



BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FILED

09/28/21
03:13 PM

C2109013

City of La Cañada Flintridge,

Complainant,

vs.

Southern California Edison Company (U338E),

Defendant.

Case (C.) _____

Complaint
(Rule 4.2)

COMPLAINANT	DEFENDANT
<p>City of La Cañada Flintridge Attn: Mark R. Alexander, City Manager One Civic Center Drive La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011 T: 818-790-8880 E: malexander@lcf.ca.gov</p>	<p>Southern California Edison Company (U338E) Attn: Anna Valdberg, Director & Managing Attorney 2244 Walnut Grove Avenue Rosemead, CA 91770 T-626-302-6008 E-mail 1: Anna.Valdberg@sce.com E-mail 2: case.admin@sce.com</p>

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

(A) City of La Cañada Flintridge
 One Civic Center Drive
 La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011

COMPLAINANT(S)

vs.

(B) Southern California Edison
 P.O. BOX 800
 Rosemead, CA 91770

DEFENDANT(S)

(Include Utility "U-Number", if known)

(for Commission use only)

(C)
 Have you tried to resolve this matter informally with the Commission's Consumer Affairs staff?
 YES NO

Did you appeal to the Consumer Affairs Manager?
 YES NO

Has staff responded to your complaint?
 YES NO

Do you have money on deposit with the Commission?
 YES NO

Amount \$ _____

Is your service now disconnected?
 YES NO

COMPLAINT

(D)
 The complaint of (Provide name, address and phone number for each complainant)

Name of Complainant(s)	Address	Daytime Phone Number
City of La Cañada Flintridge	One Civic Center Drive La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011	(818) 790-8880

respectfully shows that:

(E)
 Defendant(s) (Provide name, address and phone number for each defendant)

Name of Defendant(s)	Address	Daytime Phone Number
Southern California Edison	P.O. BOX 800 Rosemead, CA 91770	(800) 655-4555

(F)

Explain fully and clearly the details of your complaint. (Attach additional pages if necessary and any supporting documentation)

See attached "City Council Agenda Report" dated August 30, 2021

(G) Scoping Memo Information (Rule 4.2(a))

(1) The proposed category for the Complaint is (check one):

adjudicatory (most complaints are adjudicatory unless they challenge the reasonableness of rates)

ratesetting (check this box if your complaint challenges the reasonableness of a rates)

(2) Are hearings needed, (are there facts in dispute)? YES NO

(3) Regular Complaint Expedited Complaint

(4) The issues to be considered are (Example: The utility should refund the overbilled amount of \$78.00):

1. The CPUC should evaluate SCE's efforts to address excessive and reoccurring unplanned power outages in the City of La Cañada Flintridge
2. The CPUC should assess SCE's maintenance and capital replacement program to determine its adequacy and appropriateness to address aging infrastructure and reducing unplanned outages.

(5) The proposed schedule for resolving the complaint within 12 months (if categorized as adjudicatory) or 18 months (if categorized as ratesetting) is as follows:

Prehearing Conference: Approximately 30 to 40 days from the date of filing of the Complaint.

Hearing: Approximately 50 to 70 days from the date of filing of the Complaint.

Prehearing Conference (Example: 6/1/09):	N/A
Hearing (Example: 7/1/09)	N/A

Explain here if you propose a schedule different from the above guidelines.

(H)

Wherefore, complainant(s) request(s) an order: State clearly the exact relief desired. (Attach additional pages if necessary)

1. The CPUC shall conduct an assessment and evaluation of SCE's efforts to address excessive and reoccurring unplanned power outages in the City of La Cañada Flintridge.
2. The CPUC shall conduct an assessment and evaluation of SCE's maintenance practices and investment in capital infrastructure to determine its adequacy and appropriateness in addressing aging infrastructure and reducing unplanned outages.

(I)

OPTIONAL: I/we would like to receive the answer and other filings of the defendant(s) and information and notices from the Commission by electronic mail (e-mail). My/our e-mail address(es) is/are:

malexander@lcf.ca.gov

(J)

Dated La Cañada Flintridge, California, this 30th day of August, 2021
(City) (date) (month) (year)

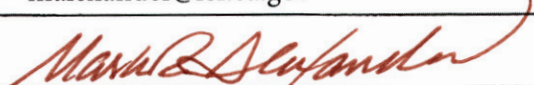

Signature of each complainant

(MUST ALSO SIGN VERIFICATION AND PRIVACY NOTICE)

(K)

REPRESENTATIVE'S INFORMATION:

Provide name, address, telephone number, e-mail address (if consents to notifications by e-mail), and signature of representative, if any.

Name of Representative:	Mark R. Alexander, City Manager
Address:	One Civic Center Drive, La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011
Telephone Number:	(818) 790-8880
E-mail:	malexander@lcf.ca.gov
Signature	

VERIFICATION
(For Individual or Partnerships)

I am (one of) the complainant(s) in the above-entitled matter; the statements in the foregoing document are true of my knowledge, except as to matters which are therein stated on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe them to be true.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

(L)

Executed on August 30, 2021 , at La Cañada Flintridge , California
(date) (City)

(Complainant Signature)

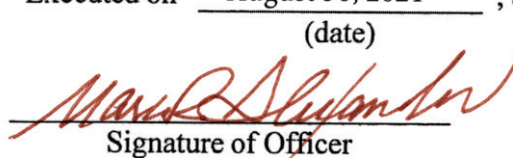
VERIFICATION
(For a Corporation)

I am an officer of the ^{municipality} ~~complainant corporation~~ herein, and am authorized to make this verification on its behalf. The statements in the foregoing document are true of my own knowledge, except as to the matters which are therein stated on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe them to be true.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

(M)

Executed on August 30, 2021 , at La Cañada Flintridge , California
(date) (City)

 City Manager
Signature of Officer Title

(N) **NUMBER OF COPIES NEEDED FOR FILING:**

If you are filing your formal complaint on paper, then submit one (1) original, six (6) copies, plus one (1) copy for each named defendant. For example, if your formal complaint has one defendant, then you must submit a total of eight (8) copies (Rule 4.2(b)).

