

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA POWER AGENCY WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN

VERSION 1.2

VERSION HISTORY

Version 1.0 - NCPA Commission approved on December 5, 2019 per Resolution 19-100

Version 1.1 – NCPA Commission approved on May 29, 2020 per Resolution 20-43. This WMP includes the qualified Independent Evaluators (IE) report in Appendix 2.

Version 1.2 – NCPA Commission approved on May 27, 2021 per Resolution 21-56 This WMP includes the qualified Independent Evaluators (IE) report in the in Appendix 3.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	4
1. Overview	5
1.A. Policy Statement	5
1.B. Purpose of the Wildfire Mitigation Plan	5
1.B.1. Coordination with Local Agencies	6
1.C. Organization of the Wildfire Mitigation Plan	8
2. Goals	9
2.A. Minimizing Sources of Ignition	9
2.B. Resiliency of the Electric Grid	9
2.C. Identifying Unnecessary or Ineffective Actions	9
3. Roles and Responsibilities	10
3.A. Utility Governance Structure	10
3.B. Wildfire prevention organizational responsibilities	11
3.C. Wildfire Response, COMMUNICATION, and Recovery	11
3.D. Coordination with Water Utilities/Department	12
3.E. Coordination With Communication Infrastructure Providers	12
3.F. Mutual Aid Agreements	13
4. Wildfire Risks and Drivers	14
4.A. Risks Associated With Topographic and Climatological Factors	14
4.B. Risks related to design, operation, and MAINTENANCE	16
4.C. Changes to CPUC Fire Threat Map	16
4.C.1. Map Comparisons and Updates	17
4.C.2. Fire Zone Review Process	18
5. Wildfire Preventative Strategies	19

5.A.	Preventative Strategies and Programs.....	19
5.B.	Potential Climate Change Effects	20
5.C.	Potential Climate Change Risk Management Impacts.....	21
5.D.	Tree Mortality	21
5.E.	Vegetation Management	21
5.F.	Inspections	23
5.G.	Fire Prevention, Safety, Emergency Response training	23
5.H.	Reclosing Policy	24
5.I.	De-energization.....	24
5.J.1.	Impacts to Public Safety	25
5.J.2.	Customer Notification Protocols	25
6.	Left Blank	25
7.	Restoration of Service	26
7.A.	Metrics and Assumptions for Measuring Plan Performance	26
	Metric 1: Fire Ignitions	26
	Metric 2: Wires Down.....	26
7.B.	Impact of Metrics on Plan.....	26
7.C.	Monitoring and Auditing the Plan.....	27
7.D.	Identifying and Correcting Deficiencies in the Plan.....	27
7.E.	Monitoring the Effectiveness of Inspections	27
8.	Independent Auditor	28
	APPENDIX 1 – FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT MAPS	29
	APPENDIX 2 – INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR REPORT 2020	31
	APPENDIX 3 – INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR REPORT 2021	34
	Revision History	58

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Northern California Power Agency (NCPA) has prepared the following Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) in accordance with California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regulation 8387 (SB 901). NCPA is a Joint Powers Agency, which owns and operates several electrical generation facilities to support its members' generation needs.

The objective of this WMP is to reduce the risk of wildfires that could be ignited or propagated by NCPA electrical equipment or facilities in high fire threat locations. The plan describes the range of activities that NCPA is taking to mitigate the threat of power line-ignited wildfires, including its current programs, policies, and procedures as well as future plans to decrease risk and improve resiliency. The plan has prioritized the prevention of elements that create a wildfire event: 1) fuel, or geographic conditions represented by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the CPUC risk maps, and 2) ignition, represented by facilities subject to creating a fire. The facility types of highest interest are open wire power lines (transmission and distribution) that are near heavy vegetation or forest.

NCPA has no retail customers. As such, this report focuses exclusively on NCPA electrical facilities with minimal discussion regarding customer communication typical of other utility WMPs.

1. OVERVIEW

1.A. POLICY STATEMENT

The Northern California Power Agency (NCPA), a California Joint Action Agency, has an overarching goal to provide safe, reliable, and economic electric service to its public power members and associate members. To meet this goal, NCPA constructs, maintains, and operates its equipment in a manner that minimizes the risk of wildfire ignition and propagation caused by NCPA-owned and -operated electric utility equipment (generation, generation tie-lines, and distribution).

1.B. PURPOSE OF THE WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN

The objective of this Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) is to reduce the risk of wildfires that could be ignited or propagated by NCPA electrical equipment or facilities in high fire threat locations.

NCPA is a Joint Powers Agency, which owns and operates electrical generation facilities. The scope of this plan applies to the Geothermal Facility and the Hydro Facility that are located in two different Geographical areas. These two facilities contain electrical equipment in high fire threat locations. The Geothermal Plant is located around the Geysers territory in Lake County and the Hydro Electric Facility is located in the North Fork Stanislaus River watershed.

The plan describes the range of activities that NCPA is taking to mitigate the threat of power line-ignited wildfires, including its current programs, policies, and procedures as well as future plans to decrease risk and improve resiliency. This plan is subject to direct supervision by the NCPA Commission and is implemented by the NCPA General Manager. This plan complies with the requirements of Public Utilities Code section 8387 (origin SB-901) for publicly owned electric utilities to prepare a wildfire mitigation plan by January 1, 2020, and to review and update it annually thereafter.

Historically, NCPA has continuously improved its practices to minimize wildfire risks. This includes:

- A transmission line vegetation management program that is compliant with North American Electric Reliability Corporation Standard FAC-003 and CAL FIRE regulations
- Compliance with CAL FIRE and California Public Utilities Commission regulations and guidance for overhead distribution and transmission lines
- CAL FIRE emergency response plans
- Power management/dispatch response procedures
- Periodic equipment inspections and safe work practices
- Workforce training

This WMP is in response to the requirements of California Senate Bill 901 (SB-901). It supersedes a prior plan drafted and approved prior to SB-901, specifically pursuant to Public Utilities Code, Division 4.1, Chapter 6 Wildfire Mitigation (effective January 1, 2017).

In 2019, NCPA initiated the development of this current WMP. NCPA hired POWER Engineers (POWER) to evaluate NCPA's electrical facilities, processes, and documentation based on the

design, configuration, operations, maintenance, and condition of NCPA facilities in relation to their potential to initiate a wildfire event. The evaluation included consideration of NCPA system descriptions, record design/construction documents, typical facilities layouts, basic fire protection system features, data sheets, inspection practices and procedures, baseline vegetation conditions, potential climate change effects, vegetation management practices, fire threat and hazard maps, and other documentation.

The investigation also included limited on-site surveys for better understanding of the general design, configuration, and condition of NCPA equipment and the surrounding environment for identification of associated risks.

POWER then prepared a wildfire mitigation report with prioritized recommendations for potential improvement. The analysis and recommendations of that report formed the basis for development of site-specific implementation plans with action items scheduled on the basis of risk and cost. These plans provide guidance for NCPA to identify, correct, remediate, or employ new or better methods to be prepared for, reduce, and eliminate the risk of wildfires in and around NCPA facilities. In 2019, this WMP was presented at the NCPA Commission Meeting, a public meeting, and is posted on NCPA's public website domain.

In 2020, per Section 8 of this WMP, NCPA hired an outside consultant, Dudek, to review, assess the comprehensiveness, and provide recommendations to this plan. Subsequently, NCPA elected to modify its Draft WMP that incorporated Dudek's recommended modifications. The Revised WMP (version 1.1) was provided to Dudek on April 29, 2020. Dudek reviewed the Revised WMP and determined that it appropriately addressed all elements required under CPUC Section 8387(b)(2). In 2020, this WMP was presented at the NCPA commission meeting, a public meeting, and is posted on NCPA's public website domain.

1.B.1. COORDINATION WITH LOCAL AGENCIES

NCPA's local coordination efforts related to wildfire mitigation include regular meetings for its Emergency Action Plan process. For example, the NCPA Hydroelectric facility hosts an annual face-to-face meeting with local emergency management agencies including: the U.S. Forest Service; CAL FIRE; sheriff departments for Calaveras, Tuolumne, and Alpine Counties; California Highway Patrol; California Department of Parks and Recreation (Calaveras Big Trees State Park); and others. In addition, a separate annual meeting is held with the U.S. Forest Service, since many NCPA Hydroelectric facilities are located on U.S. Forest Service lands. Wildfire mitigation is one of the agenda items that is always explicitly discussed.

The NCPA Hydroelectric and Geothermal facilities also coordinate vegetation management activities with CAL FIRE and routinely utilize CAL FIRE (in cooperation with California Department of Corrections Conservation Fire Camp labor) for vegetation management and wildfire mitigation around the facilities. Additionally, NCPA Geothermal facility staff meet annually with Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), Calpine (operator of other geothermal facilities at the Geysers), CAL FIRE, the Bureau of Land Management, and Lake County Sanitation District.

Board (WSAB) developed template for review of POU WMPs

Utility Name:	Northern California Power Agency
Size:	<1.5 square miles (39 miles x 200 feet ground clearance)
Assets:	Yes - Generation, Yes - Transmission (Only a generator tie line), Yes - Distribution (Only for NCPA Utilities')
Number of Customers:	Zero Customers. Wholesale provider to PGE Electrical Grid.
Customer Classes:	Zero Customers. Wholesale provider to PGE Electrical Grid.
Location Topography:	No - Urban, Yes - Wildland Urban Interface, Yes - Rural/Forest, No - Rural/Desert, No - Rural/Agricultural
Percent Territory in CPUC High Fire Threat Maps:	Yes - Includes Maps, 46% in Tier 2, 26% in Tier 3
CAL Fire Frap Map Fire Threat Zones:	Yes - Includes Maps, 28.5% Extreme, 11% Very High, 10% in High
Existing Grid Hardening Measures	Yes - Describes hardened & non-hardened infrastructure
Utility Fire Threat Risk Level:	No - Hi, No - Low, Yes - Mixed
Impact by another utility's PSPS?	Yes - Impacted by PGE PSPS
Mitigates impact of another utility's PSPS?	No - NCPA is a wholesaler of power feeding into PGE electrical grid.
Expects to initiate its own PSPS?	No - NCPA is a wholesaler of power feeding into PGE electrical grid.
Prevailing wind directions and speeds by season?	No - In Maps, Yes - Includes description in Section 4.A.

1.C. ORGANIZATION OF THE WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN

This WMP includes the following elements:

- Objectives of the plan
- Roles and responsibilities for carrying out the plan
- Identification of key wildfire risks and risk drivers
- Description of wildfire prevention, mitigation, and response strategies and programs
- Metrics for evaluating the performance of the plan and identifying areas for improvement
- Review and validation of the plan
- Timelines

2. GOALS

2.A. MINIMIZING SOURCES OF IGNITION

The primary goal of this WMP is to minimize the probability that NCPA's transmission and distribution system may be the origin or contributing source for the ignition of a fire. NCPA's priorities include facility improvement projects (i.e. see section 5A) as well as continued and improved inspection, maintenance, and vegetation management practices. NCPA has evaluated and will continue to evaluate and implement prudent and cost-effective improvements (i.e. see section 5A) to its physical assets, operations, and training that can help to meet this objective.

2.B. RESILIENCY OF THE ELECTRIC GRID

The secondary goal of this WMP is to improve the resiliency of the electric grid. As part of the development of this plan, NCPA has assessed and will continue to assess new industry practices and technologies that will reduce the likelihood of an interruption (frequency) in service and improve the restoration (duration) of service. For example, section 5.A includes a 230kv Insulation improvement project that increased the electrical transmission resiliency for the NCPA Hydro Electric Facility.

2.C. IDENTIFYING UNNECESSARY OR INEFFECTIVE ACTIONS

The final goal for this WMP is to measure the effectiveness of specific wildfire mitigation strategies. Where a particular action, program component, or protocol is determined to be unnecessary or ineffective, NCPA will assess whether a modification or replacement is merited. This plan will also help determine if more cost-effective measures would produce the same or improved results.

