MEMORANDUM
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
County of Placer

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: Todd Leopold, County Executive Officer
By: Holly Powers, Assistant Director of Emergency Services

DATE: November 5, 2019

SUBJECT: Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)

ACTION REQUESTED
A. Pacific Gas and Electric Public Safety Power Shutoffs
   1. Receive an update regarding the Pacific Gas and Electric Public Safety Power Shutoffs
   2. Reaffirm a Local Emergency Proclamation in Placer County:
      a. Adopt a Resolution to reaffirm a local emergency in Placer County due to conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within Placer County due to unprecedented fire weather conditions, expected high winds, and imminent power outages causing sudden and severe energy shortages within substantial portions of Placer County.
   3. Authorize the Chair to sign letters regarding impacts from the Public Safety Power Shutoffs:
      a. Letter to the Governor Newsom regarding impacts from Public Safety Power Shutoffs
      b. Letter to Pacific Gas & Electric regarding impacts from Public Safety Power Shutoffs

BACKGROUND
When the actual or threatened existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exists, and the conditions are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the county to control effectively, the local governing body may proclaim that a local emergency exists. A local emergency may be proclaimed to exist due to a specific situation, such as flood, fire, storm, earthquake, epidemic, drought, sudden and severe energy shortage, or other condition, as authorized by Section 8630 of the California Government Code and County Code Chapter 2, Article 2.88, Section 2.88.060. Both County Code and state law requires that your Board review the emergency Proclamation every 60 days and either re-affirm or terminate the declaration of local emergency.

On October 8, 2019, your Board proclaimed a local emergency due to conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within Placer County as a result of unprecedented fire weather conditions, expected high winds, and imminent power outages causing sudden and severe energy shortages within substantial portions of Placer County. Since that time, multiple and extensive power outages and extreme wind conditions have occurred. These events are also anticipated to continue for the foreseeable future and could potentially involve any provider of
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Reaffirm Local Emergency  
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electrical service within the County. Further, on October 27, 2019, the Governor proclaimed a statewide emergency which made state resources available to assist local governments.

These conditions and the expected future power outages in the County have had and will or likely will continue to have a significant impact on critical public infrastructure and services. The Resolution presented for your Board’s adoption reaffirms the existence of a continuing local emergency in Placer County initially declared on October 8, 2019.

Letters of concern from the Board of Supervisors urge the Governor and PG&E to explore other alternative solutions to power shutoffs.

FISCAL IMPACT  
Potential fiscal impact is unknown at this time.

ATTACHMENTS  
Attachment 1 – Resolution  
Attachment 2 – Placer County Proclamation of a Local Emergency  
Attachment 3 – California Proclamation of a State of Emergency  
Attachment 4 – Letter to Governor Newsom regarding impacts from Public Safety Power Shutoffs  
Attachment 5 – Letter to Pacific Gas & Electric regarding impacts from the Public Safety Power Shutoffs
In the matter of:
Reaffirming the Existence of a Local Emergency due to Power Outages, High Winds, and Extreme Fire Danger

The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held November 5, 2019, by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:
Noes:
Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Chair, Board of Supervisors

Attest:

Clerk of said Board

WHEREAS, the California Emergency Services Act, including but not limited to Government Code section 8630, empowers the Board of Supervisors to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the County is affected, or likely to be affected, by a public calamity; and

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2019, the Board of Supervisors found that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property arose within the County due to unprecedented fire weather conditions, expected high winds, and announced imminent power outages within substantial portions of Placer County, which would cause a sudden and severe energy shortage; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors found that the emergency conditions were beyond the control of local resources, services, personnel, equipment and facilities; and

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2019, the Board of Supervisors proclaimed a local emergency to be in existence; and

WHEREAS, since October 8, 2019, multiple high wind events, severe fire danger, and power outages have occurred; and
WHEREAS, the Board finds that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have existed and continue to exist within the County due to high winds, extreme fire danger, and power outages in substantial portions of the County which could potentially involve any supplier of electricity within the County, and;

