



# RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

## Board Memorandum

**BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

**DATE: SEPTEMBER 27, 2021**

**SUBJECT: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES 2021 PHYSICAL SECURITY PLAN**

**ISSUE:**

Consider recommending approval of the Riverside Public Utilities 2021 Physical Security Plan pursuant to Senate Bill 699.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board of Public Utilities recommend that the City Council:

1. Approve and adopt the Riverside Public Utilities 2021 Physical Security Plan pursuant to Senate Bill 699; and
2. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to file with the California Public Utilities Commission a written Notice of Adoption of Final Security Plan.

**BACKGROUND:**

Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) is committed to securing its distribution substations to provide safe and reliable electricity to its customers. Recognizing the importance of security, safety, and reliability of its electric system, RPU prepared a Physical Security Plan (Plan) to address the provisions of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Physical Security Decision 19-01-018 (Decision), requiring both investor-owned utilities and publicly owned utilities, which includes RPU, to develop and implement plans to mitigate physical attacks on certain electrical distribution systems. The Decision carries out the Legislature's directives of Senate Bill 699 (Hill) that amended Public Utilities Code Section 364 to ensure the security and resilience of qualifying electric distribution grid assets with regional implications. Due to the sensitive nature of the Plan, details provided have been made generic to protect critical infrastructure information.

The effort by RPU is driven through the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) working group, comprised of municipal utilities, to address physical security compliance and mitigation of CPUC Decision 19-01-018, "marking California as the first state in the nation to adopt rules to safeguard its electric distribution grid against terrorist attack".

RPU's Power Utility Security Plan is written in response to be in compliance with CPUC D. 19-01-018. The CPUC requires a Notice of Adoption of Final Security Plan Report as a one-time

deliverable that would provide the CPUC with notice, which will consist of a copy of a signed letter by the Utilities General Manager.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The Plan evaluates RPU's electrical distribution system against seven screening factors to determine if there are high priority facilities with regional implications such as military installations, regional water or wastewater plants, black-start generation plants, airports, trauma centers or facilities that serve over 60,000 meters. Based on the screening criteria, four substations are identified under these criteria and are included in the Plan.

The Decision requires a qualified third-party to conduct an independent review of RPU's Plan in order to review the Plan. RPU selected AESI-US Inc. as its third-party reviewer. AESI is a leader in physical security of utility assets with a significant experience in threat, risk and vulnerability assessments and operational security audits. AESI completed a comprehensive review of this Plan, including a review of the risk assessment principles and mitigation strategies, and found the Plan to be comprehensive and satisfies the CPUC Decision requirements. A summary of AESI's qualifications and evaluation is included in the Plan.

Additionally, to include the local perspective and expertise, RPU sought the review of the Riverside Police Department (RPD), as a qualified authority to provide an additional level of review. RPU collaborates with RPD on public safety matters, and based on their review, RPD found the draft Plan to be adequate, and agree that the recommendations in the plan would assist RPU in safeguarding the critical facilities.

The Plan reinforces that investments in infrastructure, operational resiliency, and collaboration with first responders support RPU's mission to provide high reliability to the Riverside community.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

This item contributes to Strategic Priority No. 6 Infrastructure, Mobility and Connectivity and the following goal:

**Goal 6.2** – Maintain, protect, and improve assets and infrastructure within the City's built environment to ensure and enhance security, safety, reliability, resiliency, sustainability, and facilitate connectivity.

This item aligns with EACH of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – Compliance with state regulations is part of our organization's duties to the community. By complying with Senate Bill 699, we reinforce and improve the security of the city's critical infrastructure that serves and benefits the community.
2. **Equity** – The physical security plan evaluated the entire electrical distribution system that serves the City of Riverside community to ensure key assets are safeguarded in an equitable manner.

3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – RPU issues this physical security report to reflect its existing commitment to safety and to protecting its ratepayers' investment by taking reasonable and cost-effective measures to safeguard key assets of its distribution system.
4. **Innovation** – RPU is committed to identifying creative solutions to meet the needs of our community members effectively and efficiently by providing innovative ways to protect and secure critical infrastructure.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – RPU continues to improve the security posture of its facilities to ensure its critical infrastructure is sustainably managed and resilient to threats. Efforts to upgrade and improve the security of substations began prior to the CPUC decision.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with approval of the Riverside Public Utilities Physical Security Plan.

Prepared by: Daniel E. Garcia, Utilities Assistant General Manager/Power Resources  
Approved by: Todd M. Corbin, Utilities General Manager  
Approved by: Al Zelinka, FAICP, City Manager  
Approved as to form: Phaedra A. Norton, City Attorney

Concurs with: Larry V. Gonzalez, Chief of Police

Certifies as to  
Availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer

Attachments:  
1. Physical Security Plan  
2. Presentation