

# Wildfire Safety Advisory Board

June 4, 2025, 1:00 p.m.



*Hybrid Meeting  
Merced County Administration Building  
Board Room, Third Floor  
2222 M Street, Merced, CA 95340*

# Participation Information



***Using more than one participation option may create feedback***

***Please begin your comment by stating your name and organization***

- **Microsoft Teams:** <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting>

Meeting ID: 279 985 389 479 6 | Passcode: MW6GJ26K

- **Phone:** +1 (469) 998-6045 | Conference ID: 294 808 331#

Participants will be placed on mute in “listen-only” mode until the public comment portion of the meeting. Once the public comment portions of the meeting begin, participants may dial \*5 (star five) when they wish to speak to be placed in a queue. The hosting team will unmute callers in order of request.

- **Email:** Written comments may be emailed to [WSAB@energysafety.ca.gov](mailto:WSAB@energysafety.ca.gov).
- **Technical Issues:** e-mail [WSAB@energysafety.ca.gov](mailto:WSAB@energysafety.ca.gov) or call Unique Coleman at 916-709-3079



# Locating Meeting Materials



## Meeting Materials Are Available at:

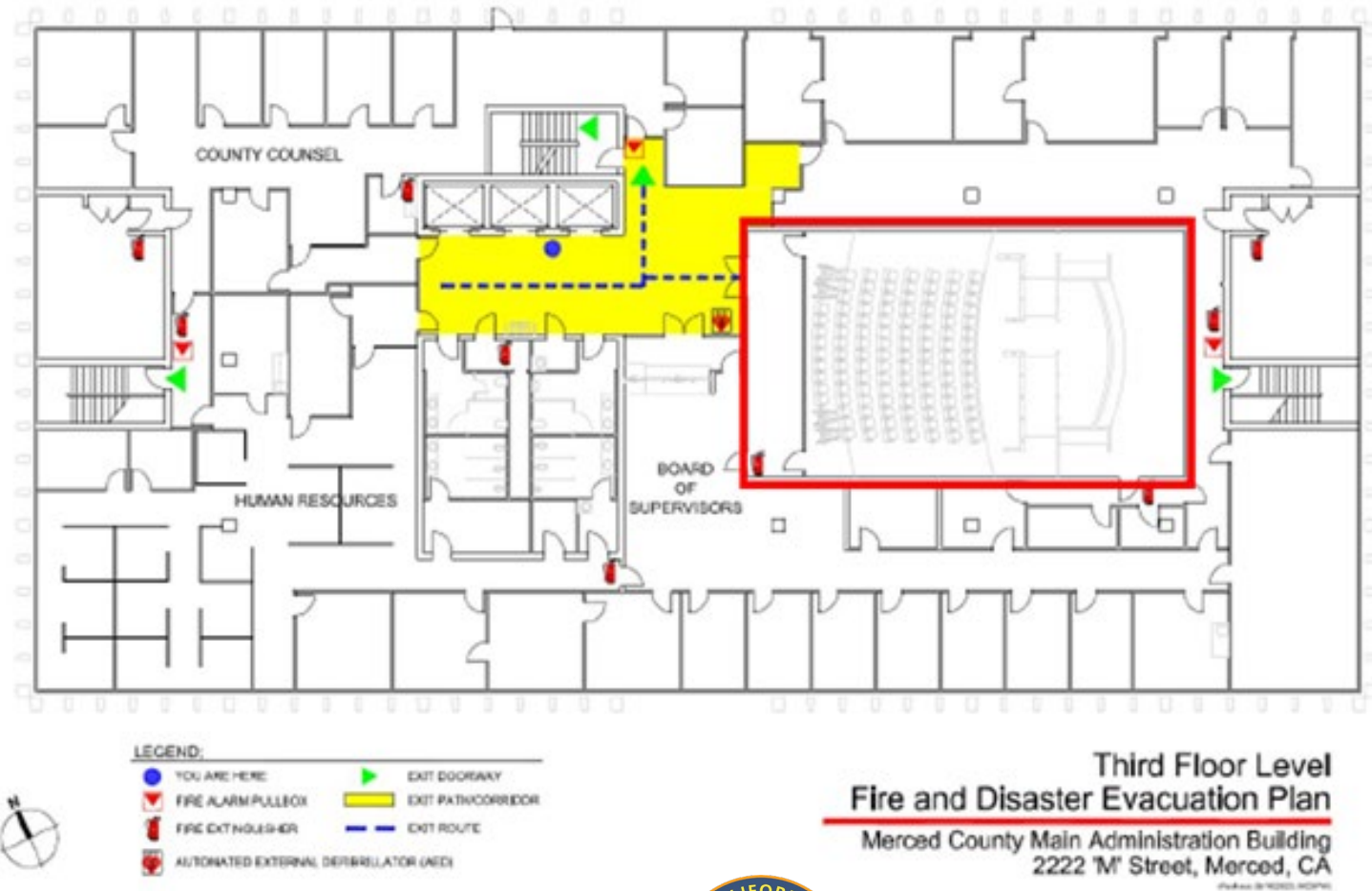
<https://energysafety.ca.gov/what-we-do/wildfire-safety-advisory-board/wsab-events-and-meetings/>

## Written Public Comments Are Available at:

<https://efiling.energysafety.ca.gov/EFiling/DocketInformation.aspx?docketnumber=2025-WSAB-WSAB>



# Safety Briefing





# 1 - Call to Order and Roll Call



- **Ralph Armstrong Jr.**
- **Jessica Block, Chair**
- **Marybel Batjer**
- **Tim Haines**
- **John Mader**
- **Chris Porter, Vice Chair**
- **Alexandra Syphard**



# 2 - Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety Update



*Dakota Smith*

*Supervisor, Electric Safety Policy Division*

*Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety*

*California Natural Resources Agency*



# ELECTRICAL SAFETY POLICY DIVISION (ESPD) AND SAFETY CULTURE BRANCH BRIEFING

June 4, 2025



# AGENDA

- Restructure of ESPD Branches
- ESPD and Safety Culture Branch Workstream Activities:
  - Wildfire Mitigation Plans
  - Risk Model Working Group
  - Safety Culture Assessments
  - Executive Compensation Structures
  - Safety Certifications





# ESPD BRANCH RESTRUCTURE

Safety Culture Branch (*covering safety culture assessments, executive compensation, and safety certificates*) is now under the Electrical Undergrounding and Culture Division (EUCD), which was recently formed to receive the SB 884 10-year undergrounding plans.

Workstreams and reports will not change; this is an administrative restructure.

- Suzie Rose, former ESPD Program Manager, is new EUCD Program Manager.
- Nicole Dunlap, former ESPD Supervisor, is new ESPD Program Manager.



