



February 22, 2019

Commissioner Dave Jones
Commissioner Michael Kahn
Commissioner Pedro Nava
Commissioner Carla Peterman
Commissioner Michael Wara
Commission on Catastrophic Wildfire Cost and Recovery
Governor's Office of Planning and Research, 1400 10th St
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Meeting Request to Discuss Wildfire Impacts on Publicly Owned Electric Utilities

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of publicly owned, not-for-profit, locally governed utilities (POUs), thank you for serving on the Commission on Catastrophic Wildfire Cost and Recovery (commission). Your leadership is critical to seek out comprehensive solutions to the growing threat of more frequent and severe wildfires. Above all, we must first express our heartfelt sympathies for those impacted by the many wildfires across our state. We strongly support the first responders, as well as utility and disaster support personnel, who work diligently to restore communities as quickly as possible. We also feel strongly that the unprecedented scale of wildfires and their devastating impacts make it increasingly clear that California needs to continue to seek out comprehensive solutions to address the growing threat.

POUs have been working for years to proactively prevent and mitigate wildfires. Such actions include implementing wildfire mitigation measures in their communities and aggressively implementing numerous state standards related to electric distribution system design, inspection construction, maintenance and vegetation management. Furthermore, POUs have taken a variety of actions specific to their local geography to minimize wildfire risk. In addition, POUs are uniquely situated within communities and, in many cases, as part of local governments, have a strong working relationship with local fire departments. With a far-reaching commitment to public service, many POUs have provided assistance in the form of mutual aid to fellow utilities, both public and investor-owned, across the state and nation.

We appreciate the efforts that went into the Wildfire Preparedness and Response Legislative Conference Committee and the crafting of SB 901 (Chapter 626, Statutes of 2018) which created the commission. The commission has the significant task of examining issues related to the risk of catastrophic wildfires associated with utility infrastructure and guiding the state in recommendations to help with the costs associated with catastrophic wildfires in an equitable manner. **We are writing to respectfully request a meeting with the commission to provide the perspectives of POUs on these issues and to begin a discussion of how we can work together to mitigate both the physical and financial impacts of wildfires on our communities.** Specifically, we would like to be a resource for you on POU operations, structure and governance by providing information on the more than 40 POUs (varying in size, structure and needs) that provide electricity to communities across the state. As local government entities that are customer-owned, POUs have unwavering commitments to safely serve their communities.

We appreciate your consideration and recognize that the task before the commission is a complex one. We also recognize that various stakeholders have different views and we stand ready to work with you to find equitable solutions for the distribution of wildfire costs and to help protect California from further devastation. We look forward to participating in the Commission's upcoming public meeting on February 25th and value this important opportunity to help shape our State's longer-term strategies.

Sincerely,



Barry Moline
Executive Director
California Municipal Utilities Association



Randy S. Howard
General Manager
Northern California Power Agency



Michael S. Webster
Executive Director
Southern California Public Power Authority