WHEREAS, these conditions have impacted and will continue to impact significant County and community operations, including critical public infrastructure and services, requiring additional public safety and emergency services, notwithstanding impaired emergency response capability caused by the loss of electrical power; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that emergency conditions have been and continue to be beyond the control of local resources, services, personnel, equipment and facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that these emergency conditions have required and will continue to require additional resources, services, personnel, equipment, facilities and funding which may include, but are not limited to: assistance to citizens who may be without food, water, use of medical devices, or other essential services; maintenance of essential public services that are dependent on electricity, such as water, sewage, and traffic control; emergency purchases and leases of equipment, materials, and supplies, including fuel and generators necessary to provide services to County facilities and to the public, and; firefighting assistance in the event of wildfire;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors, County of Placer, State of California, hereby reaffirms the existence of the local emergency initially proclaimed on October 8, 2019, with said emergency conditions existing continuously since that time, with such conditions expected to continue until such a time as the emergency is proclaimed terminated by the Board of Supervisors;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all powers and authorities in the emergency proclamation of October 8, 2019 are hereby reaffirmed;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the Director of Emergency Services or his designee and the emergency organization of the County shall be those prescribed by state law, by ordinance, resolutions, or other action of this County approved by the Board of Supervisors, and by the current Emergency Operations Plan, as approved by the Board of Supervisors.
PROCLAMATION OF EXISTENCE OF A COUNTY-WIDE LOCAL EMERGENCY
(UNINCORPORATED AND INCORPORATED AREAS)
AND RESOLUTION
REQUESTING GOVERNOR TO PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the California Emergency Services Act, including but not limited to Government Code section 8630, empowers the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when said County is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors does hereby find that on October 8, 2019, conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within the County of Placer, caused by an imminent severe energy shortage because of an announcement by Pacific Gas and Electric of a Public Safety Power Shutoff event, expected extreme winds, and extreme fire danger, and that such extreme peril may exist within a significant portion of the County of Placer and;

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors finds that these emergency conditions are beyond the control of local resources, services, personnel, equipment and facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors finds that these emergency conditions will require additional resources, services, personnel, equipment, facilities and funding as follows, which may include, but are not limited to:
- Assistance to citizens who may be without food, water, use of medical devices, or other essential services for an extended period;
- Maintenance of basic public services that are dependent on electricity, such as water, sewage, traffic control;
- Equipment, materials, and supplies, including fuel and generators necessary to provide temporary services to County buildings and to the public in general, and;
- Firefighting assistance in the event of wildfire.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED by the Board of Supervisors that a local emergency exists throughout Placer County pursuant to Government Code section 8630 and as defined by Government Code Section 8558, and shall be deemed to continue to exist subject to review and termination by the Board of Supervisors pursuant to Government Code section 8630; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of this county shall be those prescribed by State law including but not limited to Government Code section 8634, County ordinances and resolutions and the current Emergency Operations Plan.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this proclamation be forwarded to the Governor of California with the request that he proclaim Placer County to be in a State of Emergency and further that the Governor request a Presidential Declaration.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Todd Leopold, County Executive Officer, or his delegate, is hereby designated as the authorized representative of the County of Placer for the purpose of receipt, processing, and coordination of all inquiries and requirements necessary to obtain available state and federal assistance.

COUNTY OF PLACER

Date/Time: 10/8/19 5:20 p.m.

By: Kirk Uhler, Chairman
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS beginning on October 26, 2019, an historic wind event struck California, resulting in nearly statewide red flag warnings due to extremely dangerous fire weather conditions; and

WHEREAS these fire weather conditions are unprecedented due to the scale, scope, wind speed, and dry fuel conditions, and pose a serious and imminent threat to the health and safety of Californians; and

WHEREAS the extreme fire weather conditions and affiliated red flag warnings exist in at least 43 counties, extending from the northernmost portion of California through the Valley, and into and throughout Southern California, with sustained wind speeds in some areas expected to reach 55 miles per hour with gusts up to 75 miles per hour; and

WHEREAS a fire that occurs or multiple fires that occur during this extreme fire weather event could be catastrophic, and it is imperative that California is ready to immediately mitigate any impacts resulting from these conditions; and

WHEREAS as a result of these widespread extreme fire weather conditions, I have directed firefighting assets to be prepositioned throughout the state to be ready to expeditiously combat a wildfire; and

WHEREAS there are cascading impacts that will result from these unprecedented fire weather conditions, which will likely extend beyond the conclusion of the weather event; and

WHEREAS damage to electrical power lines during high wind events, including tree branches falling on lines, downed power lines, line slapping and other equipment failures, have ignited the state’s deadliest and most destructive wildfires; and

WHEREAS electrical utilities, including Pacific Gas and Electric, Southern California Edison, and San Diego Gas and Electric, have independently decided to engage in de-energization of their power lines, known as a Public Safety Power Shutoff or PSPS; and

