



SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

JUNE 2020



California Public
Utilities Commission

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This Report has not been approved or disapproved by the CPUC.

Introduction

The CPUC's Safety and Enforcement Division (SED) oversees 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.

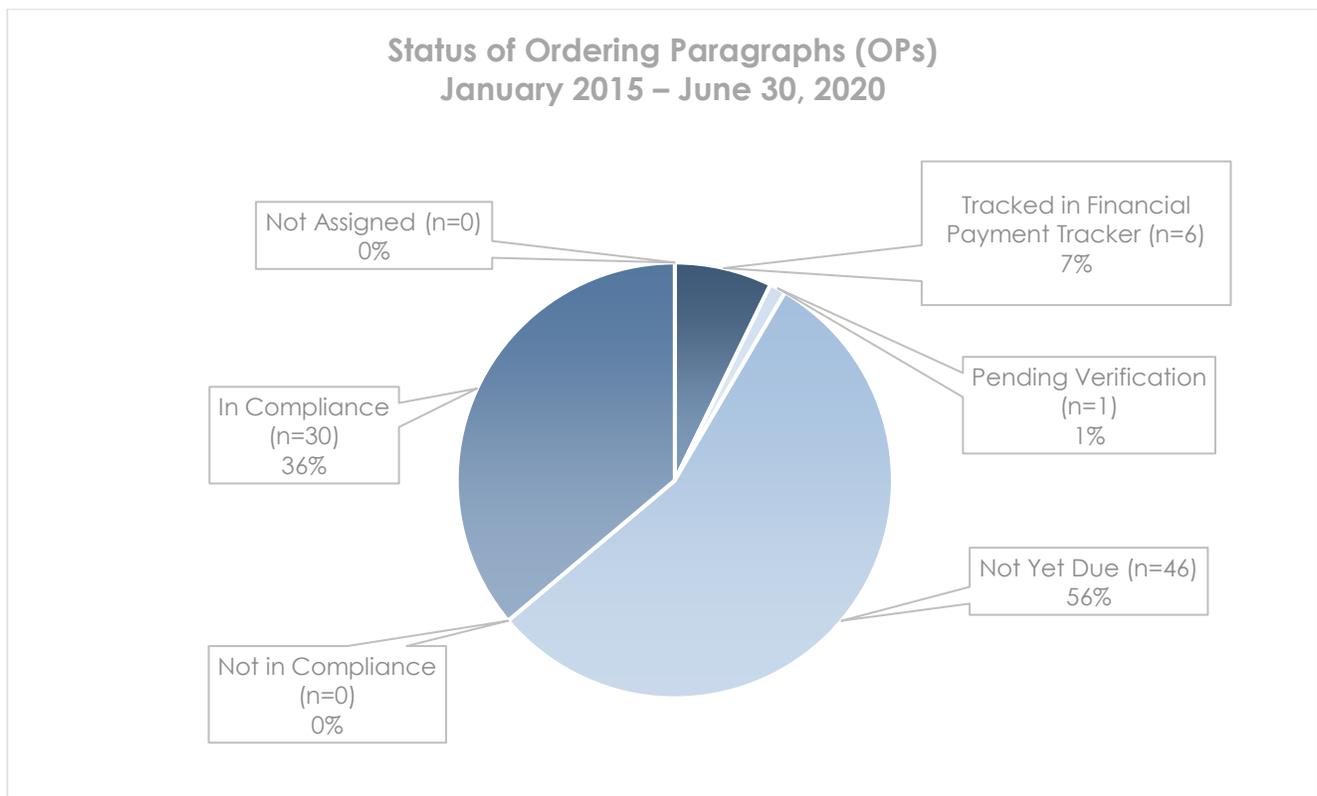
Highlights from SED June 2020 activities, include:

- Electric Safety and Reliability Branch (ESRB) prepared COVID 19 protocols for conducting audits which includes minimizing field time. While field audits were postponed in the spring, in June ESRB began planning for regular audits with electric utilities, communication infrastructure providers, and power plant operators to resume by early July. The audits consist of record review and field inspections of electric and communication facilities.
- Gas Safety and Reliability Branch (GSRB) issued a \$600,000 citation to PG&E. Also, GSRB prepared safety advocacy testimony in the Commission's Aliso Canyon Order Instituting Investigation (I.19-06-016).
- Wildfire Safety and Reliability Branch (WSRB) observed PG&E, Bear Valley Electric, and Liberty Utilities PSPS exercises to ensure utility readiness and preparation for Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) during the 2020 wildfire season.

Compliance with Ordering Paragraphs (COPS)

The Compliance with Ordering Paragraphs (COPS) database is designed to assist CPUC staff in tracking compliance with Ordering Paragraphs (OPs) of regulated entities with Commission decisions. Each month various agency staff will use COPS to identify and enter relevant OPs, verify, and document compliance, and produce reports summarizing compliance with OPs.

Through June 30, 2020, SED shows 83 total entries in the COPS system with 30 reaching compliance (36%), 46 (55%) not yet due for compliance, and 0 (0%) out of compliance. 83 (100%) of all Ordering Paragraphs are assigned to members of staff. During June 2020, there were 0 new OPs recorded to the COPS database for SED. Examples of work in June include ESRB implementation of OP 1. (h) of (D.)20-05-019. Also, GSRB is implementing the Mobile Home Parks Utility Conversion Program (D.)20-04-004. The chart below shows statistics for June¹.



¹ The category of “tracked in financial payment tracker” (FPT) is used to monitor compliance with financial payments to the Commission. The FPT category is verified and deemed “in compliance” and is listed separately.

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, the utility employees that work on the gas pipeline systems, and the environment.

Gas Citations

GSRB has the authority to issue citations with penalties for operator violations of public utility safety codes and requirements². 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 or when a violation is brought to the CPUC’s attention directly.

In June, GSRB issued a citation in the amount of \$600,000 to PG&E for one violation that led to a 2018 incident in San Jose. PG&E failed to identify the partial copper service line at 2108 Bel Air Avenue for inclusion in its Copper Service Replacement Program. The known risk associated with copper service lines should have expedited its removal and replacement. The partial copper service line remained in service where it developed internal corrosion, a known threat to copper service lines. This internal corrosion resulted in a leak at the transition fitting. Natural gas migrated into 2101 Bel Air Avenue and subsequently ignited causing approximately \$638,472 in property damage and one injury.

The table below shows the status of citations issued by GSRB to date in 2020.

Citation Number	Utility	Amount	Violations	Date Cited	Appealed?	Status
D.16-09-055 G.20-04-001	PG&E	\$ 900,000	192.13 (c), 192.621	4/14/2020	No	PG&E agreed to pay
D.16-09-055 G.20-06-001	PG&E	\$ 600,000	192.605(b)(3)	6/16/2020	Pending	Pending
Total Cited 2020		\$1,500,000				

Inspections (Year to Date)

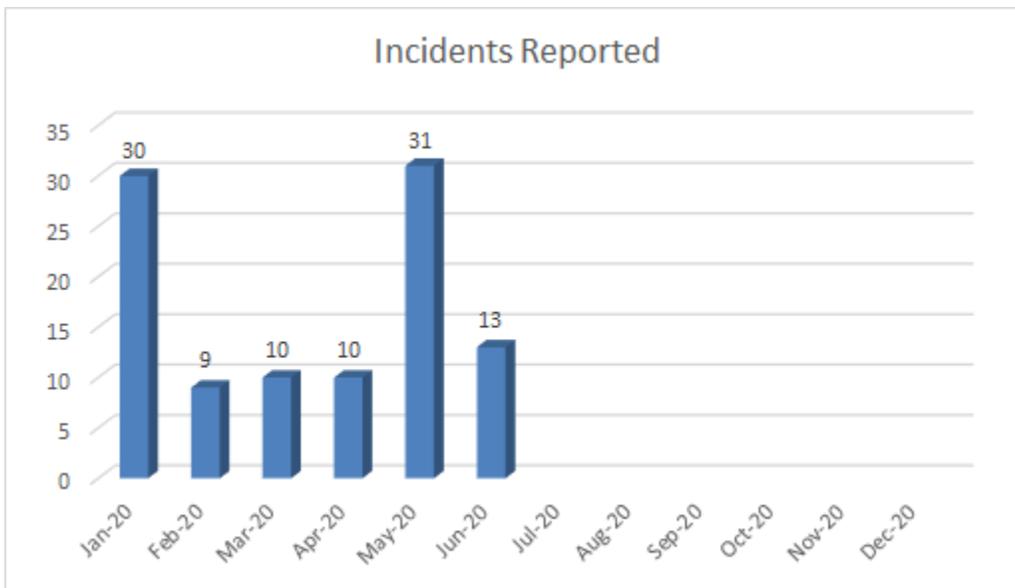
2020 Year-to-Date	
Conducted	25
Final Report Completed	15