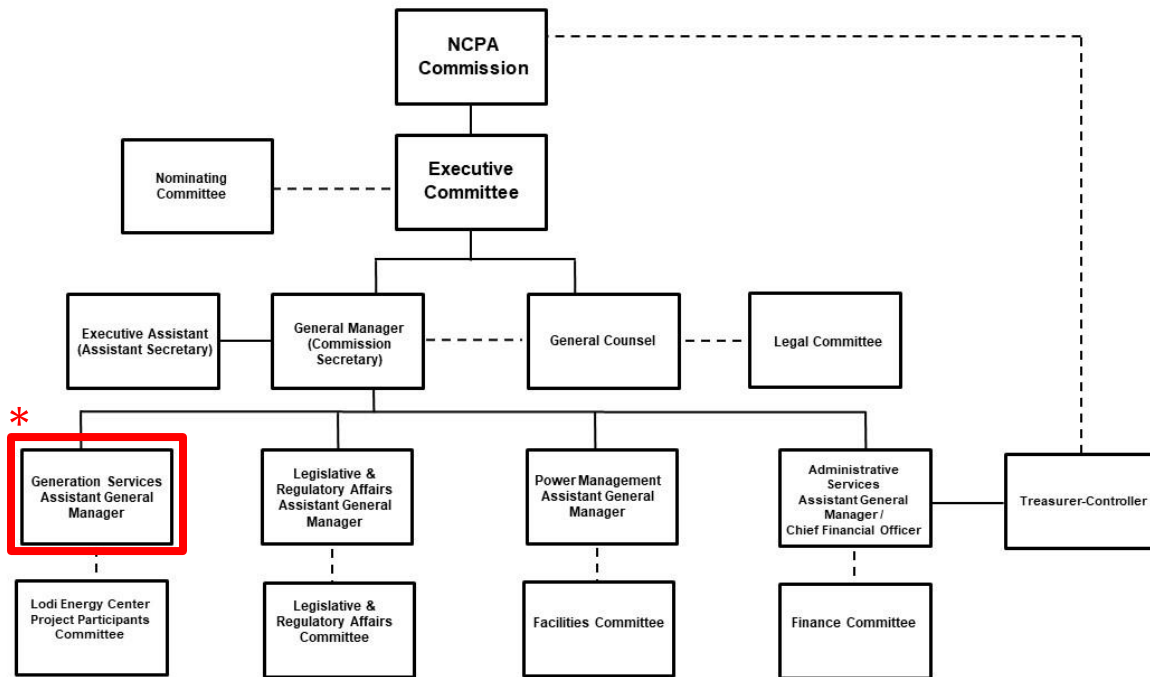
NCPA's current and planned wildfire risk mitigation activities will be formally reviewed annually according to this WMP regarding the effectiveness of ongoing practices, investigation of new technologies, and changing climate and ground conditions to continually prioritize the highest value activities for fire risk mitigation.

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

3.A. UTILITY GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

NCPA is governed by a Commission that maintains several committees, including an Executive Committee, a Nominating Committee, a Legal Committee, a Legislative & Regulatory Affairs Committee, a Facilities Committee, and a Finance Committee. The Executive Committee includes a Chair, Vice Chair, and seven at-large representatives.

Among its approximately 160 employees, NCPA has an internal management team, including a General Manager; an Assistant General Manager for Legislative & Regulatory Affairs; an Assistant General Manager for Power Management; an Assistant General Manager for Generation Services; an Assistant General Manager for Finance & Administrative Services; a General Counsel; and an Executive Assistant & Assistant Secretary to the Commission.



*The red box above indicates the responsible department of the North Fork Stanislaus Hydroelectric Project (Hydro) and Geysers' Geothermal (Geo) Projects. NCPA Plant managers are responsible for executing the WMP and serve under the Generation Services Assistant General Manager.

3.B. WILDFIRE PREVENTION ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

NCPA is governed by a Commission comprised of one representative for each of its public power utility members. The Commission is responsible for the general management of the affairs, property, and business of the Agency. Under the direction of the General Manager, the staff of the Agency is responsible for providing various administrative, operating and planning services for the Agency. This establishes all funding and is applied to all wildfire funding mechanisms in this plan (i.e., 3.B., 3.C., 5.A., 5.F, 5.G, 5.H).

NCPA's organizational responsibilities with respect to wildfire mitigation correspond to its two main facility locations that reside in high fire threat areas: The North Fork Stanislaus Hydroelectric Project (Hydro) and Geysers' Geothermal (Geo) Projects. Hydro and Geothermal plant managers have responsibility for operations at each respective generating facility. The plant supervisors at each location are responsible for the workforce training and execution of all policies and procedures related to fire risks, equipment design, maintenance, inspection, vegetation management, and operations for all activities at their facilities.

The NCPA Dispatch Center in Roseville, under the direction of the Assistant General Manager for Power Management, has jurisdictional and operational responsibilities for the generator tie lines, including procedures for Operating Instructions and Emergency Assistance (NCPA-PM-108) and Emergency Operating Guidelines for the Collierville-Bellota 230 kV Lines (NCPA-PM-201).

Under the direction of the Assistant General Manager for Generation Services, the plant managers are responsible for implementation and execution of the WMP with respect to their facilities (see notes in Section 3A, Governance Structure Diagram). In coordination with the NCPA Dispatch Center, the plant managers coordinate activities with internal and external entities necessary to operate and react to wildfire activity.

Additionally, all NCPA employees are responsible for:

- Performing good housekeeping practices
- Maintaining their work areas free of potentially flammable materials
- Participating in fire prevention and suppression training as required

3.C. WILDFIRE RESPONSE, COMMUNICATION, AND RECOVERY

The objective of crisis management is to provide direction for rapid performance of hazard assessment, prioritization, notification, and applicable actions. NCPA has evaluated potential hazards in the work environment and surrounding areas and has worked with local authorities to develop emergency response plans for each facility that address mitigation of hazards and effective response. The goals are to protect personnel, the public, the environment, and the assets of NCPA.

NCPA utilizes a number of resources to communicate emergency or hazardous conditions to personnel (including non-NCPA personnel) at geothermal plants, powerhouses, and associated facilities and locations. These resources include two-way radio communications equipment, cell phones, satellite phones, telephone landlines, email, and the Internet.

The agency maintains separate emergency response plans, due to different geographic locations, for Geothermal and Hydro generation projects. The plans provide guidance and emergency resources for: fire events, unplanned, sudden or non-sudden hazardous materials/waste releases, air emissions exceedances, natural or manmade disasters (earthquakes, floods, bomb threats, or suspected terrorist or sabotage events, etc.), or emergency hazards.

Any accident or incident requiring emergency response and support from external agencies shall be reported to the appropriate NCPA plant supervisor. The type and severity of the event(s) shall determine the appropriate response and course of action.

The NCPA Dispatch Center is the main point of contact for PG&E on any public safety power shutoff (PSPS) notification affecting any of NCPA's or members' generation and member loads. NCPA does not have a defined service territory however the NCPA Dispatch Center's responsibility is to pass along relevant PG&E PSPS notification to affected members based on phone messages or emails received from PG&E through its Everbridge mass notification system. The NCPA Dispatch Center will also follow up on the Everbridge PSPS notifications with information on any planned power shutoff events based on PG&E's PSPS websites or direct PG&E communication where current and real-time information is available.

NCPA provides wholesale power to City's and utilities, typically known as NCPA members, only via the utility grid. Since NCPA does not have retail customers, no customer notification protocols are in place.

3.D. COORDINATION WITH WATER UTILITIES/DEPARTMENT

The power from the NCPA generation facilities is delivered to the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) grid. Unlike a typical public utility, NCPA does not have a defined service territory nor does NCPA deliver or provide power directly to any water utilities. However, the NCPA Hydroelectric Project does transport and deliver water owned by two (2) water utilities through infrastructure (dams and tunnels) operated by NCPA. One of those entities, the Calaveras County Water District (CCWD) owns the hydro facilities that NCPA operates to deliver this water. The Utica Water and Power Authority (UWPA) also receives some of their water through the same facilities. It is important to note that neither curtailment of NCPA generation facilities nor de-energization of the NCPA powerlines has any impact on the abilities of CCWD or UWPA to obtain water. NCPA routinely communicates and coordinates with CCWD and UWPA, and both entities are included on communication flow charts for the relevant emergency plans, such as the Emergency Response Plans.

3.E. COORDINATION WITH COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE PROVIDERS

NCPA does not provide power directly to any communication infrastructure providers and therefore does not routinely coordinate or communicate with communication infrastructure providers related to wildfire mitigation or power outages.

3.F. MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

NCPA members are uniquely and ideally qualified to assist with the emergency replacement of poles and wires that are necessary to return electric distribution and communication facilities to normal operating condition. However, mutual aid agreements have also long been utilized by publicly owned utilities during times of need. These agreements are usually formed and exercised among neighboring utilities as proximity allows for quick response and less travel expenses. Additionally, mutual aid agreements that have a broader geographical reach, allowing for the provision of aid from utilities across the state or nation, can provide better protection from large regional events that may result in neighboring utilities having to respond to the same emergency events. NCPA is a member of the California Utilities Emergency Association, which plays a key role in ensuring communications between utilities during emergencies and maintains a mutual aid agreement for its members. As a member of the American Public Power Association (APPA), NCPA and its members can also authorize APPA mutual aid agreements.

4. WILDFIRE RISKS AND DRIVERS

NCPA electrical infrastructure consists of the following facilities that are in Moderate to Very High CAL FIRE Hazard Severity Zones (2009) and/or Tier 2/3 CPUC Fire Threat Zones (2018). See Appendix 1.

NCPA Project	NCPA Facility	Cal Fire Hazard Severity Zone (2009)			CPUC Fire Threat Zone (2018)	
		Moderate	High	Very High	Tier 2	Tier 3
North Fork Stanislaus Hydroelectric Project (Hydro)	Collierville Powerhouse 11523 Camp 9 Rd., Murphys, CA	-	-	X	X	-
	New Spicer Meadows Powerhouse 38.393735, -	-	-	X	-	-
	McKay's Point Diversion Dam	-	-	X	-	X
	McKay's 17kV Service Line	-	-	600 ft.	-	600 ft.
	Beaver Creek 38°14'02.94" N 120°16'43.50" W	-	-	X	-	X
	Collierville-Bellota 230kV Gen-Tie Line	10 miles	11 miles	15 miles	25 miles	-
Geysers Geothermal (Geo)	Plant 1, Middletown, CA	-	-	X	-	X
	Plant 2, Middletown, CA	-	-	X	-	X
	230 kV Gen-Tie Line	-	-	2.5 miles	-	2.5 miles
	Effluent Pump System and 21 kV Service Line	-	-	3 miles	-	3 miles
	Steam Field and Delivery (includes	-	-	8 miles	-	8 miles

NCPA is also a 6.13% co-tenant of the Castle Rock Junction-Lakeville 230 kV Transmission Line in the Geysers area. This line is located in a Tier 3 CPUC Fire Threat Zone and is operated and maintained by PG&E; it is included within the scope of the PG&E Wildfire Mitigation Plan.

There are no new wildfire risks associated with design and construction of new assets. NCPA is currently Operating and Maintaining original generating facilities. No new construction is planned in the immediate future.

4.A. RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH TOPOGRAPHIC AND CLIMATOLOGICAL FACTORS

Multiple wildfire risk drivers have been identified from recent wildfires. These include drought conditions, vegetation type and density, weather conditions (high winds and climate change), and local topographic features (terrain). Vegetation and climate conditions are discussed in section 5.

Primary risk drivers are weather and climate. Weather and climate include extended drought periods, changing weather patterns, and high winds. These weather and climate factors affect vegetation conditions, including vegetation health, type and density. Stressed vegetation is prone to disease, insect infestations, and increased mortality rates.

Physical conditions, such as terrain and high winds, affect fire risks. These factors influence fire movement and direction, and control migration rates. Generally, fires move upslope without strong winds, while high winds (i.e. Diablo winds) rapidly drive fires primarily in the same direction as the wind. Topographic features, such as steep canyons, create localized conditions that affect fire movement and rate of speed.

