



SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION  
**MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT**

June 2021



California Public  
Utilities Commission

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## Disclaimer

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This Report reflects Safety and Enforcement Branch’s monthly work product. It has not been approved by the Commission rather it is information provided by the Division.

## INTRODUCTION

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The CPUC's Safety and Enforcement Division (SED) oversees the safety of electric and communication facilities, natural gas infrastructure and propane facilities. SED is comprised of three branches of utility engineers, analysts and investigators that focus on ensuring the safety of utility infrastructure and reducing utility caused wildfires. SED advocates for public safety through performing safety audits, conducting incident investigations, and appearing in CPUC safety proceedings. SED has the authority to issue citations with penalties against utility operators who violate public utility safety codes and requirements.

### Notes from SED Director Lee Palmer

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SED highlights in June included Commission approval of the Phase 3 Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Guidelines (R.18-12-005) and Resolution ESRB-9, which modifies General Order 167.

On June 24, 2021, the Commission approved and updated new PSPS guidelines, rules, and regulations in D. 21-06-034 based on its review of Resolution ESRB-8, D.19-05-042, D.20-05-041, electric investor-owned utility PSPS post-event reports, the responses to those reports, and the SED Report on the Late 2019 PSPS events and comments filed on that Report.

These Phase 3 guidelines require electric investor-owned utilities to take a results-based approach to improve notification and mitigate the impacts of PSPS events. The utilities must balance the risk of harm from utility-ignited wildfires against the public harms of shutting off power.

The Phase 3 guidelines and rules are intended to ensure utilities continually improve planning, preparation, and access to resources during PSPS events, and enhance notification of, and mitigate impacts on, all customers with particular focus on access and functional needs and vulnerable populations.

To read about the new PSPS Phase 3 guidelines and the evolution of PSPS guidelines, access the CPUC webpage [here](#).

On June 24, 2021, the Commission adopted [Resolution ESRB-9](#) which modifies GO 167 (now [GO 167-B](#)) to allow SED staff to issue citations for any violation of GO 167-B to improve the safety and reliability of California electric generation facilities. The change also aligns the GO 167-B citation process with the existing Commission electric citation program.

The modification of GO 167 resulted from the rolling outages that the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) implemented on August 14 and 15, 2020 in response to an extreme heat storm that affected 812,600 Commission-jurisdictional customers. In response, SED conducted in-person inspections at a select number of electric generating facilities that experienced outages during the heatwave and shared its findings with the Commission who supported expanding SED's authority to issue citations for GO 167 maintenance and operation standards violations.

SED intends to participate fully in both these new efforts while maintaining its full audit and investigation schedule to ensure system reliability and safety.

## GAS SAFETY AND RELIABILITY BRANCH (GSRB)

The Gas Safety and Reliability Branch (GSRB) ensures that intra-state natural gas and liquid petroleum gas (LPG) pipeline systems are designed, constructed, operated, and maintained according to safety standards set by the CPUC and the federal government. CPUC gas safety engineers are trained and qualified by the federal government. The CPUC enforces natural gas and LPG safety regulations; inspects construction, operation, and maintenance activities; and makes necessary amendments to regulations. Its mission is to protect and promote the safety of the public and utility employees that work on the gas pipeline systems. June activities included:

- A. Meeting with Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) regarding state programs
- B. Meeting with PHMSA’s Accident Investigation Division (AID) regarding incident investigations
- C. Meeting with California Energy Commission (CEC) and various stakeholders on gas transition planning
- D. Meeting with PG&E Leadership Team to discuss safety issues
- E. Presented PG&E Locate and Mark Proceeding status to Commissioners during voting meeting

SED has the authority to issue citations with penalties for operator violations of public utility safety codes and requirements<sup>1</sup>. The citation process allows the CPUC to act expediently in matters where violations of state and federal rules are clear and unambiguous. Citations may arise out of an ongoing investigation into related matters when a violation is brought to the CPUC’s attention directly. The table below shows the status of pending citations issued by SED. The citations can be found on the CPUC’s website [here](#).

Citation Number	Utility	Amount	Violations per GO 112-F	Date Cited	Description	Status
G-20-08-001	Glenview Mobile Lodge	\$50,000	192.605(a), 192.605(b)(3), 192.616(j), 192.723(b)(2), 192.747(a), 192.805, 192.1015(a), 192.357(a), 192.479(a), & 192.353(a)	8/24/20	The MHP failed to remediate violations discovered during an inspection	Pending. Operator requested an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).

