



## ***Memo***

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To: Board of Directors  
From: Jordan Dietz, General Manager  
Date: August 17, 2021  
Subject: District Resiliency and Preparedness

At the direction of the Board of Directors, staff began discussions relating to the vulnerabilities and concerns for Southern California Edison events. Once this had begun, it quickly added components relating to natural disasters and related issues that could cause extended outages.

The District has a robust set of documents relating to emergency planning and mitigation, as well as assessments done on vulnerabilities and severity of concern. Utilizing these documents, staff can build a set of overall goals for enhancing preparedness.



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What began as a discussion on the preparedness of the District for Southern California Edison (SCE) events has grown into a discussion of overall District resilience to disaster in any form.

Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events are of constant concern, but to date have not provided a large enough concern for the District to change the affiliated response actions. Shutoffs have been well under the possible 24-hour worst-case scenario, and staff are prepared to handle extended outages.

In addition to the PSPS events, SCE is conducting programs to reduce load during high-heat events without having to disrupt power. These are reduced-usage events that request a reduction in usage during a particular time during a single day. This summer, at least 6 of these events occurred. CVWD is capable of load-shedding for a small time, but may want to consider options for extending that ability as summer temperatures are increasing each year.

The District has utilized tools provided by regulatory agencies to produce various hazard assessments for the purposes of resiliency planning. This has been a process followed for more than 5 years, and includes the District's Hazard Mitigation Plan and Emergency Response Plan.

Collectively, the plans and assessments used by the District have provided an indicator that the greatest threats to the District, in order of severity, are:

- Wildfire and associated damages, including excessive water use
- Heavy Rains causing flooding and washout
- Earthquake causing pipe damage
- Physical damage to appurtenances by malicious parties
- Cyber/Server intrusion and damage

Not only do these tools give us valuable insight into the weaknesses that the District has, they also provide tools with which to improve and enhance the District's resilience. Some of these tools are not physical controls, but training and planning that can be preemptive.

Training courses are provided by many agencies, with FEMA providing many of the most useful tools. Some trainings that could benefit the District would assist with unified incident management processes for working with other agencies during disasters, damage assessment and response, public information and outreach, and quite a few not listed.

In conjunction with safety planning, our liability insurance provider conducted an on-site survey of our safety controls for both staff and public who visit our offices, and determined that we are doing a good job of preventing access and hazards, but also provided resources to help us improve.

One of the largest concerns and hardest items to provide mitigation for at this time is cybersecurity. Instead of the type of physical attacks that we had planned for 10 years ago, intrusion today is becoming more digital. Some of the largest shut-downs and concerns have been those caused by a hacker gaining access to a utility's servers. The District has been

keeping apprised of mitigation guidelines and overall cybersecurity planning guidance, and making changes as necessary to enhance security.

In the coming months, Jordan and Steve will make time to inspect some parts of the District for issues that could hinder recovery in an emergency, and work to determine proper mitigation for them.

We have been working to ensure that agreements and accounts are open and valid with providers who offer emergency rentals and support, and will be making better assessments for extended power outages.

There may be a justification for the District to invest in more portable generators in order to prepare for the worst-case scenarios, but more investigation is needed before that discussion.