



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

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TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: JUNE 22, 2021

FROM: PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT WARDS: ALL

SUBJECT: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ASSEMBLY BILL 1054 FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE WILDFIRE SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD BY JULY 1, 2021

ISSUE:

Approve the Riverside Public Utilities Wildfire Mitigation Plan annual update, per Assembly Bill (AB) 1054, must be submitted to the Wildfire Safety Advisory Board by July 1, 2021.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council approve the Riverside Public Utilities 2021 Wildfire Mitigation Plan annual updates.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

This report is published on June 10, 2021 for the June 22, 2021 City Council meeting.

On June 14, 2021, the Board of Public Utilities will hear this item for consideration to recommend to City Council to take actions on the subject.

If the Board approves to forward this to the City Council, we respectfully request the City Council consider the item at their June 22, 2021 meeting.

BACKGROUND:

RPU's Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) is designed to meet the standards set forth by Senate Bill (SB) SB901, which was signed into law September 2018. SB901 tasked all private and publicly owned utilities and corporations to construct, maintain, and operate its electrical system in a manner that will minimize the risk of wildfire. Additionally, SB901 requires utilities to submit and update a wildfire mitigation plan annually.

On July 12, 2019, Assembly Bill (AB) No. 1054 was passed along with AB 111, which are meant to compliment past bills such as SB 901. AB 1054 does not add to the required content for a WMP, but does add an additional process requirement that the WMP be submitted to the newly formed Wildfire Safety Advisory Board ("Wildfire Board") by July 1st of each year.

In accordance with SB 901 requirements, RPU prepared and presented the WMP to City Council, where it was adopted on December 17, 2019. Additionally, RPU complied with AB 1054 by submitting the WMP to the Wildfire Board on May 6, 2020. This year's annual updates will be submitted to the Wildfire Board by July 1, 2021.

DISCUSSION:

RPU's WMP complies with the requirements of Public Utilities Code Section 8387 for publicly owned electric utilities to prepare a wildfire mitigation plan by January 1, 2020. This Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) is designed to meet the standards set forth by California Senate Bill (SB) 901, which was signed into law in 2018 and tasked all private and publicly owned utilities and electrical corporations to construct, maintain, and operate their electrical systems in a manner that minimizes the risk of wildfire and to annually submit a wildfire mitigation plan. RPU also utilizes recommendations set forth by the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA). These recommendations provided a template for public utilities such as Riverside to follow to meet the WMP requirements.

RPU continues to assess and analyze its wildfire mitigation risks. Historical outage data is reviewed regularly, along with identifying the systems top 10 at-risk circuits that traverse through the tier 1 and tier 2 high fire threat (HFT) areas. Since the plan was adopted, there have been several grid management enhancements completed. Over the last year, Electric Operations has been updating older Substation Automation System (SAS) to migrate to a new SEL-Real Time Automation Controller (RTAC) infrastructure and three new weather stations have been installed at Harvey Lynn, Springs, and RERC Substations. This data is used to provide real-time weather information to the system operators. Soon we will be able to use data such as temperature, wind speed, and relative humidity to block reclosing on various feeders at our substations (a key risk mitigation strategy).

In addition, cameras provide dispatcher with real-time video of the greater Riverside area, paying special attention to wildfire prone regions. Three cameras were installed at Box Springs Mountain Radio Site and City Hall for added visibility. Electric Operations also created a video network, so these video streams can be integrated with the Land-Mobile Radio (LMR) Dispatch consoles in the Grid Control Center (GCC). Also, due to recent increases of fires within the river bottom, continued collaboration and partnership with Riverside Fire Department takes place before, during and after all wildfire events. This includes completing several river bottom inspection and extensive mitigation efforts in the area.

RPU shall continue to maintain compliance by adhering to submission deadlines and providing updates to the Board of Public Utilities and Wildfire Board by keeping accurate record of plan performance metrics and data associated with the WMP.

The Riverside Fire Department was consulted and reviewed the WMP when drafted.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with approval of the Riverside Public Utilities Wildfire Mitigation Plan update.

Prepared by: Todd M. Corbin, Utilities General Manager
Certified as to
availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
Approved by: Al Zelinka, FAICP, City Manager
Approved as to form: Kristi Smith, Interim City Attorney

Attachments:

1. Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP)
2. Presentation