### Natural Gas Inspections (Year to Date)

The purpose of GSRB’s inspections is to confirm that operators continue to construct, operate, and maintain their pipeline facilities in a manner that ensures the safety of workers and the public, while providing adequate and reliable service. In addition to routine inspections, GSRB also conducts construction/site inspections as

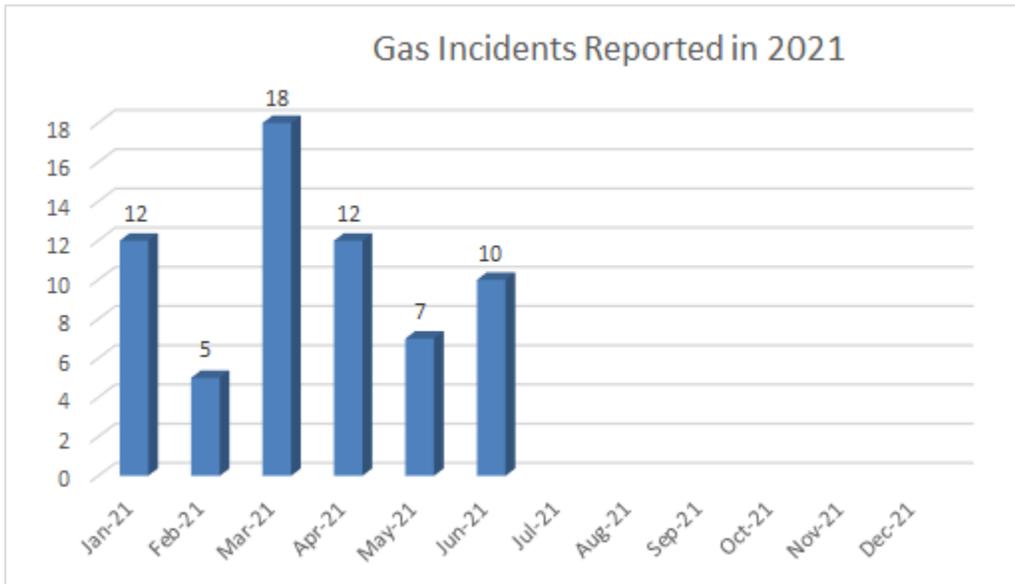
<sup>1</sup> In December 2011, the CPUC created a citation process authorizing staff to impose fines for natural gas violations.

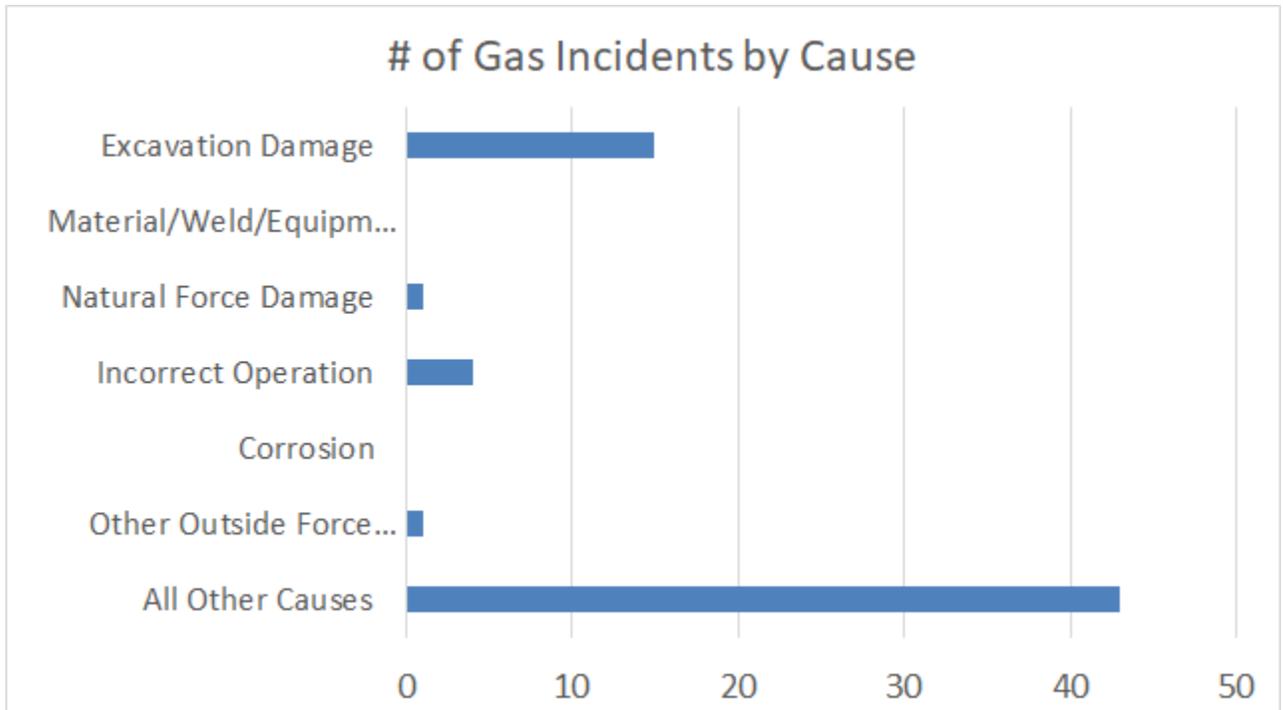
resources permit. Typically, each inspection consists of records review of an operator’s past compliance activities and field verifications. Results are documented in a final report and sent to the operators after the inspections. The expectation is to have a final report sent to the operator within 60 days of the inspection. All issues should be properly closed out and an Inspection Closure Letter is issued to the operator within 120 days from the day the inspection is completed. Although there are deviations expected from time-to-time for business reasons, late inspections should be the exception and not the norm. Table below has 2021 activity.

