

June 30, 2020

Caroline Thomas Jacobs  
Director, Wildfire Safety Division  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Wildfire Safety Division's Proposed Strategic Roadmap

Dear Director Jacobs:

East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Wildfire Safety Division's Proposed Strategic Roadmap. Overall, the document is comprehensive and captures the key principles necessary for an effective wildfire mitigation strategy. As a public safety partner, EBMUD appreciates the attention given to public safety power shutoffs (PSPS) and the acknowledgement that de-energization and PSPS is not a viable long term solution; and that steps should be taken to limit PSPS events and reduce their scope and duration through the other actions described in the document. Reliability is an important principle in the Strategic Roadmap, and it should be recognized that reliability includes not just electric service, but all services that depend on electrical power as well, including water and wastewater. Effective collaboration is another principle in the Proposed Strategic Roadmap to ensure that the public safety partners can be prepared for PSPS events by working with the electric utilities prior to and during the fire season. When PSPS events occur, EBMUD reiterates the need for advance notice of events, good communication and coordination between IOUs and public safety partners during the event and prioritization for critical facilities during power restoration activities at the end of the events. This will ensure that reliability of other services that depend on electric power can be maintained as much as possible to minimize impacts to customers and communities.

In Chapter 4 "Collaboration Areas for the WSD and Utilities", EBMUD would recommend that a separate subsection for Public Safety Partners be added under the Governance and Coordination section. This should describe and emphasize the need for effective collaboration between the utilities and public safety partners; and should recognize the role that public safety partners play in providing other services to communities and the need to maintain the reliability of those services during wildfire and PSPS events.

EBMUD supports the vision stated in the Proposed Strategic Roadmap of "A sustainable California, with no catastrophic utility-related wildfires, that has access to safe, affordable, and reliable electricity", and looks forward to working with the WSD, electric utilities and other stakeholders to help achieve this vision.

Sincerely,

/s/

Brett T. Kawakami