

Public Advocates Office Data Request
No. CalAdvocates-BVES-2023WMP-04
Proceeding: 2023-2025 Wildfire Mitigation Plans

Date of issuance: Wednesday, February 22, 2023
Responses due: Wednesday, March 22, 2023

From: Holly Wehrman

Senior Utilities Engineer
Public Advocates Office

Phone: (415) 696-7319
Email: Holly.Wehrman@cpuc.ca.gov

Carolyn Chen

Attorney
Public Advocates Office

Phone: (415) 703-1980
Email: Carolyn.Chen@cpuc.ca.gov

Marybelle Ang

Attorney
Public Advocates Office

Phone: (415) 696-7329
Email: Marybelle.Ang@cpuc.ca.gov

Cal Advocates Wildfire Discovery

Email: CalAdvocates.WildfireDiscovery@cpuc.ca.gov

DATA REQUEST

The following questions relate to your 2023-2025 WMP submission.

If a full response to a given question will be included in your WMP submission, your response to that question of this data request may consist of a citation to the specific page(s) or table(s) of the WMP where the information may be found, a written response to the question, or both.

Question 1

For each WMP initiative for which you forecast capital expenditures in 2023 to be at least two times actual capital expenditures in 2022, please provide:

- a) The name of the initiative as it is identified in your 2023-2025 WMP
- b) The WMP Initiative number in Table 11 of your 2023-2025 WMP
- c) The name of the initiative as it is identified in your 2022 WMP Updated).
- d) The WMP Initiative number in d) Table 12 of your 2022 WMP Update
- e) An explanation for the projected increase.

Answer 1.1

- a) Distribution pole replacements and reinforcements
- b) GD_4
- c) Distribution pole replacement and reinforcement, including with composite poles
- d) 7.3.3.6
- e) BVES has adjusted its annual target for pole replacement. This adjustment accounts for the 2 times increase in expenditure.

Answer 1.2

- a) Installation of system automation equipment
 - b) GD_12
 - c) Installation of system automation equipment
 - d) 7.3.3.9.1
 - e) BVES elected to add additional equipment as part of its system automation initiative moving forward. Some of this equipment includes field switches and devices, capacitor banks, fuse trip savers, fault indicators, a server room and distribution management center as part of its system automation equipment initiative.
-

Question 2

For each WMP initiative for which you forecast capital expenditures in 2024 to be at least two times actual capital expenditures in 2022, please provide:

- a) The name of the initiative as it is identified in your 2023-2025 WMP
- b) The WMP Initiative number in Table 11 of your 2023-2025 WMP
- c) The name of the initiative as it is identified in your 2022 WMP Update
- d) The WMP Initiative number in Table 12 of your 2022 WMP Update
- e) An explanation for the projected increase.

Answer 2.1

- a) Installation of system automation equipment
 - b) GD_12
 - c) Installation of system automation equipment
 - d) 7.3.3.9.1
 - e) BVES elected to add additional equipment as part of its system automation initiative moving forward. Some of this equipment includes field switches and devices, capacitor banks, fuse trip savers, fault indicators, a server room and distribution management center as part of its system automation equipment initiative.
-

Question 3

For each WMP initiative for which you forecast operating expenditures in 2023 to be at least two times actual operating expenditures in 2022, please provide:

- a) The name of the initiative as it is identified in your 2023-2025 WMP
- b) The WMP Initiative number in Table 11 of your 2023-2025 WMP
- c) The name of the initiative as it is identified in your 2022 WMP Update
- d) The WMP Initiative number in Table 12 of your 2022 WMP Update
- e) An explanation for the projected increase.

Answer 3.1

- a) Public outreach and education awareness program
- b) COE_1
- c) Forest service and fuel reduction cooperation and joint roadmap
- d) 7.3.10.4
- e) COE-1 involves the combination of several prior initiatives due to the realignment of initiatives that occurred in the 2023 WMP.

Answer 3.2

- a) Collaboration on local wildfire mitigation planning
- b) COE_3
- c) Cooperation with suppression agencies
- d) 7.3.10.3
- e) This initiative (COE_3) goes beyond the scope of the original initiative 7.3.10.3. Collaboration on local wildfire mitigation planning (COE_3) not only includes cooperation with the suppression agencies but goes further to include joint planning and policies to mitigate wildfire.

Answer 3.3

- a) Equipment inspections, maintenance, and repair
- b) GD_33
- c) Detailed inspections of distribution electric lines and equipment, LiDAR inspections of distribution electric lines and equipment, Other discretionary inspection of distribution electric lines and equipment, beyond inspections mandated by rules and regulations, Patrol inspections of distribution electric lines and equipment
- d) 7.3.4.1, 7.3.4.7, 7.3.4.9.1, 7.3.4.9.2, 7.3.4.11
- e) Asset and Equipment Inspections were tracked as the same item financially prior to the 2023-2025 WMP Update. Following the release of the updated guidelines, BVES adjusted its financial recording/tracking to match the changes.

