

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
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April 1, 2026

EA2025-1432

Melvin Stark
Principal Manager, T&D Compliance Integration
Southern California Edison Company (SCE)
1 Innovation Way
Pomona, CA 91786

Subject: Electric distribution audit of SCE's Ridgecrest District

Mr. Stark:

On behalf of the Electric Safety and Reliability Branch of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), Jose Lastra of my staff conducted an electric distribution audit of SCE's Ridgecrest District from November 17-21, 2025. The audit included a review of SCE's records and field inspections of SCE's facilities.

During the audit, my staff identified violations of one or more General Orders (GOs). Included with this letter is a copy of the audit findings that itemize the violations discovered during the audit. Please advise me no later than May 1, 2026, by electronic or hard copy, of all corrective measures taken by SCE to remedy and prevent such violations.

Please note that ESRB will be posting the audit report and your response to our audit on the CPUC website. If there is any information in your response that you would like us to consider as confidential, we request that in addition to your confidential response, you also provide us with a public or redacted version of your response that can be posted publicly on our website.

If you have any questions concerning this audit, you can contact Jose Lastra (213) 507-1438 or jose.lastra@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Majed Ibrahim".

Majed Ibrahim, 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, Deputy Executive Director, Safety Enforcement, Safety Policy, and Water, CPUC
Eric Wu, Program Manager, Electric Safety and Reliability Branch, CPUC
Jose Lastra, Utilities Engineer, ESRB, SED, CPUC

Audit Findings

I. Records Review

During the audit, my staff reviewed the following records:

- Overhead and underground detailed inspection records
- Patrol records
- Completed and pending corrective action work orders
- Pole load calculations
- Intrusive test records
- Safety hazard notifications
- SCE's documented inspection program.
- Vegetation Records

II. Records Review – Violations List

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

GO 165, Section III-B, Distribution Facilities, Standards for Inspection, states:

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 insuring that they are in good condition so as to conform with these rules.

SCE's records indicated that from December 2024 to September 2025, SCE completed 562 patrol inspections past SCE's scheduled due date. Additionally, as of the date of the audit, SCE had 33 pending patrol inspections that were past SCE's scheduled due date.

SCE's records indicated that from December 2024 to September 2025, SCE completed 868 detailed inspections past SCE's scheduled due date. Additionally, as of the date of the audit, SCE had 5 pending detailed inspections that were past SCE's scheduled due date.

GO 165, Section III-B, Distribution Facilities, Standards for Inspection, states:

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:

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 of these rules.

SCE's records indicated that from December 2024 to September 2025, SCE completed 3 underground inspections past SCE's scheduled due date.

GO 95, Rule 18-B1, Maintenance Programs, states in part:

Companies shall undertake corrective actions within the time periods stated for each of the priority levels set forth below. Scheduling of corrective actions within the time periods below may be based on additional factors, including the following factors, as appropriate ...

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 December 2024 to September 2025, SCE completed 21 overhead work orders past SCE's due date for corrective action. Additionally, as of the date of the audit, SCE had 39 open overhead work orders that were past SCE's scheduled due date for corrective action.

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 December 2024 to September 2025, SCE completed 13 underground work orders past SCE's due date for corrective action. Additionally, as of the date of the audit, SCE had 6 open underground work orders that were past SCE's scheduled due date for corrective action.