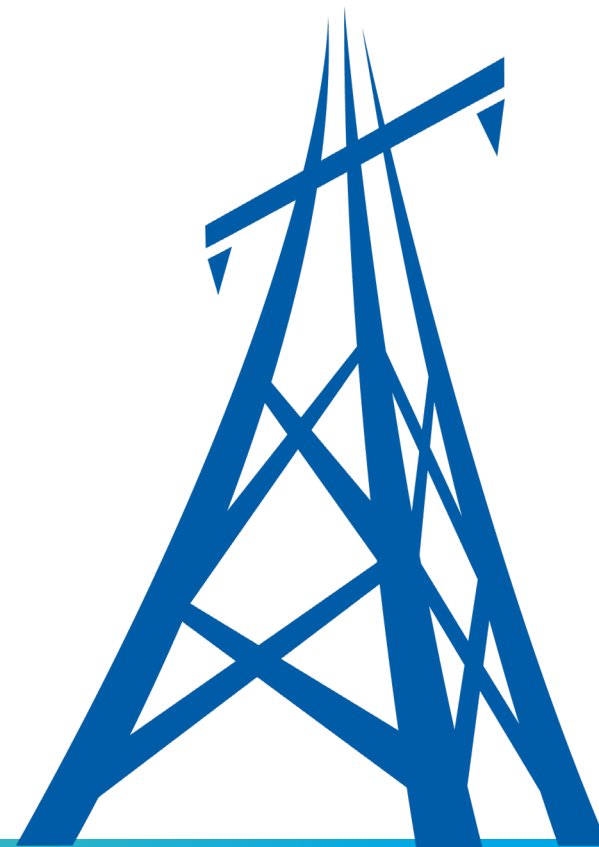


# **WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLANS**

# WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLANS (WMPs)

## 2025 WMP Update Evaluations

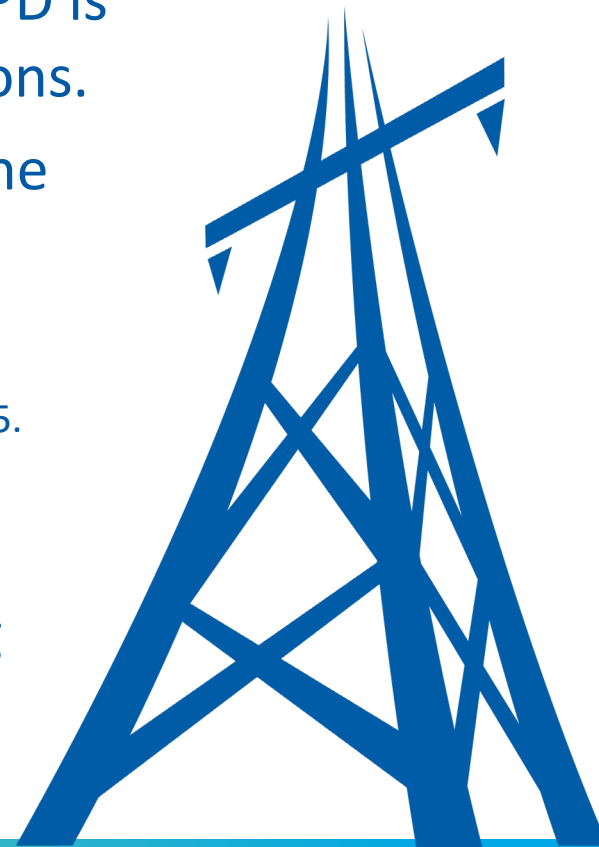
- ❑ Energy Safety published Decisions for LS Power on 2/18/2025, Liberty on 4/8/2025, and PacifiCorp on 4/28/2025.
- ❑ CPUC ratified Energy Safety's Decisions for the 2025 WMP Updates of LS Power and Liberty on 4/24/2025 and 5/9/2025.
  - ❑ PacifiCorp ratification scheduled for 6/26/2025.
- ❑ ESPD is evaluating a Petition to Amend from SDG&E, submitted on 4/10/2025.
- ❑ ESPD is evaluating a Change Order request from Liberty, submitted on 4/22/2025.



# WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLANS – BASE WMPs

## 2026-2028 Base WMPs

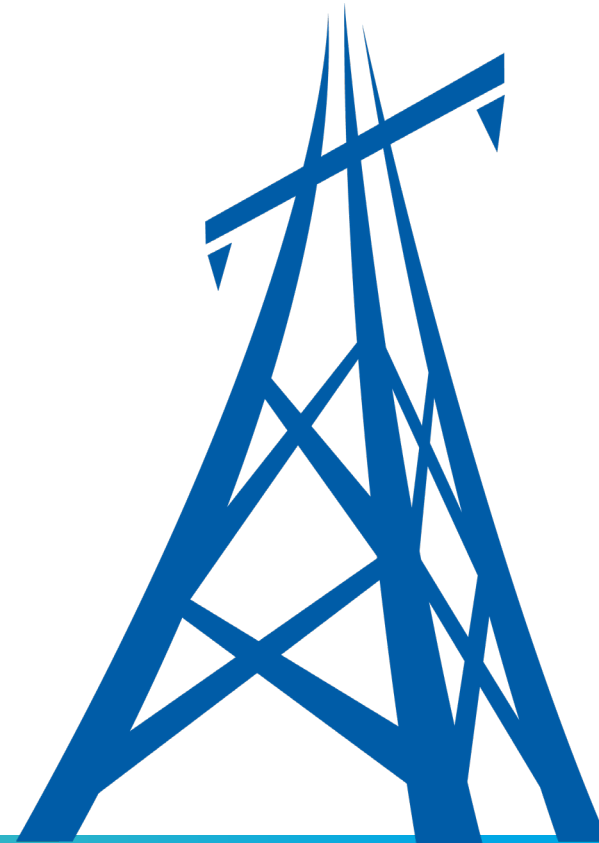
- ❑ PG&E, BVES, SDG&E, and SCE WMPs were received on time; ESPD is evaluating, sending Data Requests, and having internal discussions.
- ❑ The first public workshop was held on May 21, 2025, covering the PG&E, BVES, SDG&E, and SCE WMPs.
- ❑ The remaining WMPs are due June/July 2025:
  - ❑ Liberty's pre-submission was received May 30, 2025; the WMP is due June 27, 2025.
  - ❑ PacifiCorp's pre-submission is due June 6, 2025; the WMP is due July 11, 2025.
  - ❑ The ITOs' pre-submissions are due 6/13; the WMPs are due July 25, 2025.
- ❑ The second public workshop will be held July 29, 2025, covering the PacifiCorp, Liberty, and ITOs WMPs.



# WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLANS (WMPs)

## WMP Guidelines

- ❑ Energy Safety adopted the WMP Guidelines on 2/21/2025, and the Maturity Model and Survey Guidelines on 3/19/2025.
- ❑ WMP Update Guidelines Chapter to be developed & adopted this year.





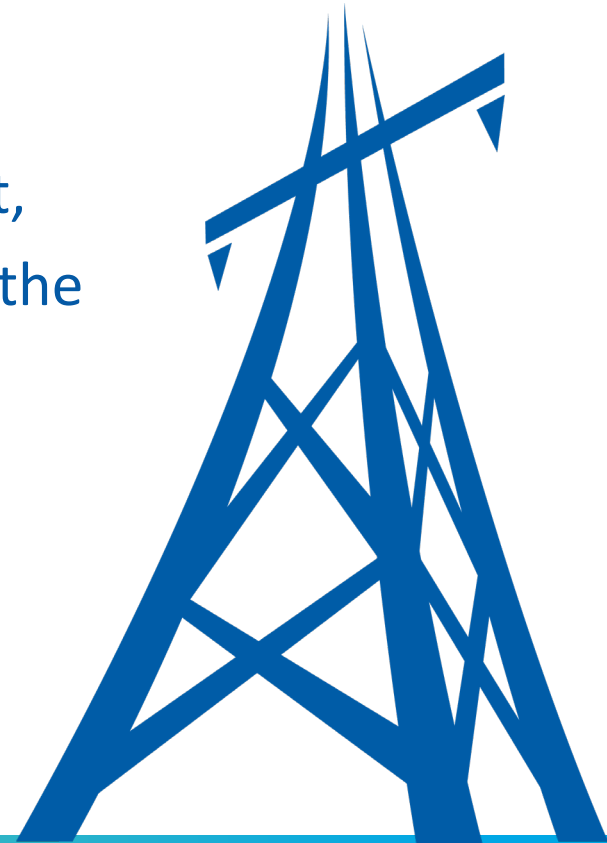


# **RISK MODEL WORKING GROUP**



# RISK MODEL WORKING GROUP (RMWG)

- ❑ ESPD is developing an "Approaches Document" (previously called the "best practices document") to document how electrical corporations model, or should model, their wildfire risk.
- ❑ RMWG meetings in 2025 will focus on sections of the document, and discussions and outcomes from those meetings will inform the writing/content of the document.
- ❑ The Phase 2 Summary Report, summarizing the 2023 RMWG meetings, will be published to the docket in the next couple of weeks.