Inspections	2021 Year-to-Date
Conducted	23
Final Report Completed	24

### Natural Gas Incident Reports and Investigations in June 2021

As of June 30, 2021, GSRB Staff has received reports of 64 incidents. All reported incidents are assigned to GSRB engineers to investigate and prepare a final report. The report indicates if there was any violation of GO 112F committed by the operators. Operators report incidents based on PHMSA guidelines.





This bar chart above shows the 64 incidents by cause as of June 30, 2021. The table below shows the 64 incidents by level and status.

Status	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	TOTAL
Open	13	31	5	0	49
Closed	1	13	1	0	15
TOTAL	14	44	6	0	64

The table below provides a summary description of the levels and provides the timeframes/guidelines for incident reports to be completed and closed from the date of assignment of an investigation.

Levels	Definition of Incident Levels	Guidelines
1	Did not result in injury, fatality, fire or explosion; may be due to an unrelated event outside of the Operator's control.	60 days
2	Did not result in injury, fatality, fire or explosion; may or may not have caused a release of gas, have been reported due to Operator judgment.	120 days
3	Resulted in a release of gas but did not result in injury, fatality, fire or explosion.	150 days
4	Resulted in injury, fatality, fire or explosion caused by release of natural gas from the Operator's facilities.	≥ 180 days

## Natural Gas Utility Self-Identified Violation (SIV) Investigations

There were no Self-Identified Violations reported to GSRB in June.

## Customer Safety Complaints

GSRB received and investigated five (5) new customer complaints in June.

Two (2) complaints were closed without further action after GSRB addressed the customer's concerns. The remaining three (3) complaints are being investigated and listed as: a concern regarding master metered natural gas system conversion to individual propane, a concern for vintage pipeline (L109) in environmentally sensitive grassland, and a complaint regarding service pipeline installation.

## Inspection Notices / Notice of Probable Violation Letters (NOPV)

SED may issue an NOPV based on an investigation, customer complaint, or inspection for a violation of an applicable law or regulation. In June, GSRB issued 5 inspection notices and 2 NOPVs (with 5 probable violations).

- June 14 – PG&E's Kern Division inspection letter – 0 probable violations found.
- June 15 – Island Energy's Damage Prevention Program inspection letter (recommended to PHMSA) - 0 probable violations found.
- June 15 – Orange County Sanitation District's Damage Prevention Program inspection letter (recommended to PHMSA) - 0 probable violations found.
- June 15 – City of Susanville's Damage Prevention Program inspection letter (recommended to PHMSA) - 0 probable violations found.
- June 23 – PG&E's Damage Prevention Program inspection letter – 0 probable violations found.
- June 24 – SoCalGas' and SDG&E's Transmission Integrity Management Program inspection letter – 1 probable violation found.
- June 29 – City of Glendale's Damage Prevention Program inspection letter (recommended to PHMSA) – 4 probable violations found.

## Natural Gas Safety and Reliability: Proceedings

### **Aliso Canyon (I.19-06-016) (Commissioner Rechtschaffen /ALJs Hecht / Poirier) (SED Advocacy):**

Evidentiary hearings began on March 16, 2021. Please find proceeding highlights from the month of June 2021 below:

- On June 2, 2021, SED submitted Motion to Add Violation 332 for violating CPUC Section 451:
  - SoCalGas knew that in the event of a blowout, a relief well would likely be necessary, and continued to run well SS-25 without proper inspection from April 23, 2009, to December 22, 2015.
  - SoCalGas' misleading testimony that well SS-25 did not have leaks prior to October 23, 2015 and provided incomplete documents to incorrectly show that well SS-25 did not leak at the bottom of the casing before October 23, 2015.
- On June 3, 2021, a Texas court heard from SoCalGas and Boots & Coots regarding Commission subpoenas of Boots & Coots witnesses to be available at CPUC evidentiary hearings for cross-examination. The presiding judge indicated that she was inclined to grant Boots & Coots' motion for protective order. SoCalGas is waiting for the judge's final ruling on this case.
- On June 7, 2021, the ALJ granted SoCalGas' Motion to Strike Felts Testimony (Portions of Margaret Felts' Opening Testimony).
- On June 16, 2021, SoCalGas completed the ALJs' order to provide an update on the availability of the witnesses.
- June 17, 2021, SoCalGas filed a Response to SED's Motion to Add Violation 332 and filed a Reply to SED's Response to SoCalGas' Motion to Strike Portions of Margaret Felts' Opening Testimony.
- June 18, 2021, the ALJs granted permission to SED to file a Reply to SoCalGas' Response to Add Violation 332.
- June 28, 2021, SED filed a Reply to Motion to Add Violation 332.
- June 30, 2021, SoCalGas filed a Motion to Enforce the ALJs' May 28, 2021 Ruling Ordering SED to Produce Documents in Advance of the Deposition of Randy Holter.

