



## CPUC: Overview of Proceedings Affecting Local Governments


February 14, 2019

Lee Palmer  
Deputy Director  
Safety and Enforcement Division  
[leslie.palmer@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:leslie.palmer@cpuc.ca.gov)




## Agenda and Purpose

- CPUC Wildfire Mitigation Activities
- SB 901 implementation (R.18-10-007)
- De-energization (R.18-12-005)



2





# WILDFIRE MITIGATION ACTIVITIES



3




## Safety and Enforcement Division (SED) Wildfire Role

*The Safety and Enforcement Division works diligently to ensure that regulated services are delivered in a safe manner.*

<p><b><u>Before the Fire:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<b><i>Build working relationships with both state partners and regulated utilities.</i></b></li> <li>-Review utility mitigation and prevention efforts.</li> <li>-Remain up to date on wildfire conditions and threats.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>During the Fire:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Maintain awareness of current wildfire operations.</li> <li>-Participate in CalOES working groups as required.</li> <li>-<b><i>Keep in contact with regulated utilities to ensure grid remains stable and reliable.</i></b></li> </ul>	<p><b><u>After the Fire:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<b><i>Assess utility damage and mitigation efforts effectiveness.</i></b></li> <li>-Participate in CalOES/CALFIRE/Utility after action reviews for lessons learned.</li> <li>-<b><i>Investigations (based on CALFIRE findings)</i></b></li> </ul>
--	--	--


4



## Wildfire Mitigation Plans (A Short History)

- In accordance with General Order 166, regulated utilities are required to submit annual Emergency Response Plans which include a section on wildfire preparedness.
- In 2017, Senate Bill 1028 created the requirement for utilities to provide stand-alone Wildfire Mitigation Plans.
- In 2018, Senate Bill 901 expanded on the requirements for Wildfire Mitigation Plans and required CPUC approval of these plans.




5




## Current Wildfire Mitigation Efforts

- **GO 95**
  - Removal diseased/dead trees.
  - Vegetation clearance in fire threat zones.
  - Utilities may apply additional clearances based on location of vegetation, local climate, elevation, fire risk.
- **GO 166**
  - Electric utilities to provide Emergency Preparedness & Response Plans.
- **SB 901**
  - Electric utilities submit annual wildfire mitigation plans.
  - CPUC reviews and approves mitigation plans.
- **Rulemaking 15-05-006**
  - Adopted Fire Threat Maps and established Fire-Safety Regulations.
- **CPUC/CalOES/CAL FIRE MOU**
  - Provides the foundation for emergency planning and response.



6





## CPUC Efforts to Supplement Wildfire Mitigation

**MOUs with CAL FIRE and CalOES**


Established shared priorities and specific responsibilities for each agency

Initial steps towards multi-stakeholder engagement efforts to:

- Identify and mitigate wildfire risks
- Establish sufficient emergency planning and response programs

**Cal OES**  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES




7



## SENATE BILL (SB) 901 & OIR R.18-10-007


8






## Senate Bill 901 (SB 901)

- Signed into Law by the Governor of California: September 21, 2018
- Requires each Wildfire Mitigation Plan developed by an electric IOU to include additional elements:
  - vegetation management,
  - protocols for disabling reclosers,
  - deenergizing portions of the electric distribution system,
  - inspections of electric infrastructure, and
  - actions the electric IOU will take to ensure that its system will achieve the highest level of safety, reliability, and resilience, including modernizing and hardening its infrastructure.





9




## Senate Bill 901 (SB 901)

- Requires an independent evaluator to review and assess electric IOU compliance with its plan.
- Authorizes an electric IOU to recover in rates the costs of the independent evaluator.
- Requires the CPUC to approve the plan and to consider the independent evaluator's findings, as specified.
- Requires the CPUC to assess penalties on an electric IOU that fails to substantially comply with its plan






10




## Senate Bill 901 (SB 901)


- Requires the CPUC and CAL FIRE to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding
  - cooperatively develop consistent approaches and share data related to fire prevention, safety, vegetation management, and energy distribution systems and to share results from various fire prevention activities, including relevant inspections and fire ignition data.




11




## SB 901 Impact: Changes Specific to WMPs




**Commission approval of WMPs required**



**Consideration of dynamic climate change risks**




**WMPs contain 20 individual elements**




**Annual compliance reviews by Commission**

Statutory deadline of 3 months following submittal


Deliberative review process open to public



12




## R.18-10-007: SB 901 Implementation




**Initiated by the Commission on October 25, 2018 & will focus on:**

- Implement the provisions of SB 901
- Provide guidance on the form and content of the WMP
- Provide a venue for review of initial plans
- Develop and refine the content of and process for review and implementation of WMP to be filed in future years




**2 Workshops on SB 901 Implementation:**



- Feb. 13, 2018 in San Francisco – review and presentation of initial WMP's submitted by IOUs
- Second workshop is TBD and is dependent on feedback received during the Feb. 13 workshop




13



## R.18-10-007: SB 901 Implementation (WMPs) OIR Schedule

 <b>Event</b>	 <b>Date</b>
<i>WMPs filed and served</i>	<i>Feb. 6, 2019</i>
<i>Workshop on filed WMPs</i>	<i>Feb. 13, 2019</i>
<i>Motions requesting hearings</i>	<i>Feb. 20, 2019</i>
<i>Responses to motions for hearings</i>	<i>Feb. 25, 2019</i>
<i>Focused issue-specific workshops</i>	<i>Week of Feb. 25, 2019</i>
<i>PHC addressing motions</i>	<i>Feb. 26, 2019</i>
<i>Intervenor comments filed and served</i>	<i>Mar. 13, 2019</i>
<i>IOU reply comments filed and served</i>	<i>Mar. 22, 2019</i>
<i>Commission decision approving WMPs</i>	<i>Expected May-Jun., 2019</i>



