

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



May 13, 2022

EA2022-965

Melvin Stark  
Principle Manager, T&D Compliance Integration  
Southern California Edison Company  
1 Innovation Way  
Pomona, CA 91786

Subject: Audit of Southern California Edison's Ridgecrest District

Mr. Stark:

On behalf of the Electric Safety and Reliability Branch of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), Kyle King and Joceline Pereira of my staff conducted an electric distribution audit of Southern California Edison's (SCE) Ridgecrest District from February 14, 2022 to February 18, 2022. The audit included a review of SCE's inspection and maintenance records and a field inspection of SCE's facilities.

During the audit, my staff identified violations of one or more General Orders (GOs). A copy of the audit findings itemizing the violations is enclosed. Please advise me no later than June 13, 2022, by electronic or hard copy, of all corrective measures taken by SCE to remedy and prevent such violations.

If you have any questions concerning this audit, you can contact Kyle King at (213)-222-3260 or [Kyle.King@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Kyle.King@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fadi Daye".

Fadi Daye, P.E.  
Program and Project Supervisor  
Electric Safety and Reliability Branch  
Safety and Enforcement Division  
California Public Utilities Commission

Enclosures: Audit Findings

Cc: Lee Palmer, Director, Safety and Enforcement Division, CPUC  
Nika Kjensli, Program Manager, ESRB, SED, CPUC  
Kyle King, Utilities Engineer, ESRB, SED, CPUC  
Joceline Pereira, Utilities Engineer, ESRB, SED, CPUC

## AUDIT FINDINGS

### I. Records Review

During the audit, my staff reviewed the following records:

- Overhead and underground detailed inspections records
- Patrol records
- Completed and pending corrective action work orders
- Pole loading calculations
- Safety hazard notifications
- Intrusive test records
- SCE's documented inspection program
- Tree Trimming Management Records

### II. Records Review – Violations List

My staff observed the following violations during the records review portion of the audit:

**Pre-2018 version of GO 95, Rule 18-A: Resolution of Safety Hazards and General Order 95 Nonconformances**, states in part:

*Each company (including utilities and CIPs) is responsible for taking appropriate corrective action to remedy safety hazards and GO 95 nonconformances posed by its facilities.*

**Current GO 95, Rule 18-A: Resolution of Safety Hazards and General Order 95 Nonconformances**, states in part:

*Each company (including electric utilities and communications companies) is responsible for taking appropriate corrective action to remedy potential violations of GO 95 and Safety Hazards posed by its facilities.*

**GO 95, Rule 31.1, Design, Construction and Maintenance**, states in part:

*For all particulars not specified in these rules, design, construction, and maintenance should be done in accordance with accepted good practice for the given local conditions known at the time by those responsible for the design, construction, or maintenance of communication or supply lines and equipment.*

SCE's records indicated that from 2017 to 2021, SCE completed 203 overhead work orders past SCE's required due date for corrective actions.

**GO 165, Standard III-B, Distribution Facilities, Standards for Inspections**, states in part:

*Each utility subject to this General Order shall conduct inspections of its distribution facilities, as necessary, to ensure reliable, high-quality, and safe operation, but in no case may the period between inspections (measured in years) exceed the time specified in Table-1.*

**GO 95, Rule 31.2, Inspection of Lines**, states in part:

*Lines shall be inspected frequently and thoroughly for the purpose of ensuring that they are in good condition so as to conform with these rules. Lines temporarily out of service shall be inspected and maintained in such condition as not to create a hazard.*

SCE's records indicated that from 2017 to 2021, SCE completed 4475 overhead detailed inspections past SCE's scheduled due date.

**GO 128, Rule 17.1, Design Construction and Maintenance**, states in part:

*Electrical supply and communication systems shall be designed, constructed, and maintained for their intended use, regard being given to the conditions under which they are to be operated, to enable the furnishing of safe, proper, and adequate service.*

SCE's records indicated that from 2017 to 2021, SCE completed 60 underground work orders past SCE's required due date for corrective actions.

**GO 165, Standard III-B, Distribution Facilities, Standards for Inspections**, states in part:

*Each utility subject to this General Order shall conduct inspections of its distribution facilities, as necessary, to ensure reliable, high-quality, and safe operation, but in no case may the period between inspections (measured in years) exceed the time specified in Table-1.*

**GO 128, Rule 17.2, Inspection**, states in part:

*Systems shall be inspected by the operator frequently and thoroughly for the purpose of insuring that they are in good condition and in conformance with all applicable requirements these rules.*

SCE's records indicated that from 2017 to 2021, SCE completed 37 underground detailed inspections past SCE's scheduled due date.

### III. Field Inspections

My staff inspected the following structures during the field inspection portion of the audit:

