

# SCE's PSPS Action Plan

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California Public Utilities Commission  
PSPS Workshop

March 1, 2021

# Overview

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- Introduction to SCE's PSPS Readiness Team
- 2020 Wildfire Season and SCE's PSPS Response
- SCE's PSPS Action Plan
- Next Steps
- Q&A

# 2020 Wildfire Season and SCE's PSPS Response

- The 2020 wildfire season was the largest recorded in California history – nearly **10,000 wildfires** burned over **4.2 million acres** of the state and claimed **33 lives\***
- Wildfires and other environmental conditions underscore the importance of continuing to strengthen electric grid to become **more resilient** in the face of extreme weather events
  - SCE's 2020 improvements primarily focused on sectionalization – reducing the scope and length of PSPS durations, with ~25K customers expected to no longer be in scope for PSPS
  - Largest 2020 event had ~25% fewer customers de-energized than largest event in 2019
  - Sub-transmission de-energizations make up ~1% of total de-energizations; transmission is 0%
- SCE used PSPS **as a measure of last resort** to reduce risk of utility-ignited wildfires under dangerous fire weather conditions; however, several communities experienced repeat events
  - While approximately 220 of our 1,100 circuits in HFRA experienced at least one de-energization, 72 circuits experienced 4 or more de-energizations since 2019
- SCE's **PSPS Action Plan**, submitted Feb. 12, aims to reduce the frequency and scope of PSPS, and improve our performance in preparation for peak fire season in 2021

## SCE's PSPS Action Plan focuses on the following categories for improvement in 2021:

1. **Reduce the Use of PSPS**
2. **Execute PSPS Events Effectively**
3. **Mitigate Impacts of PSPS**
4. **Keep Partners and Customer Informed**
5. **Enhance and Improve Post-Event Reporting**

# 1. Reduce the Use of PSPS

**Expedite grid hardening** on circuits de-energized 4 or more times since 2019 to **reduce the scope, frequency and duration of PSPS events**

- Replace bare wire with covered conductor that will enable SCE to **raise windspeed thresholds** for de-energization
- Install automated switching devices to isolate **smaller circuit segments** that need to be de-energized
- Review circuits that can be **removed from PSPS scope** based on local and current environmental conditions (e.g., for circuits traversing recent burn scar areas)
- Add new weather stations to **improve situational awareness** and increase accuracy of PSPS operations

By **February 19**, SCE identified 72 circuits for expedited grid hardening and is currently assessing feasibility

By **June 1**, SCE will implement risk-informed circuit exceptions

By **October 1**, SCE will complete key circuit hardening in areas most impacted by PSPS prior to peak fire season



Reduce the Use of PSPS

Execute PSPS Events Effectively

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## 2. Execute PSPS Events Effectively

**Enhance weather and fuels forecasting** to better inform decision-making during PSPS operations, including accuracy and precision of notifications

- By **September**, two supercomputers and machine-learning models will enable more precise and granular forecasts, **reducing variance** between customers notified and those de-energized

Beginning in **March**, **engage our public safety partners** and solicit feedback on our PSPS protocols and preparedness ahead of 2021 fire season

Began monthly meetings in **February** to **improve coordination** with CAL OES and align on standard operating guide, processes and procedures

**Improve our website**, [sce.com/psps](https://sce.com/psps), to make it easier for customers to look up the status of events

By **June 1**, improve precision and **re-design content for PSPS notifications**; clearer and more timely information to better prepare for – and manage through – PSPS events

- Exploring moving customers from ZIP code alerts to more precise premise-level alerts to **reduce notification fatigue** and further **improve clarity** in communications

