



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

Report: Annual Update to Glendale Water and Power's (GWP's) Wildfire Mitigation Plan.

1. Resolution adopting Annual Update to Glendale Water and Power's (GWP's) Wildfire Mitigation Plan.

COUNCIL ACTION

Item Type: Action Item

Approved for June 28, 2022 **calendar**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Glendale and GWP recognize the potential loss of property and human life posed by wildfires is a growing concern. GWP has developed, implemented, and maintained a formal Wildfire Mitigation Plan ("WMP" or "Plan") since 2019, as required by Senate Bill (SB) 901. The objective of GWP's Wildfire Mitigation Plan is to engineer, construct, maintain, and operate the GWP electric transmission and distribution system in a manner intended to minimize the risk of catastrophic wildfire caused by electrical lines and equipment.

The Plan details its two-pronged approach to mitigate wildfires, in which a "wildfire" requires two elements: ignition and spread. If only one of these two elements is present, a wildfire does not result. Both ignition (a spark or other source of the initial fire) and spread (the fire is free-burning) must be present in order for a wildfire to occur. One of GWP's primary tools for lowering wildfire risk is through vegetation management and by reducing the likelihood of overhead power lines coming into contact with trees or otherwise sparking wildfires.

The City's Wildfire Mitigation Committee, comprised of representatives from different City departments, meets quarterly, or as deemed necessary by the Committee, to measure the effectiveness of the program and to discuss additional implementation strategies to further enhance the program's success. The Wildfire Mitigation Plan updates included herein are the result of the evolving strategies the City is implementing to reduce the risk of wildfires within the City of Glendale.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Infrastructure: GWP's Wildfire Mitigation Plan applies engineering and operational solutions to harden its electric distribution infrastructure and reduce the risk of wildfires.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the annual update to GWP's Wildfire Mitigation Plan.

BACKGROUND

California Senate Bill 102, SB 901, and Assembly Bill (AB) 111 require electric utilities to maintain a formal Wildfire Mitigation Plan ("WMP" or "Plan") that includes the utility's strategies and plans to mitigate against catastrophic wildfires. SB 901 requires publicly-owned utilities, including GWP, to (1) prepare such a plan, (2) have the plan reviewed by a qualified independent evaluator to assess comprehensiveness, (3) present the plan in a noticed public meeting, (4) have the plan adopted, and (5) update the plan annually thereafter.

GWP's Plan considers and includes all required and necessary elements of SB 901 including, but not limited to, an accounting of responsibilities of persons responsible for executing the plan, a description of preventive strategies and programs to minimize the risk of its electrical equipment causing catastrophic wildfires, protocols for de-energizing portions of the electrical distribution system, and its plans for vegetation management.

Highlights from the Plan:

1. The California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) wildfire threat maps were developed by CalFire to assess wildfire threat areas throughout California. 62% of the City of Glendale is within an elevated or extreme wildfire zone.
2. Glendale Fire Department's Vegetation Management Program (VMP) was developed to ensure buildings and structures maintain an adequate defensible space between structures and plans, brush or trees that could catch the structure on fire. Proper application of the VMP reduces the rate and intensity of fires if they were to ignite, which minimizes the risk of catastrophic wildfire spreading within the City.
3. A catastrophic wildfire requires both ignition source and the ability to spread. The VMP aims to limit the rate and intensity of the spread, so GWP can focus its efforts on limiting ignitions where the VMP does not reach. This approach means GWP can focus its efforts on 0.47% of the City where GWP's electrical assets exist (versus 62% as identified by the CPUC) to minimize ignition source where a fire would be more likely to spread if it were to ignite.
4. GWP's wildfire mitigation efforts, pursuant to its Plan, will apply the most appropriate engineering and operational solutions depending upon the specific risks in each area: a solution that works well in one area may not be the correct solution elsewhere, so an engineering analysis will be applied to each area to ensure the most effective mitigation measures are applied.
5. On November 27, 2019, GWP, through the Southern California Public Power Association (SCPPA), contracted with Navigant Consulting, Inc., to review and assess the comprehensiveness of the Plan and incorporated the recommendations from the assessments in finalizing the Plan. The Navigant report confirms that GWP's Plan meets all regulatory requirements. Per SB 901,

the third party independent evaluator is only needed every three years for the comprehensive review of the Plan. Staff plans on updating this Plan comprehensively next year in addition to the third party evaluator review.

6. On April 27, 2021, the City's Wildfire Mitigation Committee Members, comprised of representatives from different City departments, had a virtual meeting and reviewed the updated plan, which resulted in the updates presented to City Council on May 25, 2021.
7. During April through June of 2022, the City's Wildfire Mitigation Committee Members collaborated to review and prepare the 2022 annual update to the plan for City Council review and adoption.

ANALYSIS

The 2022 annual update to the Wildfire Mitigation Plan includes GWP's informational responses to California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board (WSAB) including projects completed to mitigate the risk of wildfire, general statistics about GWP's service territory, and updates to the following sections:

Objectives

- Program objective details and considerations including trends associated with global warming and climate change.
- Implementation of infrared and LIDAR imaging for the inspection of power facilities and vegetation management.
- Additional power line clearance tree trimming measures to clear vegetation from the communication level to the top of the pole.
- Climate related increases in higher peak power consumption and the Conservation Voltage Reduction (CVR) technology implemented to keep the peak power consumption under control.
- Improving the resiliency of GWP's energy generation and delivery infrastructure.

Preventive Strategies and Programs

- Updated standards for the engineering and design of capacitor banks.

Operational Practices

- Acquisition of a new Outage Management System (OMS) by DataVoice International Inc., which allows efficient and quick notification to customers of impending power outages.
- The plan to increase generation reliability by implementing more distributed generation by installing photovoltaic panels and battery storage on city-owned properties.

STAKEHOLDERS/OUTREACH

The City of Glendale's Wildfire Mitigation Committee, comprised of members from multiple departments, meets quarterly to evaluate the Wildfire Mitigation Plan, discuss legislative changes impacting the plan, and propose additional strategies to enhance the effectiveness of the plan.

FISCAL IMPACT

The proposed Wildfire Mitigation Plan is budgeted in the amount of \$200,000, which was approved as a part of the FY 2022-23 budget. For the view and potential installation of new technology and materials needed to further reduce the risk of ignitions from electrical equipment. No new appropriation is being requested at this time.

The City Council approved funding is outlined below:

Amount	Account String	Fund Description
\$200,000	GL: 53300-5830-GWP-0020-P0000 PL: GWP00653AA	Electric Depreciation Fund (CIP)

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This item is considered a ministerial activity and therefore, not subject to CEQA review.

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

Not applicable.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: Adopt the herein presented updated Wildfire Mitigation Plan, hereinafter known and referred to as GWP's Wildfire Mitigation Plan - Updated 2022.

Alternative 2: Not authorize the requested action herein which will place the City in violation of SB 901.

Alternative 3: Consider any other alternative not proposed by staff.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Prepared by:

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Approved by:

Roubik R. Golanian, P.E., City Manager

EXHIBITS / ATTACHMENTS

Exhibit 1: Wildfire Mitigation Plan - Updated 2022

Exhibit 2: Wildfire Mitigation Plan 2019 and Navigant Consulting, Inc.'s Evaluation