



# City of Emeryville

CALIFORNIA

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** July 9, 2019  
**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Council Members  
**FROM:** Christine Daniel, City Manager  
**SUBJECT:** **Presentation by PG&E Concerning the Community Wildfire Safety and Public Safety Power Shut Off Programs**

### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council receive a presentation from representatives of Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) concerning their Community Wildfire Safety Program and specifically the Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) element of that program.

### BACKGROUND

In response to inquiries from members of the City Council about the potential impacts of PG&E's PSPS program on the Emeryville community, staff requested that PG&E make a presentation to the City Council. Staff also attended a meeting of the Alameda County Emergency Managers' Association on June 6, 2019 where PG&E representatives provided information about the program to representatives from agencies throughout the County. These included: cities, water districts, fire agencies, Alameda County Board of Education, the National Laboratories and Alameda County emergency managers. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation from that meeting is included to this staff report as Attachment A. PG&E has presented on this program to various regional entities; some agencies have provided follow up comments to PG&E. A copy of a letter dated May 31, 2019 from the San Jose City Manager is also provided as Attachment B.

Staff understands that PG&E's PSPS plans include the potential for cutting off power to both distribution and transmission lines after evaluating conditions of extreme fire danger including: red flag warnings, low humidity levels, conditions of dry fuel and forecasted sustained winds generally above 25 miles per hour. PG&E stated it plans to provide 48 hours' notice prior to power shut-offs, if possible. They have indicated that any PG&E customer may be affected by these shut-offs and that customers should prepare for outages that could last longer than 48 hours.

A lengthy period without electricity could significantly impact not only vulnerable members of the community who rely on power for medical reasons, but also homebound seniors, families with children if schools are unable to operate, medical facilities, correctional facilities and public transportation, among others. From an infrastructure perspective, if battery back-up and generator capabilities are exhausted, a power shut off could impact street lights, traffic lights, sewer pumping stations and possibly the water supply. Private facilities such as grocery stores and restaurants could face food storage issues, and other private businesses could be impacted in myriad ways depending on the power supply needs for their operations and products.

City staff have been training on Emergency Operation Center activation for the past several months as part of general City-wide emergency preparedness. Staff are now re-evaluating power back-up supplies (e.g. generators and batteries) for various City operations including buildings, traffic lights and street lights due to this recent PSPS information from PG&E. Staff have also requested information from PG&E about their outreach about this program to Emeryville residents and the business community so that the City Council will have a sense of the information available to their constituents.

Staff recommends that the City Council receive the presentation from representatives of PG&E and discuss the information provided. Staff will follow up with any information requests that the City Council may have following that presentation and discussion.

**PREPARED BY:** Christine Daniel, City Manager

**APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EMERYVILLE:**



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Christine Daniel, City Manager

**ATTACHMENTS**

- PG&E Power Point June 6, 2019: Community Wildfire Safety Program, Alameda County
- Letter from San Jose City Manager to PG&E dated May 31, 2019