# **SAFETY CULTURE ASSESSMENTS**

# SAFETY CULTURE ASSESSMENTS (SCAs)

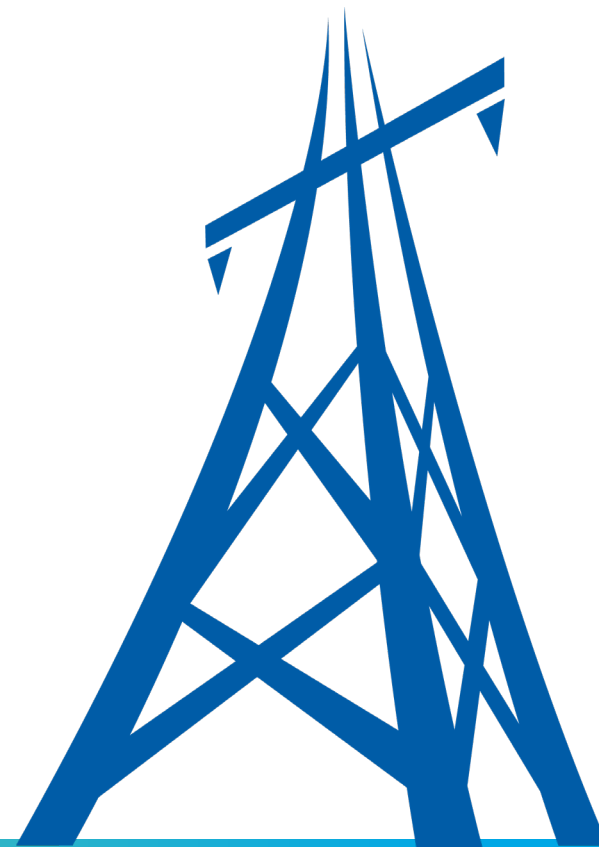
## ☐ 2024 SCAs

- Data collection is complete. Draft analysis has been submitted by contractor and is currently under Energy Safety review.
- Publication of 2024 SCA reports for ECs targeted for late Q3 2025.

## ☐ 2025 SCAs

- Scheduled to begin in Q4 2025.

## ☐ Energy Safety, SPD and the Joint IOUs participated in a public workshop on May 19, 2025, to discuss coordination between the SPD SCA process and the Energy Safety SCA process.



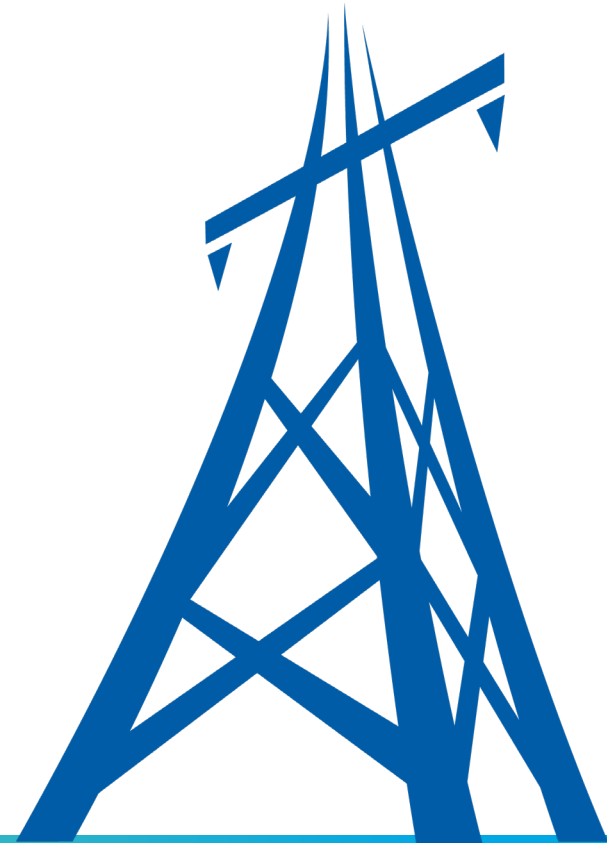




# **EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION STRUCTURES**

# EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION STRUCTURES

- ❑ Energy Safety adopted its Executive Compensation Guidelines on April 2, 2025.
- ❑ BVES, PG&E, SCE and SDG&E submitted 2025 Executive Compensation Structures on May 23, 2025.
- ❑ Publication of 2025 Executive Compensation Structure decisions targeted for Q3 2025.





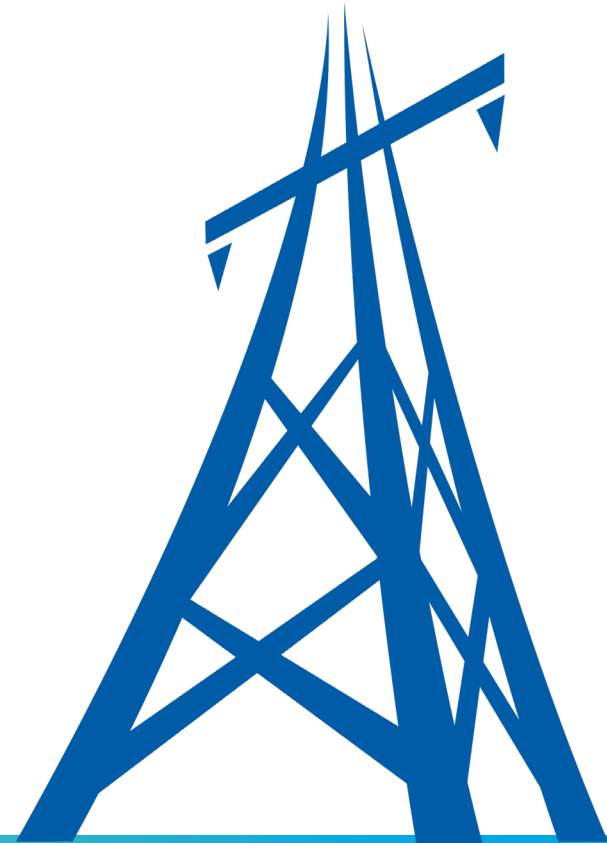


# **SAFETY CERTIFICATIONS**



# SAFETY CERTIFICATIONS

- ❑ Energy Safety adopted its Safety Certification Guidelines on April 25, 2025.
- ❑ BVES, PG&E, SCE and SDG&E submitted 2025 Q1 quarterly notifications on May 1, 2025.





**DATA DRIVEN  
FORWARD-THINKING  
INNOVATIVE  
SAFETY FOCUSED**

**[www.energysafety.ca.gov](http://www.energysafety.ca.gov)**

**OFFICE OF ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY**

A California Natural Resources Agency

715 P Street, 15th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916.902.6000



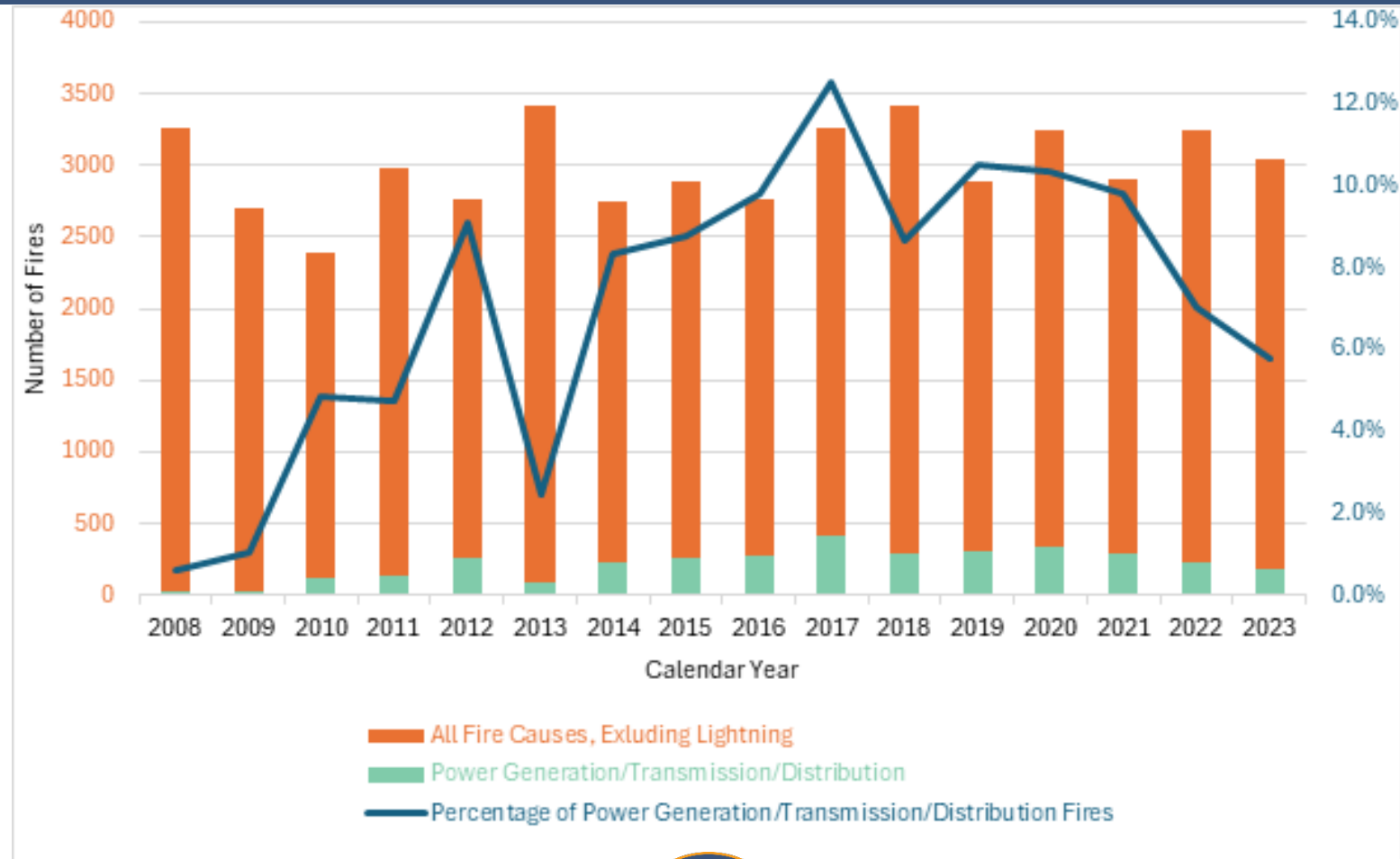
# Recommendations to the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety

