



CITY OF CORONA FIRE DEPARTMENT


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2023 Independent Evaluator Report Corona Utilities Department (CUD) Wildfire Mitigation Plan

Requirement in Public Utilities Code § 8387	Evaluation
<p>PUC § 8387(a): Each local publicly owned electric utility and electrical cooperative shall construct, maintain, and operate its electrical lines and equipment in a manner that will minimize the risk of wildfire posed by those electrical lines and equipment.</p>	<p>Assessment of Plan Requirement: CUD has constructed its electrical system to meet or exceed federal, state, and industry standards. Except for a short feed from SCE, CUD's system is entirely underground, significantly minimizing the risk of wildfires. Areas where transformers and other equipment are located, are properly maintained. The short feed area is not within a very high fire severity zone or a Tier2 or Tier 3 high fire threat district, and no vegetation is near the equipment.</p> <p>Reference: Page #8 – Section II.E</p>
Required Elements for Wildfire Mitigation Plan	
<p>PUC § 8387(b)(2)(A): An accounting of the responsibilities of persons responsible for executing the plan.</p>	<p>Assessment of Plan Requirement: CUD is properly organized as a Department within the City of Corona's organizational structure, reporting to the City Manager and ultimately to City Council and the citizen of Corona</p> <p>Reference: Page #12 - Section IV.A</p>
<p>PUC § 8387(b)(2)(B): The objectives of the wildfire mitigation plan.</p>	<p>Assessment of Plan Requirement: The Wildfire Mitigation Plan contains appropriate objectives to reduce the probability that CUD's electrical supply system could be the origin or contributing source for igniting a wildfire. In addition to improving the resiliency of the electrical grid.</p> <p>Reference: Page #10 – Section III</p>
<p>PUC § 8387(b)(2)(C): A description of the preventive strategies and programs to be adopted by the local publicly owned electric utility or electrical cooperative to minimize the risk of its electrical lines and equipment causing catastrophic wildfires, including consideration of dynamic climate change risks.</p>	<p>Assessment of Plan Requirement: CUD adequately identifies the eight items undertaken in their program to prevent wildfires as it relates to their electrical equipment. CUD's strategies address from pre-construction and maintenance through deenergization.</p>

	Reference: Page #14 – Section IV.D; Page #19 – Section VI
PUC § 8387(b)(2)(D): A description of the metrics the local publicly owned electric utility or electrical cooperative plans to use to evaluate the wildfire mitigation plan’s performance and the assumptions that underlie the use of those metrics.	Assessment of Plan Requirement: CUD identifies two metrics, fire ignitions and Electrical Infrastructure Inspection, that it will use to measure the success of the mitigation plans. Reference: Page #2 - Section IX.A
PUC § 8387(b)(2)(E): A discussion of how the application of previously identified metrics to previous wildfire mitigation plan performances has informed the wildfire mitigation plan.	Assessment of Plan Requirement: CUD has identified how it will report on the metrics in future reports. Corona Fire has examined our records and found no wildfires on property adjacent to CUD’s above-ground poles. Reference: Page #13 - Section IX.B
PUC § 8387(b)(2)(F): Protocols for disabling reclosers and deenergizing portions of the electrical distribution system that consider the associated impacts on public safety, as well as protocols related to mitigating the public safety impacts of those protocols, including impacts on critical first responders and on health and communication infrastructure.	Assessment of Plan Requirement: Complies with the requirement. CUD has only one recloser deployed in its electrical system, as the system is nearly 100% underground. Once the system is deenergized, it requires manual reenergization, no automated protocols. Reference: Page #21 - Section VI.G
PUC § 8387(b)(2)(G): Appropriate and feasible procedures for notifying a customer who may be impacted by the deenergizing of electrical lines. The procedures shall direct notification to all public safety offices, critical first responders, health care facilities, and operators of telecommunications infrastructure with premises within the footprint of potential deenergization for a given event.	Assessment of Plan Requirement: CUD has procedures in place to notify its customers and cooperators of public safety power outages and other outages due to system failure and/or maintenance activities. However, Due to the extreme minimal risk of CUD’s electrical supply facilities causing a power-line-ignited wildfire, CUD has not adopted specific protocols for de-energizing and customer notification. Reference: Page #21 - Section VI.H
PUC § 8387(b)(2)(H): Plans for vegetation management.	Assessment of Plan Requirement: CUD has plans in place for annual vegetation management/weed abatement activities that meet or exceed minimum standards. Reference: Page #20 - Section VI.D
PUC § 8387(b)(2)(I): Plans for inspections of the local publicly owned electric utility’s or electrical cooperative’s electrical infrastructure.	Assessment of Plan Requirement: CUD has identified how it will inspect and monitor the system for both wildfire risk weather events, as well as other weather-related events that might occur. Reference: Page #20 - Section VI.E

