

November 17, 2022

The Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (Energy Safety) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), through their respective public processes, are developing a framework to implement Senate Bill 884. The legislation, which was signed into law in September 2022, requires an expedited utility distribution infrastructure undergrounding program.¹

Energy Safety and the CPUC must each implement a different aspect of the expedited utility distribution infrastructure undergrounding program. To ensure a transparent, fair, and effective program, Energy Safety and the CPUC will develop guidelines for their respective areas of responsibility. The agencies will hold a joint workshop to gather input from stakeholders, including members of the public and other interested parties, on their processes. Guidelines must be adopted before plans can be submitted to Energy Safety.

Although a date and time for the workshop have not yet been determined, stakeholders are encouraged to sign up to receive notifications about the workshop and Energy Safety's SB 884 implementation activities via Energy Safety's Electrical Undergrounding Plans service list. To sign up for notifications, follow the instructions on Energy Safety's website. Please send any questions about Energy Safety's SB 884 implementation activities to electricalunderground@energysafety.ca.gov. To receive notifications about the CPUC's SB 884 implementation activities, please send a request to SB884@cpuc.ca.gov.

The joint workshop will include a discussion of the required elements for each agency's guidelines and the submission schedule. Energy Safety and the CPUC welcome stakeholder input in this discussion. Energy Safety and the CPUC will publish a notice with additional information about the workshop, including time, date, and scope, at a future date.

Following the joint public workshop, Energy Safety and the CPUC will determine the appropriate next steps for further developing each agency's guidelines.

¹ <u>SB 884, McGuire. Electricity: expedited utility distribution infrastructure undergrounding program</u> (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB884, accessed Oct. 26, 2022).

² Energy Safety's web page with instructions for subscribing to the service lists: https://energysafety.ca.gov/events-and-meetings/how-to-participate-in-public-events (accessed Oct. 28, 2022).

Sincerely,

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