Several of the risk drivers are interrelated:

- **Extended drought:** Extended drought periods result in multiple stress factors for vegetation: dry trees and brush, higher susceptibility to disease and insects, easier ignition, faster burn rate, etc.
- **Vegetation type:** Fire risk is partially dependent upon vegetation type. Some vegetation burns quickly (e.g. dry grass), while other types burn hotter (e.g. hardwood trees such as oak). Each vegetation type presents its own unique challenges for vegetation management and control.
- **Vegetation density:** Vegetation density directly affects wildfire hazards. Dense vegetation generally represents the highest hazard level, while sparse vegetation density is substantially lower risk. Vegetation density is often associated with weather conditions, local micro-climates, and vegetation type.
- **Weather:** Weather conditions include precipitation, humidity, storms, and winds. Each factor affects wildfire risks. Lightning strikes associated with thunderstorms or dry lightning are a natural cause of wildfires.
- **High winds:** High winds drive wildfires. They also down trees and sometimes down power lines. In turn, downed power lines are potential ignition sources and the documented cause of some major wildfires in California.
- **Prevailing Winds:** NCPA monitors prevailing winds directions and speeds, differentiated by season, along with average weather conditions by season using NCPA real-time observations noting disturbing local weather. Live data is used with the fire maps located in Appendix 1. PG&E's Weather Awareness website is a resource for real-time conditions: https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/psps-weather-map.page?WT.mc_id=Vanity_weather. This information is used in communication and aids to analyze wildfire situations.
- **Terrain:** Topographic features and terrain affect wildfire migration and area-specific risks. Fires generally burn uphill, especially within steep canyons. Wind-driven upslope and up-canyon fires spread rapidly and represent increased fire hazards.
- **Changing weather patterns (climate change):** Climate change alters vegetation habitat, causing species migration. It may result in increased or decreased precipitation, precipitation type changes (e.g. more rain than snow), higher maximum temperatures, extended heatwaves, more frequent drought. In turn, these changes may cause increased tree mortality, increased stressed vegetation, greater susceptibility to disease or insect infestation.
- **Communities at risk:** Communities located in high-hazard zones are most at risk of wildfires. Communities at Risk are designated places and are unchanging. The risk level around these communities may change from year to year based on overall weather conditions, as well as during the year, changing from the wet season through the dry summer and fall.

- **Fire Frequency:** Over history, the frequency of wildfires affects wildfire risks. Vegetation changes are directly associated with wildfires. In addition to consuming existing vegetation, the new landscape is open to different vegetation types, both native and invasive. With native vegetation, a natural cycle occurs with different species dominating the environment and evolving over an extended timeframe. Since different vegetation types represent varied fire hazards, the risk level also evolves over time in conjunction with vegetation changes.

Wildfires have occurred in the general region of NCPA's hydro and geothermal facilities, however NCPA facilities have not been associated with any ignition source. The 2017 Tubbs and 2019 Kincadee Fires affected areas nearby, and immediately adjacent to the geothermal facilities. The 2015 Valley Fire destroyed much of the 21kV Service Line for the Effluent Pump System.

4.B. RISKS RELATED TO DESIGN, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE

Risks and risk drivers related to design, construction, operation and maintenance that could create fire ignition sources are listed below. The methodology for identifying, monitoring, analyzing, planning, evaluating safety-wide risks are defined in NCPA's Preventative Strategies and Programs in Section 5.A. These risks include:

- **Equipment/structure/facilities:** Inherent risk of facilities, primarily open wire transmission and distribution ignition events
- **Object to wire or equipment contact:** Trees, birds, balloons, downed conductors, lightning strikes, or high wind events resulting in contact of equipment
- **Wire to wire contact:** Wires touching one another, and dropping molten metal to the ground
- **Vehicle operations:** Maintenance, inspection or vegetation clearing crew vehicles causing fires (i.e. catalytic converters contacting dry brush)
- **Vegetation clearing:** Chain saws and other mechanized equipment use
- **Hot Work:** Welding or other activity that could cause ignition in the area of work

4.C. CHANGES TO CPUC FIRE THREAT MAP

A key concern for NCPA is the historical risk of wildfires in the vicinity of the agency's facilities, particularly within potential fire hazard zones. Both CAL FIRE and the CPUC have developed maps to identify potential fire hazard zones, published in 2007 and 2018, respectively. NCPA has reviewed current CAL FIRE hazard severity zone and CPUC fire-threat maps with respect to agency facilities, as shown in Appendix 1. These maps have not been adjusted since the noted publication dates nor have any local agencies imposed any expansions to the maps. There has been no new information, or identified changes to the environment, to warrant an expansion of the high-fire threat district.

CPUC Fire Threat Maps are static, based on data available at the time they were created. As noted below, wildfire risks evolve over time in response to the risk drivers listed above. In section 5, annual tree mortality data illustrates a migration of tree mortality, with the risk area expanding

from year to year. NCPA will review available data and adjust fire threat hazard zones when applicable to NCPA facilities.

4.C.1. MAP COMPARISONS AND UPDATES

Currently published wildfire hazard maps from CAL FIRE and the CPUC show different boundaries for the risk areas delineated. They also use different terminology for hazard zones. Several factors could account for these boundary differences between agency maps: publication dates, study methodology, vegetation changes over time, recent wildfires, and potential climate change effects. The zones delineated by the CAL FIRE and CPUC maps are discussed below.

CAL FIRE CALIFORNIA FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE MAP

CAL FIRE generated and published Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps for the entire state of California in 2007, including separate maps for each county. These maps delineate three hazard zone levels: moderate, high, and very high. The figures in Appendix 1 illustrate these fire hazard severity zones. There has been no new information or changes to the environment identified to warrant an expansion of the high-fire threat district.

CPUC FIRE-THREAT MAPS

The CPUC has developed and published Fire-Threat Maps. These 2018 maps include Tier 2 (elevated fire risk) and Tier 3 (extreme fire risk) zones. Additionally, the CPUC uses a Tier 1 (zero to moderate fire risk) category, which includes a High Hazard Zone (HHZ) designation based on a 2018 U.S. Forest Service-CAL FIRE joint map of tree mortality HHZs. This Tier 1 information addresses the hazard areas with large expanses of dead trees and associated fire risks.

4.C.2. FIRE ZONE REVIEW PROCESS

The existing fire zone review process, set forth by regulatory agencies such as CAL FIRE and CPUC, is an important tool for reducing wildfire risks and hazards. Preparing and executing adequate vegetation management plans is a critical component of this process. The current fire zone process incorporates lessons learned from past major wildfire events, with each new occurrence adding knowledge and forming the basis for improving the process.

Since differences exist between currently published CAL FIRE and CPUC wildfire hazard zone maps, NCPA uses the most conservative approach to vegetation management and asset protection, assuming the highest risk factor from the combined datasets.

5. WILDFIRE PREVENTATIVE STRATEGIES

5.A. PREVENTATIVE STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMS

NCPA's strategies to reduce wildfire risk include continuous evaluation and improvement of its programs and procedures: including NCPA's (1) facility maintenance program, (2) emergency operating procedures, (3) vegetation management programs, and (4) asset documentation programs. These programs include all details such as goals, objective or percentage, monitor ongoing work, accomplishments, internal and external audits, and detailed reports. There are no constraints such as budgets, availability of equipment, knowledge to effectively deploy, or qualified personnel to install and monitor effectively.

(1) Facility Maintenance Program: NCPA has a robust preventive maintenance program to maintain the safe and reliable operation of its transmission and distribution lines. Given the growing risk of wildfires, opportunities for improvement have been identified and will be explored as part of each facility's improvement plan. Additionally, NCPA utilizes risk factors as identified in Section 4.B. during improvement plan evaluations. Improvements, such as listed below, may be implemented based on workable solutions and relative priorities:

- **The Collierville-Bellota (CB) 230 kV Gen-Tie Line:** In 2020 NCPA made improvements on its longest transmission line. More than half of the line is within a Tier 2 fire threat zone. NCPA prioritized the safe and reliable operation of the line. The line is over 30 years old, and a thorough review of the line and its attendant facilities was recently undertaken. A list of improvements were made including insulation, hardware, and conductor damping improvements. These major improvements were completed in 2020. NCPA's aggressive approach to reduce transmission tie-line risk included completely upgrading insulators on this asset, NCPA's longest line, of 40 Miles. This project was considered a major cost in capital and prioritized for wildfire prevention. Avian deterrents and anti-nesting cones were also added in 2020.
- **McKay's Point 17 kV Overhead Line:** This three-span distribution line is in a Tier 3 fire threat zone. This short line has been maintained and is monitored consistently. Because of its location and danger tree threat, NCPA has entered into a construction contract for fire hardening of this short span of line. Construction is tentatively scheduled to be completed in 2021 pending contractor availability.
- **Geothermal 230 kV Gen-Tie Transmission Line:** This nine-span line connects with PG&E's 230 kV system. The line is characterized by long dead-ended spans and thick vegetation. The line is consistently inspected and maintained.
- **Geothermal Effluent Pump System 21 kV Line:** This 6-mile distribution line is in a Tier 3 fire threat zone. This line was largely rebuilt following damage caused by the 2017 Valley Fire. The wood pole line has construction framing typical to distribution construction. NCPA has considered the implementation of avian protection on these lines, however due to the lack of nesting activities, no avian protection was installed.

(2) Emergency Operating Procedures: NCPA uses emergency operating procedures to safely react to wildfire fire events and help guide employees.

- (3) Vegetation Management Program:** NCPA has developed and implemented a Transmission Vegetation Management Program (TVMP) to establish the vegetation maintenance requirements for each facility to achieve reliability of its generation interconnection system. The NCPA document, Generation Services Common Procedure GS-305: Transmission Vegetation Management Program, defines NCPA procedures for vegetation management. The full description of this program is described in Section 5.E.
- (4) Asset documentation:** NCPA has current facility documentation including geographically referenced facility locations (appendix 1) and current facility drawings, materials lists, and design criteria.

NCPA directly participated in the development of the CPUC's Fire-Threat Map,¹ which designates a High Fire-Threat District. In the map development process, NCPA served as a territory lead, and worked with utility staff and local fire and government officials to identify the areas of NCPA's service territory that are at an elevated or extreme risk of power line-ignited wildfire. NCPA has incorporated the High Fire-Threat District into its construction, inspection, maintenance, repair, and clearance practices, where applicable.

A key concern for NCPA is the historical risk of wildfires in the vicinity of the agency's facilities, particularly within potential fire hazard zones. Both CAL FIRE and the CPUC have developed maps to identify potential fire hazard zones, published in 2007 and 2018, respectively. NCPA has reviewed current CAL FIRE hazard severity zone and CPUC fire-threat maps with respect to agency facilities, as shown in Appendix 1.

NCPA reviewed facilities and determined the hazard zones where these facilities are located. These facilities and their locations are described in section 4.

The CPUC defines a High Fire-Threat District consisting of three areas:

- Tier 1 High Hazard Zones on the U.S. Forest Service-California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) joint map of Tree Mortality High Hazard Zones
- Tier 2 of the CPUC Fire-Threat Map where there is an elevated risk for utility-associated wildfires
- Tier 3 of the CPUC Fire-Threat Map where there is an extreme risk for utility-associated wildfires

NCPA facilities in relation to CPUC and CAL FIRE threat maps are shown in Appendix 1 of this report.

5.B. POTENTIAL CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS

Climate change has affected vegetation in many ways. Droughts are longer and more severe. Large storm events are more common and intense. Summers are hotter and may include more thunderstorms. These climate change factors affect vegetation and the associated wildfire risks:

- Vegetation adapts, with plant migration into different areas
- Vegetation dries out during droughts, presenting increased fire danger

¹ Adopted by CPUC Decision 17-12-024.

- Stressed vegetation is more susceptible to insect infestations, damaging trees, or accelerating mortality
- Thunderstorms present lightning strike risks along with strong wind events

Extended periods of intense rainfall also typically increase landslide risks. In turn, landslides could damage or topple structures, limit access, or create safety hazards by damaging roads, or cause localized tree mortality by severing root systems. Note that heavy rainfall is not the only landslide trigger mechanism, but it is the one most closely associated with climate change.