III. Field Inspections

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

No.	Structure ID.	Type of Structure	Location	Coordinates
1	1702502E	Wood Pole	Kramer Junction	34.990731, -117.540328
2	4319839E	Wood Pole	Kramer Junction	34.990628, -117.539292
3	4319840E	Wood Pole	Kramer Junction	34.990647, -117.538586
4	4319841E	Wood Pole	Kramer Junction	34.990644, -117.537964
5	4390434E	Wood Pole	Kramer Junction	34.991214, -117.540511
6	4390433E	Wood Pole	Kramer Junction	34.991294, -117.540647
7	2342732E	Wood Pole	Kramer Junction	34.991856, -117.540819
8	4817186E	Wood Pole	Kramer Junction	34.991656, -117.540692
9	2055616E	Wood Pole	Boron	34.996594, -117.650272
10	2055615E	Wood Pole	Boron	34.996400, -117.649683
11	4739324E	Wood Pole	Boron	34.996558, -117.650194
12	2055614E	Wood Pole	Boron	34.996989, -117.649992
13	4841948E	Wood Pole	Boron	34.997047, -117.649889
14	1997649E	Wood Pole	Boron	34.996556, -117.650172
15	1997650E	Wood Pole	Boron	34.996433, -117.650944
16	1997851E	Wood Pole	Boron	34.997314, -117.651342
17	4824644E	Wood Pole	Boron	34.997225, -117.651872
18	14943CIT	Wood Pole	Boron	34.997075, -117.651772
19	1923897E	Wood Pole	Boron	34.996381, -117.651031
20	4908037E	Wood Pole	Boron	34.996561, -117.650189
21	1899573E	Wood Pole	Boron	34.996583, -117.650167
22	1923898E	Wood Pole	Boron	34.996800, -117.651147
23	1923899E	Wood Pole	Boron	34.996506, -117.650892
24	4937525E	Wood Pole	California City	35.028194, -118.074406
25	4937526E	Wood Pole	California City	35.106186, -117.994233
26	4937524E	Wood Pole	California City	35.106222, -117.993483
27	4937523E	Wood Pole	California City	35.106189, -117.992778
28	4937522E	Wood Pole	California City	35.106244, -117.992219
29	4937521E	Wood Pole	California City	35.106214, -117.991453
30	4937520E	Wood Pole	California City	35.106122, -117.990914
31	4937519E	Wood Pole	California City	35.101600, -117.987450
32	4937518E	Wood Pole	California City	35.106222, -117.991197
33	4937517E	Wood Pole	California City	35.106222, -117.991197
34	4937516E	Wood Pole	California City	35.106225, -117.990553
35	4937515E	Wood Pole	California City	35.106211, -117.990133
36	4937514E	Wood Pole	California City	35.106203, -117.986769
37	4937513E	Wood Pole	California City	35.106172, -117.986072
38	1899890E	Wood Pole	California City	35.105297, -117.984906
39	1899243E	Wood Pole	Searles Valley	35.757000, -117.381131
40	1997703E	Wood Pole	Searles Valley	35.757239, -117.380717
41	4839937E	Wood Pole	Searles Valley	35.757239, -117.380717
42	1849670E	Wood Pole	Searles Valley	35.757347, -117.380264

43	1949669E	Wood Pole	Searles Valley	35.757317, -117.380247
44	1849668E	Wood Pole	Searles Valley	35.757336, -117.379975
45	1900086E	Wood Pole	Searles Valley	35.757336, -117.379975
46	4614192E	Wood Pole	Searles Valley	35.757344, -117.378886
47	1899948E	Wood Pole	Searles Valley	35.757469, -117.379686
48	225915S	Wood Pole	Searles Valley	35.757444, -117.379742
49	1849667E	Wood Pole	Searles Valley	35.757561, -117.379725
50	1849666E	Wood Pole	Searles Valley	35.757589, -117.379764
51	1849665E	Wood Pole	Searles Valley	35.757531, -117.379731
52	1744448E	Wood Pole	Searles Valley	35.757556, -117.379667
53	1744447E	Wood Pole	Searles Valley	35.757589, -117.379614
54	1744446E	Wood Pole	Searles Valley	35.757917, -117.379558
55	1744445E	Wood Pole	Searles Valley	35.757933, -117.379447
56	1744443E	Wood Pole	Searles Valley	35.759108, -117.377458
57	1744444E	Wood Pole	Searles Valley	35.758519, -117.377458
58	1924334E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest	35.651214, -117.683028
59	1924336E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest	35.651086, -117.679375
60	1924279E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest	35.651086, -117.679375
61	4390702E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest	35.651081, -117.679372
62	4626881E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest	35.651039, -117.679425
63	4390450E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest	35.651072, -117.679617
64	4390449E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest	35.651236, -117.680186
65	4390448E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest	35.651153, -117.680803
66	2343142E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest	35.651192, -117.680925
67	4495121E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest	35.651144, -117.681003
68	1778615E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest	35.650986, -117.681325
69	4418825E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest	35.650986, -117.681325
70	4101695E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest	35.651283, -117.681989
71	4740038E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest	35.651431, -117.682403
72	1924333E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest	35.651200, -117.683069
73	2172142E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest	35.651286, -117.683256
74	4740397E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest	35.651194, -117.683661
75	1899950E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest	35.650897, -117.684231
76	2055759E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest	35.651161, -117.684381
77	4418860E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest	35.651206, -117.684994
78	V5618629	Vault	Ridgecrest	35.622672, -117.688467
79	V5453292	Vault	Ridgecrest	35.621806, -117.670264
80	V5536830	Vault	Ridgecrest	35.606647, -117.669639
81	P5121164	Pad Transformer	Ridgecrest	35.624669, -117.663017
82	P5746867	Pad Switch	Ridgecrest	35.624297, -117.663594
83	P5121169	Pad Fuse Cabinet	Ridgecrest	35.623892, -117.663078
84	P5121167	Pad Transformer	Ridgecrest	35.624908, -117.661669
85	P5121168	Pad Transformer	Ridgecrest	35.624342, -117.662264
86	P5121166	Pad Transformer	Ridgecrest	35.625725, -117.661250
87	P5121157	Pad Transformer	Ridgecrest	35.626914, -117.660864
88	P5121162	Pad Transformer	Ridgecrest	35.626489, -117.661356

