

December 1, 2018

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

RE: Southern California Edison Grid Safety and Resiliency Program (GS&RP)

Dear President Picker:

In our effort to support solutions that ensure California has a safer and more resilient infrastructure in the face of changing weather and wildfires, we, as city officials and concerned California residents write to support Southern California Edison's (SCE) 2018 Grid Safety and Resiliency Program CPUC filing.

We believe the measures outlined in the SCE proposal are critical to keep communities safe in the face of wildfires and other natural disasters driven by extreme weather events. Furthermore, the steps outlined can help improve early detection and the coordinated response to future wildfires in their service territory.

This proposed investment of over \$580 million in enhanced safety and resiliency measures is in keeping with goals of the recently signed Senate Bill 901 and should be supported by everyone in California because we need a safer, stronger energy infrastructure. As outlined in SB 901, the wildfire threat we face demands that California's public- and investor-owned utilities incorporate all reasonable practices to prepare for and prevent wildfires.

SCE's Grid Safety and Resiliency Program is ambitious, proactive and represents the kind of response California needs to enhance wildfire mitigation efforts in the near and long term.

This proposal goes above and beyond current state standards to harden electric infrastructure so it can safely deliver the power our communities depend on. The GS&RP will make important infrastructure improvements including:

- The state's first large-scale deployment of insulated wires with a goal of lowering the risk of wildfires. Over the next two years and covering nearly 600 miles of high fire risk areas, these insulated wires, supported by fire-resistant composite poles where appropriate, will lower the threat of wildfires caused when plant material and other objects comes into contact with traditional power lines.
- Increased investment in advanced technology including current limiting fuses and remote-controlled automatic reclosers. The installation of 15,700 current limiting fuses will cut down on the threat that fuses create their own heat source thus reducing ignition risk. This program also expands the use of remote-controlled automatic reclosers to that allow for nimble control of circuit energization during threatening weather conditions such as high wind and low humidity.

In addition to investments in safer physical infrastructure, this program improves SCE's capacity to assist emergency first responders as they work to identify and respond to fires by:

- Supporting fire agencies and other emergency personnel with real-time access to 160 newly deployed high-definition cameras to assess and respond to ignitions when they occur.
- Installing up to 850 weather stations with 125 in 2018 alone to support the use of advanced weather modeling to predict where hazardous conditions may develop and respond to worsening conditions during an emergency.

Finally, and importantly, this program includes bold steps to enhance SCE's operational procedures beyond state guidelines for vegetation management and will incorporate innovative solutions to identify infrastructure at risk by:

- Assessing the risk posted by trees closer than 200 feet from electric facilities and removing or cutting back those that could strike the equipment.
- Expanding the use of infrared inspection of overhead distribution lines to identify potential failure risk in electrical equipment.

We believe these enhancements will make our communities safer, decrease the likelihood that our energy supply will be interrupted by wildfires and save money for ratepayers. If we do not take comprehensive steps to reduce the impact of wildfires and natural disasters on our energy system, energy producers and the communities they serve will pay far more than the modest increased investment associated with this program.

As city officials and concerned citizens, we encourage precisely this kind of investment in a more resilient infrastructure. We understand these proceedings can take up to a year to resolve. We urge you to timely review and approve this program to increase the safety of our communities and the resiliency of our energy system amid our state's sharply increasing fire risk.

Sincerely,