5.C. POTENTIAL CLIMATE CHANGE RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACTS

Climate change has affected the risks associated with wildfires, especially in fire hazard zones. Frequent, severe and larger wildfires, and the related impacts to the POU lines, equipment and operations result in impacts to vegetation and increased wildfire risks. Some of the specific climate change impacts that affect wildfire risks include:

- Tree and underbrush growth rates
- Vegetation type changes
- Vegetation migration from existing habitats
- Stress and disease contributing to higher tree mortality

As potential impacts shift over time, fire hazard management practices will evolve and adapt to changing risk management requirements.

5.D. TREE MORTALITY

It is estimated that over 100 million trees in California died from drought-related stress between 2012 and 2017. The extended drought period left millions of acres of forestland highly susceptible to insect attacks. Drought stress is aggravated in forests with too many trees competing for limited water resources.

In 2015, California established the Tree Mortality Task Force (<https://frap.fire.ca.gov/frap-projects/tree-mortality/>). This task force was established to identify and map tree mortality areas with the greatest potential for causing harm to people and property. The High Hazard Zones were prioritized for tree removal.

Dead, dying, and diseased trees represent potential wildfire risks for NCPA. Trees adjacent to power line right-of-way represent a hazard due to falling branches or potential toppling. This threat increases substantially with tall snags or trees with dead tops. Dead or highly stressed trees are also an easily ignitable fuel source. They ignite quicker and generally burn faster than healthy trees. NCPA's internal Transmission Vegetation Management Program specifies tree and snag clearances.

5.E. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

NCPA has developed and implemented a Transmission Vegetation Management Program (TVMP) to establish the vegetation maintenance requirements for each facility to achieve

reliability of its generation interconnection system. The NCPA document, Generation Services Common Procedure GS-305: Transmission Vegetation Management Program, defines NCPA procedures for vegetation management. NCPA's TVMP is the plan for all types of vegetation associated with utility infrastructure, from the ground to the sky, which includes vegetation above and below electrical lines.

NCPA meets or exceeds the minimum industry standard vegetation management practices. For transmission-level facilities, NCPA complies with NERC FAC-003-4. For both transmission and distribution-level facilities, NCPA meets: (1) Public Resources Code section 4292; (2) Public Resources Code section 4293; (3) General Order 95 Rule 35; and (4) General Order 95 Appendix E Guidelines to Rule 35.

The TVMP enhances reliability by preventing outages from vegetation located within or adjacent to the power line right-of-way, by maintaining required clearances between power lines and vegetation within or adjacent to the right-of-way, by reporting vegetation-related outages of the system to WECC, and by documenting the process for an annual vegetation work plan. The program satisfies the requirements for vegetation management specified in NERC FAC-003-4, which requires a Generator Owner to have documented maintenance strategies, procedures, processes, or specifications to prevent the encroachment of vegetation into the Minimum Vegetation Clearance Distance of applicable lines as specified in requirement R3.

NCPA uses a combination of its own staff (manager, supervisor or competent designee) and the retention of qualified consultants (such as scientific experts in ecology, fire ecology, fire behavior, geology, and meteorology) with experience in line design, line construction, NERC Standards compliance, and vegetation management to develop and maintain the TVMP.

The TVMP specifies technical requirements for staff and contractors to comply with or verify compliance with Cal/OSHA standards and NCPA Electrical Safety Procedure GS-103 ensures Cal/Osha and Minimum Approach Distances (MAD).

The objectives of the TVMP are to:

- Adhere to the Power Line Fire Prevention Field Guide published by CAL FIRE in November 2008 and used by California utilities for the care and maintenance of trees, shrubs, and other woody plants when pruning vegetation near electric facilities.
- Maintain defined clearance distances between the generation interconnection facilities and all trees, brush, and other vegetation that could grow too close to electrical facilities including conductors, poles, and guy wires. Since the clearances specified in the Power Line Fire Prevention Field Guide are more stringent than the MVCD described in FAC-003-4, NCPA adheres to the CAL FIRE field guide.
- Where appropriate and necessary, develop site-specific, environmentally sensitive, cost-effective and socially responsible solutions to vegetation control near the NCPA generation interconnection facilities. Document the process for the annual vegetation work plan for applicable power lines.
- Maintain public and worker safety, maintain compliance with NERC standards and other regulatory and legal requirements, provide reliable electric service that allows for

operational flexibility, and promote environmental stewardship and habitat enhancement.

- Potential improvements to its programs include increasing the frequency and scope of aerial lidar surveys on its transmission and distribution facilities, and a continued emphasis on identification and timely removal of danger and hazard trees that threaten overhead transmission and distribution lines. NCPA's asset management system allows potential improvement to be evaluated as observations and comments are made when work orders for maintenance items are executed.

5.F. INSPECTIONS

NCPA performs annual inspections of its transmission and distribution facilities in accordance with General Order 95 and General Order 165. The following additional inspections have been performed on the CB 230 kV line:

- Lidar vegetation flights
- Corona scans of insulators
- Infrared "hot-spot" inspections of conductor, conductor splices, and dead-end hardware.
- In addition to its annual ground-based inspection, NCPA may augment inspections with aerial drone and/or helicopter surveys.

These inspections are documented and issued by NCPA's computerized maintenance management system (CMMS), and records of those inspections are maintained.

Strategic improvements to the inspection program include increasing the frequency and scope of inspections, increasing the use of drone-based visual inspections, consideration of new technology, improving the inspection methodology approach, and consideration of fire threat zones in the inspection programs. NCPA's asset management system also allows these improvements to be evaluated as observations and comments are made when work orders for maintenance items are executed.

The TVMP also establishes requirements for the type and schedule of right-of-way vegetation inspections.

Section 4.B. of this WMP outlines the unique risks NCPA inspects for.

5.G. FIRE PREVENTION, SAFETY, EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING

NCPA has implemented work rules and complementary training programs for its workforce to help reduce the likelihood of the ignition of wildfires.

Trainings for employees to cover fire hazards and NCPA's Fire Prevention Plan consists of fire extinguisher training, fire prevention training, hazardous materials handling training, and emergency response training. These trainings are conducted by an outside vendor and/or NCPA supervisors or environmental health and safety specialists.

NCPA employees also receive training on emergency response plans when the employee is assigned initially to the job, when the plan changes, and when the employee's responsibilities or designated actions under the plans change.

Each facility manager is responsible for conducting site-specific training to ensure that the purpose and function of NCPA safety procedures are understood by employees and that knowledge and skills required for safe operation are acquired by employees. Refresher training is performed and documented on an annual basis, and retraining is conducted when:

- An annual audit reveals there are deviations from or inadequacies in the employee's knowledge of the procedure or changes in the regulations
- A new or revised control method of a system or piece of equipment

The following procedures provide additional guidance for employee training specific to the areas described in these NCPA documents:

- Generation Services Common Procedure GS-101: Lock Out Tag Out Try Procedure
- Generation Services Common Procedure GS-103: Electrical Safety Procedure
- Generation Services Common Procedure GS-107: Proper Handling of Hazardous Waste
- Generation Services Common Procedure GS-111: Hot Work Procedure
- Generation Services Common Procedure GS-115: Welding Safety Procedure
- Generation Services Common Procedure GS-126: Fire Protection and Prevention Plan
- Power Management Common Procedure PM-108: Operating Instructions and Emergency Assistance
- Power Management Common Procedure PM-201: Emergency Operating Guidelines, Collierville Power House Bellota-Collierville 230kV Lines

5.H. RECLOSING POLICY

NCPA does not own or use automatic reclosers on its 230 kV within the scope defined in Section 4 of this WMP. This is a typical approach for utility operations in rugged and remote terrain, for both personnel and fire hazard safety reasons. In the event of a planned or emergency line trip, close coordination with NCPA generation services and dispatch as well as with PG&E's grid control center is mandatory, and lines are only re-energized after extensive line patrol visual confirmation. If the lines are tripped due to a forecasted or imminent wildfire or if a wildfire is believed to be caused by downed lines, close coordination with CAL FIRE's onsite representative and control center are required before NCPA's generation services attempts to energize the line.

5.I.DE-ENERGIZATION

In the event of active fire situations in the vicinity of the CB 230 kV transmission line, NCPA may be directed by CAL FIRE to de-energize the line's two circuits for firefighter and/or aircraft protection. The on-call Hydro Supervisor will coordinate Hydro personnel response to any wildland fires in and around the CB 230 kV transmission lines and contact on-site CAL FIRE personnel if necessary. If CAL FIRE requests de-energizing both of the 230 kV lines, the NCPA Dispatch Center will shut down both Collierville units before de-energizing these lines. NCPA is

currently able to de-energize both circuits of the CB 230 kV line via SCADA and other procedures within 20 minutes.

The Collierville 480 VAC station service is designed to automatically transfer to the offsite PG&E 17 kV source. If the 17 kV source is not available, the 480 VAC standby diesel generator will start and provide station service power. The NCPA Dispatch Center will notify Generation Services Hydro staff of any issues with the 17 kV source or if the diesel generator is in operation. The NCPA Dispatch Center will notify the CAISO and work with PG&E's Grid Control Center to de-energize both 230 kV lines.

NCPA's Geothermal plant manager relies on PG&E to determine de-energization. NCPA's Hydro plant manager has the authority to preemptively shut off power due to fire-threat conditions; however, this option will only be used in extraordinary circumstances. NCPA will make a case-by-case decision to shut off power.

NCPA also maintains transmission line trip procedures to significantly reduce fire risk, including requiring patrols prior to restoring transmission lines. Requiring patrols during high fire risk scenarios is typical and recommended of California utilities.

5.J.1. IMPACTS TO PUBLIC SAFETY

NCPA has no retail customers, and de-energizing agency facilities will not directly affect retail customers, who will be notified by their specific utility providers of PSPS.

5.J.2. CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION PROTOCOLS

NCPA provides wholesale power to Cities and utilities, typically known as NCPA members, only via the utility grid. Since NCPA does not have retail customers, no customer notification protocols are in place. However, NCPA is the primary point of contact between PG&E PSPS and its member utilities. Formal procedures are currently in place, NCPA-PM-501, to notify NCPA member utilities of de-energization activities.

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7. RESTORATION OF SERVICE

After a de-energization event, NCPA will restore service in coordination with PG&E's restoration efforts. NCPA will follow PM-201 and Geothermal Facilities Maintenance Procedure (GEO-646) which specifically address restoration for Hydro and Geothermal facilities respectively. These procedures contain the steps that must be taken to restore such as inspecting, repairing, testing, and finally restoring.

7.A. METRICS AND ASSUMPTIONS FOR MEASURING PLAN PERFORMANCE

NCPA will track two metrics to measure the performance of this Wildfire Mitigation Plan. Metrics are evaluated yearly: (1) number of fire ignitions; and (2) number of NCPA wires down.

METRIC 1: FIRE IGNITIONS

NCPA will track fire ignitions in their territory as follows:

- Self-ignited or human-caused
- An NCPA facility failure was associated with the fire
- An NCPA electrical facility wire-to-wire contact was associated with the fire
- The ignition was a result of an extreme weather event

2020 Metric Summary: GEO – 0 ignitions, Hydro – 0 ignitions

METRIC 2: WIRES DOWN

The second metric is the number of NCPA distribution and transmission wires downed. A wire down event includes any instance where an electric transmission or primary distribution conductor falls to the ground or on to a foreign object. NCPA will divide the wires down metric between wires down inside and outside of High Fire Threat Districts. All wires down events will be documented.

2020 Metric Summary: GEO – 0 Wire Down, Hydro – 0 Wire Down

7.B. IMPACT OF METRICS ON PLAN

NCPA anticipates that tracking these metrics will help with identification of which lines are most susceptible to unexpected outages, time-of-year risks, as well as fire threat district risks. From this, NCPA will identify lines that are disproportionately impacted and will then evaluate potential improvements to the plan.

2020 WMP Impact Due to Metrics – The metrics above show zero incidents and indicate success. No WMP changes due to metrics.

7.C. MONITORING AND AUDITING THE PLAN

This WMP is presented to the NCPA Commission on an annual basis along with metrics and a summary of updates. Additionally, a qualified independent evaluator will present a report on this plan to the NCPA Commission. See section 8.