Mark Wenzel, Supervisor  
Shaun Richards, Senior Policy Advisor  
Unique Coleman, Analyst

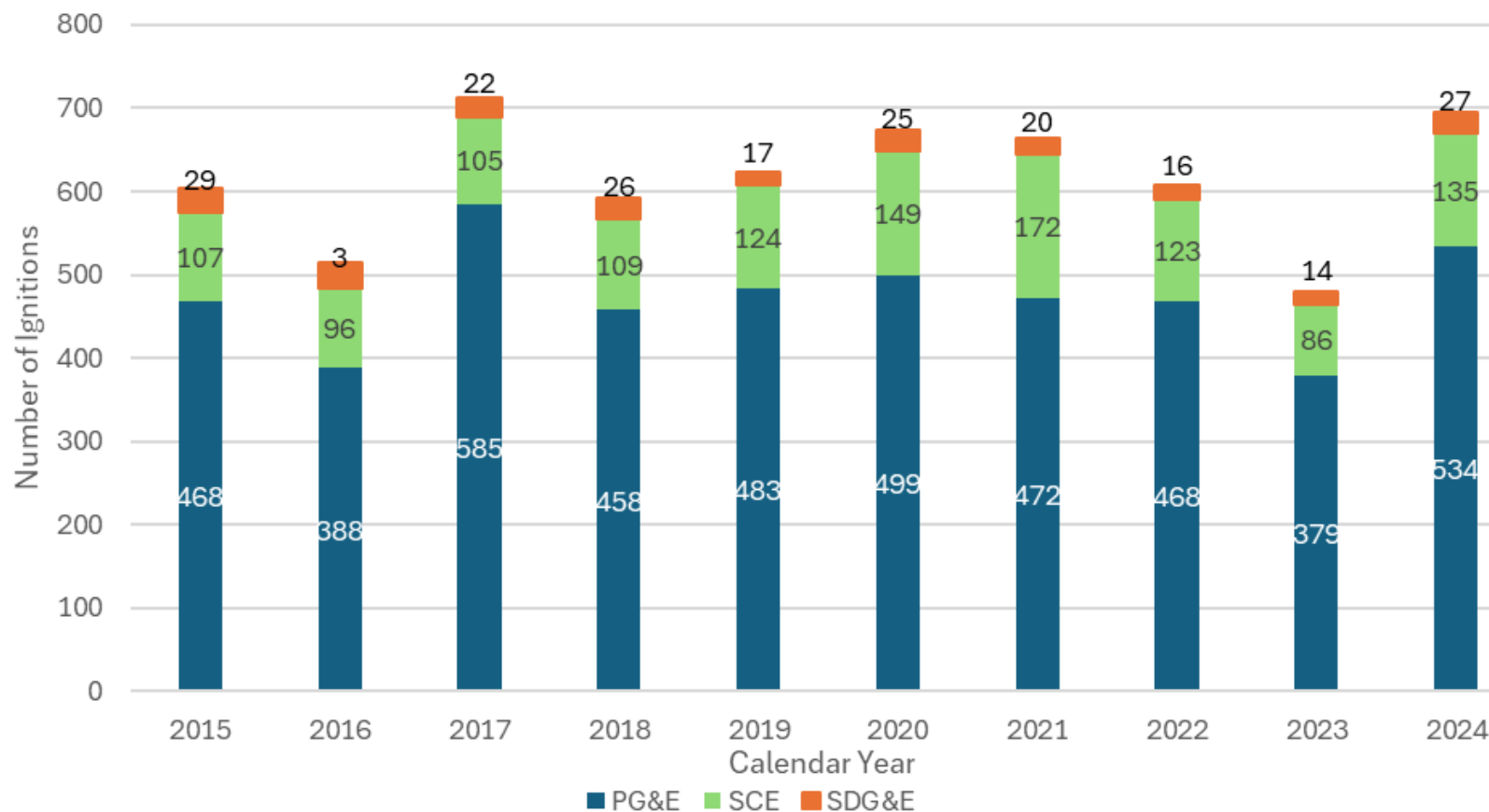




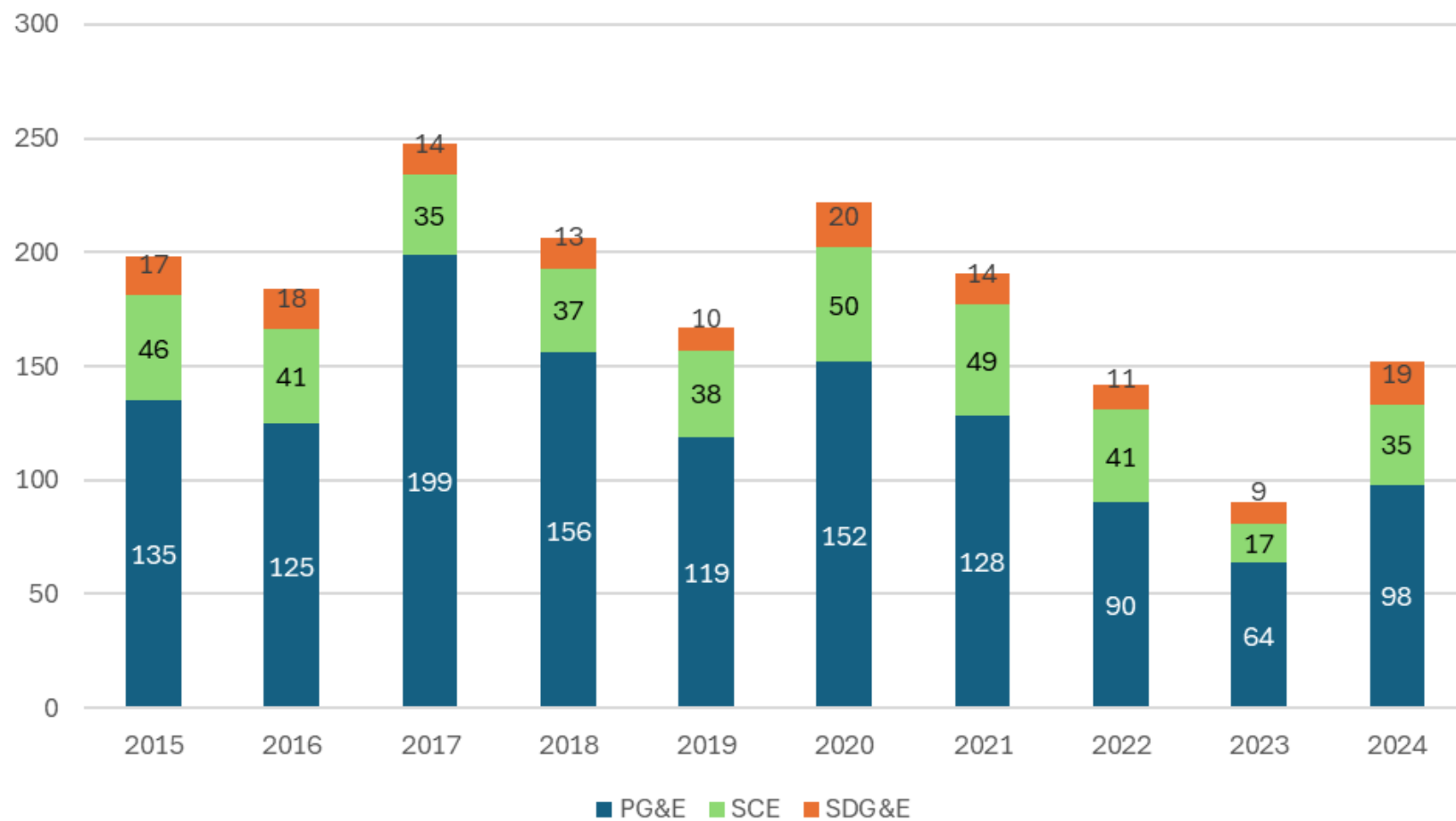
# Fires from Power/Generation/Transmission/Distribution



