1, 2021, a program to comply with standards
adopted or updated by the Office of Emergency Services pursuant
to Section 8587.13 of the Government Code.

(3) A program to manage compliance, including, but not limited
to, plans for assigning personnel, training, and monitoring and
checking that the personnel have carried out their assignments,
and a system of quality assurance and quality control.

(4) The wildfire mitigation plan submitted pursuant of Section
8286, 8386, including protocols for disabling reclosers and
deenergizing portions of the electrical distribution system, as well
as protocols related to mitigating the impacts of those protocols.

37 (5) Actions the utility will take to ensure that its system will
38 achieve the highest level of safety, reliability, and resilience,
39 *resiliency*, and to ensure that its system is not vulnerable to
40 widespread failure during a major event, including hardening and

1 modernizing its infrastructure with improved engineering, system

2 design, standards, equipment, and facilities.

- 3 (6) Plans for vegetation management.
- 4 (7) For gas corporations, both of the following:

5 (A) A program to preemptively replace pipe and other equipment

6 that is aging, brittle, or otherwise vulnerable to damage from a7 major event, or that could endanger public or employee safety.

8 (B) A program to locate, mark and repair leaks, relight pilot 9 lights, and all other activity needed to restore service following a

10 major event.

(8) For electrical corporations, a program to evaluate, construct,
 operate, and maintain technological solutions, including microgrids
 that can be islanded from the distribution grid for critical

14 customers, such as schools, hospitals, critical care patients, water

15 pumping and treatment facilities, and government and other

16 facilities that provide public safety or other critical functions.

(9) The disaster and emergency preparedness plan preparedpursuant to Section 768.6, including both of the following:

- (A) Plans to prepare for, and to restore service after, a major
 event, including workforce mobilization, and prepositioning
 equipment and employees.
- (B) Plans for community outreach and public awareness before,during, and after a major event.

(10) Plans for distribution grid operation during a major event,including an incident command system.

(11) Clear evidence that the utility has an adequately sized and
trained workforce to promptly restore service after a major event,
taking into account employees of other utilities pursuant to mutual
aid agreements and employees of entities that have entered into
contracts with the utility.

(12) Activities to support customers during and after a major
event, including outage reporting, billing, repair processing and
timing, access to utility representatives, emergency
communications, and restoration plans.

35 (13) Forecasted costs of every element of the plan.

36 (14) Any other element pertaining to electric and gas safety,37 reliability, or resiliency deemed appropriate by the commission.

(c) (1) The commission shall review the plans of the utilitiesin a single consolidated proceeding. The commission shall verify

40 that the plans comply with all applicable rules, regulations, and

1 standards, including those adopted by the Office of Emergency

Services pursuant to the State Assistance for Fire Equipment Act
 (Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 8589.8) of Chapter

4 7 of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government-Code, Code), as

5 appropriate. The commission shall evaluate the reasonableness of

6 the elements of the plans considering the risks involved and the

7 costs to implement the plan.

8 (2) In reviewing the plans, the commission shall make safety 9 and reliability of electric or gas services the highest priority.

10 (3) Notwithstanding Section 1701.5, on or before December 11 31, 2019, and on or before December 31 of each year in which the 12 utilities have submitted plans pursuant to subdivision (a), the 13 commission shall approve, or approve with modification, the 14 submitted plans. If the commission fails to issue a decision on a 15 plan on or before December 31, the utility shall implement its 16 submitted plan until the time the commission approves the plan, 17 at which time the utility shall implement the plan as approved by 18 the commission. The commission shall authorize the recovery in 19 rates of the costs incurred by the utility in implementing its 20 submitted plan prior to the approval by the commission without a 21 reasonable review.

(4) (A) The commission shall authorize rate recovery of the
reasonable revenue requirements to implement plans approved by
the commission in the proceeding reviewing the plans pursuant to
paragraph (1). Except as provided in subparagraph (B), authorized
revenue shall not be reviewed, adjusted, or authorized in a utility's
general rate case.

(B) Forecasted costs deemed outside the scope of the plan bythe commission may be requested and considered in a utility'sgeneral rate case or other appropriate proceeding.