7.D. IDENTIFYING AND CORRECTING DEFICIENCIES IN THE PLAN

NCPA may correct deficiencies and implement plan improvements as needed. Some of these activities are defined in Section 2C. See section 1B, 4th paragraph identifying this WMP is in response to SB901 and superseding previous versions. Improvements will be documented in the annual report to the NCPA Commission.

7.E. MONITORING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INSPECTIONS

Line inspections for NCPA fall into two categories:

1. Line patrol and evaluation of line facilities on a structure-by-structure basis. This is either ground or aerial (drone or helicopter) based.
2. Vegetation monitoring and evaluation, either ground-based on a structure-by-structure and span-by-span basis or by lidar aerial methods.

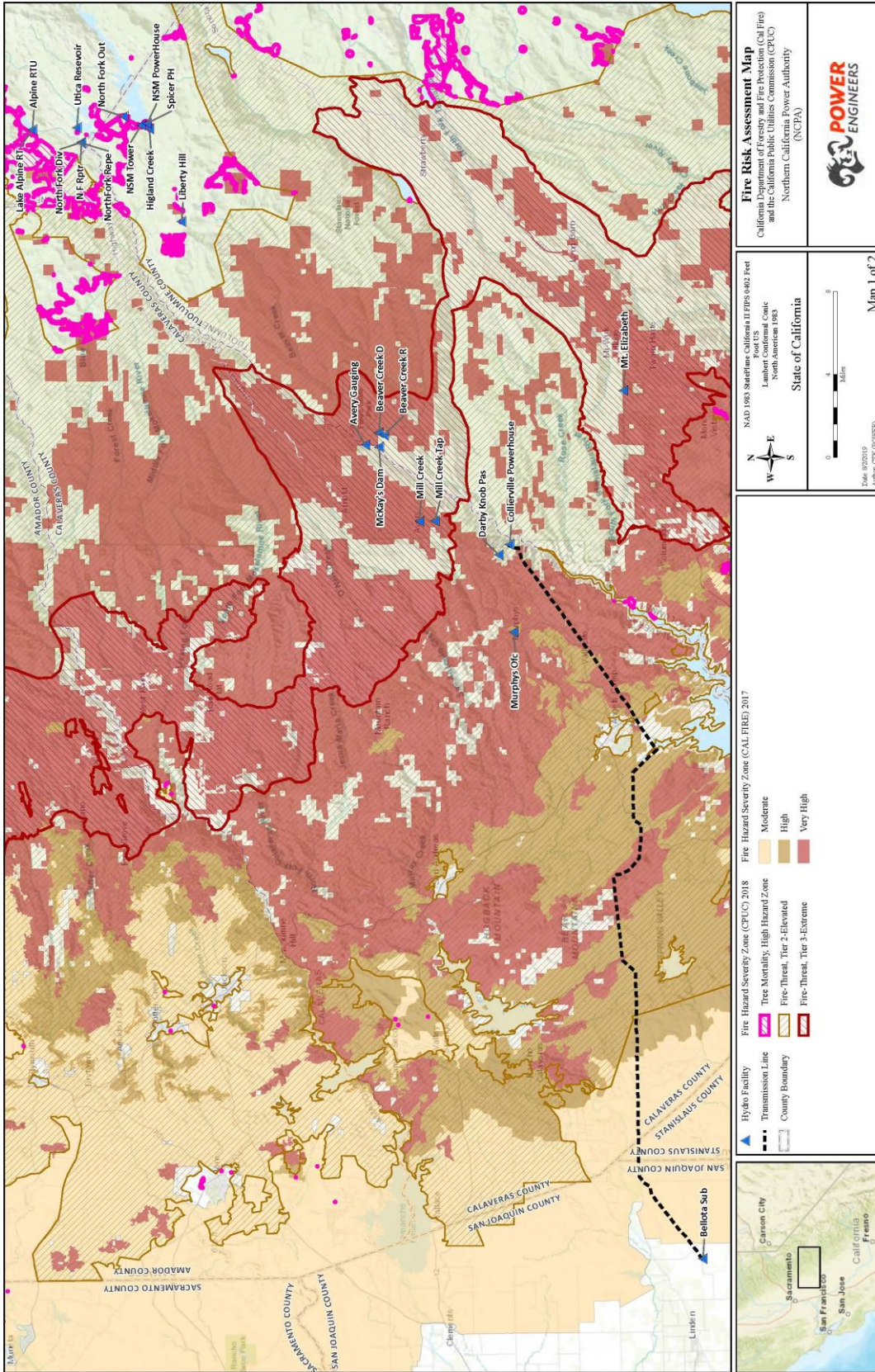
Measuring the effectiveness of these inspections can be performed by review by independent professionals of the inspection documentation and analysis in the case of the lidar vegetation inspection. A second method would include "ride-alongs" with inspection personnel to review their methodology and reporting. Lastly, an independent review of similar facilities can be performed and compared and reviewed with inspection personnel. As of yet these methods have not been used. Additional objectives are stated in Section 2C above.

8. INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

In 2019, NCPA anticipated that the CPUC would provide a list of qualified independent evaluators. In lieu of such a list, NCPA drew from a list it compiled following a Request for Qualifications issued in June 2019. The selection was based on competitive bid.

In 2020, NCPA competitively bid and contracted with a qualified independent evaluator, Dudek, with experience in assessing the safe operation of electrical infrastructure to review and assess the comprehensiveness of this WMP. The independent evaluator issued a report (that is attached as an appendix to this report) and posted to the NCPA website. The independent evaluation and report were completed April 30th 2020. NCPA Commission approved with qualified independent evaluator recommendations issued May 28, 2020 per Resolution 20-43.

In 2021, NCPA competitively bid and contracted with a qualified independent evaluator, Dudek, to review this WMP using the recommendations provided by the Wildfire Safety Advisory Board's (WSAB) "Guidance Advisory Opinion for the 2021 Wildfire Mitigation Plans of Electric Publicly Owned Utilities and Cooperatives" published and approved December 9, 2020. Per the WSAB, "The guidance document should be viewed as offering an efficient way to meet the WMP requirements in Public Utilities Code Section 8387(b)(2), not as adding to the statutory requirements." NCPA Commission approved with qualified independent evaluator recommendations issue May 27, 2021 per Resolution 21-XX.



APPENDIX 2 – INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR REPORT 2020

853 LINCOLN WAY, SUITE 208
AUBURN, CALIFORNIA 95603
T 530.887.8500 F 530.887.1250

April 30, 2020

12108.02

Mr. Jeremy Lawson
Northern California Power Agency
651 Commerce Drive
Roseville, CA 95678

Subject: *Evaluation of Northern California Power Agency Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Plan*

Dear Mr. Lawson:

Dudek conducted an evaluation of the City of Northern California Power Agency (NCPA) Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP), as required under California Public Utilities Code (CPUC) Section 8387(b). CPUC Section 8387(b), as modified by Senate Bill (SB) 901, and the Administrative Law Judge's Ruling issued on January 17, 2019 in CPUC Docket No. R.18-10-007 (ALJ Ruling), applies to publicly-owned electric utilities and requires preparation of a Wildfire Mitigation Plan before January 1, 2020. CPUC Section 8387(c) requires that an independent evaluator review and assess the comprehensiveness of a publicly-owned utility's WMP and issue a summary report.

Dudek, as an independent plan evaluator, conducted an initial review of NCPA's Draft WMP (version 1.0). On April 21, 2020, Dudek provided a summary matrix with recommendations for Draft WMP modifications. The focus of the evaluation was to determine whether the Draft WMP addressed all required elements under CPUC Section 8387(b)(2) (included in Attachment A). The following summarizes the recommended clarifications/modifications identified during the initial review of the Draft WMP (version 1.0), by required element:

- 8387(b)(A): Provide clarification and detail regarding plan implementation responsibility.
- 8387(b)(E): Identify previous plan metrics, as available.
- 8387(b)(L): Provide details regarding risk drivers, risk impacts, and how NCPA will identify, monitor, analyze, plan/evaluate and respond to risks.
- 8387(b)(N)(i): Clarify monitoring efforts associated with WMP implementation and clearly identify performance monitoring details in the plan. Clarify plan auditing and review procedures.
- 8387(b)(N)(ii): Provide clarification and detail regarding plan implementation, review, and plan deficiency correction responsibility.
- 8387(b)(N)(iii): Clarify line/equipment inspection responsibility, timeframes, work plan approach, and target inspection goals, and performance metrics.

Subsequently, NCPA elected to modify its Draft WMP that incorporated Dudek's recommended modifications. The Revised WMP (version 1.1) was provided to Dudek on April 29, 2020. Dudek reviewed the Revised WMP and determined that it appropriately addressed all elements required under CPUC Section 8387(b)(2).

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12108.02
April 2020

Mr. Jeremy Lawson

Subject: Evaluation of Northern California Power Agency Wildfire Prevention Mitigation Plan

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (530) 863-4650.

Sincerely,



Scott Eckardt, RPF
Project Manager

Att.: A. Required WMP Elements under PUC Section 8387(b)
cc: Michael Huff, Dudek
Jason Neuman, Dudek

Required WMP Elements under PUC Section 8387(b)

PUC 8387(b)(2) Section	Description
A	An accounting of the responsibilities of the persons responsible for executing the plan.
B	The objectives of the wildfire mitigation plan.
C	Description of the preventative strategies and programs to be adopted by the 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.
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 made that underlie the use of those metrics.
E	A discussion of how the application of previously identified metrics to previous wildfire mitigation plan performances has informed the wildfire mitigation plan.
F	Protocols for disabling reclosers and de-energizing 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
G	Appropriate and feasible procedures for notifying a customer who may be impacted by the de-energizing of electric lines. The procedures shall consider the need to notify, as a priority, critical first responders, health care facilities, and operators of telecommunications infrastructure.
H	Plans for vegetation management.
I	Plans for inspections of the local publicly owned electric utility's or electrical cooperative's electrical infrastructure.
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:
J(i)	Risks and risk drivers associated with design, construction, operations, and maintenance of the local publicly owned electric utility or electrical cooperative's equipment and facilities.
J(ii)	Particular risks and risk drivers associated with topographic and climatological risk factors throughout the different parts of the local publicly owned utility's or electrical cooperative's service territory.
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 currently identified in a commission fire threat map, and identification of where the commission should expand the high fire threat district based on new information or changes to the environment.
L	A methodology for identifying and presenting enterprise-wide safety risk and wildfire-related risk.
M	A statement of how the local publicly owned electric utility will restore service after a wildfire.
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:
N(i)	Monitor and audit the wildfire mitigation plan.
N(ii)	Identify any deficiencies in the wildfire mitigation plan or its implementation, and correct those deficiencies.
N(iii)	Monitor and audit the effectiveness of electrical line and equipment inspections, including inspections performed by contractors, that are carried out under the plan, and other applicable statutes, or commission rules.

APPENDIX 3 – INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR REPORT 2021

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AUBURN, CALIFORNIA 95603
T 530.887.8500 F 530.887.1250

May 3, 2021

Mr. Jeremy Lawson
Northern California Power Agency
651 Commerce Drive
Roseville, CA 95678

Subject: Independent Evaluation Report of Northern California Power Agency's Wildfire Mitigation Plan Ver. 1.2

I. INTRODUCTION

Northern California Power Agency (NCPA) contracted with Dudek to engage in an independent evaluation of its Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP). This independent evaluation report (Report) describes the technical review and evaluation of the WMP prepared by Dudek, performed in April 2021 and completed on April 26, 2021.

Dudek conducted an evaluation of NCPA's WMP, as required under California Public Utilities Code (PUC) §8387(b). PUC §8387(b), as modified by Senate Bill (SB) 901, and the Administrative Law Judge's Ruling issued on January 17, 2019 in California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Docket No. R.18-10-007 (ALJ Ruling), applies to local publicly owned electric utilities and required preparation of a WMP before January 1, 2020, and revising/updating the WMP in 2020 and annually thereafter.

The WMP requirements are codified in PUC §8387(b)(2) for local publicly owned electric utilities (POUs). PUC §8387(c) requires that an independent evaluator review and assess the comprehensiveness of a POU's WMP and issue a summary report.