# Large Investor-Owned Utility (IOU) Ignitions

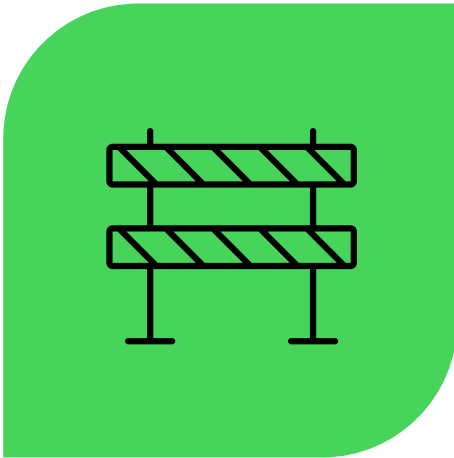


# Large IOU Ignitions in the High Fire-Threat District

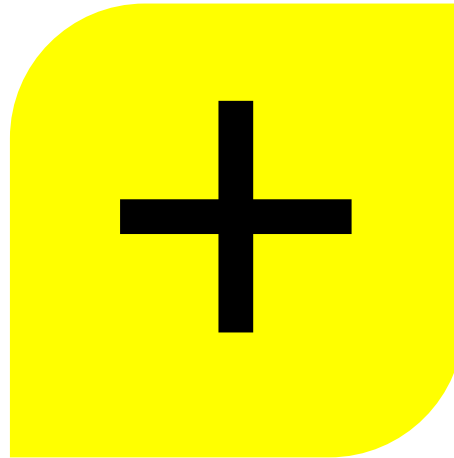




# Challenges in Evaluating Effectiveness



Data  
Limitations



Combination of  
Mitigation  
Measures



Inconsistency in  
Data Reporting



Weather  
Variability

# Effectiveness Recommendations (1/2)



1. Energy Safety should require utilities to include in their WMPs, or other submission as appropriate, the details of any fire weather indices. Details should include specific calculation methods, data sources, and methods of development. These indices may be specific to ecological regions (or pyromes) or to a service territory as a whole. The input data should be clearly defined, the methods should be published, and should include a comparison to other indices and a rationale for unique and/or customized elements.
2. Energy Safety should require utilities to include in their WMPs clear annual tracking of effectiveness, measured by ignitions and fires in addition to any other metrics the utilities may choose, and including both raw data and data normalized by weather.



# Effectiveness Recommendations (2/2)



3. Building on required joint studies of the effectiveness of enhanced vegetation clearances and covered conductors, Energy Safety should require utilities to report in their WMPs on the effectiveness of additional mitigation efforts, such as specific equipment upgrade initiatives. These evaluations may include laboratory or other controlled-environment testing but should also include pre- and post-implementation data, clear descriptions of the methods for evaluating each mitigation effort, and the assumptions and variations in their models that may influence results. Utilities should be required in their WMPs to clearly demonstrate the impact of PEDS in isolation and in combination with other activities.
4. Energy Safety should require utilities to utilize standard units of measurement, identified by Energy Safety, for the same mitigation type (e.g., circuit miles vs trees).