	<b>Structure No.</b>	<b>Structure Type</b>	<b>Location</b>
1	25722S	Utility Pole	Ridgecrest
2	25721	Utility Pole	Ridgecrest
3	1923753E	Utility Pole	Ridgecrest
4	1923752E	Utility Pole	Ridgecrest
5	4838039E	Utility Pole	Ridgecrest
6	4175790E	Utility Pole	Ridgecrest
7	4419264E	Utility Pole	Ridgecrest
8	88989	Utility Pole	Ridgecrest
9	2172120E	Utility Pole	Ridgecrest
10	2172119E	Utility Pole	Ridgecrest
11	2172118E	Utility Pole	Ridgecrest
12	2172117E	Utility Pole	Ridgecrest
13	2172116E	Utility Pole	Ridgecrest
14	2172115E	Utility Pole	Ridgecrest
15	2172114E	Utility Pole	Ridgecrest
16	2172113E	Utility Pole	Ridgecrest
17	2172112E	Utility Pole	Ridgecrest
18	2172111E	Utility Pole	Ridgecrest
19	2172110E	Utility Pole	Ridgecrest
20	2172109E	Utility Pole	Ridgecrest
21	2343962E	Utility Pole	China Lake
22	2343995E	Utility Pole	China Lake
23	2343996E	Utility Pole	China Lake
24	2025320E	Utility Pole	China Lake
25	2025319E	Utility Pole	China Lake
26	2025318E	Utility Pole	China Lake
27	4541015E	Utility Pole	China Lake
28	2025317E	Utility Pole	China Lake
29	1923885E	Utility Pole	China Lake
30	1923886E	Utility Pole	China Lake
31	4102032E	Utility Pole	Homewood Canyon
32	88800S	Utility Pole	Homewood Canyon
33	4102033E	Utility Pole	Homewood Canyon
34	88801S	Utility Pole	Homewood Canyon
35	4102034E	Utility Pole	Homewood Canyon
36	88802	Utility Pole	Homewood Canyon

	<b>Structure No.</b>	<b>Structure Type</b>	<b>Location</b>
37	4102035E	Utility Pole	Homewood Canyon
38	88803	Utility Pole	Homewood Canyon
39	4102036E	Utility Pole	Homewood Canyon
40	88804S	Utility Pole	Homewood Canyon
41	4298760E	Utility Pole	Homewood Canyon
42	225647	Utility Pole	Homewood Canyon
43	225646	Utility Pole	Homewood Canyon
44	1615850E	Utility Pole	Homewood Canyon
45	1778732E	Utility Pole	Homewood Canyon
46	1778734E	Utility Pole	Homewood Canyon
47	1778733E	Utility Pole	Homewood Canyon
48	1778731E	Utility Pole	Homewood Canyon
49	4842169E	Utility Pole	Homewood Canyon
50	4101639E	Utility Pole	Homewood Canyon
51	4101640E	Utility Pole	Trona
52	2172397E	Utility Pole	Trona
53	2055839E	Utility Pole	Trona
54	190071E	Utility Pole	Trona
55	2056030E	Utility Pole	Trona
56	4798	Utility Pole	Trona
57	1778623E	Utility Pole	Trona
58	1778622E	Utility Pole	Trona
59	1778621E	Utility Pole	Trona
60	1702297E	Utility Pole	Trona
61	2172901E	Utility Pole	Brown
62	2179654E	Utility Pole	Brown
63	2179653E	Utility Pole	Brown
64	2179652E	Utility Pole	Brown
65	2179651E	Utility Pole	Brown
66	P5419808	Pad-Mount Transformer	Brown
67	P5121049	Pad-Mount Transformer	Brown
68	P5121048	Pad-Mount Transformer	Brown
69	P5121134	Pad-Mount Transformer	Brown
70	5338016	BURD Transformer	Ridgecrest
71	P5376755	Pad-Mount Transformer	Ridgecrest
72	5183753	BURD Transformer	Ridgecrest
73	P5377171	Pad-Mount Transformer	California City
74	P5376631	Pad-Mount Transformer	California City
75	P5484326	Pad-Mount Transformer	California City
76	PMS5376622	Pad-Mount Switch	California City

	<b>Structure No.</b>	<b>Structure Type</b>	<b>Location</b>
77	4177666E	Vegetation	California City
78	2463346S	Vegetation	California City
79	4028928E	Vegetation	California City

#### IV. Field Inspection - Violations List

My staff observed the following violations during the field inspections portion of the audit:

##### **GO 95, Rule 51.6, Marking and Guarding, High Voltage Marking of Poles**, states in part:

*Poles which support line conductors of more than 750 volts shall be marked with high voltage signs. This marking shall consist of a single sign showing the words "HIGH VOLTAGE", or pair of signs showing the words "HIGH" and "VOLTAGE", not more than six (6) inches in height with letters not less than 3 inches in height. A pair of signs may be stacked to a height of no more than 12 inches. Such signs shall be of weather and corrosion-resisting material, solid or with letters cut out therefrom and clearly legible.*

The high voltage signs on each of the following poles were either missing or damaged:

- 2172115E
- 1923752E
- 88989
- 2172111E
- 2172109E
- 2025320E
- 2025318E
- 1923886E
- 4102032E
- 88800S
- 88802
- 88803
- 4102036E
- 225647
- 1615850E
- 1778731E
- 4101639E
- 4101640E
- 4798
- 1702297E
- 2179654E
- 2179651E

##### **GO 95, Rule 56.2, Overhead Guys, Anchor Guys and Span Wire Use**, states in part:

*Guys shall be attached to structures, as nearly as practicable, at the center of load. They shall be maintained taut and of such strength as to meet the safety factors of Rule 44.*

The down guy wire attached to each of the following SCE poles was loose:

- 2172397E
- 190071E

##### **GO 95, Rule 54.6-B, Ground Wires**, states in part:

*That portion of the ground wires attached on the face or back of wood crossarms or on the surface of wood poles and structures shall be covered by a suitable protective covering (see Rule 22.8).*

The ground moulding on each of the following poles was damaged:

- 25721
- 4175790E
- 4798

**GO 128, Rule 17.1, Design Construction and Maintenance**, states in part:

*Electrical supply and communication systems shall be designed, constructed, and maintained for their intended use, regard being given to the conditions under which they are to be operated, to enable the furnishing of safe, proper, and adequate service.*

Padmounted transformer P5484326 had a damaged enclosure.