

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
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August 27, 2020

Via Email Transmission Only

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Re: *August 2020 Public Safety Power Shutoff Public Briefings*

Dear Mr. Lewis, Mr. Payne, and Ms. Winn:

Thank you for your company's informative presentations and discussion during the Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Public Briefings held by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on August 10, August 11, and August 13, 2020. With my fellow Commissioners and the leaders who joined us from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), I appreciate that your companies informed the California public on the status of your preparedness for 2020 wildfire season PSPS events.

Under Public Utilities Code Section 451, each electric investor-owned utility (IOU) has the obligation to furnish and maintain service that is necessary to promote the safety, health, comfort and convenience of its customers, employees, and the public. It is imperative that the IOUs deploy PSPS as a measure of last resort, and only when the benefit of power shutoffs outweighs potential public safety risks. Each one of your companies must continue to fulfill

your obligations under existing laws, rules, and directives during the 2020 wildfire season, including safe and competent execution of PSPS events. The COVID-19 pandemic will complicate and exacerbate PSPS planning and execution challenges, and your companies must meet those challenges while minimizing the scope and duration of each PSPS event.

A number of questions were raised over the course of the August 2020 PSPS Public Briefings that require additional follow up from your companies. For the safety and the well-being of Californians, I request responses and updates as set out below:

- Medical Baseline Customers and Equipment: The number of medical baseline customers dependent on powered medical equipment in areas potentially impacted by PSPS that have not received the backup batteries your companies have committed to providing as of the date of this letter. What is the total number of batteries that will be deployed and the timeline to achieve full deployment of the batteries?
- Community Resource Centers (CRCs): A list of the fully ready CRCs of all types as of the date of this letter, including hard-sided buildings, pop-up tents, and vans. Please provide a comparison to your target numbers of CRCs of all types. For each CRC, provide information on hours of operation, location, services provided, and what changes have been made or are in preparation to be made in response to COVID-19. How many and what type of CRCs will be located close to tribal lands?
- Rural Residential Well Water Needs: An update on your company's consultation with rural residents who depend on well water powered by electricity.
- Tribal Government Outreach: An update on your company's consultation with tribal governments, especially on how to improve communication and coordination for the restoration of power after a PSPS event.
- Outreach to People with Self-Identified Disabilities: An update on your company's outreach to people who have self-identified as having a disability, and how your notification protocols will be improved for this additional group, pursuant to the requirement in Commission Decision 20-05-051.
- In-Language and Related Community Outreach: An update on your company's outreach and relationship-building with people and communities in farmworker communities where prevalent languages such as Hmong, Mixteco, Yaqui and Triqui are spoken.

Please respond with a letter, including any necessary attachments, via email transmitted to the Commissioners by September 8, 2020, with cc to the service lists for R.18-12-005 and I.19-11-013 and the list of persons below.

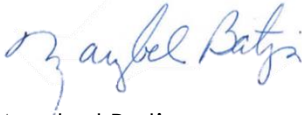
I further request that you present your responses at the Commission's regularly scheduled voting meeting that will be held virtually on September 10, 2020. Each of your companies will have 20 minutes to present your respective responses.

Separately, our staff will follow up with you to address other questions that came up during the briefings, including ensuring the most up-to-date medical baseline and critical care customer databases, specifics about backup power for telecommunications facilities, and creating public maps with sufficient contrast for persons with vision disability.

Please know that my fellow Commissioners and I share a deep concern for the safety and well-being of Californians, particularly given the added challenges of the pandemic this

year. We have the highest expectations of your companies during this 2020 wildfire and PSPS season.

Sincerely,



Marybel Batjer  
President  
California Public Utilities Commission

cc:

Service Lists for R.18-12-005 and I.19-11-013

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