IV. Field Inspection Violations List

My staff observed the following violations during the field inspection portion of the audit.

GO 95, Rule 18-A3, Resolution of Potential Violations of General Order 95 and Safety Hazards, states:

(3) If a company, while performing inspections of its facilities, discovers a Safety Hazard(s) on or near a communications facility or electric facility involving another company, the inspecting company shall notify the other entity of such safety hazard(s) no later than 10 business days after the discovery.

SCE did not notify the responsible third-party of the following safety hazards:

- Pole 1997650E: due to an incomplete pole transfer, multiple third-party communications conductors passing unattached were touching the SCE pole.
- Pole 4390449E: due to an incomplete pole transfer, multiple third-party communications conductors passing unattached were touching the SCE pole.

GO 95, Rule 31.1, 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 facilities on each of the following poles required maintenance:

- Pole 4319841E: (1) the ground wire attached to the pole was damaged; (2) the pole had fire damage at its base.
- Pole 2055614E: the "eye" of the down guy anchor attached to the pole was buried.
- Pole 4937526E: there was a bird nest on the lower set of double crossarms.
- Pole 1899243E: the ground wire attached to the pole was cut approximately 10 feet from ground level.
- Pole 1849670E: the ground wire attached to the pole was cut approximately 13 feet from ground level.
- Pole 1949669E: the ground wire attached to the pole was cut approximately 10 feet from ground level.
- Pole 1744446E: the down guy anchor supporting the pole was corroded.
- Pole 1924334E: there was soil erosion at the base of the pole, creating a hole that was approximately 2-3 feet deep

GO 95, Rule 38: Minimum Clearances of Wires from Other Wires, Table 2, Column C, Case 9 requires the minimum vertical clearance between supply conductors “service drops and trolley feeders, 0 – 750 volts” on separate crossarms or other supports at different levels from “communication conductors (including open wire, cables, and service drops” supported on the same pole to be 48 inches.

An SCE secondary conductor supported on Pole 4817186E had less than 48 inches of vertical clearance from a third-party communications conductor supported on the same pole.

GO 95, Rule 38 - Minimum Clearances of Wires from Other Wires, Table 2, Column C, Case 19 requires the minimum radial clearance between guys and span wires passing communication conductors supported on the same poles to be 3 inches.

An SCE down guy wire supporting Pole 1899890E was contacting a third-party communications conductor.

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 SCE poles were damaged:

- 4319840E
- 4390433E
- 1997851E
- 1849670E
- 1744447E
- 1949669E
- 1849668E
- 1849666E
- 1744448E
- 1744444E

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 molding on each of the following poles was damaged:

- Pole 4319841E
- Pole 1997851E
- Pole 1899243E
- Pole 1849670E
- Pole 1949669E

- Pole 1849666E
- Pole 1849665E

GO 95, Rule 54.8-C4: Clearances between Supply Service Drops and Other Conductors, From Communication Service Drops, states in part:

The radial clearance between supply service drop conductors and communication service drop conductors may be less than 48 inches as specified in Table 2, Column C, Cases 4 and 9; Column D, Cases 3 and 8, but shall be not less than 24 inches. Where within 15 feet of the point of attachment of either service drop on a building, this clearance may be further reduced but shall be not less than 12 inches.

SCE service drops supported on the following poles did not have the minimum required radial clearance:

- Pole 4390450E: an SCE service drop was touching a third-party communications service drop within 15 feet of the point of attachment to the home.
- Pole 1899950E: an SCE service drop was within 3 inches of a third-party communications service drop within 15 feet of the point of attachment to the home.

GO 95, Rule 56.2 Overhead Guys, Anchor Guys and Span Wires, 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 supporting Pole 4937526E was loose.

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.

Padmount P5121169 had significant vegetation growing inside the enclosure.