Tuolumne County
Administration Center
2 South Green Street
Sonora, California 95370

Alicia L. Jamar, *Chief Deputy*
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Telephone: (209) 533-5521
Facsimile: (209) 533-6549
www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE

Sherri Brennan, *First District*
John L. Gray, *Fourth District*
Randy Hanvelt, *Second District*
Evan Royce, *Third District*
Karl Rodefer, *Fifth District*

December 18, 2018

Via Comment Website

Public Advisor's Office- CPUC
505 Van Ness Ave
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Comments regarding Utility Wildfire Mitigation Plans

Dear Commissioners

The Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors would like to commend the California Public Utilities Commission for ensuring that utility providers work to plan, prevent, combat, and respond to wildfire activity within their service territories; and express gratitude for the opportunity to assist in shaping the policies and procedures that will guide the Utility Wildfire Mitigation Plans.

The Wildfire Mitigation Plans are mandated to include strategizing for community outreach and public awareness before, during, and after a wildfire. Section 8386 of the Public Utilities Code addresses the need to include diverse language notification. However, another aspect of outreach should include methodology (social media, town hall meetings, mass notification systems). Understanding how the community will be contacted will diminish some of the confusion that surrounds an emergency.

Clear and consistent communication with first responders and local agencies (Fire, Law, Emergency Management) is another key part of a well-constructed Wildfire Mitigation Plan. It has been recognized at Federal and State levels that disasters are managed at the Local level. This Board encourages the CPUC to ensure that Local partners are informed, not only in response activities, but in preparedness and mitigation activities as well.

The plans should include protocols for mitigating impacts of public safety power shutoffs. In times of extreme wildfire danger, public utility companies have found it necessary to shut off power to reduce the threat to the communities that they provide service to. As these conditions can include extreme heat and can be in place for several days, mitigation plans should include measures to protect those with medical conditions and/or are prone to heat injuries from dangerous or fatal scenarios.

Action goals within the plan should incorporate vegetation management, not only along power lines, but along flumes and ditches that transport water for power generation as well. In some rural counties such as Tuolumne County, the infrastructure to convey these resources can be highly susceptible to fire. Loss of use to these systems could cripple the power and water supply to these counties and those who rely on it. It is vital to ensure that utilities are taking steps to reinforce these systems for their operations as well as the communities that they provide service to.

Thank you for your consideration and inclusion of Tuolumne County in the process to guide the Wildfire Mitigation Plans.

Sincerely,

John Gray, Chairman

I hereby certify that according to the provisions of Government Code Section 25103, delivery of this document has been made.

ALICIA L. JAMAR
Clerk of the Board

By: _____