



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



March 27, 2020

Dan Marsh
Manager, Rates & Regulatory Affairs
Liberty Utilities
933 Eloise Avenue
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

RE: Essential Wildfire and Public Safety Power Shutoff Mitigation Work

Dear Mr. Marsh:

Despite the added challenges we are all facing as a result the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we cannot afford to lose any progress in our widescale efforts to mitigate the wildfire threats that loom on California's horizon. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention (CAL FIRE) have prioritized this work as a critical function of state government and have made adjustments, where necessary, to ensure state resources and staff remain fully engaged in this effort.

This letter serves as an important notification that we expect you to continue to prioritize your essential safety work, including necessary coordination with local jurisdictions. It is critical you prioritize all planned outages to minimize impact on customers while continuing all essential sector safety activities.

The State's shelter-in-place mandate impacts the daily lives of Californians. They rely on electricity to power their homes during this unprecedented pandemic. We expect you to be extremely thoughtful and judicious in prioritization of planned outages. Specifically, we expect you to:

- Limit planned outage work to wildfire mitigation, Public Safety Power Shut-off (PSPS) reduction, projects that will immediately impact reliability if delayed, and emergency/public safety projects;
- Reduce duration of outages and consider shifting work to night-time hours, wherever possible, to minimize impact on day-time household activities; and

- Communicate directly with affected customers, local jurisdictions and emergency management partners explaining the critical nature of the work to be performed and adjustments you have made to minimize the impact.

The essential sector safety activities we expect you to continue to ensure you make meaningful progress on your wildfire and PSPS mitigation goals include:

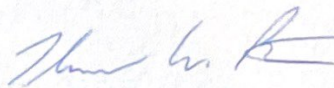
- Wildfire mitigation and wildfire risk reduction tasks, including, but not limited to, system hardening, vegetation management, and enhancements to grid operations;
- PSPS mitigation and reduction tasks, including sectionalization projects, local outreach and coordination, establishing customer resource centers, and microgrid projects; and
- Any other critical work related to operating a safe and reliable grid and mitigating wildfire and/or public safety power shutoff risk.

We may face challenging wildfire threats in the coming months. This winter resulted in very dry conditions across California. Low snowpack in the high country and the lack of precipitation during the two wettest months of the year has caused moderate drought over the Sierra and abnormally dry conditions across most of the rest of Central California and the northern portions of Southern California.

We appreciate your continued focus on this essential work and look forward to continuing our public safety partnerships. Californians are relying on each of us to work tirelessly to reduce the threat of wildfires and take all steps necessary to keep their communities safe this season. That is our joint mission.

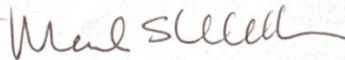
We look forward to continuing to partner with you to support our communities through this time while maintaining a laser focus on preparing for the coming fire season.

Sincerely,



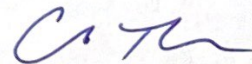
Thomas W Porter
Director
CAL FIRE

Sincerely,



Mark S. Ghilarducci
Director
Cal OES

Sincerely,



Caroline Thomas Jacobs
Director, Wildfire Safety Division
CPUC