### **Mobile Home Parks (MHP) Utility Conversion Program (D.20-04-004) (Commissioner Rechtschaffen /ALJ Hecht) (SED Advocacy):**

On April 24, 2020, the Commission issued Decision 20-04-004 which established the Mobile Home Park Utility Conversion Program which authorizes IOUs to install new gas and electric utility systems in mobile home parks to replace master-metered utility systems. The program goal is to convert 50% of all mobile home spaces by the end of 2030 according to a risk-based priority ranking system developed by GSRB. GSRB received forms of intent from 986 mobile home communities before the deadline on March 31, 2021. SED created a risk-prioritization list which included new applicants and those parks still on the Pilot list from 2015, and ranked them according to their utility system's risk of failure. The resultant list consists of 1,579 parks, which have a total of 171,592 spaces among them. There are currently 586 "Category 1" parks, which have a total of 37,890 spaces. SED estimates these parks will start the conversion process before the second priority list is produced in July 2025.

**PG&E Locate and Mark Practices OII (I.18-12-007) (Commissioner Rechtschaffen/ALJ Allen) (SED Advocacy):** On February 20, 2020, the Commission issued Decision 20-02-036 which ordered several shareholder-funded gas and electric System Enhancement Initiatives. On August 21, 2020, SED selected a consultant for the Compliance and Ethics Corrective Action Program Audit. On October 15, 2020, SED selected a consultant for the Locate and Mark Compliance Audit and the Locate and Mark Field Audit. On November 17, 2020, PG&E submitted its proposed methodologies for SED’s review and approval. On January 12, 2021, SED responded to PG&E’s proposed methodologies review request. On February 4, 2021, PG&E informed SED about a request from their 3rd Party consultant for item III.B.2 of the Locate & Mark OII to solicit input from another external party (Exponent) to further develop their sampling methodology. SED responded on February 4, 2021. PG&E submitted its first Locate and Mark (L&M) Annual Report in accordance with Commission Decision (D.) 20-02-036 on April 26, 2021.

## **ELECTRIC SAFETY AND RELIABILITY BRANCH (ESRB)**

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The mission of ESRB is to enforce state statutes and regulations regarding the safety and reliability of electric facilities, communication facilities, and power plants that are within the jurisdiction of this Commission in California, to ensure that the facilities are operated and maintained in a safe and reliable manner to protect and promote the public health and safety, and to facilitate an environment inside and outside of the Commission that increases the safety and reliability of these facilities. June activities are below and include:

- Conducted 4 Electric Distribution audits, 1 Transmission audit, 1 Substation audit, 2 Communication Infrastructure Provider (CIP) audits, and 1 Power Plant audit.
- Issued 2 Electric Distribution audit reports, 1 Substation audit report, and 1 CIP audit report.
- ESRB reviews daily outage reports from power plants. Outages could be forced or planned. ESRB reviews the status and cause of each outage, may issue data requests related to the status and cause of each outage, and will follow up with power plants regarding the outage as necessary. In June 2021, ESRB monitored the status of 12 planned outages and 114 forced outages reported by natural gas and renewable energy power plants.