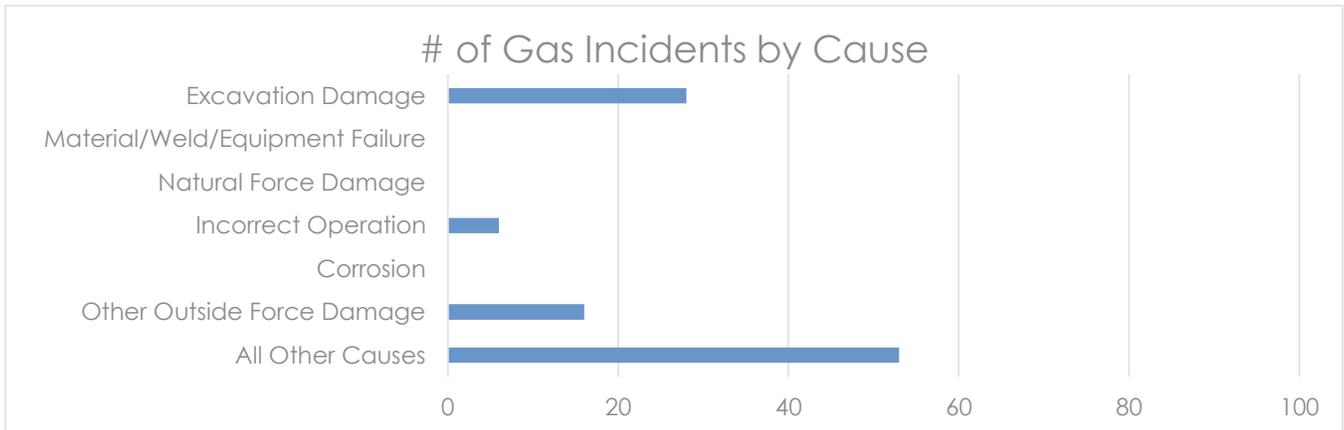
² On December 2011, the CPUC created a citation process authorizing staff to impose fines for natural gas violations.

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 resources permit. Typically, each inspection consists of records review of operator’s past compliance activities and field verifications, respectively. 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 sure to be some deviations from time-to-time for business reasons, late inspections should be the exception and not the norm.

Natural Gas Incident Reports and Investigation

As of June 30, 2020, GSRB Staff received 103 incidents year to date. All reported incidents are assigned to GSRB engineers to investigate and prepare a final report. The final report indicates if there was any violation of GO 112F committed by the operators. Operators report incidents based on PHMSA guidelines.





This pie chart shows all incidents year-to-date by causes. There were 103 incidents as of June 30, 2020. The information below shows the incidents by level and status.

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	TOTAL
Open	45	33	3	2	83
Closed	2	18	0	0	20
TOTAL	47	51	3	2	103

By way of background, the following table provides a summary description of the levels and provides the timeframes/guidelines for incident reports to be completed on and closed from the date of assignment of investigation.

Levels	Definition of Incident Levels	Guidelines for Closing Reports
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

Gas Utility Self-Identified Violation (SIV) Investigations

There was one SIV reported in June from SoCalGas which was the first self-identified violation reported in 2020. SoCalGas reported that one of their contractors did not follow multiple gas standards during a residential abandonment procedure resulting in an escape of gas and ignition without any injuries. SoCalGas has suspended the contractor indefinitely and has performed leak tests on all the similar tasks performed by the welder in 2019 and 2020.

Natural Gas Safety and Reliability: Proceedings

Aliso Canyon OII (I.19-06-016) (Commissioner Rechtschaffen /ALJs Kenney / Poirier) (SED Advocacy): On June 30, 2020 SED filed Sur Reply testimony in the Commission’s Order Instituting Investigation (OII) with respect to the Aliso Canyon storage facility and the release of natural gas. SED’s testimony supports the violations identified in SED’s November 22, 2019 Opening Testimony focused on safety (451) violations, record-keeping violations, and lack of cooperation violations. On January 29, 2020, the Commission issued Decision 20-01-034 deferring the issue of whether SoCalGas should reimburse the State for staff and consultant investigation costs to Phase 2. Secondly, SoCalGas was ordered to file an Advice Letter to establish a memorandum account to track staff investigation, consultant, and other costs. The Commission will consider the appropriate ratemaking treatment of the costs tracked by the memorandum account in Phase 2 of this proceeding.