If you are filing your formal complaint electronically (visit <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/efiling> for additional details), then you are not required to mail paper copies.

(O) Mail paper copies to: California Public Utilities Commission
Attn: Docket Office


505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2001
San Francisco, CA 94102

PRIVACYNOTICE

This message is to inform you that the Docket Office of the California Public Utilities Commission ("CPUC") intends to file the above-referenced Formal Complaint electronically instead of in paper form as it was submitted.

Please Note: Whether or not your Formal Complaint is filed in paper form or electronically, Formal Complaints filed with the CPUC become a public record and may be posted on the CPUC's website. Therefore, any information you provide in the Formal Complaint, including, but not limited to, your name, address, city, state, zip code, telephone number, E-mail address and the facts of your case may be available on-line for later public viewing.

Having been so advised, the Undersigned hereby consents to the filing of the referenced complaint.



Signature

08/30/21

Date

Mark R. Alexander for City of La Cañada Flintridge

Print your name

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: August 30, 2021

SUBJECT: Consideration of the Filing of a Formal Complaint with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regarding Southern California Edison's (SCE) Recurring Power Outages

PRESENTER: Mark R. Alexander, City Manager

PROPOSED ACTION: Motion to: authorize the City Manager to submit the attached Formal Complaint with the CPUC seeking assistance and relief from the recurring SCE power outages suffered by residents and businesses of the community.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: None

FISCAL IMPACT: None

SUMMARY: Over the past two months, the City has experienced 16 separate and widespread unplanned power outages impacting hundreds of residents and local businesses to their detriment. Nine of these outages occurred along the "Haskell Circuit" (as referred to by SCE) and seven additional outages occurred along four other circuits. Combined, these outages have resulted in significant angst, frustration, interruption/suspension to daily life activities, possible property damage/food spoilage, loss of work productivity, equipment failure, loss of business opportunity/profits, potential loss of computer/software data and efforts, and other annoyances and inconveniences. Such outages can also become a health, safety and welfare threat particularly with regard to home/business security systems, medical equipment use and air conditioning, particularly during high heatwave temperatures.

The City Council is being asked whether it desires to direct staff to file a "Formal Complaint" with the California Public Utilities Commission seeking assistance and relief in the form of an investigation into the causes of the recurring outages and a determination as to the appropriateness of SCE's response and efforts to identify and rectify this recurring problem.

DISCUSSION: Over the past two months (since June 21, 2021), the community has suffered 16 unplanned power outages on five separate circuits. The impacted circuits and number of unplanned outages is as follows:

<u>CIRCUIT</u>	<u>UNPLANNED OUTAGES (since 6/21/21)</u>
Verdugo Circuit	1
Barley Flats Circuit	2
Ravine Circuit	2
Rosemont Circuit	2
Haskell Circuit	<u>9</u>
TOTAL	16

In addition to the high number of recurring outages, the community has additionally suffered as a result of the long duration of each outage given SCE's practice of not reenergizing its failed circuits until a thorough inspection of the entire circuit can be completed. SCE claims that this practice was enacted to protect against the inadvertent triggering of brush and wildland fires in very high fire hazard areas that can result from sparking as a circuit is being reenergized, particularly if the source of the initial outage has not been identified or corrected. The unfortunate effect of this practice results in much longer durations of outages which only adds to the negative impacts suffered by local residents and businesses. Thus, it is imperative that the underlying cause of the outages be identified and addressed proactively to prevent the outage from happening in the first place such that a prolonged duration is avoided.

While 16 unplanned power outages within a two-month period is highly unusual and suspect, the community has experienced its share of unplanned outages over a longer sustained period. For several years, unplanned power outages have become somewhat commonplace when compared to surrounding communities. The City even took steps to hire its own electricity consultant to aid the City's understanding of the current state of affairs of the SCE infrastructure due to excessive unplanned outages that had befallen the community.

In light of the recent spate of outages, and the negative and detrimental impacts outages are having on the community, it may be appropriate for the City to seek assistance from the California Public Utilities Commission, the State regulatory agency that provides oversight of SCE's operations. This can be accomplished through the filing of a Formal Complaint requesting assistance and relief.

The City's complaint (see attached) identifies and describes the recurring problem and experience. The request seeks a formal review by the CPUC of SCE's efforts to address and resolve the problem. In addition, the complaint includes a request for an evaluation of SCE's practices regarding the maintenance of its infrastructure and capital upgrade program to ensure the elimination of failing or obsolete equipment into the future.

OPTIONS:

1. Authorize the City Manager to submit the attached Formal Complaint with the CPUC seeking assistance and relief from the recurring SCE power outages suffered by residents and businesses of the community;
2. Provide input on the attached Formal Complaint and Authorize the City Manager to file the Formal Complaint as amended;
3. Defer action and provide direction to staff.

RECOMMENDATION: Option # 1 - Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to submit the attached Formal Complaint with the CPUC seeking assistance and relief from the recurring SCE power outages suffered by residents and businesses of the community.

ATTACHMENTS: 1. CPUC Formal Complaint Form [DRAFT]