



MEMORANDUM
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
County of Placer

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors DATE: July 6, 2021

FROM: Todd Leopold, County Executive Officer
By: David Atkinson, PE, Assistant Director of Emergency Services

SUBJECT: Presentation from PG&E on their Community Wildfire Safety Program to include the Public Safety Power Shutoff.

ACTION REQUESTED

Receive a presentation by PG&E about their 2021 Community Wildfire Safety Program. This presentation will include updates on specific measures that PG&E is taking in Placer County to reduce wildfire potential, improve situational awareness, and reduce the impacts of Public Safety Power Shutoff events.

BACKGROUND

The fire season of 2020 was the most destructive in California history, underscoring the importance of continued diligence in wildfire mitigation efforts. With approximately half of their distribution and transmission lines located in High Fire Threat Areas (ia.cpuc.ca.gov/firemap/), PG&E has an important role to play in the prevention of wildfires in Placer County.

In 2012, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) ruled that California Public Utilities Code Sections 451 and 399.2(a) give electric utilities authority to shut off electric power in order to protect public safety. This allows the energy companies (SDG&E, PG&E, SCE, Liberty, Bear Valley and PacifiCorp) to shut off power for the prevention of fires where strong winds, heat events, and related conditions are present. In response to the 2017 wildfires and Senate Bill (SB) 901, the Commission revised earlier guidelines on the de-energization of powerlines. The CPUC adopted the most current set of Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) guidelines on June 5, 2020.

According to PG&E's 2021 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Executive Summary:

"Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) 2021 Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) continues many of the actions undertaken in our 2019 and 2020 WMPs, but also reflects an evolution to a more precise, technology-based approach to measure and mitigate wildfire risk, lessons learned implementing the 2020 WMP, and feedback received from the Wildfire Safety Division (WSD), PG&E's Federal Monitor, and many others as to areas that we can improve and gaps we should address." Additional information can be found on PG&E's website:

www.pge.com/WildFireSafety

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact as a result of this action.