Mobile Home Parks Utility Conversion Program (D.20-04-004) (Commissioner Rechtschaffen /ALJ Kersten) (SED Advocacy): In April 2020, the Commission adopted a program to convert Master Meter gas and electric distribution systems at Mobile Home Parks (MHP) from park-owned to IOU operation, providing MHP residents with the same level of safety and service that directly-served utility customers receive. SED/SPD Staff provided an evaluation of the three-year pilot program originating from D.14-03-021. The evaluation noted the high rate of voluntary participation by park owners, the successful completion of the pilot conversion goals by the IOUs, and improved safety and reliability for park residents, many of whom live in Disadvantaged Communities. The program goal is to convert 50% of all mobile home spaces by 2030 according to a risk-based priority ranking system developed by GSRB. SED is revising the risk prioritization process to comply with D.20-04-004; an updated working priority system is expected by December 31, 2020. Also, SED is updating the MHP utility conversion application documents; they are expected to be complete by September 1, 2020.

PG&E Locate and Mark Practices OII (I.18-12-007) (Commissioner Rechtschaffen/ALJ Allen) (SED Advocacy): On February 20, 2020, the Commission confirmed that the Presiding Officer’s Decision (POD) on January 17, 2020 became the Decision of the Commission (D.20-02-036). The POD ordered approval of several shareholder-funded gas and electric the System Enhancement Initiatives but with a longer compliance audit period of four years and a \$110 million total penalty. SED is working with PG&E to implement the locate and mark settlement approved in the decision.

Electric Safety and Reliability Branch (ESRB)

The mission of is to enforce state statutes and regulations regarding the safety and reliability of electric facilities, communication facilities, and power plants that come 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. In June ESRB activities included:

- Received 11 electric facilities incident reports and closed 13 previously reported electric facilities incident investigations.
- Investigated 38 customer safety and reliability complaints.
- Issued 7 Notice of Violation letters.
- Issued 1 Communication Infrastructure Provider (CIP) audit report (posted to the CPUC webpage).
- Performed 4 electric distribution records review audits, 2 power plant records review audits, 1 substation records review audit, and 1 transmission records review audit.
- Monitored 4 planned outages and 6 forced outages reported by natural gas and renewable energy power plants.

Electric Facilities and Power Plant/Generation Incident Investigations

ESRB		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Total ³
Total open incidents	Electric Facilities	12	18	52	57	139
	Generation	0	0	2	1	3
Total incidents reported in 2020	Electric Facilities	4	9	24	21	58
	Generation	0	0	4	0	4
Total incidents closed in 2020	Electric Facilities	4	12	33	31	80
	Generation	0	0	3	0	3
Total open 2020 incidents	Electric Facilities	4	7	23	18	52
	Generation	0	0	2	0	2
Incidents reported in June 2020	Electric Facilities	1	2	5	3	11
	Generation	0	0	1	0	1
Incidents closed in June 2020	Electric Facilities	1	4	4	4	13
	Generation	0	0	0	0	0

³ 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).

The above table shows information about ESRB incident investigations as of June 30, 2020. The level designation indicates increasing severity, with Level 4 as the most severe. Please see footnote 2 for detail definitions of each level. The guidelines to close incident reports are similar to those GRSB follows (see table above (p5) which includes timeframe guidelines for closing reports).

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 June 8, 2020, the ALJ issued a ruling setting the Prehearing Conference (PHC) for June 22, 2020. On June 10, 2020, the ALJ issued a ruling providing SED’s Report on the Late 2019 PSPS Events. On June 22, 2020, SED joined the PHC via teleconference. Pending.

PG&E’s 2017 Wildfires OII (I.19-06-015) (Commissioner Rechtschaffen/ALJ Park) (SED Advocacy): On June 27, 2019, the Commission issued an Order Instituting Investigation (OII) on the Commission’s own motion into the maintenance, operations and practices of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) with respect to its electric facilities; and Order to Show Cause (OSC) why the Commission should not impose penalties and/or other remedies for the role PG&E’s electric facilities had in igniting fires in its service territory in 2017. On May 8, 2020, a Final Decision (D.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). This 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 shall be permanently suspended). On June 8, 2020, two Applications for Rehearing of D.20-05-019 were filed by Thomas Del Monte and the Wild Tree Foundation, thus, reopening this proceeding. Also, in June, SED began implement OP 1.(h) of D.20-05-019, which requires PG&E to consult with SED within thirty days of the effective date of the settlement agreement to discuss the appropriate format, content and treatment of the quarterly electric maintenance reports and “near hit” data required by sections of the settlement agreement. This process is currently underway.