Dudek conducted an initial review of NCPA's WMP (version 1.2) and provided recommendations for clarifications/modifications on April 8, 2021. The focus of the evaluation was to determine whether the WMP included all elements required under PUC §8387(b)(2) (listed in Attachment A). The following summarizes the recommended clarifications/modifications identified during the initial review, by required element. Required elements not identified below were determined to satisfactorily meet code requirements in the WMP.

- 8387(b)(2)(A): While the organizational structure, responsible department and responsible position are identified, it is not clear what the responsible position's responsibilities are for executing the WMP.
- 8387(b)(2)(C): Add description of programs. Reference is made to the line maintenance program. No definitive description is provided for the proposed programs.
- 8387(b)(2)(E): Include discussion of application of previous metrics. No reference is included regarding the impacts on the WMP from past metrics.
- 8387(b)(2)(F): Enhance section to clarify role as wholesaler vs. retailer. Reclosers are not employed. Impacts to Public Safety is addressed; any impacts would be addressed by providers of Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS). Any de-energization is coordinated with CAL FIRE and PG&E.

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May 2021

- 8387(b)(2)(G): Enhance section to clarify role as wholesaler vs. retailer. As a wholesale provider NCPA has no retail customers; any impacts would be addressed by providers of PSPS.
- 8387(b)(2)(J): Add list of risks and risk drivers related to design, construction, operation and maintenance; they currently are not addressed.
- 8387(b)(2)(K): Not addressed. Rather than referring solely to the High Fire-Threat District, include description of the local geography, any specific areas of concern and identification of any changes to be made.
- 8387(b)(2)(M): Needs clarification and details. Statement is very limited with no details, only that restoration will occur in coordination with PG&E and General Order (GO)-646 procedures. The section should be enhanced to include details on PG&Es restoration efforts and the GO-646 procedure.
- 8387(b)(2)(N): The section should be enhanced to include details on how the monitoring will occur throughout the year. It is not clear how deficiencies are identified. Clarification is needed whether or not the proposed effectiveness inspection methods are actually taking place, and if so, by whom.

Following updates to all of the above, the WMP was found to meet all the requirements of PUC §8387(b)(2).

In addition, though not required to do so, NCPA requested Dudek to conduct an evaluation of the WMP for compliance with the Wildfire Safety Advisory Board 2020 WMP guidance recommendations. Following updates, the WMP was found to meet all the recommendations of the Guidance Advisory Opinion for 2021 WMPs (See Attachment B for Compliance Matrix).

II. WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN REQUIREMENTS

A. Senate Bill 901

Per Senate Bill (SB) 901, all Publicly Owned Utilities (POUs) are required to adopt a Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP), which shall be reviewed by an independent third-party evaluator. SB 901 requires the governing board to determine whether any portion of the geographical area where the utility's overhead electrical lines and equipment are located has a significant risk of catastrophic wildfire resulting from those electrical lines and equipment. The bill directs electrical utilities to annually prepare WMPs that include several mitigation and response elements in each utility's strategies, protocols, and programs. Each electric utility is to prepare and adopt a comprehensive WMP before January 1, 2020. The requirements for POUs are presented in PUC §8387. In addition, the WMP shall be reviewed by an approved, independent, third-party evaluator to review and assess the comprehensiveness of, and the POU's compliance with, this Plan.

B. AB 1054 & AB 111

Per Assembly Bill (AB) 1054, POUs must annually submit a WMP to the California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board, which will review the WMP and provide recommendations on mitigating wildfire risk. AB 1054 contains similar WMP requirements to SB 901 but allows WMPs of a three-year, rather than one-year duration.

AB 111 establishes the Wildfire Safety Division within the Public Utilities Commission.

C. Northern California Power Agency WMP Requirements

PUC §8387(b)(2) lists the statutory requirements for WMPs. These are the specific elements that the independent evaluator must review in order to make its determination for this report. The specific elements that must be addressed in NCPA's WMP are included in Table A (see Attachment A) and are summarized here for reference.

- The responsibilities of persons responsible for executing the plan.
- The objectives of the wildfire mitigation plan.
- The preventive strategies and programs to be adopted to minimize the risk of its electrical lines and equipment causing catastrophic wildfires.
- The metrics to use to evaluate the wildfire mitigation plan's performance.
- How the application of previously identified metrics has informed the wildfire mitigation plan.
- Protocols for disabling reclosers and deenergizing portions of the electrical distribution system that consider the associated impacts.
- Procedures for notifying a customer who may be impacted by the deenergizing of electrical lines.
Plans for vegetation management.
- Plans for inspections of the electrical infrastructure.
- Description of all wildfire risks, and drivers for those risks, throughout the service territory, including design, construction, operation, and maintenance of equipment and facilities, and topographic and climatological risk factors.
- Identification of any geographic area in the service territory that is a higher wildfire threat than is identified in a commission fire threat map.
- Identification of enterprise-wide safety risk and wildfire-related risks.
- How the service will be restored after a wildfire.
- The processes and procedures used to monitor and audit the implementation of the wildfire mitigation plan, identify any deficiencies, and the effectiveness of electrical line and equipment inspections.

III. DESCRIPTION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA POWER AGENCY

NCPA is a Joint Powers Agency, which owns and operates electrical generation facilities. NCPA is governed by a Commission comprised of one representative for each of its public power utility members.

The WMP applies to a geothermal facility and a hydro facility that are located in two different geographical areas. These two facilities contain electrical equipment in high fire threat locations. The geothermal plant is located around the Geysers territory in Lake County and the Hydro Electric Facility is located in the North Fork Stanislaus River watershed (Calaveras County).

NCPA electrical infrastructure consists of facilities that are in Moderate to Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (CAL FIRE) and/or Tier 2/3 CPUC Fire Threat Zones.

NCPA has taken appropriate actions to help prevent and respond to the increasing risk of devastating wildfires by following all applicable design, construction, operation, and maintenance requirements that reduce safety risks associated with its electric system.

IV. INDEPENDENT EVALUATION

A. Independent Evaluator Requirement

PUC §8387 requires each POU to “contract with a qualified independent evaluator with experience in assessing the safe operation of electrical infrastructure to review and assess the comprehensiveness of its wildfire mitigation plan.” Additionally, the independent evaluator’s assessment of the comprehensiveness of the POU’s WMP must be issued in a report that is both posted to the POU’s website and presented at a public meeting of the POU’s governing board.

B. Dudek’s Qualifications

According to PUC §8387(c), the qualified independent evaluator that performs the assessment of NCPA’s WMP must have “experience in assessing the safe operation of electrical infrastructure to review and assess the comprehensiveness of its wildfire mitigation plan.” NCPA has determined that Dudek is the independent evaluator who adequately understands the local conditions and fire risks of the service area.

C. Evaluation Methodology

Dudek evaluated the comprehensiveness the NCPA WMP on the following measures:

- **Statutory Compliance:** Dudek ensured that each required element specified in PUC §8387 is either addressed in NCPA’s WMP or that NCPA has sufficiently described why that element is not applicable due to NCPA’s size, geography, system or other relevant factor.
- **Industry Comparison:** Dudek is familiar with existing industry practices and has reviewed the local POU WMPs previously filed with the CPUC. Dudek has compared NCPA’s WMP against existing practices and any comparable actions planned by the POUs.

D. Metrics

The NCPA WMP uses the following metrics to measure performance of its wildfire mitigation measures: (1) number of fire ignitions, and (2) wires down events. Dudek has determined that these are appropriate metrics for this WMP. Dudek will continue to monitor the metrics selected in the CPUC’s current Wildfire Mitigation Plan rulemaking for utilities (per R.18-10-007) and determine if any additional metrics are applicable to POUs and should be incorporated into future WMPs.

V. EVALUATION OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA POWER AGENCY WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN

A. Minimizing Wildfire Risks

PUC §8387(a) requires the following: 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.

The WMP describes the safety-related measures that NCPA follows to reduce its risk of causing wildfires. Dudek has determined that NCPA complies with this standard due to the construction of NCPA’s equipment and resources.

B. Evaluation of WMP Elements

Dudek found that NCPA's WMP meets the statutory requirements of comprehensiveness per PUC §8387. The review of the WMP's elements is summarized relative to the application of the WMP. The table in Attachment A lists each required element for NCPA's WMP and provides Dudek's assessment of the comprehensiveness of that element within the WMP.

Below is a brief summary of WMP elements as required by PUC §8387, including restating sections of the WMP where applicable.

8387(b)(2)(A): Responsibilities of Persons Responsible for Executing the Plan.

Under the direction of the Assistant General Manager for Generation Services, the plant managers are responsible for implementation and execution of the WMP with respect to their facilities.

8387(b)(2)(B): Objectives of the Wildfire Mitigation Plan

The objective of the WMP is to reduce the risk of wildfires that could be ignited or propagated by NCPA electrical equipment or facilities in high fire threat locations.

8387(b)(2)(C): Prevention Strategies and Programs

NCPA's strategies to reduce wildfire risk include continuous evaluation and improvement of its programs and procedures: including NCPA's (1) facility maintenance program, (2) emergency operating procedures, (3) vegetation management programs, and (4) asset documentation programs. These programs include all details such as goals, objective or percentage, monitor ongoing work, accomplishments, internal and external audits, and detailed reports.

8387(b)(2)(D): Metrics and Assumptions for Measuring WMP Performance

The NCPA WMP uses two metrics to measure performance of its wildfire mitigation measures: (1) number of fire ignitions, and (2) wires down events. Dudek has determined that these are appropriate metrics for this WMP.

8387(b)(2)(E): Impact of Previous Metrics on WMP

The metrics show zero incidents and indicate success; no WMP changes due to metrics.

8387(b)(2)(F): Reclosing Protocols

NCPA does not own or use automatic reclosers on its 230 kV within the scope defined in this WMP.

8387(b)(2)(G): De-energization Notification Procedures

In the event of active fire situations, NCPA may be directed by CAL FIRE to de-energize the lines for firefighter and/or aircraft protection. If CAL FIRE requests de-energizing both of the lines, the NCPA Dispatch Center will shut down units before de-energizing these lines.

8387(b)(2)(H): Vegetation Management

NCPA has developed and implemented a Transmission Vegetation Management Program (TVMP) to establish the vegetation maintenance requirements for each facility to achieve reliability of its generation interconnection system. The NCPA document defines procedures for vegetation management. NCPA's

TVMP is the plan for all types of vegetation associated with utility infrastructure, from the ground to the sky, which includes vegetation above and below electrical lines.

8387(b)(2)(I): Inspections

NCPA performs annual inspections of its transmission and distribution facilities in accordance with General Order 95 and General Order 165. In addition to its annual ground-based inspection, NCPA may augment inspections with aerial drone and/or helicopter surveys.

8387(b)(2)(J)(i): Risks and Risk Drivers Associated with Design and Construction Standards

Risks and risk drivers related to design, construction, operation and maintenance include equipment/structure/facilities, object to wire or equipment contact, wire to wire contact, vehicle operations, vegetation clearing, and hot work.

8387(b)(2)(J)(ii): Risks and Risk Drivers Associated with Topographic and Climatological Risk Factors

Risks and risk drivers related to Topographic and Climatological Risk Factors include extended drought, vegetation type, vegetation density, weather, high winds, prevailing winds, terrain, changing weather patterns and communities at risk.

8387(b)(2)(K): Geographical Area of Higher Wildfire Threat

To identify the areas of NCPA's service territory that are at an elevated or extreme risk of power line-ignited wildfire, NCPA has incorporated the High Fire-Threat District into its construction, inspection, maintenance, repair, and clearance practices, where applicable.

8387(b)(2)(L): Enterprise-wide Safety Risks

NCPA regularly evaluates enterprise safety risks, which include severe operating conditions and contingencies. NCPA also performs regular analysis of risks to improve the ability to manage the risks effectively.

8387(b)(2)(M): Restoration of Service

After a de-energization event, NCPA will restore service in coordination with PG&E's restoration efforts. NCPA will follow PM-201 and Geothermal Facilities Maintenance Procedure (GEO-646) which specifically address restoration for Hydro and Geothermal facilities respectively.

