



July 12, 2024

Lena McMillin  
Wildfire Mitigation Program Manager  
San Diego Gas and Electric Company  
8330 Century Park Court  
San Diego, CA 92123

## NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Ms. McMillin:

Pursuant to Public Utilities Code section 326 and Government Code section 15475.1, the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (Energy Safety) has conducted an inspection of work completed by San Diego Gas and Electric Company (SDG&E) in accordance with its 2024 Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) and determined the existence of a violation. Energy Safety therefore issues SDG&E a Notice of Violation (NOV), identifying noncompliance with an approved WMP or any law, regulation, or guideline within the authority of the Office.<sup>1</sup>

On June 19, 2024, Energy Safety conducted an inspection of SDG&E's WMP initiatives in the vicinity of the city of Vista, CA. The inspection report is enclosed herewith. Energy Safety found the following violation:

Violation 1. Energy Safety observed that in implementing 2024 WMP initiative 8.2.3.1- Pole Clearing (WMP.512), SDG&E failed to adhere to its protocol of pole clearing around pole ID P510623 at coordinates 33.23763869901116, -117.2283849853278. Energy Safety considers this violation to be in the "Minor" risk category.

### Response Options

In accordance with Energy Safety Guidelines,<sup>2</sup> within 30 days from the issuance of this NOV, SDG&E must provide a response informing Energy Safety of corrective actions taken or planned to remedy the above identified violation and prevent recurrence. Alternatively, should SDG&E disagree with the NOV, SDG&E must

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<sup>1</sup> Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, section 29302(b)(2)

<sup>2</sup> Energy Safety Compliance Guidelines, pp 6-7

submit to Energy Safety a response stating it will not correct the violation, the reason or justification for inaction, and all supporting documentation.<sup>3</sup>

This response shall be filed in the Energy Safety e-Filing system under the 2024 NOV Docket<sup>4</sup> and the associated file name(s) must begin with the NOV identification number provided above.

Pursuant to Government Code section 15475.4, if the SDG&E intends to request a hearing “to take public comment or present additional information,” it must also do so within the 30-day timeframe. If a petition for hearing is not received by the deadline, then the determination and conditions set forth in this NOV become final.

Prior to its response or request for hearing, the SDG&E may also request an informal conference with Energy Safety’s Environmental Science Division for the purpose of disputing any issues raised in this NOV no later than five (5) business days before the response deadline.<sup>5</sup> Requests for informal conference with Energy Safety must be e-mailed to [environmentalscience@energysafety.ca.gov](mailto:environmentalscience@energysafety.ca.gov), with a copy sent to [Elizabeth.McAlpine@energysafety.ca.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.McAlpine@energysafety.ca.gov).

Pursuant to Public Utilities Code section 8389(g), Energy Safety may refer this matter to the California Public Utilities Commission for consideration of potential enforcement action, as appropriate.

Sincerely,



Sheryl Bilbrey  
Program Manager | Environmental Science Division  
Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety  
[Sheryl.Bilbrey@energysafety.ca.gov](mailto:Sheryl.Bilbrey@energysafety.ca.gov)

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<sup>3</sup> Energy Safety Compliance Guidelines, pp. 6-7

<sup>4</sup> <https://efiling.energysafety.ca.gov/EFiling/DocketInformation.aspx?docketnumber=2024%20NOV>

<sup>5</sup> Energy Safety Compliance Guidelines, p. 6



# INSPECTION REPORT

## Overview

### Inspection Categories

The Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (Energy Safety) conducts inspections to verify the work performed by an electrical corporation as reported in an approved Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) or subsequent filing, and to assess general conditions of electrical infrastructure that may adversely impact an electrical corporation’s wildfire risk.

A Notice of Violation (NOV) is issued for any instances of noncompliance discovered during an inspection related to an electrical corporation’s execution of its WMP initiatives.