### Electric Facilities Citations

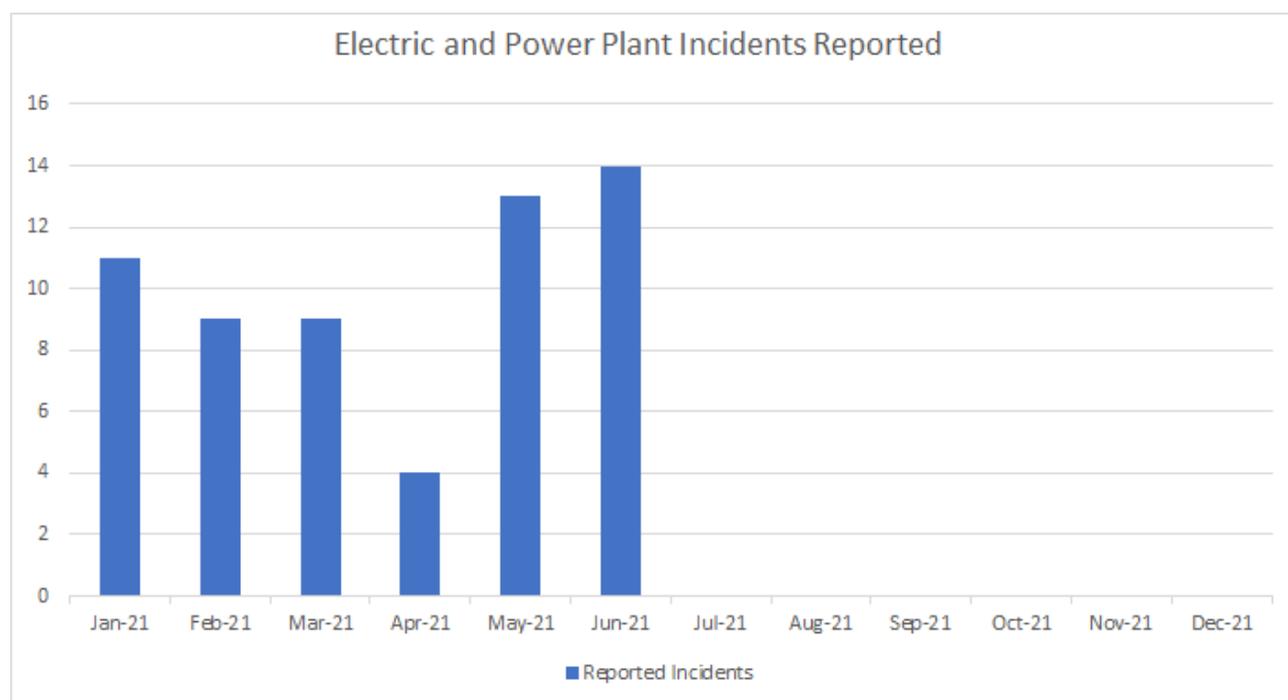
SED has the authority to issue citations with penalties for electric utilities and Communication Infrastructure Providers (CIPs) for violating Commission General Orders and PU Code rules. Citations may arise from violations discovered during incident investigations, audits, customer complaint investigations, whistleblower

investigations, or other safety matters that are brought to the attention of SED. The table below shows the status of citations issued by SED in 2020. SED has not issued any citations in 2021 as of June 30, 2021. All SED citations related to electric and communication facilities can be found on the Commission’s website [here](#).

Citation Number	Utility	Amount	Violations	Date Cited	Description	Status
D.16-09-055E.20-12-001	SCE	\$1,000,000	GO 128, Rules 17.1 and 17.7.  PU Code, Section 451	12/4/2020	Failure to properly mark the location of SCE’s underground facilities which resulted in one injury	Paid in January 2021

### Electric and Power Plant Incidents Reported through June 30, 2021

ESRB received 14 electric incident reports in June.



## Electric Facilities and Power Plant/Generation Incident Investigations

Incident status		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Total <sup>2</sup>
Total open incidents	Electric Facilities	5	11	68	49	133
	Generation	1	1	5	1	8
Total incidents reported in 2021	Electric Facilities	2	6	34	14	56
	Generation	1	1	2	0	4
Total incidents closed in 2021	Electric Facilities	6	8	30	36	80
	Generation	0	0	3	0	3
Total open 2021 incidents	Electric Facilities	2	6	33	13	54
	Generation	1	1	1	0	3
Incidents reported in June 2021	Electric Facilities	2	6	6	0	14
	Generation	0	0	0	0	0
Incidents closed in June 2021	Electric Facilities	0	0	5	1	6
	Generation	0	0	0	0	0

The above table shows information about ESRB incident investigations as of June 30, 2021, and incidents reported and closed in June 2021. The level designation indicates increasing severity, with Level 4 as the most severe. See footnote 2 for definitions of each level. The guidelines to close incident reports are similar to those GSRB follows (see Guidelines table on p. 5).

## Customer Safety Complaints

ESRB investigated 27 electric and communication safety and reliability customer complaints.

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<sup>2</sup> Level 1: A safety incident that does not meet Level 2, 3, or 4 criteria. Level 2: Incident involved a power interruption not due solely to outside forces (Level 2 for Generation: Incident that occurred during an Electric Alert, Warning or Emergency. Level 3: Incident involved damage estimated to exceed \$50,000 and caused, at least in part, by the utility or its facilities (Level 3 for Generation: Incident resulted in a significant outage that was due, at least in part, to plant equipment and/or operations). Level 4: Incident resulted in a fatality or injury requiring hospitalization and that was caused, at least in part, by the utility or its facilities or by equipment and/or operations (for Power Plants).

## Notice of Violation Letters

ESRB issued 4 Notice of Violation (NOV) letters in June. ESRB may issue an NOV in response to an investigation or customer complaint for a violation of an applicable law or regulation.