# Risk Modeling

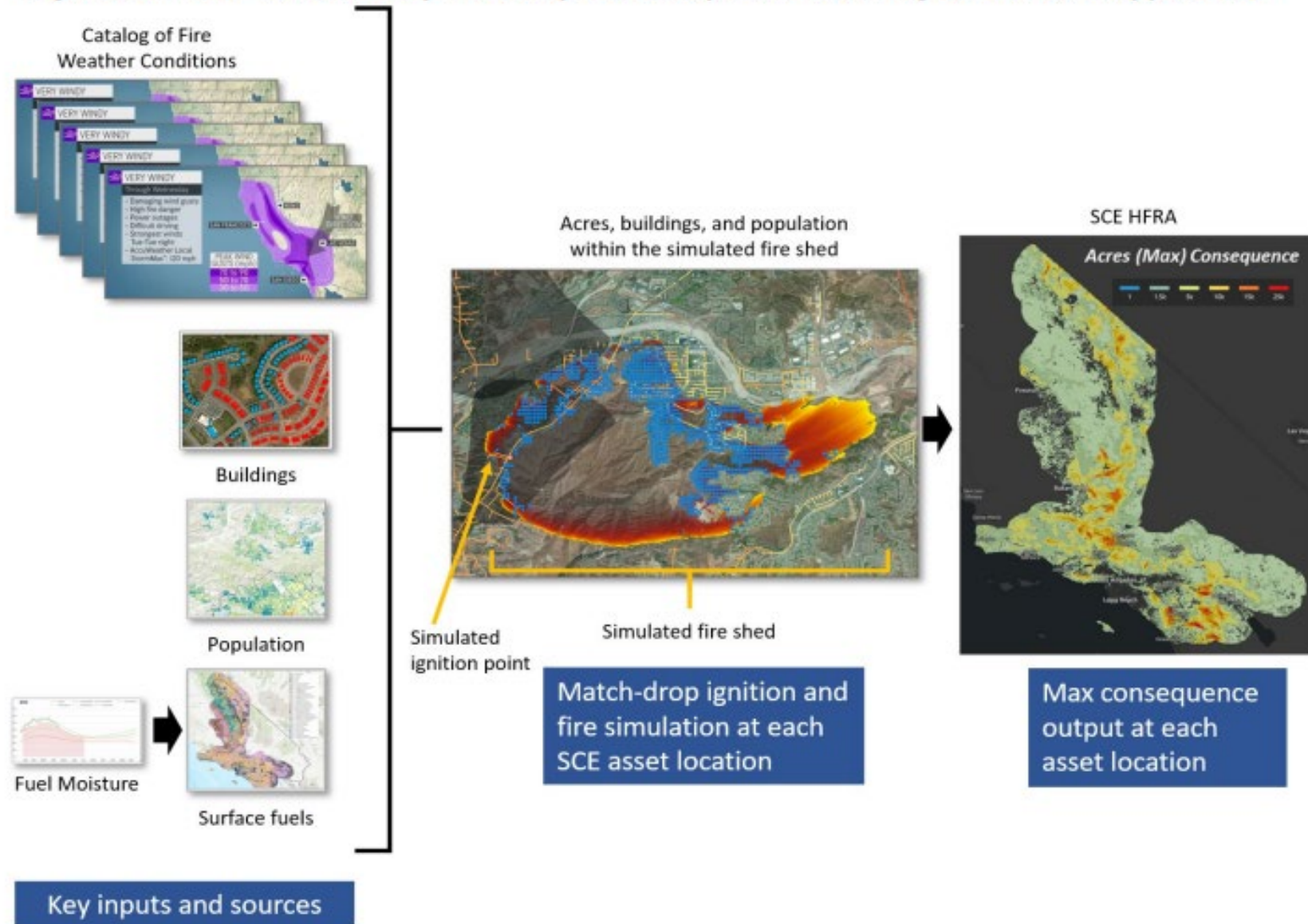


<https://logic2020.com/insight/utilities-machine-learning-risk-management/>

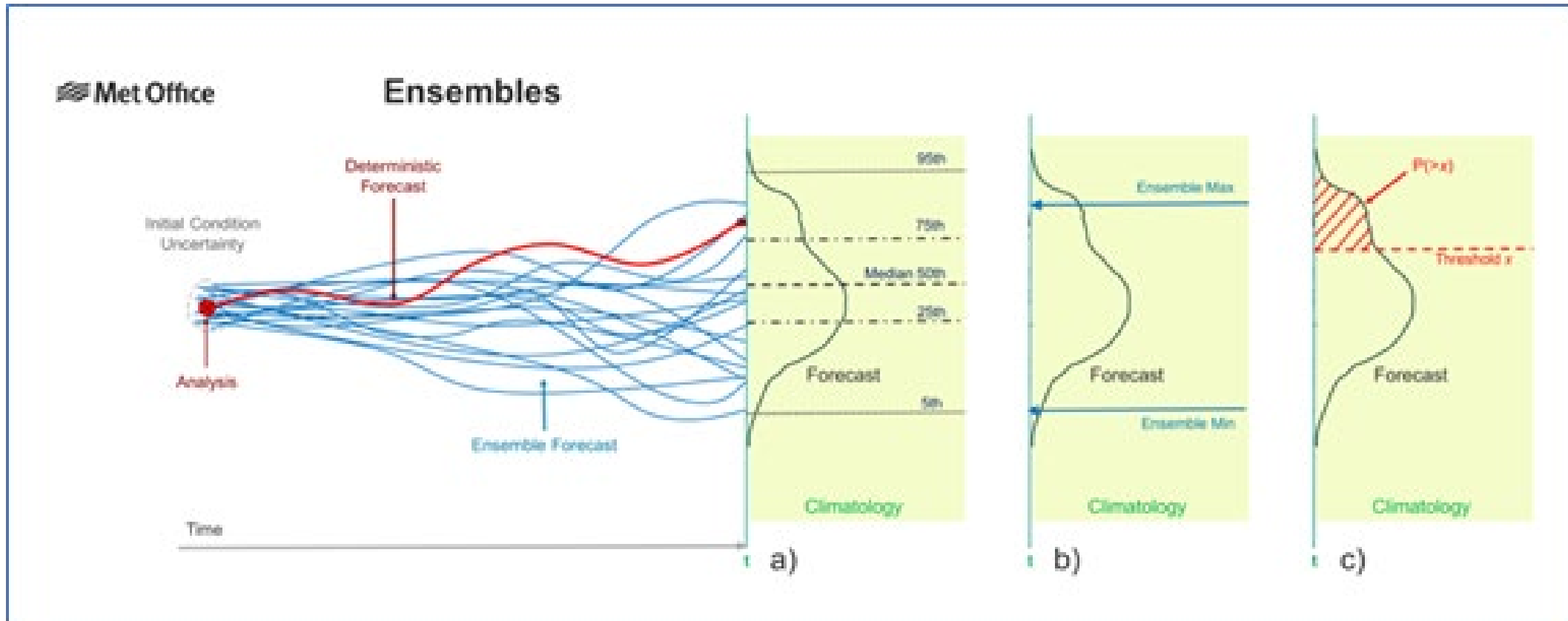
# Wildfire Spread Models



**Figure SCE 6-26 - Schematic of SCE Wildfire Consequence Modeling (8 hours, unsuppressed)**

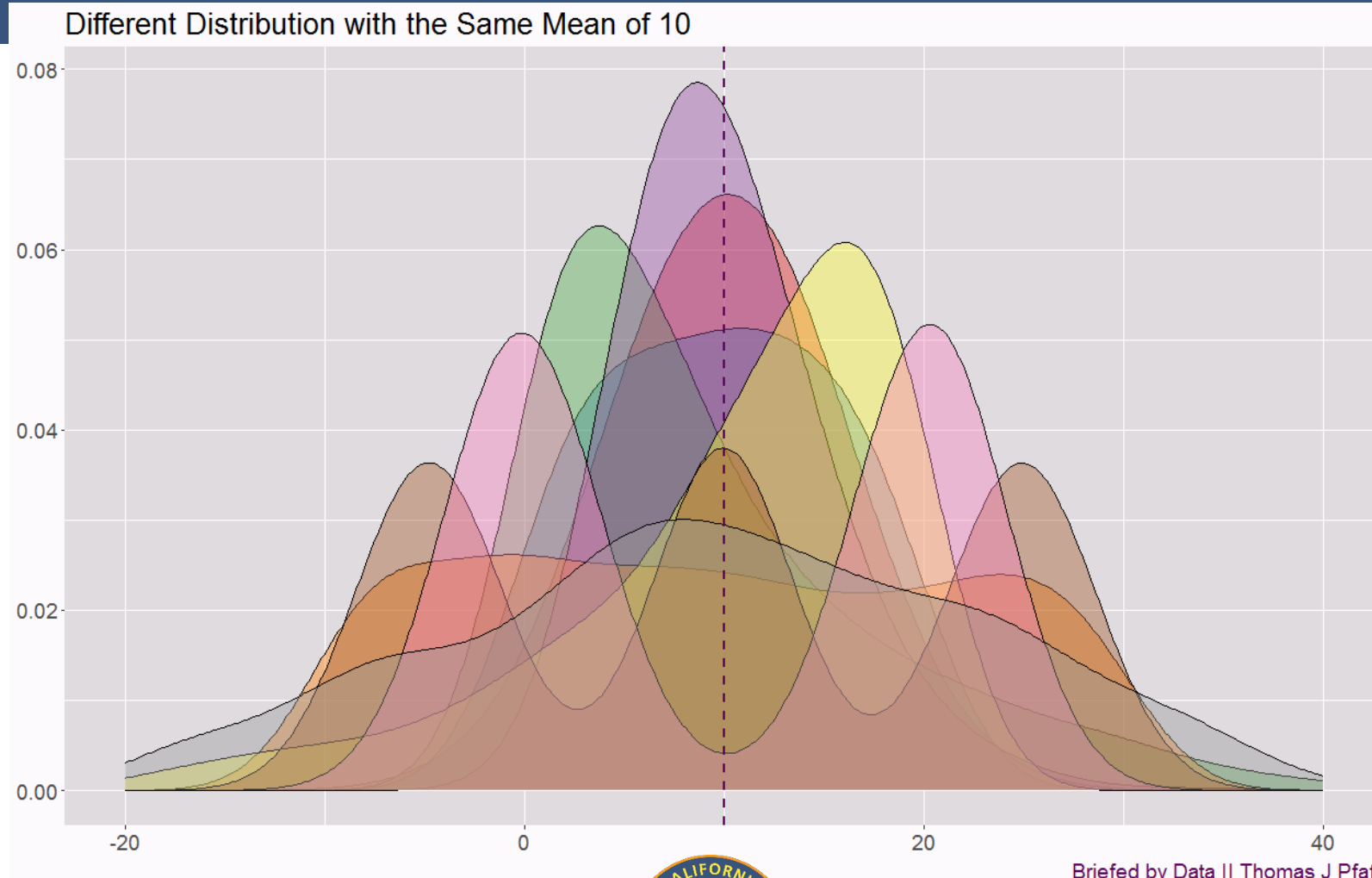


# Diversify and/or Ensemble

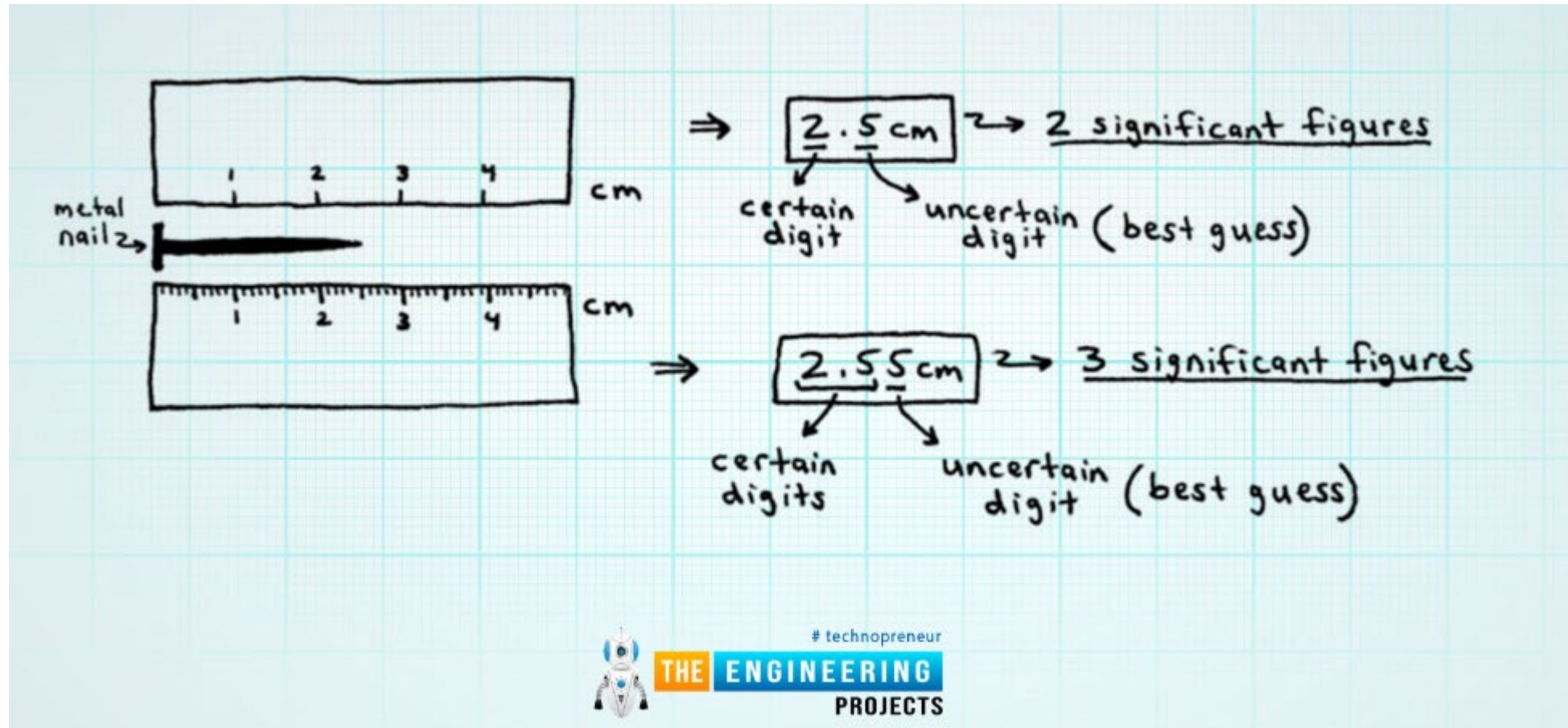




# Collapsed Probability Distributions



# Precision in Reporting



# Risk Model Recommendations



1. Energy Safety should require each IOU in its 2029–2031 WMP to test and compare multiple wildfire spread models when calculating wildfire consequence. Each IOU should test and compare at least three models, at least one of which should be open-source and peer-reviewed, across a representative sample of its territory. Energy Safety should require comparison of model outputs, along with a justification of why the model or ensemble of models to be used in decision-making is the most appropriate.
2. Energy Safety should establish clear standards for WMP reporting of wildfire spread model verification, validation, and sensitivity analysis. Energy Safety should develop standards for input data and a method to identify and compare standardized outputs.



# Risk Model Recommendations



3. Energy Safety should continue to press IOUs to report uncertainties, including probability distributions and their dependencies where appropriate, for each “risk driver” (as defined in the WMPs) of ignition. Energy Safety should also require IOUs to report distributions of risk values for a representative sample, in geography and risk values, of circuits or circuit segments, clearly explaining the variation due to changes in ignition likelihood, consequence, or correlation of both, in each WMP and WMP update.
  
