



# City of Downey

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December 12, 2018

Michael Picker, President  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

VIA FAX: 213.576.7007

RE: Proceeding R. 18-10-007 Wildfire Mitigation Plans

Dear President Picker,

The City of Downey appreciates the opportunity to comment on proceeding R. 18-10 007 regarding investor-owned utilities (IOUs) wildfire mitigation plans. Californians rely on energy for basic services and on energy providers to get it to us safely. We appreciate the leadership of the California Public Utilities Commission in addressing the increasingly devastating and destructive wildfires in California.

Local governments across California have long been at the forefront of wildfire and disaster preparedness and response. The trends of increasing wildfire severity, strengthening safety, and other policies to protect against these disasters are critical.

New utility wildfire mitigation plans will have numerous direct effects on local governments, including receipt of notifications, re-closer and de-energizing protocols, plans for restoring service, and vegetation management. Specifically, protocols for de-energizing utility lines have important effects on residents, businesses, and city operations. In response to power outages, cities respond by changing traffic signals, a labor-intensive transition that requires city staff time. Local governments are also likely to be affected by any changes in vegetation management procedures and would appreciate the opportunity to work with utilities on changes to such policies. Furthermore, cities and other local governments would like the opportunity to coordinate with utilities to ensure notice is provided to hospitals, businesses, and residents that rely on electrical service.

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*Future Unlimited*

For these reasons, we kindly request the Commission consider our request that utilities coordinate with local governments. Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

CITY OF DOWNEY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean Ashton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sean Ashton  
Mayor

cc: Kristine Guerrero, League of California Cities, [kguerrero@cacities.org](mailto:kguerrero@cacities.org)  
Emily Pappas, Niemela Pappas & Associates, [pappas@npalobby.com](mailto:pappas@npalobby.com)  
Jaime Minor, Niemela Pappas & Associates, [minor@npalobby.com](mailto:minor@npalobby.com)