## Electric Safety and Reliability: Proceedings

**PSPS Order Instituting Investigation (I.19-11-013) (Commissioner Batjer/ALJ DeAngelis) (SED Advisory).** This OII was initiated by the Commission on November 13, 2019, to determine whether California’s investor-owned electric utilities prioritized safety and complied with the Commission’s regulations and requirements with respect to their Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events in late 2019. This OII is a companion to R.18-12-005, the Commission’s rulemaking to examine the practice of utility de-energization of powerlines during dangerous conditions. On November 16, 2020, parties filed reply comments regarding the Phase 2 Scoping Memo and Ruling. SED reviewed the reply comments and continues to provide advisory support. PG&E continues to file bi-weekly progress reports on PSPS corrective actions. On March 10, 2021, the ALJ send an e-mail ruling directing PG&E, SDG&E and SCE to file an accounting of PSPS events in the 2019 and 2020 calendar years, and how the PSPS events impacted revenue collections.

On June 3, 2021, the Commission approved Decision (D. 21-06-014) to address the late 2019 PSPS Events. It directs the three IOUs to forgo collecting a portion of their authorized revenue requirement from customers, hold utility working group meetings to share best practices and lessons learned to improve PSPSs, standardize 10-day post-event reporting, to improve communications with medical baseline customers dependent on electricity to survive, and other directives. The proceeding is closed.

**PG&E Locate and Mark Practices OII (I.18-12-007) (Commissioner Rechtschaffen/ALJ Allen) (SED Advocacy):** D. 20-02-036 approved several shareholder-funded gas and electric System Enhancement Initiatives but with a longer compliance audit period of four years and a \$110 million total penalty. In November 2020, ESRB staff reviewed PG&E’s One Call Concepts Timely Ticket Review Methodology and PG&E’s Field Review Methodology and provided comments to GSRB for consideration. On June 4, 2021, ICQ Professionals, LLC, submitted “Proposed Objectives, Methodology and Final Report Description for SED Consultation of Field Audits for Locate and Mark OII I.18-12-007 Settlement?”. This submittal starts the process of consulting with the CPUC/SED on the objectives, methodology, and the final product description of the Field Audit of PG&E’s Locate and Mark Program by ICQ Professionals, LLC. The primary focus is to provide the sampling methodology that will be utilized to conduct this audit. Pending.

**Rulemaking to Evaluate the Mobilehome Park Pilot Program and to Adopt Programmatic Modifications (R.18-04-018) (Commissioner Rechtschaffen /ALJ Hecht) (SED Advisory):** ESRB’s role in this proceeding is to address the conversion of electric master metered MHPs to direct service by an electric utility. The Commission issued D. 20-04-004 on April 24, 2020, adopting most of the language in the proposed decision. SED, Energy Division, and Housing and Community Development will convene workshops within six months from the effective date to discuss mobile home electrification topics. On September 15, 2020, the Commission held a workshop on the Building Decarbonization Proceeding Phase II Staff Proposal and the Mobilehome Electrification Topics and Tenant Protections. Also, in September 2020, all the parties responded to PG&E’s August 2020 submittal of a supplemental advice letter (AL) regarding tariff revisions. The AL reflects changes to the program from a pilot to a full-scale, ten-year program per D. 20-04-004. ESRB continues to provide advisory support. No substantial updates for June 2021. Pending.

**SCE Appeal of Twentynine Palms Citation (K.18-03-008) (ALJ Kim) (SED Advocacy):** ESRB investigated an incident that occurred on August 1, 2015, in Twentynine Palms. On February 12, 2018, SED issued a \$300,000 citation to SCE for violations related to the incident. SCE appealed the citation on March 14, 2018. On October 3, 2018, SED issued an \$8,000,000 amended citation that replaced the \$300,000 citation. The amended citation was the result of new violations. Hearings were held in December 2018, February 2019, and March 2019. Briefs and reply briefs were filed in April 2019. Awaiting a draft Resolution on the Twentynine Palms incident. Pending.

**Creation of a Shared Database or Statewide Census of Utility Poles and Conduit (I.17-06-027); Communications Provider Access to Poles (R.17-06-028) (Commissioner Batjer/ALJ Mason) (SED Advocacy):** In 2017, the Commission opened a proceeding to address the feasibility of establishing a data management platform for pole owners and tenants to access pole data, attachment and conduit data. This investigation is being conducted in three tracks. In the current phase of the proceeding, parties addressed requirements for pole attachments via comments and are awaiting a proposed decision. On December 15, 2020, the Assigned Commissioner's office issued a second amended scoping memo and ruling that outlined next steps in the consolidated Pole OII/OIR proceeding. On March 9, 2021, the ALJ issued a Ruling that requested parties to file comments by April 12, 2021, on a One-Touch-Make-Ready (OTMR) proposal. On April 12, SED filed opening comments on the March 9th OTMR ALJ ruling, and on April 28, SED filed its reply comments. No substantial updates for June 2021. Pending.