Rulemaking to Examine Electric Utility De-Energization of Power Lines in Dangerous Conditions (R.18-12-005) (President Batjer/ALJ Poirier /ALJ Stevens) (SED Advisory): On December 13, 2018, the Commission opened an Order Instituting Rulemaking (R.)18-12-005 to examine its rules allowing electric utilities under the Commission’s jurisdiction to deenergize power lines in case of dangerous conditions that threaten life or property in California. Among other things, this proceeding focuses on developing best practices and evaluation criteria, ensuring coordination with first responders, mitigating impact on vulnerable populations, ensuring consistency in noticing, and reporting of events, and examining ways to reduce the need for de-energization. The Phase 2 proposed decision (PD) was adopted at the May 28th Commission meeting and sets new guidelines for the creation of PSPS advisory boards and working

groups, exercises, restoration of service, transportation resiliency and communications and notifications plans, information transfer between IOUs and local governments about medical baseline and access and functional needs customers, web server capacity and PSPS web page functionality, and the operations of community resource centers. On June 15, 2020, some parties filed a motion for the Commission to determine the reasonableness of fall 2019 PSPS events. Responses were filed by SCE, PG&E, California Utility Employees, and the California Cable and Telecommunications Association on June 30. SED is currently reviewing the responses. Pending.

Rulemaking to Evaluate the Mobilehome Park Pilot Program and to Adopt Programmatic Modifications (R.18-04-018) (Commissioner Rechtschaffen /ALJ Kersten) (SED Advisory): ESRB's role in this proceeding is to address the conversion of electric master metered MHPs to direct electric utilities. The Commission issue 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. 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, involving the failure of a crossarm and a resulting overhead conductor clearance problem that caused injury to 3 individuals. 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 of GO 95 that SED discovered. Hearings were held in December 2018, February 2019, and March 2019. Briefs and reply briefs were filed in April 2019. 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): On January 22 and 23, 2018, industry group of pole-owners and pole-tenants hosted an informal workshop to discuss a phased approach and path forward regarding access to pole data, attachment data, and conduit data, ESRB attended and participated in the workshop. The industry group issued a workshop report on February 28, 2019. On June 4, 2019, ALJ Mason issued a ruling approving parties' recommendation to create working groups to develop requirements for Tracks 1, 2, and 3. On June 8, 2020, ESRB submitted reply comments on the PD. The next step is the PD to be placed on the agenda.

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 Order Instituting Rulemaking 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 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 November 14, 2019, the Commission extended the statutory deadline for Phase II to May 29, 2020. On January 10, 2020; SCE, PG&E, and SDGE submitted a Petition for Modification (PFM) to D.19-01-018. On February 14, 2020, the ALJ issued a ruling allowing comments and reply comments on the Staff Proposal regarding Proposed Changes to GO 166 and GO 103A. The ALJ

granted SED leave to respond to SCE’s reply comments on 3/23/20 and instructed SED and SCE to meet and confer. SED has conducted a meet and confer with SCE via phone and submitted sur-reply comments on 4/1/20. The Commission issued D.20-04-034 to extend the statutory deadline to November 29, 2020 to address all comments. Pending.

Other Activities

2019 Wildfires: In October 2019, California experienced devastating wildfires. In Northern California, the Kincade Fire burned more than 76,800 acres. The fire has destroyed and damaged about 260 structures and caused injuries to two firefighters. In Southern California, the Saddle Ridge Fire, the Easy Fire, and the Maria Fire, have burned more than 17,000 acres. The fires have 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 communications companies’ compliance with the Commission’s safety rules.

Compliance with D.17-09-024 regarding Long Beach Incident: D.17-09-024 adopted a Settlement Agreement between Southern California Edison 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 quarterly 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 related 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. Recent activities, include:

- WSEB monitored the SCE potential PSPS event on 25 June 2020.
- WSEB supported the June 22, 2020 Prehearing Conference for the PSPS OII (I19-11-013).
- WSEB participated in CPUC proceedings including the PSPS, Wildfire Mitigation Plans, and Microgrid proceedings.
- WSEB observed the PG&E 3-day PSPS exercise, 24-26 June 2020.
- WSEB participated in numerous PG&E and SCE PSPS meetings with local governments.

PSPS Activations, De-energizations & Post Event Reports Reviewed

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

Monitoring the Whistleblower Website

The Commission regulates privately owned electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water, railroad, rail transit, and passenger transportation companies. The Commission serves the public interest by protecting consumers and ensuring that utility services and infrastructure are safe, reliable, and available at reasonable rates, with a commitment to environmental enhancement and a healthy California economy. The Commission is charged with ensuring that these regulated service providers comply with the California Public Utilities Code, Commission regulations, and other California laws involving safety and consumer protection. Commission investigations may involve safety issues, misrepresentations or dishonesty to the Commission, consumer fraud and marketing abuses, and tariff/rule violations.

Statistics - 1/01/20 – 6/30/2020

Note: This is for complaints filed using the on-line Whistleblower Application ONLY.