WHEREAS these Public Safety Power Shutoffs have resulted or will likely result in more than one million customers without electricity, including, but not limited to, households, businesses, public facilities, medical care facilities, schools, and critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS the utilities' independent decision to engage in a widespread preemptive de-energization of power lines in response to this extreme weather event has resulted in significant and complex challenges for state and local governments to maintain public safety and essential services, and to mitigate impacts on vulnerable populations and critical infrastructure; and
WHEREAS continuity in education plays an integral role in the health and safety of students, and disruptions to educational services can leave students without access to food and physical safety in addition to associated effects on families and communities; and

WHEREAS there are numerous other impacts of the Public Safety Power Shutoffs to individuals, including those dependent upon electricity for medical equipment and refrigeration for medication; and

WHEREAS as a result of the extreme fire weather conditions causing, and combined with, utilities' Public Safety Power Shutoffs, the state as well as local governments have activated their respective emergency operations centers; and

WHEREAS in anticipation of the utilities' unprecedented use of Public Safety Power Shutoffs in an attempt to prevent utility-caused wildfires, the Legislature and I have provided one-time assistance to local governments to mitigate the impact on Californians by supporting continuity of operations and efforts to protect public health, safety, and commerce in affected communities; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist due to widespread fire weather conditions throughout California; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that the conditions caused by an extreme fire weather system, by reason of its magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to appropriately respond; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8625(c), I find that local authority is inadequate to cope with the magnitude and cascading impacts of the extreme fire weather conditions; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this order would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of extreme fire weather conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code section 8625, HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY to exist in California due to the extreme fire weather conditions.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The suspensions of statutes and regulations and direction provided in this proclamation shall be utilized with the concurrence of the Director of the Office of Emergency Services
and remain in effect as long as necessary to respond to the direct effects of the extreme weather conditions described in this proclamation.

2. All agencies of the state government utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of the Office of Emergency Services and the State Emergency Plan. Also, all residents are to heed the advice of emergency officials with regard to this emergency in order to protect their safety.

3. As necessary to assist local governments and for the protection of public health and the environment, state agencies shall enter into contracts to arrange for the procurement of materials, goods, and services necessary to quickly assist with the response to and recovery from the impacts of the extreme fire weather conditions and cascading impacts. Applicable provisions of the Government Code and the Public Contract Code, including but not limited to travel, advertising, and competitive bidding requirements, are suspended to the extent necessary to address the effects of the extreme fire weather conditions.

4. The provisions of Unemployment Insurance Code section 1253 imposing a one-week waiting period for unemployment insurance applicants are suspended as to all applicants who are unemployed as a direct result of the extreme fire weather conditions described in this proclamation who applied for unemployment insurance benefits during the time period beginning October 26, 2019, and ending on the close of business on April 26, 2020, and who are otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.

5. In order to directly respond to the needs of impacted assisted living facilities, adult residential facilities, child care facilities, children's residential facilities, resource family homes, and other similar facilities within the Department of Social Services' jurisdiction, the Director of the Department of Social Services may waive any provisions of the Health and Safety Code or Welfare and Institutions Code, and accompanying regulations or written directives, with respect to the use, licensing, or approval of facilities or homes within the Department's jurisdiction set forth in the California Community Care Facilities Act (Health and Safety Code section 1500 et seq.), the California Child Day Care Facilities Act (Health and Safety Code section 1596.70 et seq.), and the California Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly Act (Health and Safety Code section 1569 et seq.). Any waivers granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be posted on the Department's website and shall only be in effect so long as necessary to address the direct impacts of the extreme fire weather conditions identified in this proclamation.

6. In order to ensure hospitals, clinics, and other health facilities remain open, the Director of the Department of Public Health may waive any of the licensing requirements of Chapters 1 and 2 of the Health and Safety Code and accompanying regulations.
with respect to any hospital, clinic or health facility identified in Health and Safety Code section 1250 that is impacted by the fires. Any waiver shall include alternative measures that, under the circumstances, will allow the facilities to remain open while protecting public health and safety. Any facilities being granted a waiver shall be established and operated in accordance with their disaster and mass casualty plan. Any waivers granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be posted on the Department’s website and shall only be in effect so long as necessary to address the direct impacts of the extreme fire weather conditions identified in this proclamation.

7. Any fairgrounds that the Office of Emergency Services determines are suitable to assist individuals impacted by the extreme fire weather conditions shall be made available to the Office of Emergency Services pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, Government Code section 8589. The Office of Emergency Services shall notify the fairgrounds of the intended use and can immediately utilize the fairgrounds without the fairground board of directors’ approval.

8. The Air Resources Board shall exercise maximize discretion and streamline permitting with regard to importing generators into California and use of generators within the state.