**Physical Security of the Electric System and Disaster and Emergency Preparedness (R.15-06-009) (Commissioner Rechtschaffen/ALJ Kelly) (SED Advocacy):** On May 22, 2015, the Commission issued an OIR regarding policies and regulation of physical security for electric supply facilities and to establish standards for disaster and emergency preparedness plans. This rulemaking was conducted in two phases. Phase I addressed physical security for electric supply systems and was resolved by D.19-01-018. Phase II addresses disaster and emergency preparedness plans for electrical corporations and regulated water companies. On July 1, 2020, the Safety Policy Division (SPD) submitted a letter dated June 26, 2020, from the Deputy Executive Director of SED and SPD to enact the Interim Trial Procedures (ITP) to allow Commission staff to receive major utility compliance deliverables. On July 10, 2020, the six IOUs submitted their Preliminary Assessments under the ITP process to SPD and subsequently presented their briefings regarding their Preliminary Assessment submissions to SPD and SED staff. Three IOUs submitted supplemental filings and met with SED and SPD to discuss their filings. On November 19, 2020, the Commission issued D. 20-11-048 which extends the statutory deadline for Phase II to May 30, 2021. On May 21, 2021, the Commission issued Decision (D.)21-05-019 which updates electric utilities' emergency plans under General Order (GO) 166 and water utilities under GO 103-A. Decision 21-05-019 incorporates requirements from PU Code 768.6 in Standard 14 of GO 166. The proceeding remains open to address the petition for modification regarding D. 19-01-018 (Phase I Decision). No substantial updates for June 2021. Pending.

## Other ESRB Activities

**Resolution ESRB-9:** On June 24, 2021, the Commission approved Resolution ESRB-9, which modifies the General Order 167 to allow Commission staff to issue citations for any violation of General Order 167 and aligns the General Order 167 citation process with an existing Commission electric citation program.

**2019 Wildfires:** In October 2019, California experienced devastating wildfires. In Northern California, the Kincade Fire burned more than 76,800 acres. The fire destroyed and damaged about 260 structures and caused injuries to two firefighters. In Southern California, the Saddleridge Fire, the Easy Fire, and the Maria Fire, burned more than 17,000 acres. The fires destroyed and damaged many structures and caused one fatality and 8 injuries to firefighters. SED is currently working closely with CAL FIRE and other agencies to investigate PG&E, SCE, and the communications companies' compliance with the Commission's safety rules.

**2020 Wildfires:** In 2020, California again experienced devastating wildfires. In Southern California, the Bobcat Fire, which started in September 2020 burned approximately 116,000 acres, damaged 47 structures, destroyed 170 structures, and resulted in 6 injuries. The Silverado Fire which started in October 2020 near Santiago Canyon Road and Silverado Canyon Road in the unincorporated area of Orange County, burned approximately 14,000 acres and injured two firefighters. ESRB and WSEB are working closely with CAL FIRE, the United States Forest Service (USFS) and other agencies to investigate SCE, and communications companies' compliance with the Commission's safety rules.

In Northern California, the Slater Fire started on September 9, 2020, in Butte County near the town of Happy Camp. The fire killed two people and injured three. It burned approximately 156,000 acres and damaged 197 residences and 243 structures. The Zogg Fire, which began on September 27, 2020, in Igo, Shasta County, resulted in four fatalities, one injury, 27 damaged structures and 204 destroyed structures.

**2021 Wildfires:** WSEB is currently investigating wildfires that are believed to be attributed to utility equipment. In Northern California, the Slope Fire began on May 31, 2021 in Fresno County. It burned 25 acres before being contained on June 2, 2021. The Blue Fire in the Sierra National Forest began on June 30, 2021.

**Compliance with D.20-05-019 regarding PG&E's 2017 and 2018 Wildfires (I.19-06-015):** On May 8, 2020, Decision 20-05-019 was issued approving a settlement agreement, with modifications, between SED, PG&E, Coalition of California Utility Employees (CUE), and the Office of Safety Advocates (OSA). On December 4, 2020, a Final Decision (D.20-12-015) was issued modifying D.20-05-019 and denying rehearing of D.20-05-019. In summary, the decision imposes penalties totaling \$2.137 billion consisting of \$1.823 billion in disallowances for wildfire-related expenditures, \$114 million in shareholder-funded System Enhancement Initiatives, and a \$200 million fine payable to the General Fund (the fine to be suspended). ESRB is monitoring PG&E's work to ensure compliance with the settlement agreement and D. 20-05-019. On February 12, 2021 and consistent with D. 20-05-019, PG&E filed its first semi-annual report which provided updates and an overview of PG&E's progress on each of the 20 corrective actions in the settlement agreement.