<p>PUC § 8387(b)(2)(J): A list that identifies, describes, and prioritizes all wildfire risks, and drivers for those risks, throughout the local publicly owned electric utility's or electrical cooperative's service territory. The list shall include, but not be limited to, both of the following:</p> <p>(i) Risks and risk drivers associated with design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the local publicly owned electric utility's or electrical cooperative's equipment and facilities.</p> <p>(ii) Particular risks and risk drivers associated with topographic and climatological risk factors throughout the different parts of the local publicly owned electric utility's or electrical cooperative's service territory.</p>	<p>Assessment of Plan Requirement: The risk to the system are properly identified within the plan. Particular risks and risk drivers are identified in both areas of construction operations and maintenance along with topographic and climatological risk factors.</p> <p>Reference: Page #17 - Section V</p>
<p>PUC § 8387(b)(2)(K): Identification of any geographic area in the local publicly owned electric utility's or electrical cooperative's service territory that is a higher wildfire threat than is identified in a commission fire threat map, and identification of where the commission should expand a high fire threat district based on new information or changes to the environment.</p>	<p>Assessment of Plan Requirement: The plan identifies that the exposed area of the system is not within a wildfire severity zone or high fire threat zone. CUD worked with cooperators in identifying wildfire threat areas. At this time no changes are needed.</p> <p>Reference: Page #19 - Section V.C</p>
<p>PUC § 8387(b)(2)(L): A methodology for identifying and presenting enterprisewide safety risk and wildfire-related risk.</p>	<p>Assessment of Plan Requirement: CUD has provided mapping showing the locations of their above-ground exposed equipment and that it is not located within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) areas or high fire threat zone. CUD has also identified enterprisewide safety risks in their plan.</p> <p>Reference: Page #18 - Section V.B</p>
<p>PUC § 8387(b)(2)(M): A statement of how the local publicly owned electric utility or electrical cooperative will restore service after a wildfire.</p>	<p>Assessment of Plan Requirement: CUD has provided a section in the plan that outlines the procedures of restoring electrical service after a wildfire event, or after any service disruption.</p> <p>Reference: Page #21 - Section VIII</p>

<p>PUC § 8387(b)(2)(N): A description of the processes and procedures the local publicly owned electric utility or electrical cooperative shall use to do all of the following:</p> <p>(i) Monitor and audit the implementation of the wildfire mitigation plan.</p> <p>(ii) Identify any deficiencies in the wildfire mitigation plan or its implementation, and correct those deficiencies.</p> <p>(iii) Monitor and audit the effectiveness of electrical line and equipment inspections, including inspections performed by contractors, that are carried out under the plan, other applicable statutes, or commission rules.</p>	<p>Assessment of Plan Requirement: CUD has provided procedures in the plan for monitoring and auditing the plan, identifying any deficiencies with the plan, and monitoring the effectiveness of the electrical line inspection program. CUD utilizes a records management system to collect and track data to be analyzed.</p> <p>Reference: Page #23-24 - Section IX.C-E</p>
<p>Qualified Independent Evaluator Agency:</p> <p>City of Corona Fire Department</p>	<p>Agency Signature of the Evaluator:</p> <p> 5.5.2023</p> <hr/> <p>Cindi Schmitz Fire Marshal</p>