8387(b)(2)(N)(i): Monitoring and Auditing WMP Implementation

The WMP is presented to the NCPA Commission on an annual basis along with metrics and a summary of updates.

8387(b)(2)(N)(ii): Identifying and correcting WMP deficiencies

NCPA may correct deficiencies and implement plan improvements as needed. Improvements will be documented in the annual report to the NCPA Commission.

8387(b)(2)(N)(iii): Monitoring and Auditing the effectiveness of inspections

NCPA uses General Orders 95 and 165 as guides to inspect its electric supply system.

CONCLUSION

Dudek concludes that the Northern California Power Agency Wildfire Mitigation Plan comprehensively addresses all of the applicable statutorily required elements for a Publicly Owned Utilities' WMP as specified in California

Public Utilities Code Section 8387, and has been updated to include modifications from the previous year's WMP. Dudek further finds that NCPA has taken reasonable actions to minimize the risk that its lines or equipment will cause a wildfire.

Prepared by,



Douglas V. Nickles, RPF
Fire Protection Specialist

Att.: A. *WMP Required Element Compliance Matrix under PUC Section 8387*
B. *Wildfire Safety Advisory Board 2020 Guidance Recommendations Compliance Matrix*
cc: Scott Eckardt, Dudek

WMP Required Element per PUC Sec 8387(b)(2)	NCPA WMP Section	IE's Assessment of WMP based on PUC Sec. 8387 Requirements	Responsible Party Revisions	IE's 2nd Assessment of WMP
(A): An accounting of the responsibilities of persons responsible for executing the plan.	Sec. 3.A Utility Governance Structure. Generation Services Assistant General Manager.	Needs clarification of responsibilities. While the organizational structure, responsible department and responsible position are identified, it is not clear what the responsible position's responsibilities are for executing the WMP.	NCPA - Complete. Added "and responsible for executing the WMP"	Meets requirements as modified.
(B): The objectives of the wildfire mitigation plan.	Executive Summary and Sec. 1.B. Purpose of the WMP. 2. Goals.	Meets requirements.	NA	Meets requirements.
(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.	Sec. 5.A. Preventative Strategies and Programs. Sec. 5.C. Potential Climate Change Effects. Sec. 5.D. Potential Climate Change Risk Management Impacts.	Add description of programs. Reference is made to the line maintenance program. No definitive description is provided for the proposed programs.	NCPA - Complete. Revised NCPA's (1) facility maintenance program, (2) emergency operating procedures, (3) vegetation management programs, and (4) asset documentation programs.	Meets requirements as modified.
(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.	Sec. 7.A. Metrics and Assumptions for Measuring Plan Performance.	Meets requirements.	NA	Meets requirements.

WMP Required Element per PUC Sec 8387(b)(2)	NCPA WMP Section	IE's Assessment of WMP based on PUC Sec. 8387 Requirements	Responsible Party Revisions	IE's 2nd Assessment of WMP
(E): A discussion of how the application of previously identified metrics to previous wildfire mitigation plan performances has informed the wildfire mitigation plan.	Sec. 7.B. Impact of Metrics on Plan.	Include discussion of application of previous metrics. No reference is included regarding the impacts on the WMP from past metrics.	NCPA - Complete. Added "2020 WMP Impact Due to Metrics" along with establishing metric summaries to review.	Meets requirements as modified.
(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.	Sec. 5.I. Reclosing Policy. Sec. 5.J. De-Energization. Sec. 5.J.1. Impacts to Public Safety.	Enhance section to clarify role as wholesaler vs. retailer. Reclosers are not employed. Impacts to Public Safety is addressed; any impacts would be addressed by providers of PSPS. Any de-energization is coordinated with Cal Fire and PG&E.	NCPA - Complete. Changed "employ" to "own."	Meets requirements as modified.
(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.	Sec. 5.J.2. Customer Notification Protocols.	Enhance section to clarify role as wholesaler vs. retailer. As a wholesale provider NCPA has no retail customers; any impacts would be addressed by providers of PSPS.	NCPA - Complete. Added wholesaler vs retailer clarification.	Meets requirements as modified.
(H): Plans for vegetation management.	Sec. 5.F. Vegetation Management.	Meets requirements.	NA	Meets requirements.

WMP Required Element per PUC Sec 8387(b)(2)	NCPA WMP Section	IE's Assessment of WMP based on PUC Sec. 8387 Requirements	Responsible Party Revisions	IE's 2nd Assessment of WMP
(I): Plans for inspections of the local publicly owned electric utility's or electrical cooperative's electrical infrastructure.	Sec. 5.G. Inspections.	Meets requirements.	NA	Meets requirements.
(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: (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. (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.	Sec. 4. Wildfire Risks and Drivers. Sec. 4.A. Risks Associated with Topographical and Climatological Factors.	Add list of risks and risk drivers related to design, construction, operation and maintenance; they currently are not addressed.	NCPA - Complete. Clarified 4.B. are Risks and risk drivers related to design, construction, operation and maintenance that could create fire ignition sources.	Meets requirements as modified.

WMP Required Element per PUC Sec 8387(b)(2)	NCPA WMP Section	IE's Assessment of WMP based on PUC Sec. 8387 Requirements	Responsible Party Revisions	IE's 2nd Assessment of WMP
(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.		Not addressed. Rather than referring solely to the High Fire-Threat District, include description of the local geography, any specific areas of concern and identification of any changes to be made.	NCPA - Complete. Addressed in 4.c. "NCPA has reviewed current CAL FIRE hazard severity zone and CPUC fire-threat maps with respect to agency facilities, as shown in Appendix 1. These maps have not been adjusted since the noted publication dates nor have any local agencies imposed any expansions to the maps."	Meets requirements as modified.
(L): A methodology for identifying and presenting enterprise-wide safety risk and wildfire-related risk.	Sec. 4.B. Enterprise-wide Safety Risks.	Meets requirements.	NA	Meets requirements.
(M): A statement of how the local publicly owned electric utility or electrical cooperative will restore service after a wildfire.	Sec. 7. Restoration of Service.	Needs clarification and details. Statement is very limited with no details, only that restoration will occur in coordination with PG&E and GO-646 procedures. The section should be enhanced to include details on PG&Es restoration efforts and the GO-646 procedure.	NCPA - Complete. Revised this plan to include the statement NCPA will follow PM-201 and Geothermal Facilities Maintenance Procedure (GO-646) specifically address restoration for Hydro and Geothermal facilities respectively. These procedures contain the steps that must be taken to restore such as inspecting, repairing, testing, and finally restoring.	Meets requirements as modified.

WMP Required Element per PUC Sec 8387(b)(2)	NCPA WMP Section	IE's Assessment of WMP based on PUC Sec. 8387 Requirements	Responsible Party Revisions	IE's 2nd Assessment of WMP
<p>(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: (i) Monitor and audit the implementation of the wildfire mitigation plan. (ii) Identify any deficiencies in the wildfire mitigation plan or its implementation, and correct those deficiencies. (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>Sec. 7.C. Monitoring and Auditing the Plan. Sec. 7.D. Identifying and Correcting Deficiencies in the Plan. Sec. 7.E. Monitoring the Effectiveness of Inspections.</p>	<p>The section should be enhanced to include details on how the monitoring will occur throughout the year. It is not clear how deficiencies are identified. Clarification is needed whether or not the proposed effectiveness inspection methods are actually taking place, and if so, by whom.</p>	<p>NCPA - Complete. Added yearly metrics summary including impact to the plan from the metrics summary.</p>	<p>Meets requirements as modified.</p>

WSAB 2020 WMP Guidance Recommendations	NCPA WMP section	IE's Initial Assessment of WMP based on WSAB Guidance Recommendations	Responsible Party - revisions	IE's 2nd Assessment of WMP
1. Plan Structure – risk profile				
a) The WMP and Independent Evaluator Reports should be prominently displayed and easily located on the POU websites.	NA	Reports are displayed on POU website.	NCPA - Complete. http://www.ncpa.com/bidding-opportunities-and-public-notifications/environmental-documents/	Meets WSAB recommendation.
b) Include an index or table that shows where each section of the statute is addressed in the WMP.	Not included.	Include the statute compliance spreadsheet developed by Dudek as Appendix.	Dudek	Meets WSAB recommendation.
c) Include context-setting information at the beginning of each POU plan about each POU's risk profile in accordance with the statutory requirements Public Utilities Code Section 8387(b)(2)	Not included.	Prepare the requested context-setting information and include in Section 1.	NCPA - Complete. Added "NCPA is a Joint Powers Agency, which owns and operates electrical generation. The scope of this plan applies the Geothermal Facility and the Hydro Facility that are located in two different geological areas. These two facilities contain electrical equipment in high fire threat locations. The Geothermal Plant is located around the Geyser territory in Lake County and the Hydro Electric Facility is located in around North Fork Stanislaus."	Meets WSAB recommendation.

WSAB 2020 WMP Guidance Recommendations	NCPA WMP section	IE's Initial Assessment of WMP based on WSAB Guidance Recommendations	Responsible Party - revisions	IE's 2nd Assessment of WMP
d) Apply the Board developed template for review of POU WMPs	Not included.	Prepare the requested template and include in Section 1 (attached below).	NCPA. Complete created new table section 1.	Meets WSAB recommendation.
2. Plan Structure – approval process				
a) Provide a paragraph describing the public review process of the plan and how it is approved, if required	Not included.	Prepare the requested paragraph and include in Section 1.	NCPA. Completed. Added to the purpose of the plan to help fill in the overall story. Very ending paragraph to the appending process. "In 2020, This WMP was presented and recorded at a public Brown Act Meeting and is posted on a public website domain..."	Meets WSAB recommendation.
b) Include additional data on monitoring and auditing and how that information is presented	Not included.	Prepare the requested additional data regarding how the information is presented and include in Section 7.C.	NCPA. Complete. Revised to "This WMP is presented to the NCPA Commission on an annual basis along with metrics and a summary of updates."	Meets WSAB recommendation.

WSAB 2020 WMP Guidance Recommendations	NCPA WMP section	IE's Initial Assessment of WMP based on WSAB Guidance Recommendations	Responsible Party - revisions	IE's 2nd Assessment of WMP
c) Provide a brief explanation on each funding mechanism to be used to perform wildfire mitigation	Not included.	Prepare the requested explanation for each wildfire mitigation funding mechanism and include in the respective section (i.e., 3.B., 3.C., 5.A., 5.F, 5.G, 5.H).	NCPA - Complete. The following statement applies to all funding authority "NCPA is governed by a Commission comprised of one representative for each member. The Commission is responsible for the general management of the affairs, property, and business of the Agency. Under the direction of the General Manager, the staff of the Agency is responsible for providing various administrative, operating and planning services for the Agency. This establishes all funding and is applied to all wildfire funding mechanisms in this plan (i.e., 3.B., 3.C., 5.A., 5.F, 5.G, 5.H)."	Meets WSAB recommendation.
3. Plan Structure – independent evaluations				
a) IEs should perform a robust evaluation of the contents and substance of the POU's WMP	NA	Dudek to perform the requested evaluation.	Dudek	Meets WSAB recommendation.
b) Include evaluations of how each POU compares to the IE's assessment of industry standards	NA	Dudek to perform the requested evaluation.	Dudek	Meets WSAB recommendation.
4. Plan structure – Utility groupings				

WSAB 2020 WMP Guidance Recommendations	NCPA WMP section	IE's Initial Assessment of WMP based on WSAB Guidance Recommendations	Responsible Party - revisions	IE's 2nd Assessment of WMP
a) 2021 POU WMPs and/or updates should be based on the guidelines		WMP to be updated in accordance with the recommended guidelines.	NCPA - Complete. This evaluation serves as a WMP updated based on Dudek's and WSAB recommendations.	Meets WSAB recommendation.
b) The industry should create a revised template that reflects the learnings from the 2020 initial effort	NA	NA	NA	NA
5. Customer Impacts – PSPS shutoffs				
a) Utilities should provide the context-setting information	Sec. 5.J.2. Customer Notification Protocols	The context-setting information should be enhanced in this section to reference customer impacts as well as customer notification (re-emphasize role as wholesaler vs. retail provider). Consider adding a separate Customer Impacts section.	NCPA - Complete. Revised as "NCPA provides wholesale power to City's and utilities typically known as NCPA members. Since NCPA does not have retail customers, like commercial or private residences, no customer notification protocols are in place."	Meets WSAB recommendation.
b) Include a detailed protocol to address these concerns to understand the strategic direction and effectiveness of each POU	Sec. 5.J.2. Customer Notification Protocols	See 5.a) above.	NCPA - Complete. Revised as "NCPA provides wholesale power to City's and utilities typically known as NCPA members. Since NCPA does not have retail customers, like commercial or private residences, no customer notification protocols are in place."	Meets WSAB recommendation.
6. Customer impacts – communication plans				