In June, as part of System Enhancement Initiative 14 (PG&E transmission and distribution maintenance program audit), ESRB conducted interviews to select a contractor for the audits. On June 21, 2021, PG&E filed a Request for Additional Time to Comply with System Enhancement Initiative 14 in D. 20-05-019, seeking an extension of 54 days from the original June 30, 2021 target to allow for adequate time to select a firm and complete the required contract paperwork. The CPUC Executive Director granted PG&E's request on June 30, 2021.

**Compliance with D.17-09-024 regarding Long Beach Incident:** D.17-09-024 adopted a Settlement Agreement between SCE and SED. Under the settlement, SCE paid a \$4 million penalty and will spend \$11 million on various system enhancement projects in Long Beach intended to reduce the chance of public injury, reduce the risk of future system failures, and improve the utility’s operational awareness and network maintenance. ESRB is monitoring SCE’s work to ensure compliance with the settlement agreement.

**Transmission Maintenance Coordination Committee (TMCC):** TMCC is an advisory committee to help the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) develop, review, and revise Transmission Maintenance Standards. TMCC holds quarterly meetings to discuss recent improvements in construction and maintenance processes and techniques, and industry best practices. ESRB is a member of TMCC and attends meetings.

## WILDFIRE SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT BRANCH (WSEB)

SED’s WSEB is dedicated to the enforcement of public utility wildfire safety and Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) violations. WSEB is the lead investigator for utility incidents relating to wildfire, PSPS events and other aspects related to wildfire events. The staff conducts audits, incident investigations, and provides input into policy development. June 2021 activities for WSEB include:

- Currently investigating a total of ten (10) utility-related wildfires in conjunction with ESRB. An additional utility-related wildfire (Blue Fire) started on June 30, 2021.
- Continued monitoring and coordinating the SCE PSPS Corrective Action Plan implementation.
- Participating in numerous IOU PSPS/Wildfire meetings. These included five PG&E Regional Working Groups, one SCE exercise, one Bear Valley PSPS table top exercise, and one SDG&E PSPS table top exercise.
- Monitored one PSPS event by SCE in June 2021. This PSPS event did not include any de-energizations.

### PSPS Activations, De-energizations & Post Event Reports - June 2021

WSEB	PG&E	SCE	SDG&E	Bear Valley	Pacific Corp	Liberty
Total PSPS Activations	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total PSPS w/ De-energization	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total PSPS Post Event Reports Reviewed	0	0	0	0	0	0

## PSPS Related Proceedings

### **Rulemaking to Examine Electric Utility De-Energization of Power Lines in Dangerous Conditions (R.18-12-005) (President Batjer/ALJ Poirier /ALJ Stevens/ALJ Kao/ALJ DeAngelis) (SED Advisory):**

This OIR was opened to further examine policies and guidelines adopted in ESRB-8 regarding communication, notification, mitigation and other logistic and implementation issues of a PSPS event. Currently, there are two tracks in this OIR:

1. Continued examination of utility de-energization/PSPS practices and guidelines.
2. An Order to Show Cause (OSC) for why PG&E should not be sanctioned for violations of P.U. Code 451, D.19-05-042 (Phase I) and ESRB-8 concerning three PSPS events in Fall 2019. Briefs were filed in 2020 and the Presiding Officer's Decision (POD) was issued on May 26, 2021.

The POD penalizes PG&E \$106.003 million for its flawed implementation of the Fall 2019 PSPS events, offset by bill credits PG&E has already provided to customers. The penalty includes a PG&E shareholder contribution of \$1.418 million to provide qualifying customers access to backup portable batteries, a bill credit to the general group of customers in the areas affected by the Fall 2019 PSPS events and to the Medical Baseline customers in those affected areas.

On February 19, 2021, the ALJ issued a Phase 3 Scoping Memo and Ruling to consider whether existing de-energization guidelines (Phase 2) should be further updated, or if new guidelines should be adopted in advance of the 2021 wildfire season. Comments and reply comments were submitted in March 2021.

On June 24, 2021, the Commission approved and adopted the Proposed Decision's Phase 3 PSPS Guidelines. A link to the Phase 3 Guidelines is [here](#).

**PSPS Order Instituting Investigation (I.19-11-013) (Commissioner Batjer/ALJ DeAngelis) (SED Advisory).** This Investigation was initiated to determine whether the IOUs that experienced PSPS events in late 2019 prioritized safety and complied with the Commission's regulations and requirements in ESRB-8 and D.19-05-042 (Phase 1 PSPS Guidelines). A Proposed Decision was issued for public comment on April 20, 2021, with comments due May 10, 2021. On June 7, 2021, the Proposed Decision was approved by the Commission.

## **Monitoring the Whistleblower Website**

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The Commission regulates privately owned utilities. It serves the public interest by protecting consumers and ensuring that utility services and infrastructure are safe, reliable, and available at reasonable rates. It is charged with ensuring that these regulated service providers comply with the regulations. Whistleblower complaints can result in investigations that may involve safety and other issues. In June 2021, no whistleblower complaints were submitted online to SED.