9. In order to mitigate the effects of the extreme fire weather conditions, including, but not limited to, delivery of emergency out-of-state utility drivers performing intrastate mutual assistance within California, applicable provisions of the Vehicle Code, including but not limited to sections 1808.1 subdivisions (a) through (f), 34620 (motor carrier permit), 12502 (medical requirements) as well as California Code of Regulations, Title 13, sections 1229 and 1234 (driver proficiency) license and testing requirements, are suspended. Notwithstanding these suspensions, any entity utilizing these waivers shall maintain motor vehicle records and a current public driving record for each driver, from the jurisdiction issuing the driver license, and will ensure compliance with pre-employment controlled substances testing requirements pursuant to Vehicle Code Section 34520, subdivision (a).

10. In an effort to minimize impacts to students and disruption in continuity of education services, the Department of Education is requested to exercise sound discretion in providing statewide leadership to local school districts regarding whether to recommend school closures, taking into account public safety, school facility conditions, and safe passage to and from schools. CDE is requested to offer guidance regarding available resources and coordination with state agencies, including law enforcement, to promote, for example, safe passage to and from school for students and staff and to ensure provision of drinking water and food necessary for students in school.

11. In order to quickly provide relief from interest and penalties, the provisions of Revenue and Taxation Code sections 6592 and 6593, requiring the filing of a statement under penalty of perjury.
setting forth the facts for a claim for relief, are suspended for a period of 60 days after the date of this Proclamation for any individuals or businesses who are unable to file a timely tax return or make a timely payment as a result of the extreme fire weather conditions in the impacted counties.

12. The Franchise Tax Board, the Board of Equalization, the Department of Tax and Fee Administration, and the Office of Tax Appeals shall use their administrative powers where appropriate to provide those individuals and businesses impacted by the extreme fire weather condition with the extensions for filing, audits, billing, notices, assessments, and relief from subsequent penalties and interest.

13. The Department of Consumer Affairs shall exercise maximum discretion in allowing continuity in business operations of businesses under its purview to minimize the impacts of the extreme fire weather conditions.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this proclamation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 27th day of October 2019.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

ALEX PADILLA
Secretary of State
November 5, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Concern on recent PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoffs

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Placer County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express the County's concerns about the recent PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoffs. We understand that PG&E is trying to protect our citizens and businesses from wildfire, but we urge you to require PG&E to find other solutions as the power shutoffs are having devastating impacts on our communities.

Each event this month has adversely affected tens of thousands of Placer County residents and businesses. It is important to remember that loss of power is not just an inconvenience, but a serious issue and in some cases, life threatening.

Our most vulnerable citizens are being severely impacted. Seniors are having to find ways to travel from their rural homes to charge their medical devices. Many of these seniors cannot drive or do not have vehicles adding another layer of complexity. Families are forced to find other lodging when nightly temperatures in the higher elevations fall below freezing and young children's lives could be endangered by staying in a house with little heat. Low-income families are fearful that they will not be able to afford their monthly bills because their place of employment has been closed, which means they are missing multiple days of pay on their next paycheck.

The economic impacts for Placer County and California as a whole are widespread during each day of a shutoff. Every sector of the business community in Placer County has been affected, including medical facilities, schools, banks, agriculture, and restaurants. Businesses are reporting thousands of dollars of lost revenue for each day that they are closed.
Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor
State of California
RE: Letter of Concern on recent PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoffs
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Again, we understand that PG&E is shutting off power to prevent other catastrophic fires. But we need to find better solutions than to leave thousands of Placer County residents and millions of Californians without power. We urge you to work with PG&E, the California Public Utilities Commission and state legislators to find other options.

Respectfully,
COUNTY of PLACER

Kirk Uhler, Chair (District 4)
Placer County Board of Supervisors
November 5, 2019

Mr. William Johnson  
Chief Executive Officer  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
77 Beale Street  
San Francisco, CA 941505

RE: Letter of Concern on recent PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoffs

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On behalf of the Placer County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express the County’s concerns about the recent PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoffs. We understand that PG&E is trying to protect our citizens and businesses from wildfire, but we urge you to look for other solutions as the power shutoffs are having devastating impacts on our communities.

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Again, we understand that PG&E is shutting off power to prevent other catastrophic fires. But we need to find better solutions than to leave thousands of Placer County residents and millions of Californians without power. We urge you to work with the California Public Utilities Commission, Governor Newsom and state legislators to find other options.

Respectfully,

COUNTY of PLACER

Kirk Uhler, Chair (District 4)
Placer County Board of Supervisors