WSAB 2020 WMP Guidance Recommendations	NCPA WMP section	IE's Initial Assessment of WMP based on WSAB Guidance Recommendations	Responsible Party - revisions	IE's 2nd Assessment of WMP
a) Describe the specific methods, content, and timing used to communicate with customers	Sec. 5.J.2. Customer Notification Protocols	The communication information should be enhanced in this section to reflect the context-setting information requested as noted above in 5.a).	NCPA - Complete. Revised as "NCPA provides wholesale power to City's and utilities typically known as NCPA members. Since NCPA does not have retail customers, like commercial or private residences, no customer notification protocols are in place."	Meets WSAB recommendation.
b) Provide an evaluation of whether the current method of emergency communication appears sufficient and, if not, what can be done to improve it, especially protocols for notifying customers, essential service providers, and other critical facilities of IOU or self-triggered PSPS events	Sec. 5.J.2. Customer Notification Protocols	See 5.a) above.	NCPA & Dudek - Complete. "Complete. Revised as "NCPA provides wholesale power to City's and utilities typically known as NCPA members. Since NCPA does not have retail customers, like commercial or private residences, no customer notification protocols are in place."	Meets WSAB recommendation.
7. The Grid – hardening				
a) Provide information on existing and planned system upgrades	Sec. 2.B. Resiliency of the Electric Grid	Enhance this section to provide specific examples of upgrades as requested.	NCPA - Complete. NCPA is a relatively smaller utility with a small asset count. The list is updated and on 5.A. (1)	Meets WSAB recommendation.
b) Provide details of each utility's system hardening and grid design programs described in the WMP filing	Sec. 2.A. Minimizing Sources of Ignition	Enhance this section to provide details of programs as requested.	NCPA - Complete. Organized programs and procedures 5.A.	Meets WSAB recommendation.

WSAB 2020 WMP Guidance Recommendations	NCPA WMP section	IE's Initial Assessment of WMP based on WSAB Guidance Recommendations	Responsible Party - revisions	IE's 2nd Assessment of WMP
c) Indicate the goals of the programs and the risk any particular program is designed to mitigate	Sec. 2 Goals	Enhance this section to show nexus between goals, programs and mitigation as requested.	NCPA - Complete. Revised and organized programs and procedure in Section 5.	Meets WSAB recommendation.
d) Provide the approach to PSPS mitigation and prevention	Sec. 3.C. Wildfire Response and Recovery; Sec. 5.J.1. Impacts to Public Safety; Sec. 5.J.2. Customer Notification Protocols	The PSPS information should be enhanced to reference mitigation and prevention as requested (re-emphasize role as wholesaler vs. retail provider). Consider adding a separate "PSPS" section.	NCPA - Complete. Added NCPA's wholesaler information to first paragraph for clarification.	Meets WSAB recommendation.
e) Identify any supply shortages	NA	Identify any supply shortages as requested. See 7.d) above.	NCPA - Complete. Updates to include "no supply shortages" in relation to PSPS.	Meets WSAB recommendation.
8. The Grid – inspections				
a) Describe the unique risks a utility is inspecting for, such as insect, wildfire incursion, wood split, woodpeckers, purposeful insulator destruction, termites, etc., to be included in the WMP	Sec. 5.G. Inspections	Enhance this section to describe the unique risks as requested.	NCPA - Complete. Added "Section 4.B. of this WMP outlines the unique risks NCPA inspects for. "	Meets WSAB recommendation.
b) Describe whether and how system inspections lead to system improvements	Sec. 5.G. Inspections	Enhance this section to describe the resulting system improvements as requested.	NCPA - Complete. Added "NCPA's asset management system also allows these improvements to be evaluated as observations and comments are made when work orders for	Meets WSAB recommendation.

WSAB 2020 WMP Guidance Recommendations	NCPA WMP section	IE's Initial Assessment of WMP based on WSAB Guidance Recommendations	Responsible Party - revisions	IE's 2nd Assessment of WMP
			maintenance items are executed."	
9. The Grid – risks				
a) Consider different options for surfacing, for further consideration and remediation, previously unidentified risks that could lead to catastrophic wildfires	Sec. 4 Wildfire Risks and Drivers	Enhance this section to describe the different options considered as requested.	NCPA - Updated Section 5.A. (1) to add "NCPA's aggressive approach to reduce transmission tie-line risk by completely upgrading insulators on this asset, NCPA's longest line, of 40 Miles. This project was considered a major cost in capital and prioritized for wildfire prevention."	Meets WSAB recommendation.
10. Risk assessment – construction				
a) State the particular wildfire risks associated with system design and construction such as topography and location near a HFTD of another utility	Not included. Wildfire risks are identified in Sec. 4.A., but there is no reference to design and construction.	Include risks associated with design and construction as requested.	NCPA - Complete. Added "There are no new wildfire risks associated to design and construction of new assets. NCPA is currently Operating and Maintain original generating facilities. No new construction in the immediate future."	Meets WSAB recommendation.

WSAB 2020 WMP Guidance Recommendations	NCPA WMP section	IE's Initial Assessment of WMP based on WSAB Guidance Recommendations	Responsible Party - revisions	IE's 2nd Assessment of WMP
b) Provide information about G.O. 95 exempt assets, and possible updates to G.O. 95, that could facilitate more resilient utility transmission and distribution assets	Not included.	Include information about exempt assets and updates as requested, possibly in Sec. 2. B.	NCPA - Complete. Leave as stated in Section 5.E.. "NCPA meets: (1) Public Resources Code section 4292; (2) Public Resources Code section 4293; (3) General Order 95 Rule 35; and (4) General Order 95 Appendix E Guidelines to Rule 35."	Meets WSAB recommendation.
11. Risk assessment – situational awareness				
a) Include context setting information in the WMPs including information about the prevailing wind directions and speeds, differentiated by season, along with average weather conditions by season	Sec. 4.A. Risks Associated with Topographical and Climatological Factors.	Enhance this section with context setting information as requested, including the detailed wind information.	NCPA - Complete. "Prevailing Winds: Using live data, NCPA monitors prevailing winds directions and speeds, differentiated by season, along with average weather conditions by season using NCPA real-time observations noting disturbing local weather. Live data is used with the fire maps located in Appendix 1. PG&E's Weather Awareness website is a resource for real-time conditions: https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/psps-weather-	Meets WSAB recommendation.

WSAB 2020 WMP Guidance Recommendations	NCPA WMP section	IE's Initial Assessment of WMP based on WSAB Guidance Recommendations	Responsible Party - revisions	IE's 2nd Assessment of WMP
			map.page?WT.mc_id=Vanity_weather"	
b) Include information on how and why situational awareness technology is installed, and where on the system	Sec. 5.A. Preventative Strategies and Programs.	Enhance this section with information on technology installation as requested.	NCPA - Complete. Added for clarity. "This information is used in communication and aids to analyze wildfire situations."	Meets WSAB recommendation.
c) Provide insight into decisions that are made not to install situational awareness technology	Sec. 5.A. Preventative Strategies and Programs.	See 11.c) above.	NCPA	Meets WSAB recommendation.
d) Are there constraints such as budgets, availability of equipment, knowledge to effectively deploy, or qualified personnel to install and monitor effectively?	Sec. 5.A. Preventative Strategies and Programs.	Enhance this section to address the constraints listed as requested.	NCPA - Complete. Added to 5.A. "There are no constraints such as budgets, availability of equipment, knowledge to effectively deploy, or qualified personnel to install and monitor effectively."	Meets WSAB recommendation.
e) Provide information about whether this modeling data is received from or	Sec. 5.A. Preventative	Enhance this section to provide information regarding modeling data as requested.	NCPA - Complete. Data source is shared and comes from PGE.	Meets WSAB recommendation.

WSAB 2020 WMP Guidance Recommendations	NCPA WMP section	IE's Initial Assessment of WMP based on WSAB Guidance Recommendations	Responsible Party - revisions	IE's 2nd Assessment of WMP
shared with other agencies, utilities, or fire professionals	Strategies and Programs.			
12. Vegetation Management – utility requirements				
a) Describe treatment plans for all types of vegetation associated with utility infrastructure, from the ground to the sky, which includes vegetation above and below electrical lines	Sec. 5.F. Vegetation Management	Enhance this section to describe the treatment plans as requested (reference is made to the TVMP - provide details).	NCPA - Added clarity that section 5.E. is "NCPA's plan for all types of vegetation associated with utility infrastructure, from the ground to the sky, which includes vegetation above and below electrical lines. "	Meets WSAB recommendation.
13. Vegetation management – personnel qualifications				
a) List the qualifications of any experts relied upon, such as scientific experts in ecology, fire ecology, fire behavior, geology, and meteorology	Sec. 5.F. Vegetation Management	Enhance this section to list the qualifications as requested.	NCPA - Complete added to section 5.E. "NCPA uses a combination of its own staff (manager, supervisor or competent designee) and the retention of qualified consultants (such as scientific experts in ecology, fire ecology, fire behavior, geology, and meteorology) with experience in line design, line construction, NERC Standards compliance, and vegetation management to develop and maintain the TVMP."	Meets WSAB recommendation.

WSAB 2020 WMP Guidance Recommendations	NCPA WMP section	IE's Initial Assessment of WMP based on WSAB Guidance Recommendations	Responsible Party - revisions	IE's 2nd Assessment of WMP
b) Specify the level of expertise of the POU staff that manages the contractors performing vegetation management	Sec. 5.F. Vegetation Management	Enhance this section to specify the level of expertise as requested.	NCPA - Complete. "NCPA uses a combination of its own staff (manager, supervisor or competent designee) and the retention of qualified consultants (such as scientific experts in ecology, fire ecology, fire behavior, geology, and meteorology) with experience in line design, line construction, NERC Standards compliance, and vegetation management to develop and maintain the TVMP."	Meets WSAB recommendation.
c) Describe measures taken to ensure that POU staff and contractors comply with or verify compliance with Cal/OSHA standards on Minimum Approach Distances (MAD)	Sec. 5.F. Vegetation Management	Enhance this section to describe the measures as requested.	NCPA - Complete. The TVMP specifies technical requirements for staff and contractors to comply with or verify compliance with Cal/OSHA standards and NCPA Electrical Safety Procedure GS-103 ensures Cal/Osha and Minimum Approach Distances (MAD).	Meets WSAB recommendation.
14. Vegetation management - innovation				

WSAB 2020 WMP Guidance Recommendations	NCPA WMP section	IE's Initial Assessment of WMP based on WSAB Guidance Recommendations	Responsible Party - revisions	IE's 2nd Assessment of WMP
a) Describe whether the POU has considered innovative and alternative approaches to vegetation management such as, but not limited to, requiring property owners to manage vegetation a certain distance from structures or utility lines, and pilot programs in home hardening	Sec. 5.F. Vegetation Management	Enhance this section to describe the approaches considered as requested.	NCPA - No innovative ideas to note.	Meets WSAB recommendation.

REVISION HISTORY

Version 1.0 - NCPA Commission approved on December 5, 2019 per Resolution 19-100

Version 1.1 – NCPA Commission approved on May 29, 2020 per Resolution 20-43. This WMP includes the qualified Independent Evaluators (IE) report in Appendix 2.

Version 1.2 – NCPA Commission approved on May 27, 2021 per Resolution 21-56 This WMP includes the qualified Independent Evaluators (IE) report in the in Appendix 3.