

Southern California Edison
***WSD-001 – Resolution WSD-001 to Establish Procedures for the Wildfire Safety Division's
Review of 2020 Wildfire Mitigation Plans Pursuant to PUC Sections 8386 and 8386.3***

DATA REQUEST SET Cal Advocates - SCE - 2020 WMP - 04

To: Cal Advocates
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Response Date: 9/23/2020

Question 005:

In Guidance-4 Appendix A, SCE provided a detailed summary of how and whether each WMP activity will affect threshold values for initiating a PSPS, and whether the activity is expected to reduce the number, scope, or duration of PSPS events. This table includes qualitative language, such as “can lower thresholds,” “events will end sooner,” “less likely to be de-energized,” etc.

a) Does SCE have quantitative estimates of how specific WMP activities are expected to impact actual PSPS events in 2020-2022? For example, can SCE state that due to the higher allowable wind speed thresholds on covered conductor, SCE may expect a N% reduction in the number of PSPS events?

b) If SCE does not currently have quantitative estimates as discussed in part (a), does SCE have a plan to develop quantitative estimates? Please describe SCE’s approach and timeline.

Response to Question 005:

a) SCE did provide a quantitative commitment in SCE-3 and is happy to reiterate here. Based on the PSPS protocol, grid hardening, and situational awareness improvements (e.g., Covered Conductor (SH-1), Installation of System Automation Equipment – RAR/RCS (SH-5), PSPS Driven Grid Hardening Work (SH-7), Weather Stations (SA-1)) SCE has made since last year and under the same 2019 weather conditions, SCE would expect to see a 30% reduction in the number of customers affected by 2020 PSPS events. Approximately half of that reduction, or about 20,000 customers, are not expected to experience PSPS again. These customers are permanently removed from potential PSPS scope going forward due to grid reconfiguration and additional sectionalization work that has been performed. The other half of SCE’s reduction estimate is driven in roughly equal parts by pre-event switching (i.e., temporary grid reconfiguration and sectionalization), additional situational awareness gained through installation of new weather stations, and higher PSPS thresholds due to the deployment of covered conductor.

Beyond this commitment SCE does not have quantitative estimates for the expected PSPS event reduction in 2021 or 2022. This longer-term analysis has not been performed because potential benefits from most WMP activities are highly dependent on weather, location, fuels and completed mitigation work prior to PSPS events. These variables vary year by year and mitigation completion forecasts can change by emerging hurdles (e.g. COVID-19, active fires, etc.). SCE can anticipate directionally how certain WMP activities will affect PSPS thresholds or other protocols in the future, but it is difficult to determine precisely how it will translate to event reduction beyond one

year for the reasons mentioned above.

SCE does plan to provide an estimate of a potential reduction from previous years with some assumptions during each annual WMP update, based on what mitigations have been deployed by year-end of the previous year. Intra-year benefits are more difficult to quantify without understanding when mitigations will be deployed before PSPS events arise, which can start as early as May during an average weather year. In addition, without each year being completed, it will be difficult to determine how effective our mitigations were in the previous PSPS season before providing a commitment for a future year. As new types of mitigations emerge, it is important to see how effectively they mitigate PSPS impacts year-over-year with variable conditions, in order to inform future PSPS mitigation plans.

b) SCE will update its quantitative PSPS event reduction estimates in each annual WMP update. This will be done using data from the previous year's completed mitigations and the PSPS de-energization statistics.