CPUC Hosted Workshop on Phase 2 Implementation of R15-01-008

- Geographic mapping of leaks

Timothy O’Connor
Ellison Folk
November 16, 2018
DISCLAIMER: The views and opinions expressed herein are made for the purpose of stimulating discussion and inquiry. EDF reserves the right to change any or all portions of the arguments contained at any time.
High level take-away

• Tracking leaks both geographically and over time offers multiple benefits
  – Public awareness and transparency of leak reduction pursuits by utilities
  – Awareness of density of leak distribution
  – Utility ability to recognize spatial distribution and grouping of leaks year over year

• Multiple methods of mapping may be appropriate / meet the objectives of the law
EDF experience in mapping

• Working with Google Street View Cars, technology providers and utilities, EDF has mapped utility systems across the country
  – Southern California (4 cities), Boston, Indianapolis, Atlanta, Birmingham, Burlington, Chicago, Dallas, Jacksonville, Mesa, Pittsburgh, Staten Island, Syracuse

• Leak mapping available online at https://www.edf.org/climate/methanemaps
EDF example map
EDF example map cont.

Allows for user to zoom into leak location and acquire leak size details.

Los Angeles Area

About leaks in Los Angeles Area

Methane leak indicator

- Low
- Medium
- High
- Where we drove

How we collected the data
Publically available information on geographic tracking of leaks should accomplish goals

- Avoid creating undue concerns around immediate impact to public safety

- Create awareness of spatial distribution of leaks – with some degree of granularity
  - Due to the large size of some zip codes with low population density, consideration should be given to requiring greater granularity in some circumstances.
Publically available information on geographic tracking of leaks should accomplish goals cont.

- Create transparency over variability in leak size and discovery/repair timelines

- Connect methane leaks to climate damage

- If leak location is not shown publically, the utility must have access to it and embed it into its leak tracking and mitigation work