4. Energy Safety should require that, as soon as practicable in base WMPs, WMP updates, and performance metrics, IOUs report data and model results with an appropriate number of significant digits to represent the degree of precision in their risk models.



# Safety Culture Assessment Recommendation



1. Energy Safety should work with CPUC staff to include Board staff in the meetings with the Utility Safety Working Group as an “interested entity,” to understand the latest developments in safety culture assessment and inform potential future Board recommendations.



# Questions



# Plans for Reviewing Wildfire Mitigation Plans of Publicly Owned Utilities and Electrical Cooperatives

Publicly Owned Utilities Committee





# Previous Review Approaches



- Every Board member reviewed all WMPs
- Each Board member reviewed some WMPS



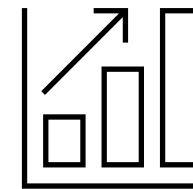
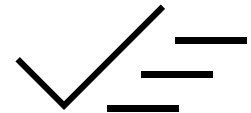
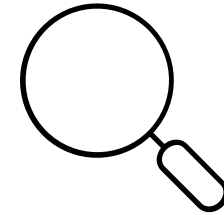
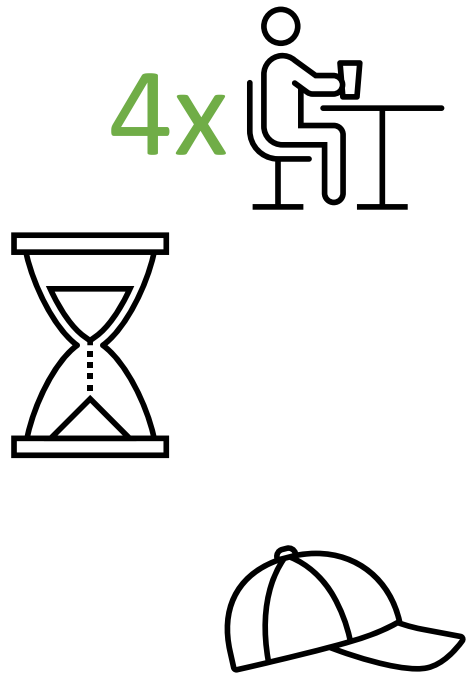
# Previous Recommendation Approaches



- Detailed recommendations for each POU and co-op
- Recommendations for all POUs and co-ops



# Balancing Act



# Approach for WMP Review



- Review and provide advisory opinion on *each* WMP
- 14 utilities will be assessed in further depth
- Focus on select topic areas out of 14 in statute
- Staff will solicit analytical feedback from all Board members in their area of expertise
- Topic areas subject to change year-to-year