Reduce the Use of PSPS

Execute PSPS Events Effectively

Mitigate Impacts of PSPS

Keep Partners and Customers Informed

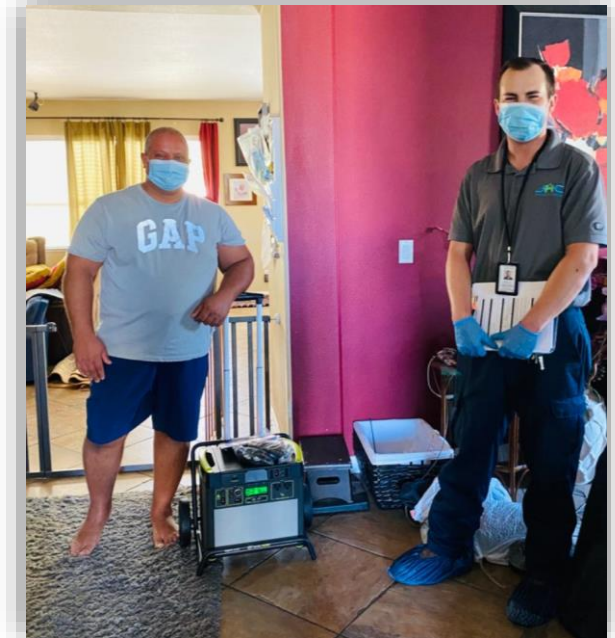
Enhance and Improve Post-Event Reporting



# 3. Mitigate Impacts of PSPS

**Increase enrollment** in customer programs that provide resiliency and back-up power

- **Expanded Critical Care Back-up Battery (CCBB) program eligibility**, from 2,500 to 12,000 customers, to include all eligible HFRA Medical Baseline customers enrolled in CARE or FERA
  - **February 26** – Started direct mail, email, and outbound phone calls to expanded customer base
  - **In March and April** – Launch education, outreach, including partnership with community-based organizations, social media ads, community meetings
- **Increase promotion** of rebates for portable batteries, generators, and incentives for whole house storage systems
- **Expand community resiliency zones** by enabling remote sites with back-up power
  - Engage county and community leaders in remote communities
- Identify up to 15 community resource centers to enable **on-site back-up power**



**SCE customer with SCE contract representative installing a CCBB**

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# 4. Keep Partners and Customers Informed

**Increase customer outreach and education** in advance of PSPS events

- By **April**, create **new ads** on wildfire and PSPS mitigation, customer preparedness and community investments to mitigate the impacts and reduce the need for PSPS
- By **March 31**, **expand marketing** of Medical Baseline; by **July 1** **expand verification of notification deliveries** to Medical Baseline and self-certified customers
- From **June to July**, conduct customer research and strengthen partnerships to more effectively **identify and assess needs of Access and Functional Needs population**; by **July**, create dedicated **AFN webpage**

**Increase coordination and engagement** with public safety partners and stakeholders

- By **June 1**, launch SCE's **Public Safety Partner Portal** to improve situational awareness and enable better coordination of event response
- Continue ongoing **stakeholder and community engagement**, including with **tribal and local governments**, to share information and seek feedback on proposed improvements



Above: Digital banner ads for Medical Baseline customers, launched January 2021



# 5. Enhance and Improve Post-Event Reporting

**Completed initial gap analysis** of report template, considering comments from intervenors, public safety partners, and Commission in 2020 and 2021

- Identified areas where additional information is needed to fully explain SCE's PSPS events (e.g., data accuracy, separating multiple periods of concern, comprehensively reporting complaints, providing notification status of medical baseline customers)

Implement changes to report template based on gap analysis in preparation for 2021 fire season

- **February 4** post-event report submittal **made initial clarifying changes** to format and content (e.g., clearer attachments, additional transparency of decision-making processes), acknowledging that more work needs to be done

Actively **participate in Phase 3 of PSPS OIR** to seek clarity on information provided in post-event reports

- Benchmark with IOU partners and work closely with Commission staff to confirm that any changes to content, structure and measurements are clear and meet intention of requirements

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# Next Steps

Initiated **bi-weekly meetings with the CPUC** to track progress on PSPS Action Plan commitments and submitting bi-weekly update filings on specific actions taken to implement PSPS Action Plan

Continue to host **PSPS Working Group and PSPS Advisory Board meetings** to engage stakeholders, seek input and share updates on PSPS progress and opportunities for improvement

- PSPS Working Group meetings scheduled for **March 2, 3, and 4**
- PSPS Advisory Board meeting scheduled for **March 9**

Planning additional meetings with **local communities, tribes, critical infrastructure customers and public safety partners** including:

- Ongoing meetings with elected officials representing communities most impacted by PSPS
- Currently identifying dates in **late March** for hosting three virtual community meetings for most impacted communities
- Hosting a PSPS workshop for tribal governments in our service area on **March 25**
- Meeting with each county office of emergency management in our service area

Continue to engage stakeholders, incorporate feedback and provide regular updates as we improve our PSPS program and implement our PSPS Action Plan