State of California – A Natural Resources Agency
Gavin Newsom, Governor

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Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Director

June 6, 2023
Jessica Block
Chair of the Wildfire Safety Advisory Board
jessica.block@energysafety.ca.gov

Subject: Advice and Recommendations on Utility Vegetation Management Best Practices for Wildfire Safety

Dear Chair Block,

I would like to thank you and the other members of the Wildfire Safety Advisory Board (WSAB) for participating in the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety's (Energy Safety's) Utility Vegetation Management (UVM) Best Practices for Wildfire Safety scoping meeting that took place on February 10, 2023. Energy Safety values the experience that WSAB members bring to our work. WSAB members' collective knowledge has been vital to the UVM best practices process. As you are aware, the next steps associated with this process include an overarching goal of achieving cross-utility alignment on UVM best practices to mitigate outages and wildfire risk in high fire risk areas, while considering the diverse biological and cultural resources of California. As part of this effort, Energy Safety will be prioritizing certain UVM best practice topics to closely examine, in collaboration with the electrical corporations and stakeholders, including the WSAB.

In accordance with Public Utilities Code Section 326.2(d), Energy Safety would like to formally request advice and recommendations from the WSAB on UVM best practices and existing UVM-related regulations so that Energy Safety can consider the WSAB's input as we plan the next steps associated with this workstream. Energy Safety would specifically appreciate feedback on which UVM topics to closely examine, the priority in which to examine these topics, and any specific best practice recommendations related to these priority topics.

Please do let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lucy C. Morgans

Lucy Morgans
Program Manager
Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety