CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE · BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Julian A. Gold M.D., Mayor

December 14, 2018

Michael Picker
President, California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Proceeding R. 18-10-007 Wildfire Mitigation Plans

Dear President Picker,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to you to comment on proceeding R. 18-10-007 relative to investor-owned utilities' (IOUs) Wildfire Mitigation Plans. Our City is respectfully requesting the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) ensure that the IOUs coordinate with local jurisdictions, which includes both city and county governments, when developing their Wildfire Mitigation Plans as electricity is a vital component of our everyday lives. We also rely on the IOUs to deliver safe, reliable, and affordable energy to its customers. As we have seen, when this service is provided carelessly the consequences can be devastating.

The 2018 fire season has been one of the worst in the state's history causing billions of dollars in damages and numerous deaths. This year Californians experienced the deadliest and two of the most destructive fires in the state's history with the Camp Fire and the nearby Woolsey Fire. While the direct cause of these fires has not yet been determined the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has determined that at least 12 of the fires from 2017, one of the worst fire seasons in the State's history, were caused by equipment owned and operated by electric utilities. The state must act and take steps to mitigate the death and destruction caused by this new normal.

The City of Beverly Hills appreciates the California Public Utilities Commission's efforts to address this issue and strongly urges the Commission to ensure that local governments play an integral part in the development and execution of any Wildfire Mitigation Plans, as mandated under SB 901 (Dodd). Local governments know what vital services may be impacted by certain mitigative

actions and how best to respond. Mitigating actions will have direct impacts on local jurisdictions and because of this, close coordination and cooperation between the IOUs and local agencies is critically important. The actions the IOUS will coordinate with both city and county governments will include but are not limited to:

- Deenergizing power lines and disabling portions of the electrical distribution system.
- Procedures for notifying customers who may be impacted by deenergized infrastructure.
- Plans for community outreach before, during, and after a wildfire.

IOUs must have a robust level of engagement with city and county governments during the development of their Wildfire Mitigation Plans.

For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills respectfully urges the Commission to ensure that IOUs coordinate with local governments in developing their Wildfire Mitigation Plans. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julian A. Gold, MD
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.