

August 18, 2020

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

Subject: Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Submission on impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Wildfire Mitigation Operations

Dear Ms. Jacobs,

Pursuant to Resolution WSD-003, Ordering Paragraph 8, PG&E is submitting this letter to inform the Wildfire Safety Division (WSD) of any impacts the COVID-19 Pandemic has had on PG&E's Wildfire Mitigation operations and the adjustments PG&E has made to accommodate such impacts and to support our customers.

PG&E takes seriously the threat of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and moved quickly to protect the health and safety of our customers and our workforce while continuing to provide safe and reliable service. From February through late July, PG&E's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was continuously activated to direct company activities and response associated with the pandemic.

We are determined to do everything possible to address both the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the threat of catastrophic wildfires. Our overriding goal is to ensure public safety. While our wildfire risk reduction work has remained prioritized and generally on track throughout this pandemic, PG&E has had to make several operational adjustments to accommodate the realities of the COVID-19 impacts. These adjustments have not resulted in any changes to our programmatic targets or risk mitigation commitments. Adjustments to our operations due to COVID-19 are described below:

WMP Section	Impact Area	Operational adjustments
5.3.3.8 Grid Topology Improvements to Mitigate or Reduce PSPS Events	Remote controllable switches and sectionalizing devices installation	There are specialized crews that would typically travel throughout PG&E's service territory to install remote controllable switches and sectionalizing devices. We have shifted to using local resources to minimize the movement of crews to complete these installations. There is no substantive impact to the program completion targets.
5.3.2.1 Advanced Weather Monitoring and Weather Stations	Weather station manufacturer	During the initial shelter-in-place, the manufacturer (based in Michigan) of the wind sensor that goes into PG&E's weather stations was forced to shut down, creating a temporary disruption in production. The manufacturer has since resumed production and our weather station supply chain remains on track to provide adequate supplies to support the 2020 workplan (of 400 weather stations).

WMP Section	Impact Area	Operational adjustments
5.3.2.1.4 Wildfire Cameras	High- Definition (HD) camera installation	PG&E’s vendor that installs HD cameras has multiple installation crews that travel frequently throughout our service territory. Due to COVID restrictions and safety precautions the vendor has had to adjust travel planning and operations. However, the vendor has contingency plans in place to mitigate the impact of a COVID exposure/positive test on the installation process by having additional crew capacity available if necessary. There is no substantive impact anticipated to the program schedule and completion targets.
5.6.2.1.2 Mitigating Impacts on De- energized Customers	Community Resource Centers (CRCs)	PG&E remains committed to working with counties to provide CRCs for our customers. To promote social distancing, we are updating our CRC strategy and planning to include flexible options for hardened and temporary sites. These include usage of open-air tents, drive-by and vehicle-based CRCs, on top of using permanent structures for CRCs as originally planned.
5.6.2.1.2 Mitigating Impacts on De- energized Customers	Hospital support	PG&E has worked closely with the California Hospital Association and Hospital Council of Northern and Central California to identify hospitals currently supporting the COVID-19 response effort that have a higher likelihood of experiencing a PSPS event. We are developing grid-based solutions, where possible, will deploy generators to hospitals where necessary and are supporting hospital readiness and resiliency planning to ensure that those hospitals remain in power in the event of a broader grid outage.
5.6.2.1.2 Mitigating Impacts on De- energized Customers	Medical Baseline Program requirements	PG&E is suspending the requirement for physician signature to join or stay on the Medical Baseline program.
5.3.9.2 Community Outreach, Public Awareness, and Communications Efforts	Customer open-houses	We have adjusted several aspects of customer engagement and programs in light of COVID-19, including moving our originally planned in-person open houses and community working session to online, virtual meetings.
5.3.9.4 Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Plan	EOC Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) preparation exercises	To promote social distancing and keep employees safe, we have shifted our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) PSPS preparation exercises to virtual exercises. We are prepared to operate our EOC virtually.

While PG&E has incorporated the adjustments listed above to accommodate COVID-19 impacts, we are not changing any of our programmatic targets or risk mitigation commitments. PG&E remains focused on operating our system safely to reduce wildfire risk while minimizing the impacts of PSPS on our customers. We continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation closely and will make further operational adjustments, as necessary, to ensure the safety of our customers and employees.

Sincerely,
Matthew Pender



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Cc: R.18-10-007 service list