### Correction Timelines

Violations must be corrected in a timely manner. Energy Safety may prescribe a timeframe for resolution of a violation. If Energy Safety assigns a risk category to a violation, an electrical corporation must correct the violation as required per the timelines provided in Table 1.<sup>6</sup>

**Table 1. Risk Category and Correction Timelines**

Risk Category	Violation and defect correction timeline
Severe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Immediate resolution</li></ul>
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 months (in High Fire Threat District (HFTD) Tier 3)</li><li>• 6 months (in HFTD Tier 2)</li><li>• 6 months (if relevant to worker safety; not in HFTD Tier 3)</li></ul>
Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 12 months or resolution scheduled in WMP update</li></ul>

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<sup>6</sup> Energy Safety Compliance Guidelines, p. 5



# Inspection Summary

Table 2 provides a summary of the selection of the WMP inspection location and initiative. Table 3 provides a summary of the violation(s) found during the inspection. Details regarding the inspection that identified the violation(s) are provided in the Inspections Details Section below.

***Table 2: Inspection Location and Initiative Summary***

Electrical Corporation:	San Diego Gas and Electric Company
Report Number:	NOV_SDGE_CAC23_20240619_1251
Inspector:	CAC23
WMP Year Inspected:	2024
Quarterly Data Report (QDR) Referenced:	Quarter 1 (Q1)
Inspection Selection:	Energy Safety inspected the locations based on SDG&E's Q1 QDR
Relevant WMP Initiative(s):	8.2.3.1 Pole Clearing (WMP.512)
Date of inspection:	June 19, 2024
City and/or County of Inspection:	Vista, California
Inspection Purpose:	Assess the accuracy of San Diego Gas and Electric Company's QDR data, completeness of its work, compliance with WMP requirements, and compliance with its protocols.

**Table 3: WMP Inspection Violation(s)**

Violation #	Structure ID	VMP ID	Lat/Long	HFTD	Initiative Number	Violation Type	Severity	Violation Description
Violation 1	P510623	655-YY18805	33.23763869901116, -117.2283849853278	Non-HFTD	8.2.3.1-Pole Clearing (WMP.512)	Adherence to Protocol	Minor	Failure to achieve required clearance around P510623

# Inspection Details

## Violation 1:

### **Relevant Requirement:**

SDGE's WMP states the following regarding initiative number 8.2.3.1 – Pole clearing (WMP .512): “mechanical pole brushing is the clearing all vegetation around the base of a pole down to bare mineral soil for a radius of 10 feet from the outer circumference of the pole; removing all live vegetation within the cylinder up to a height of 8 feet above ground; and removing all dead vegetation up to the height of the conductors. Mechanical brushing is typically performed in the spring months.”<sup>7</sup>

### **Finding:**

The reported location provided by SDG&E indicated that work on the Pole Clearing Program (.512 WMP initiative number 8.2.3.1.2) was reported as completed. At pole ID P510623 at 1009 Osborne Street in Vista, at GPS coordinates 33.23763869901116, -117.2283849853278, the inspector observed that vegetation (ice plant, *Carpobrotus edulis*) was growing within a 10-foot radius from the subject pole. SDG&E's Q1 QDR data indicated the pole was mechanically cleared in March 2024. The inspector's observation is documented in Violation 1 photographs, which are attachments to this report. Photo numbers Item1GImg1, Item1GImg2, and Item1IA1Img1 depict ice plants contacting the base of the pole and growing within the clearance radius.

Energy Safety concludes that Violation 1 is “Minor” because the vegetation fuel bed does not consist of light flashy fuels.

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<sup>7</sup> San Diego Gas and Electric Company, “2023-2025 Wildfire Mitigation Plan,” Oct. 23, 2023. p.273. [Online.] Available: <https://efiling.energysafety.ca.gov/eFiling/Getfile.aspx?fileid=55859&shareable=true>

# Exhibits

Exhibit A: Photo Log

Structure ID: P510623

Violation 1



Item1Gimg1: Pole ID



Item1Gimg2: Overall pole



**Item1IA1mg1:** View of vegetation at the base of the pole.