

To the California Public Utilities Commission:

First and foremost, we want to thank the CPUC for being a part of our conversations for finding solutions for future PSPS events on how to best limit the impacts. Having you physically in our meetings and supporting us in our conversations with PG&E is exactly the kind of partnership and collaboration that we are looking for. As you know PG&E had originally offered to install generators in 4 substations in our county. When P.G.&E. realized there was not natural gas in the county they backed out of this offer. They then offered to set up micro grids within the areas of the 4 substations and bring generators in to power them *if* they were available at the time of the event. This has now been upgraded to 5 substations out of the 9 substations available in our county.

We are working with PG&E to ensure that we reduce the impact of any future PSPS event so that our businesses, schools, and general community can manage life with as much stability and predictability as possible. We have attached our correspondence with PG&E for you to be up to date as to what our conversations consist of. It is important for us to be transparent in our relationships and that our goal remains the same, to mitigate the overall impact of any and all future PSPS events.

Today, we write to you within a different state of affairs that was not existent during our last meeting. Today, we are dealing with COVID-19 and its shelter in place orders. These orders were meant to protect the health of the public, and we abided by these orders and have done a tremendous job of keeping the virus out of our communities here in Lake County. This came with a price for all of us though. It has deeply scarred and possibly crippled many of our schools and businesses. Before COVID-19 we would have told you that our students lost almost a full semester of education due to smoke, fires, and more. The situation is the same with our businesses The struggle felt real when our grocery stores and restaurants had to throw out perishable food due to being out of electricity for more than 48 hours and unable to power up their refrigeration systems.

Now more than ever, we fear PPS. A large majority of our businesses have closed for more than 2 months, due to shelter in place orders. Schools are facing equity issues, with students learning from home where internet access and parental support may be inadequate for many. It is therefore more important than ever that we find ways to lessen the exacerbated impact that PPS can have on our communities here in Lake County. So, we are looking to you, as a state agency, to provide the additional support needed.

#### Request #1 – Rule 20A Review

It has become obvious that the best solution for public safety when it comes to electrical lines, whether transmission or distribution lines, is to underground them. However, the process is inefficient and takes a very long time for rural communities such as ours to collect enough funding to change the landscape that we are currently in. We request that you increase the Rule 20A allocations for local jurisdictions. We request that you allow Rule 20A to be used for fire suppression purposes, as well. Lastly, we request that these projects be expedited to increase the positive impact that undergrounding these wires could do to save our communities from future fires and reduce potential PPS.

#### Request #2 – Additional Power for our Substations

With 5 substations on the list from PG&E as being prepared to power up during our 2020 PSPS events, we will be requesting that PG&E power them all up. However, PG&E states they will not have the capability to power them all up, especially during a regional wide PSPS. We are requesting that the state, for the purposes of continuity to our businesses and our schools, provide the necessary equipment for us to be energized at all substations in Lake County. Our economy is hanging by a thread with prior fires, prior PSPS events, and now COVID-19. We are very concerned about the impacts of future PSPS events and request that you help us stay energized. The costs of deenergizing our communities for avoiding future wildfires can sometimes be more costly than the cost to our communities because of an emergency.

#### Request #3 -Update Fire Threat Map

When reviewing Tier 2 and Tier 3 areas of Lake County, some areas do not seem to match the reality of the fire threat. We request that you review those maps to ensure that we are accurately depicted for fire safety purposes which PG&E utilizes for their PSPS decision making process.

#### Request #4 – Communication

We request that we have a seamless experience for communication between PG&E and all jurisdictions. Too often certain jurisdictions will have conversation with PG&E that do not match the same conversations that were had with other jurisdictions. Since power lines know no boundaries and jurisdictions, it would benefit us all to communicate together simultaneously so we can all receive the same message.

We thank you again for working with us in making sure that our residents have ***access to safe, clean, and affordable energy***, but also for ensuring that PG&E stays true to their words.

Best regards,

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