



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

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PRESS RELEASE

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WILDFIRE SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD APPROVES RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE 2021 WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN UPDATES FOR LARGE INVESTOR-OWNED UTILITIES

SAN FRANCISCO, April 16, 2021 - The Wildfire Safety Advisory Board (the Board) approved Recommendations on the 2021 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Updates for Large Investor-Owned Utilities at its April 14, 2021 Board meeting.

Assembly Bill 1054, signed into law in July 2019, created the California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board, a board of independent expert advisors, with two primary functions: First, to advise a new Wildfire Safety Division within the CPUC on wildfire safety measures, including plans written by utilities, so the CPUC can more effectively regulate the safety of investor-owned utilities. Second, to review the Wildfire Mitigation Plans submitted by Electric Publicly Owned Utilities and Cooperatives and provide an advisory opinion. The Wildfire Safety Advisory Board also serves as an additional forum for the public to provide input on the important topic of wildfire safety.

The Board's approved Recommendations on the 2021 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Updates for Large Investor-Owned Utilities are available at www.cpub.ca.gov/wsab.

The [recommendations](#) address five key topics, and a brief overview is provided below:

**(2) Risk Assessment
and Resource
Allocation**

- More information on decision-making based on modeling outcomes detail.
 - Scientific review of models and a centralized database for data input into the models.
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(3) Vegetation Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating ecosystem and climate change impacts of tree removals. • Assessing environmental impact of vegetation management practices. • Creating a database of tree species.
(4) System Design and Grid Hardening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging technology that reduces the size of arcs, decreases the risk of ignition, quickly recognizes faults, and reduces catastrophic wildfire risk; further exploring lessons learned from other regions with high wind events. • Improved reporting on workforce training. • Using Qualified Electric Workers for all inspections. • Deenergizing and documenting idle lines and equipment. • Tracking G.O. 95 exempt equipment. • Concerns about PG&E's reduced grid hardening.
(5) Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modeling to prioritize mitigation measures and reduce PSPS. • Improving PSPS data collection for analysis and learning. • Short and long-term studies on PSPS and mitigation measures.
(6) Emergency Planning and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider IOUs expanded outreach in 2020 compared to 2019. • Awareness of utility efforts to quantify outreach to stakeholders and customers. • More information on the metrics used to evaluate customer and stakeholder feedback.

The April 14, 2021 Board Meeting can be viewed at www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/other/20210414.

Additional information is available at www.cpuc.ca.gov/wsab or by emailing WildfireSafetyAdvisoryBoard@cpuc.ca.gov.

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