



## California Public Utilities Commission 505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

Docket #: P.07-11-007

### **CPUC TO ADDRESS TRANSMISSION LINE SAFETY ISSUES UPON COMPLETION OF ITS FIRE INVESTIGATION**

SAN FRANCISCO, May 29, 2008 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today said it will review the findings of its staff investigation of 2007 Southern California wildfires in order to take appropriate action to help prevent such fires in the future.

The CPUC's Consumer Protection and Safety Division (CPSD) has been instructed to complete its investigation by the end of July 2008. The California Department of Forestry and Fire (Cal Fire) is also investigating the wildfires. CPSD expects that its investigation will incorporate the results of Cal Fire's investigation. As a result, CPSD will finish its investigation after Cal Fire's investigation is complete.

"The CPUC will respond appropriately to the wildfires after CPSD completes its investigation into the role overhead electric lines played in the wildfires," said CPUC Commissioner Timothy Alan Simon. "Rule changes regarding transmission lines may be necessary. In order to know exactly what we need to do to improve safety, we need to have all the facts regarding the San Diego fires."

San Diego Gas and Electric Company had proposed a CPUC proceeding to consider new regulations to reduce the wildfire hazards of overhead electric lines in response to October 2007 wildfires, when fierce Santa Ana winds swept across Southern California, causing overhead electric lines owned by Southern California Edison and SDG&E to ignite several wildfires.



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