Answer 3.4

- a) Environmental monitoring systems
- b) SAF_1
- c) Advanced weather monitoring and weather stations
- d) 7.3.2.1
- e) Weather stations were installed from 2019-2021. During that period, BVES gained experience on the O&M of the weather stations and higher O&M costs associated with keeping the weather stations fully operational. In

2022, BVES incurred O&M expenses and estimates those expenses will increase to the levels projected in its 2023-2025 WMP.

Answer 3.5

- a) Weather forecasting
- b) SAF_5
- c) Weather forecasting and estimating impacts on electric lines and equipment
- d) 7.3.2.6
- e) This initiative now contains costs from multiple weather programs (weather consultant & Technosylva). In prior years this initiative only included the cost of the weather consultant.

Answer 3.6

- a) Fire potential index
- b) SAF_6
- c) Forecast of a fire risk index, fire potential index, or similar
- d) 7.3.2.4
- e) The initiative 7.3.2.4 involved utilizing the National Fire Danger Rating System as the Company's FPI. In OEIS's decision on BVES 2022 WMP Update, BVES was directed to develop an FPI. The forecasted costs for SAF_6 include the costs of developing and implementing an FPI specific for BVES.

Answer 3.7

- a) Wood and slash management
 - b) VM_8
 - c) Fuel management (including all wood management) and management of "slash" from vegetation management activities
 - d) 7.3.5.5
 - e) BVES contracts with a vegetation management company that requires the contractor to remove slash and wood debris in addition to establishing clearances. The contractor and BVES have re-evaluated the level of effort (and therefore cost) that goes into this effort and determined that the values for 2023-2025 WMP more accurately reflect the expenses for VM_8. The overall vegetation management costs did not increase
-

Question 4

For each WMP initiative for which you forecast operating expenditures in 2024 to be at least two times actual operating expenditures in 2022, please provide:

- a) The name of the initiative as it is identified in your 2023-2025 WMP
- b) The WMP Initiative number in Table 11 of your 2023-2025 WMP
- c) The name of the initiative as it is identified in your 2022 WMP Update
- d) The WMP Initiative number in Table 12 of your 2022 WMP Update
- e) An explanation for the projected increase.

Answer 4.1

- a) Public outreach and education awareness program
- b) COE_1
- c) Forest service and fuel reduction cooperation and joint roadmap
- d) 7.3.10.4
- e) COE-1 involves the combination of several prior initiatives due to the realignment of initiatives required by the 2023 WMP Guidelines.

Answer 4.2

- a) Collaboration on local wildfire mitigation planning
- b) COE_3
- c) Cooperation with suppression agencies
- d) 7.3.10.3
- e) This initiative (COE_3) goes beyond the scope of the original initiative 7.3.10.3. Collaboration on local wildfire mitigation planning (COE_3) not only includes cooperation with the suppression agencies, but goes further to include joint planning and policies to mitigate wildfire.

Answer 4.3

- a) Equipment inspections, maintenance, and repair
- b) GD_33
- c) Detailed inspections of distribution electric lines and equipment, LiDAR inspections of distribution electric lines and equipment, Other discretionary inspection of distribution electric lines and equipment, beyond inspections mandated by rules and regulations, Patrol inspections of distribution electric lines and equipment
- d) 7.3.4.1, 7.3.4.7, 7.3.4.9.1, 7.3.4.9.2, 7.3.4.11
- e) Asset and Equipment Inspections were tracked as the same item financially prior to the 2023-2025 WMP Update. Following the release of the updated guidelines BVES adjusted its financial recording/tracking to match the changes.

Answer 4.4

- a) Environmental monitoring systems
- b) SAF_1
- c) Advanced weather monitoring and weather stations
- d) 7.3.2.1
- e) Weather stations were installed from 2019-2021. During that period, BVES gained experience on the O&M of the weather stations and higher O&M costs associated with keeping the weather stations fully operational. In 2022, BVES incurred O&M expenses and estimates those expenses will increase to the levels projected in its 2023-2025 WMP.

Answer 4.5

- a) Weather forecasting
- b) SAF_5
- c) Weather forecasting and estimating impacts on electric lines and equipment
- d) 7.3.2.6
- e) This initiative now contains costs from multiple weather programs (weather consultant & Technosylva). In prior years, this initiative only included the cost of the weather consultant.

Answer 4.6

- a) Fire potential index
- b) SAF_6
- c) Forecast of a fire risk index, fire potential index, or similar
- d) 7.3.2.4
- e) The initiative 7.3.2.4 involved utilizing the National Fire Danger Rating System as the Company's FPI. In Energy Safety's decision on BVES 2022 WMP Update, BVES was directed to develop an FPI. The forecasted costs for SAF_6 include the costs of developing and implementing an FPI specific for BVES.

Answer 4.7

- a) Wood and slash management
- b) VM_8
- c) Fuel management (including all wood management) and management of "slash" from vegetation management activities
- d) 7.3.5.5
- e) BVES contracts with a vegetation management company that requires the contractor to remove slash and wood debris in addition to establishing clearances. The contractor and BVES have re-evaluated the level of effort (and therefore cost) that goes into this effort and determined that the values for 2023-2025 WMP more accurately reflect the expenses for VM_8. The overall vegetation management costs did not increase.

END OF REQUEST