(5) The utilities shall not divert revenues authorized toimplement the plan to any activities or investments outside theirplans.

(6) Each utility shall establish a memorandum account to track
costs incurred for fire risk mitigation from January 1, 2019, until
the commission's approval of the utility's plan submitted on or
before January 15, 2019, that are not otherwise covered in the
utility's revenue requirements. The commission shall review the
costs in the memorandum accounts and disallow recovery of those
costs the commission deems unreasonable.

1 (d) On or after January 1, 2019, each utility's Risk Assessment

2 Mitigation Phase filing shall exclude risks addressed in the plan 3 required pursuant to subdivision (b).

4 2899.3. (a) For purposes of this section, "distribution safety or reliability *performance* obligations" of an electrical corporation 5 include, but are not limited to, owning, controlling, operating, 6 7 managing, maintaining, planning, engineering, designing, investing 8 in, and constructing the distribution system in its service territory, 9 system reliability, emergency response and restoration, vegetation management, service connections, service turnons and turnoffs, 10 and service inquiries relating to the operation of the distribution 11 12 system.

(b) An electrical corporation shall not delegate, transfer, or
 contract out any distribution safety or reliability performance
 obligation.

(c) The commission shall not permit, authorize, or direct an
electrical corporation to delegate, transfer, or contract out, or
authorize any other entity to perform, a utility distribution safety
or reliability performance obligation.

20 (d) This section does not prohibit contracting out line clearance 21 tree trimming under the supervision of the electrical corporation,

the purchase of materials or equipment, contracting for construction

23 of infrastructure owned by the electrical corporation, contracting

for pole test and treat services, contracting for bulk electricity capacity, energy, or storage that is not for purposes of distribution affetty and reliability, or contracting for information technology

26 safety and reliability, or contracting for information technology
27 services.

28 2899.4. The commission shall conduct an annual proceeding
29 to review each utility's compliance with its plan, including a factual
30 analysis of any major events that occurred, as follows:

(a) Beginning March 1, 2020, and each March 1 thereafter, each
utility shall file with the commission a report addressing
compliance with the plan during the prior calendar year.

(b) (1) Prior to March 1, 2020, and prior to each March 1thereafter, the commission shall make available a list of qualified

independent evaluators with experience in assessing electric andgas operations.

(2) Each utility shall engage an independent evaluator listed
 pursuant to paragraph (1) to review and assess the utility's
 compliance with its plan. The independent evaluator shall consult

1 with, and operate under the direction of, the Safety and 2 Enforcement Division of the commission. The independent 3 evaluator shall issue a report on July 1 of each year in which a 4 report required by subdivision (a) is filed. As a part of the 5 independent evaluator's report, the independent evaluator shall 6 determine whether any revenue authorized to implement the plan

7 was diverted to any activities or investments outside the plan.

8 (3) The commission shall authorize the utility to recover in rates9 the costs of the independent evaluation.

(4) The commission shall have exclusive jurisdiction over
compliance by a utility with the standards adopted pursuant to
Section 8587.13 of the Government Code.

2899.5. The commission shall assess penalties if a utility fails
to substantially comply with its plan. In determining an appropriate
amount of the penalty, the commission shall consider all of the
following:

(a) The nature and severity of any noncompliance with the plan,including whether the noncompliance resulted in harm.

(b) The extent to which the commission has found that the utilitycomplied with its plans in prior years.

21 (c) Whether the utility self-reported the circumstances 22 constituting noncompliance.

23 (d) Whether the utility implemented corrective actions with24 respect to the noncompliance.

(e) Whether the utility had advance notice of the circumstancesconstituting noncompliance.

(f) Whether the utility had previously engaged in conduct of asimilar nature that caused significant property damage or injury.

(g) Any other factors established by the commission in arulemaking proceeding, consistent with purposes of this section.

31 2899.6. After completing the review pursuant to Section 2899.4,

32 if the commission determines that a utility was in substantial 33 compliance with its plan, the utility's performance, operations,

34 management, and investments addressed in the plan shall be

35 deemed reasonable and prudent for all purposes.

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