

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



October 25, 2017

Mark W. Toney, Ph.D., Executive Director
The Utility Reform Network
785 Market Street, Suite 1400
San Francisco, CA 94103

SUBJECT: Response to Request for Emergency Consumer Protections to Support Victims of the October 2017 Wildfires

Dear Mr. Toney,

Thank you very much for your thoughtful letter to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regarding the October 2017 Fire Siege. Thanks, in particular, for your focus on individuals and families who have been impacted by the fires and your proposals for emergency consumer protection actions that the CPUC could take.

Addressing issues related to the October 2017 Fire Siege is a top priority for the CPUC. To date, the CPUC has been working closely with CAL FIRE on emergency response and restoration efforts, specifically focusing on the activities of CPUC-regulated entities in the impacted areas, including but not limited to Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), AT&T, AT&T Wireless, Frontier, Comcast Phone, Verizon Wireless, T-Mobile, Sprint, and their affiliates. At this time, restoration of service to impacted consumers is a top priority.

CAL FIRE, our sister state agency, is the first responder and determines the sources of ignition of the fires and the way that the fires spread. The CPUC is working closely with CAL FIRE in this investigation and will continue to do so. Further, our Safety and Enforcement Division is conducting investigations to assess the compliance of electric and communication facilities with applicable rules and regulations in fire impacted areas. Investigation topics include, but are not limited to, maintenance of facilities, vegetation management, and emergency preparedness and response. SED's function is to perform investigations in accordance with Public Utilities Code Section 315 in order to determine whether a regulated entity committed violations of the Public Utilities Code, CPUC General Orders or other CPUC regulatory requirements (e.g. prior decisions). Throughout the investigation, SED (in conjunction with CAL FIRE) will also be looking for lessons learned and for opportunities to put additional fire mitigation measures in place.

In addition, the CPUC staff are evaluating emergency consumer protections raised in your letter and will update TURN on related actions. At the time of writing this letter, PG&E has not requested cost recovery under Catastrophic Event Memorandum Account (CEMA) process, but if PG&E were to do so, the CPUC will follow the standard process and evaluate the request under terms specified in Resolution E-3238 that your letter references. Furthermore, the Commission will make sure that Californians know the steps we take concerning the protection of customers affected by these fires.

The CPUC is committed to transparency and keeping the public updated on our activities pertaining to the October 2017 Fire Siege. Related information is being posted on the CPUC

website here: www.cpuc.ca.gov/October2017Fires. The CPUC staff will provide an update at the upcoming CPUC Voting Meeting in Sacramento on October 26, 2017.

Thank you again for your recommendations and do not hesitate to reach out with any additional questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Sullivan
Executive Director

cc: President Michael Picker
Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves
Commissioner Carla J. Peterman
Commissioner Liane M. Randolph
Commissioner Clifford Rechtschaffen