



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 3/12/2019

Agenda Placement: 6P

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Kerry Whitney for Minh Tran - County Executive Officer
County Executive Office

REPORT BY: Helene Franchi, Deputy County Executive Officer - 253-4820

SUBJECT: Resolution Notifying PG&E and CPUC of Requested Wildfire Mitigation Steps

RECOMMENDATION

County Executive Officer/Director of Emergency Services requests adoption of a resolution notifying Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) as to information and communications required and other steps to be taken prior to a Public Safety Power Shutdown (PSPS) and as to other wildfire mitigation measures.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As a result of the 2017 North Bay Fires and the continued and growing threat of wildfires, PG&E was required by State legislation (SB 901) and by the CPUC to submit a proposed wildfire mitigation plan and is expanding its Community Wildfire Safety Program. The CPUC is conducting five separate proceedings related to the WMP, to Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) procedures (also known as de-energization), PG&E's request to increase rates to cover the costs of its Community Wildfire Safety Program, and other issues related to wildfires.

On October 14 through 17, 2018, PG&E initiated its first ever PSPS with power outages throughout the County. Beginning on November 6, 2018, PG&E notified its customers of another PSPS, but that alert was canceled on November 8, 2018 with no power shutoff. During those events, County officials and residents experienced poor communication from PG&E, and residents were adversely affected by the way the one PSPS was implemented.

On February 6, 2019, PG&E filed with the CPUC its wildfire mitigation plan ("WMP"). The County has submitted and will continue to submit detailed suggestions and comments to the CPUC in all of the proceedings above, including comments in response to PG&E's proposed WMP. However, to bolster those efforts, staff requests and recommends that the Board adopt a resolution to notify PG&E and the CPUC directly as to measures that the County requests the CPUC to make sure are implemented by PG&E.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The CPUC is conducting five separate proceedings in which Napa County has been granted “party” status by the CPUC and is actively participating:

- R.17-05-010—Rule 20A Undergrounding
- R.18-10-007—SB 901 Wildfire Mitigation Plans
- R.18-12-005—De-energization (PSPS)
- R.19-01-006—SB 901 financial stress test
- A.18-12-009—PG&E 2020 general rate case

In R.18-10-007, PG&E was required by State legislation (SB 901) and by the CPUC to submit a proposed wildfire mitigation plan, which it submitted on February 6, 2019. PG&E is also expanding its Community Wildfire Safety Program. The County has submitted and will continue to submit detailed suggestions and comments to the CPUC in all of the proceedings above, including comments in response to PG&E’s proposed WMP. However, to bolster those efforts, staff requests and recommends that a resolution be adopted to notify PG&E and the CPUC directly as to the following specific measures that the County requests PG&E to take to mitigate wildfire risks, to minimize damage to the environment from its vegetation removal practices, and to improve its PSPS procedures for the benefit of all residents affected, particularly vulnerable populations:

1. Implement the WMP in a way that it will be effective and will benefit PG&E’s customers.
2. Adhere to vegetation management practices that avoid clear-cutting, over-zealous tree and vegetation removal that creates erosion/flood risk or harms the environment, and burdening private property owners with piles of dead trees/debris.
3. Implement situational awareness enhancements to promote information-sharing with state and local first responders and other local government officials, and provide greater access to shared information in order to prevent confusion and miscommunication during emergencies.
4. Expand the practice of granting fire agencies access to and control of wildfire cameras, as San Diego Gas & Electric does, by extending such access to weather and fire-threat modeling developed by PG&E’s internal programs.
5. Prepare and implement an acceptable, clear and CPUC-approved PSPS plan to ensure a consistent and effective set of practices.

6. Provide County emergency services staff, law enforcement, and health department officials with the following prior to any PSPS occurrence:

- a. Planned outage area(s);
- b. Number of customers in the outage area(s);
- c. Time of outage;
- d. Projected duration of outage and time of restoration;
- e. Prompt updates of any changes to the time or duration of the planned outage ;
- f. Identification of all impacted medical baseline and other medically vulnerable customers; and
- g. Identification of all other impacted Critical Customers (hospitals, fire stations, police stations, water/irrigation districts, waste water treatment plans, telecom facilities, and schools).

7. Strong, clear, and frequent communication with the County, customers and communities is crucial during emergency situations. The 2018 PSPS events and 2017 wildfires demonstrated that there is a disconnect between PG&E's protocols and best practices as they exist on paper and what PG&E is actually capable of delivering in an emergency. PG&E must ensure that it is able to make its plans a reality, and the CPUC must hold PG&E to its commitments and best practices.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A . Resolution notifying CPUC and PGE of requested wildfire mitigation

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Helene Franchi