

*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 W S D - S C E - 0 0 2**

**To: WSD**  
**Prepared by: Dawn Wilson**  
**Job Title: Director**  
**Received Date: 3/5/2020**

**Response Date: 3/10/2020**

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**Question 030 (SCE-43895-L-351):**

A. Item Index [For CPUC tracking purposes. Please reference this item index with the response provided.]

SCE-43895-L-351

B. Request Type

Request for additional specificity or clarification regarding information submitted in WMP or maturity survey

C. Relevant section of WMP (if applicable)

5.3.10 Stakeholder Cooperation and Community Engagement

D. Relevant question in Maturity Survey (if applicable)

NA

E. Relevant meeting or call (if applicable)

NA

F. Specific Data request

In section 5.3.10.4 on page 5-148, SCE states that "Cooperation with the USFS on fuel reduction is conducted on an as needed basis."

a. What constitutes an "as needed basis"?

b. When in the past 5 years has SCE cooperated with the USFS?

c. Does SCE coordinate with the USFS when dealing with debris and remains from vegetation management? If so, describe how. If not, describe why.

**Response to Question 030 (SCE-43895-L-351):**

- a. As stated in response to WSD-01 SCE-43879-E-63, cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) on fuels reduction is ongoing. To be clear, these are not independent fuel reduction activities, but rather mechanisms and agreements through which SCE is able to execute its vegetation management work. In March of 2019, SCE completed a two-year effort with Region V of the USFS where SCE obtained new 30-year master permits and easements (MPEs) for its facilities on USFS lands and developed an O&M plan that contains a framework to allow for streamlined approvals when completing O&M work, including fuel reduction activities. At a minimum, SCE holds annual meetings with each of the 7 forests covered under the MPEs. There are 3 forests where SCE holds quarterly meetings to discuss a variety of projects including efforts that are under way to reduce fuels that have the risk of impacting SCE powerlines and facilities. SCE has been collaborating with Sierra National Forest over the past 1-1/2 years to significantly reduce fuels in and around its powerlines. SCE has also been

working closely with Inyo National Forest over the past several months to reduce fuel hazards. SCE has well established relationships with the USFS and regularly interacts with its staff and leadership (at the Forest and Region V level).

- b. SCE regularly meets with staff and leadership at the local Forest, Region (Pacific Southwest Region), and Headquarters (Washington D.C.) levels within the Forest Service to identify ways where it can work together on fuels reduction projects in and around SCE facilities.
- c. SCE coordinates with the USFS on all SCE work executed on USFS lands. We cannot operate in the forest in the absence of appropriate permits and authorizations. Examples include FERC licenses that allow SCE to own and operate hydro-generation facilities on USFS lands, master permits and easements that allow SCE to own and operate non-FERC transmission and distribution facilities, and stand-alone special use permits that allow SCE to own and operate communications equipment, substations, and laydown/parking areas. SCE regularly coordinates with the USFS on the management of vegetation debris and remains. At a minimum, SCE meets with the Forests annually to discuss past vegetation activities and to come to agreement on the vegetation management methodology that will be used for the upcoming year. In some cases, SCE works with the Forests to develop site-specific fuels management plans that specifies what vegetation management disposal methodologies will be used in specified areas on USFS lands. SCE's vegetation management crews will also contact the Forest's permit administrators and District Rangers to provide updates on where they plan to work and what they plan to do with the vegetation that is removed. Vegetation management/disposal examples include chipping and leaving the fuel onsite, lopping (cutting the logs) and scattering them onsite, or moving and storing them at an approved USFS location. In some cases, SCE will enter into agreements to take ownership of the vegetation via settlement agreements or timber sale contracts.