



WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN 2023

Public Utilities Department

City Council
July 18, 2023

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BACKGROUND

Public Utilities Code Section 8387 :

1. Every electric utility in California is required to construct, maintain, and operate their electrical system in a manner that minimizes the risk of wildfire
2. All utilities are required to prepare a Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) and update the plan annually
 - a. Content is specified and prescriptive – WMP is a compliance document
 - b. An independent evaluator with experience in assessing the safe operation of electrical infrastructure must review the WMP
 - c. WMP and the independent evaluator report must be presented at a public meeting of the utility's governing board
 - d. Reports must be posted on the utility's website
 - e. Reports must be submitted to the State's Wildfire Safety Advisory Board

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WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN

Identifies and addresses the following:

1. High Fire Threat Districts (HFTD) in RPU Service Territory
2. RPU electric infrastructure located within the HFTD
3. Assessment of fire risk posed by electric infrastructure
4. Preventative strategies to reduce risk
5. Customer support and communications in the event of a de-energization
6. Metrics and assessment



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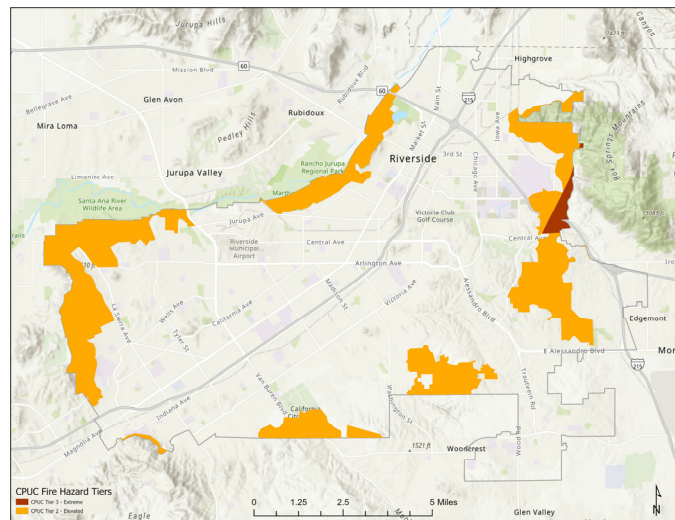


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HIGH FIRE THREAT DISTRICTS (HFTD)

1. Identified by State agencies and stakeholder including RPU and Riverside Fire
2. Fire Threat Districts
 - a. Tier 2: Areas with elevated wildfire risk
 - b. Tier 3: Areas with extreme wildfire risk (typically undeveloped natural lands)



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RPU INFRASTRUCTURE IN HFTD

	Total	Tier 2		Tier 3 OH	
	Circuit-Miles	Circuit-Miles	%	Circuit-Miles	%
Overhead Distribution	512.6	38.3	7.5%	3.5	0.7%
Overhead Transmission*	99.3	11.1	11.2%	0.4	0.4%
Total Overhead Circuit-Miles	611.9	49.4	8.1%	3.9	0.6%

*Note: SCE owns and operates seven transmission lines extending from SCE's Vista Substation. These lines comprise 22 miles of overhead transmission that feed into RPU and are not included in the table. RPU takes ownership of these lines at the boundary of its service territory. Lines in RPU territory are included in the overhead transmission of the table.



PREVENTATIVE STRATEGIES

Design & Construction Standards	Inspections & Maintenance	Operational Policies	Situational Awareness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Materials Used Equipment Standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetation Management Equipment Inspection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reclosing De-Energization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weather Monitoring Cameras



2022 PERFORMANCE

1. RPU had no reportable wildfire incidents in 2022
2. System and Operational Improvements
 - a. Continued to update older substation automation equipment
 - b. Installed new weather station and integrated data with existing stations to provide real-time weather information to system operators
 - c. Installed an additional infrared camera at Box Springs Mountain Radio Site
 - d. Continued collaboration with the Riverside Police Department Aviation Division to complete enhanced infrared inspections to power lines in HFTD
 - e. Updating the Standard Operating Procedures for wildfire operations procedures and procedures in HFTD
3. Continued close collaboration with the Riverside Fire Department



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INDEPENDENT EVALUATION

1. Public Utilities Code Section 8387 requires POUs to contract with a qualified independent evaluator to review and assess the comprehensiveness of its wildfire mitigation plan
2. It requires the independent evaluator to issue a report, which shall be available on RPU's website and be presented at a public meeting of the Board of Public Utilities
3. Through a competitive request for proposal process, RPU contracted with Chloeta in March 2023, for an independent evaluation of the 2023 Plan.



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INDEPENDENT EVALUATION - CHLOETA

Independent Evaluation Team:

- Chet Dodrill – Project Director
- Jayne Thompson – Director of Government Services
- David Nixon – Project Manager
- Pravin Ghantiwala – SME
- Gwen Ernst-Ulrich – Writer/Editor
- Jacob Richards – SME/Writer

Experience:

- Chloeta has written and/or evaluated Wildfire Mitigation Plans for:
 - 38 Department of Defense (DoD) installations
 - 6 Utilities



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FINDINGS/REPORT

1. Chloeta conducted an initial review of RPU's draft 2023 Plan
2. Chloeta reviewed findings with RPU and through a collaborative process RPU added additional detail to the Plan to further clarify its wildfire mitigation measures
3. Chloeta concluded that the RPU WMP is sufficient in meeting the requirements for comprehensiveness as set forth by California Public Utilities Code Section 8387
4. Chloeta's full report is included as an attachment to the staff report and will be available on RPU's website



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NEXT STEPS

1. Submit the 2023 RPU WMP to the Wildfire Safety Advisory Board upon approval
2. Continue to improve evaluation tools and refine preventative strategies and metrics
3. Update the plan for 2024, as applicable



STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT



Strategic Priority 4 - Environmental Stewardship



Strategic Priority 6 - Infrastructure, Mobility and Connectivity

Cross-Cutting Threads



Community Trust



Fiscal Responsibility



Sustainability & Resiliency



Equity



Innovation



RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council approve the Riverside Public Utilities 2023 Wildfire Mitigation Plan for submittal to the Wildfire Safety Advisory Board in accordance with California Public Utilities Code Section 8387.

