

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Implement  
Electric Utility Wildfire Mitigation Plans Pursuant  
to Senate Bill 901 (2018).

Rulemaking 18-10-007  
(Filed October 25, 2018)

**LIBERTY UTILITIES (CALPECO ELECTRIC) LLC'S (U 933-E) COMMENTS ON FINAL  
INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR REPORT ON COMPLIANCE**

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September 10, 2021

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Pursuant to the Wildfire Safety Division's ("WSD's") April 6, 2021 letter regarding 2021 Guidance on Engagement of Independent Evaluators ("IE"), associated with Rulemaking ("R.") 18-10-007, Liberty Utilities (CalPeco Electric) LLC ("Liberty") hereby provides comments on the Final Independent Evaluator Report on Compliance ("Final IE Report") issued by NV5 and Guidehouse on June 30, 2021.

**A. The information in Table 1: IE Insufficient Findings is misleading and inconsistent with statements provided in the initiative review section of the report for three Vegetation Management initiatives.**

The Final IE Report states that Liberty is largely achieving the reviewed initiative objectives. "Table 1: IE Insufficient Findings," however, lists activities in which Liberty failed to meet an initiative obligation. With respect to the following initiatives, Liberty finds the information in the table to be misleading and inconsistent with statements provided in the initiative review section of the report:

- 5.3.5.15 - Remediation of at-risk species
- 5.3.5.16 - Removal and remediation of trees with strike potential to electric lines and equipment

- 5.3.5.20 - Vegetation management to achieve clearances around electric lines and equipment

Liberty's 2020 WMP set a target of 380 line miles to be treated for remediation of at-risk species (Initiative 5.3.5.15), and explains that Liberty was unable to separate costs between initiatives related to pruning trees for line clearance (Initiative 5.3.5.16) from trees removed for strike potential (Initiative 5.3.5.20). Liberty's 2020 WMP did not set a specific target for line miles to be treated for Initiative 5.3.5.16 or Initiative 5.3.5.20 because remediation of at-risk species (Initiative 5.3.5.15), is inclusive of Initiatives 5.3.5.16 and 5.3.5.20. Understanding how the initiatives were detailed in the WMP, the IE evaluated the completion of 380 miles for all three initiatives. Instead of providing a single finding for Initiative 5.3.5.15 to align with Liberty's WMP, the IE conducted a single evaluation and proceeded to report the same finding three times.

Apart from the failure to report its findings in a manner consistent with Liberty's WMP, the IE makes contradictory statements regarding its finding. Table 1 for each of the listed initiatives states, "based on the WMP, documentation reviewed, and live demonstration interviews, the IE has reasonable assurance Liberty did not meet the full obligation of this initiative." In Section 3.1.2.3: Vegetation Management & Inspections, the Final IE Report states, "upon completion of the documentation review and the live demonstration, the IE has reasonable assurance Liberty is meeting the obligation of this initiative. The IE confirmed Liberty only completed the combined remediation and removal of 374 of 380 line miles for the combined initiatives in 2020." The IE finding that Liberty did not meet the objectives for these initiatives seems based on the fact that Liberty completed only 374 of the 380 miles Liberty forecast in its 2020 WMP.

Liberty considers completing more than 98% of its tree remediation work during a rigorous year implementing its WMP as a success. If a variance of less than 2% from the target constitutes a failure for the initiative, then it should be reported as a single failure consistent with Liberty's 2020 WMP.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Jordan Parrillo*

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