# Development/Maturation



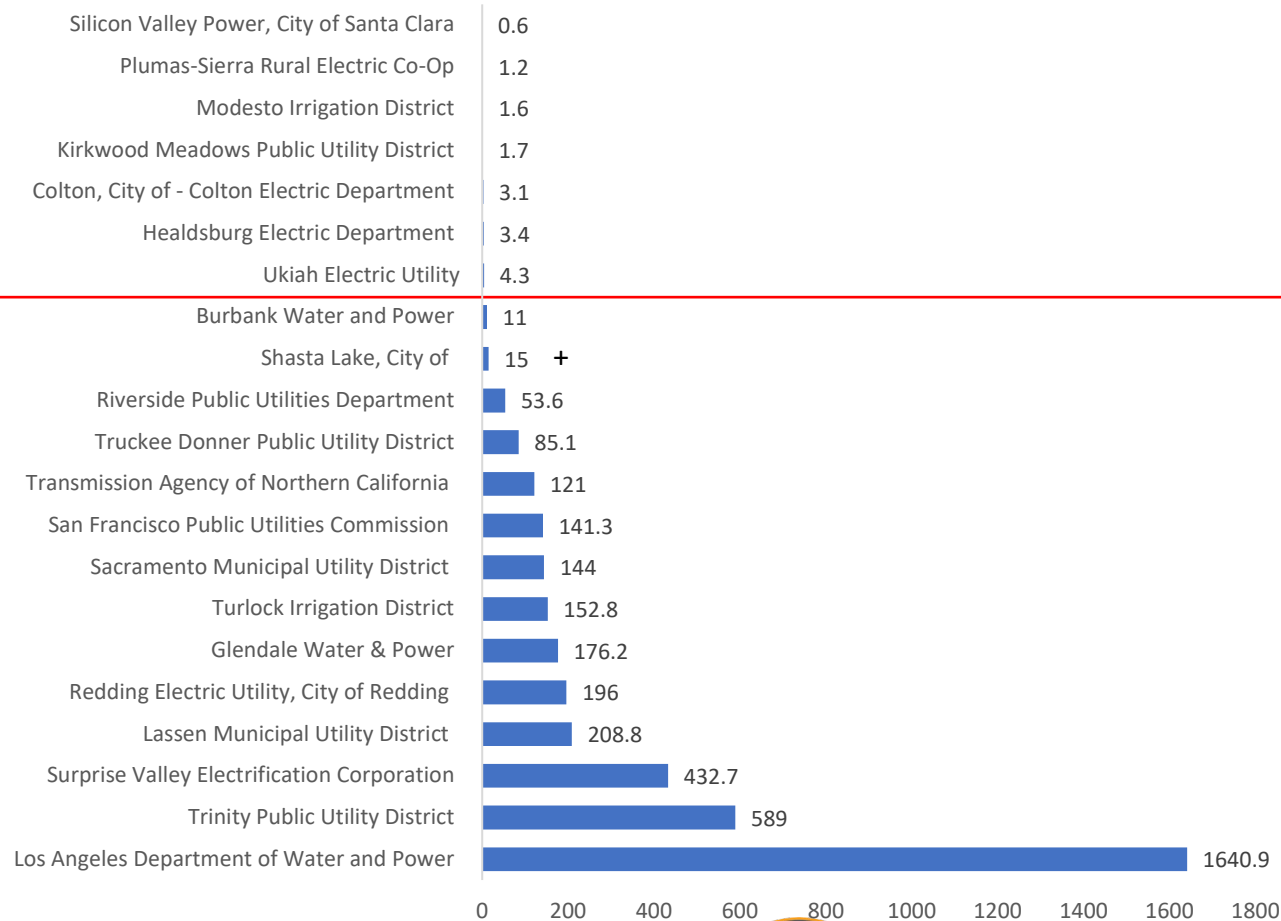
# Rubric Development



Category	Developing	Accomplished	Exemplary
Topic Area 1			
Topic Area 2			
Topic Area 3			



# Utilities with >10 Overhead Line Miles in HFTD

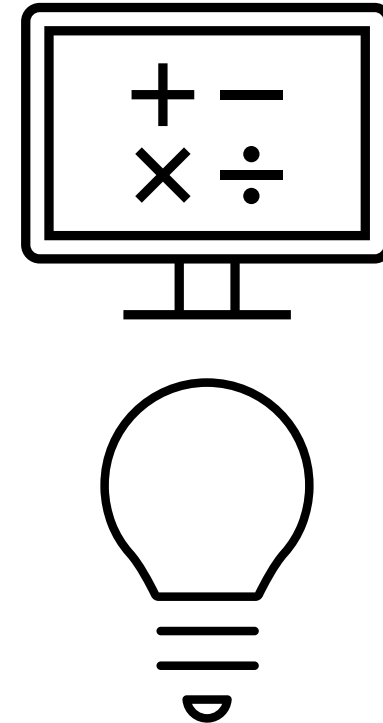


21 POUs with  
OH in HFTD

# Utilities with >10 Overhead Line Miles in HFTD



- Risk assessment
- Pre-emptive de-energization



# Moving Forward: 2025 WMP Review



- Review of all POU and Co-op WMPs
- In-depth topic area review of 14 WMPs
- One document with advisory opinions to each utility





# BREAK

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## California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board



# California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board

**WE ARE BACK!**

# 5 – 2025–2027 Strategic Plan



# 2024–2027 Strategic Plan



OFFICE OF ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY  
**WILDFIRE SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD**  
2024 – 2027 STRATEGIC PLAN

JUNE 2024

## 3. Strategic Priorities

### 3.1.1 Priority #1

Building Collaborative Relationships with External Partners

### 3.1.2 Priority #2

Actualizing our Mission in Collaboration with the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (Energy Safety)

### 3.1.3 Priority #3

Retaining and Developing Staff

### 3.1.4 Priority #4

Creating the Structures and Practices for Successful Implementation





# Strategic Planning Discussions



OFFICE OF ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY  
**WILDFIRE SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD**

## DRAFT WORK PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

SEPTEMBER 2024

**WILDFIRE SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MISSION:** TO ADVISE & MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS  
TO REDUCE THE RISK OF  
UTILITY RELATED WILDFIRES.

**VISION:** A FIRE RESILIENT CALIFORNIA  
FREE OF UTILITY CAUSED  
WILDFIRES

**PRIORITY 1:** BUILDING COLLABORATIVE  
RELATIONSHIPS W/EXTERNAL  
PARTNERS

**PRIORITY 2:** ACTUALIZING OUR MISSION  
IN COLLABORATION W/ OEIS

**PRIORITY 3:** RETAINING & DEVELOPING STAFF

**PRIORITY 4:** CREATING THE STRUCTURES  
& PRACTICES FOR  
SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION

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Priorities





# 2025–2027 Strategic Plan



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	Priority	Objective	KPI	Action	Who	Milestones						Last update:	5/14/2025
2						Q1		Q2	Q3	Q4			Objective
3						Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep. - Nov. 2025	Dec. '25 - Feb. '26	Mar. - May 2026	Action Status	Outcome/status
4	Priority 1: Actualizing Our Mission in Collaboration with the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety  Priority Steward: Chris Porter	Board Members and Energy Safety leadership and management are deepening collaboration and are satisfied with frequency and depth of communication.	Survey of Board Members and Energy Safety leadership	Participate in monthly and quarterly meetings, share information, bring questions	Executive Committee	Monthly meeting	Monthly meeting	Monthly & quarterly meetings	Monthly & quarterly meetings	Monthly & quarterly meetings	Monthly & quarterly meetings	In progress	
5		Board recommendations are informed by Energy Safety's approach, timing, and constraints.	Board recommendations are delivered in sync with Energy Safety timelines	Collaborate with Energy Safety staff to understand their processes	Branch Staff	Participate in all-hands and management meetings; track WMP review, SCA, and compliance processes	Participate in all-hands and management meetings; track WMP review, SCA, and compliance processes	Participate in all-hands and management meetings; track WMP review, SCA, and compliance processes	Participate in all-hands and management meetings; track WMP review, SCA, and compliance processes	Participate in all-hands and management meetings; track WMP review, SCA, and compliance processes	Participate in all-hands and management meetings; track WMP review, SCA, and compliance processes	In progress	
6		Board Members and staff have network of partners key to success.	Staff members add contacts to their networks	Staffers attend 4 conferences per year	Branch Staff				Attend NCPA and SCPPA annual conferences		Attend CMUA annual conference	Not started	
7			Board makes 4 site visits per year	Staff develops site visits	Branch Staff	Site visit associated with June Board meeting (ArborWorks)			Site visit associated with September Board meeting (Eaton fire)	Site visit associated with December Board meeting	Site visit associated with March Board meeting	In progress	
8			Board makes 4 site visits per year	Board Members attend site visits	Board Members	Site visit associated with June Board meeting (ArborWorks)			Site visit associated with September Board meeting (Eaton fire)	Site visit associated with December Board meeting	Site visit associated with March Board meeting	In progress	



# 6 – Meeting Minutes



- **March 5, 2025**



# 7 – Staff Update



# 8 – Agenda Items for Future Meetings



**Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting**

**Agenda and Notice**

**June 4, 2025**  
1 pm – 4 pm PDT

**Physical Location:**  
Merced County Administration Building, Board Room, Third Floor  
2222 M St, Merced, CA 95340

**Remote Access via Microsoft Teams™**  
<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting>,  
Meeting ID 279 985 389 479 6 and passcode: MW6GJ26K

**OR by Telephone**  
Phone +1 (469) 998-6045 and conference passcode 294 808 331#

**Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting Agenda**

All times indicated are approximate and subject to change. Any agenda items other than public comments may include a Board vote and may be taken out of order for scheduling convenience. Items designated for information are appropriate for Board action if the Board chooses to take action.



# 9 - Public Comments for Matters Not on Agenda



***Please begin your comments by stating your name and organization (if applicable).***

- a. In the room**
- b. On Teams or the phone**
- c. Via email**





# 10 – Adjournment



- For more information:
  - Website:  
<https://energysafety.ca.gov/what-we-do/wildfire-safety-advisory-board/>
  - Email: [WSAB@energysafety.ca.gov](mailto:WSAB@energysafety.ca.gov)