14




## SB 901 OIR

### Current Status and Next Steps

- Utility plans submitted on February 6, 2019
- SED team has been meeting with CAL FIRE to coordinate an efficient review
- Informational workshops planned for February 2019
- Decision on plans expected in May 2019




15



## How Does This Affect My Community?

- The Majority of California is at risk from Wildfires
- Wildfire Mitigation Plans will identify the Utility's priority of effort
- Know your utility
- Your utilities have responsibilities and obligations

16







## More Information on Wildfire Mitigation

- <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/CPUCNewsDetail.aspx?id=6442454974>

Utility Wildfire Mitigation Plans (SB 901)

On Oct 25, 2018, the CPUC acted to further protect the state from wildfires related to electric facilities by setting the framework to provide guidance on initial utility wildfire mitigation plans, and inviting the input of all stakeholders in guiding its approach. [Read more.](#)


### Regulations

- July 12, 2018: CPUC Strengthens Utility Public Notice Requirements for De-Energizing in Emergencies
  - Draft Resolution ESRB-8
  - Comments on Draft Resolution ESRB-8
    - California Association of Small and Multi-Jurisdictional Utilities ("CASMU")
    - CforAT and TURN
    - Joint Comments
    - PG&E
    - SCE
    - SDG&E
- Reply Comments on Draft Resolution ESRB-8
  - CforAT and TURN
  - Joint Reply Comments
  - PGE
  - SDG&E
  - SCE




## DE-ENERGIZATION & OIR R.18-12-005






## De-Energization

- The State's investor-owned utilities have general authority to shut off electric power to protect public safety under California law.
- Utilities have recently developed programs to exercise this authority during severe wildfire threat conditions as a preventative measure of last resort.
- <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/deenergization/>





19




## De-Energization Resolution (ESRB-8)

- CPUC adopted rules that utilities must follow in the event of a de-energization event during periods of extreme fire hazard to prevent fires caused by strong winds.

**Utilities must:**

- Hold informational workshops
- Notify customers before shutting off power if feasible
- Notify first responders, critical facilities, CPUC, and other entities ahead of time as feasible.
- Submit de-energization outreach plans to CPUC.
- Submit a report to the CPUC within 10 business days after each de-energization.





20



## R.18-12-005: De-energization



**Initiated by the Commission on Dec. 13, 2018 & will focus on:**

- Developing best practices and evaluation criteria
- Ensuring coordination with first responders
- Mitigating impact on vulnerable populations
- Ensuring consistency in noticing and reporting of events
- Examining ways to reduce the need for de-energization



**2 Workshops on de-energization:**

- Dec. 14, 2018 in Santa Rosa – *impacts on vulnerable populations*
- Jan. 9, 2019 in Calabasas – *impacts on first responders and local governments*

21




## De-Energization OIR Key Dates

 <b>Event</b>	 <b>Date</b>
<i>Prehearing Conference</i>	<i>Feb. 6, 2019</i>
<i>Scoping Memo</i>	<i>February 2019</i>
<i>Opening Comments</i>	<i>March 2019</i>
<i>Reply Comments</i>	<i>April 2019</i>
<i>Proposed Decision on De-energization Rules</i>	<i>Summer 2019</i>
<i>Final Decision on De-energization Rules</i>	<i>Summer 2019</i>

22






## De-Energization OIR Current Status and Next Steps

- Informal workshops have been completed
- SED team continues to meet with utilities to review de-energization reports, outreach efforts, and procedures
- Prehearing Conference (PHC) was conducted on February 6, 2019
- Decision on de-energization expected in summer 2019






23



## How Does This Affect My Community?

- Your Community may be de-energized and must have a plan.
- Your utilities are required to have de-energization plans and procedures.
- Build relationships now



24



## More Information on De-Energization

- <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/deenergization/>




The CPUC is monitoring the tragic fire conditions throughout the state that began in November 2018, in coordination with our partners from CAL FIRE and Cal OES. The State's Investor Owned Utilities, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Southern California Edison, and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), have general authority to shut off electric power to protect public safety under California law, specifically California Public Utilities Code (PU Code) Sections 451 and 399.2(a). This process is called de-energization. This authority includes shutting off power to prevent fires caused by strong winds. The State's utilities have recently developed programs to exercise this authority during severe wildfire threat conditions as a preventative measure of last resort.

On July 12, 2018, the CPUC adopted rules to strengthen customer notification requirements before de-energization events and ordered utilities to engage local communities in developing de-energization programs.

The CPUC is working with the Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), CAL FIRE, and first responders to address potential impacts of utility de-energization practices on emergency response activities, including evacuations. The CPUC is also monitoring the development and will continuously assess implementation of de-energization programs by utilities, including performing a thorough review of de-energization events as they occur.




25




## Thank You!

**For further information related to CPUC wildfire risk mitigation policies please contact :**

**Lee Palmer, Deputy Director  
Safety & Enforcement Division  
415-703-2369  
[Leslie.palmer@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Leslie.palmer@cpuc.ca.gov)**





26

[www.cpuc.ca.gov](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov)