

**DATA REQUEST RESPONSE**  
**Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc.**

**Response provided by:** Paul Marconi  
**Title:** President, Treasurer & Secretary  
**Data Request Number:** CalAdvocates-BVES-NonCase-AAR-08122021  
**Date Received:** August 12, 2021  
**Date Due:** August 26, 2021  
**Date Provided:** August 26, 2021

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**From Aaron Louie (Public Advocates Office) email to BVES dated August 12, 2021 on BVES Advice Letter 424-E. Please respond by August 16, 2021: The following questions relate to Advice Letter No. 424-E that was filed as a part of BVES’s Q2 2021 Quarterly Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) Safety Report Update.**

- 1. Page 16 of Advice Letter No. 424-E, Attachment A: Wildfire Mitigation Plan Quarterly Advice Letter Initiative Report for Q2 2021 describes BVES’ installation of weather stations. BVES states, that it “planned to install 2 weather stations in Q2 of 2021. All aspects of project are on track, however, BVES was unable to install the second unit due to external factors. One weather station was installed in Q2.”**

**Please describe the external factors that BVES faced that caused the delay in the installation of the second weather station and BVES’ plans for remaining on track for the Q3 weather monitoring and weather stations program goals.**

Response:

BVES was negotiating with the Big Bear Airport District (BBAD) for permission to utilize an existing BBAD structure to mount the weather station. This negotiation has been finalized, and the installation of second weather station was completed in Q3. BVES completed its weather station project and has 20 operational weather stations in its service territory.

- 2. Page16 of Advice Letter No. 424-E, Attachment A: Wildfire Mitigation Plan Quarterly Advice Letter Initiative Report for Q2 2021 describes BVES’ installation of HD cameras. BVES states that it “planned to install 2 HD Cameras in Q2 of 2021. All aspects of project are on track for these cameras, however, BVES was not able to secure access in Q2 to install the devices. Zero HD cameras were installed in Q2 due to access issues.”**

**Please describe the access issues that BVES faced that resulted in zero cameras being installed in Q2 and BVES's plans for remaining on track for the Q3 goals set for the installation of continuous monitoring sensors.**

Response:

BVES was negotiating with the Big Bear Airport District (BBAD) for permission to utilize an existing BBAD structure to mount the camera. This negotiation has been finalized, and the installation of HD camera at the BBAD site was completed in Q3.

The remaining HD camera is to be installed on a radio antenna (KBHR). The University of California, San Diego (UCSD) and KBHR are still coordinating the installation. It is expected that this work will be completed by the end of Q3.

- 3. Page 18 of Advice Letter No. 424-E, Attachment A: Wildfire Mitigation Plan Quarterly Advice Letter Initiative Report for Q2 2021 describes BVES' Grid Automation Program. BVES states that it "has reached 2.5% of the milestone for this Installation of System Automation Equipment initiative in Q2."**

**Please explain how BVES plans on reaching the 10% annual target for grid automation. Please explain how BVES plans on exceeding its' previous quarterly outputs in Q3 and Q4 to achieve completion of this initiative.**

Response:

The Q1 QAL reported that BVES reached 2.5% of the goal for Grid Automation. In the Q2 QAL, BVES reported that BVES reached an additional 2.5% of the goal. However, the summary box for Q2 indicates 2.5% reached when it should have indicated 5.0% reached. This is an administrative error and will be corrected on the Q3 QAL. BVES is currently on track to reached 10% of the goal in 2021.

- 4. Page 21 of Advice Letter No. 424-E, Attachment A: Wildfire Mitigation Plan Quarterly Advice Letter Initiative Report for Q2 2021 describes BVES' Pole Loading and Replacement Program. BVES states that "Due to resourcing issues, BVES was not able to meet its goal of 500 poles by the end of Q2 2021." BVES reports inspecting 73 poles in Q2, bringing the total for 2021 to date to 352.**

**Please describe the resourcing issues that BVES faced that caused the delay in the pole loading assessment program and how BVES plans to inspect the outstanding 148 poles in Q3 and Q4 to stay on track to meet the pole loading assessment program goals.**

Response:

In Q1 and Q2, BVES focused its resources (internal and contracted) on the Expulsion Fuse Replacement project and the Evacuation Route Hardening projects. These projects were completed in Q2. BVES continues to execute its WMP projects including the covered wire projects, pole loading and assessment project, and tree attachment removal project. BVES is working with its contractors to get back on track. Weekly status meetings are conducted to maintain accurate work status and redirect resources as necessary.

**5. Page 23 of Advice Letter No. 424-E, Attachment A: Wildfire Mitigation Plan Quarterly Advice Letter Initiative Report for Q2 2021 describes BVES' Quality Control for Electrical Inspections Program. BVES states that it "conducted 15 of the 18 scheduled reviews, BVES will work to meet future quarterly goals for reviewing contractor vegetation management activities"**

- a. Please provide and describe (if any) BVES's Quality Assurance/ Quality Control processes in place to verify the quality of work done by contractors working on vegetation management mitigation measures (past and current)?**

Response:

BVES managers, supervisors and other subject matter experts in vegetation management (VM) are assigned VM Quality Checks (QC) on sections of tree trimming/removal work from the previous week to evaluate the work and ensure it conforms to BVES's standards. VM QC evaluators document their QCs in an internal online application. The results of the VM QCs are reviewed by the Wildfire Mitigation and Reliability Engineer and corrective action for any discrepancies is assigned as applicable. Corrective action is tracked until completed.

- b. Please explain whether and how BVES plans to make up for this shortfall in the remainder of the year.**

Response:

BVES management requires additional inspections be completed for Q3 and Q4. These additional inspections will get BVES back on track and will allow BVES to better evaluate the state of vegetation clearance.

6. **At pages 20-23 of Advice Letter No. 424-E, Attachment A: Wildfire Mitigation Plan Quarterly Advice Letter Initiative Report for Q2 2021, BVES describes several initiatives as “On Track for Mid-Year Inspection” and states that program inspection will begin in Q3. These programs include 5.3.4.1 detailed inspections of distribution electric lines and equipment, 5.3.4.7 LiDAR inspections of distribution electric lines and equipment, 5.3.4.9 Other discretionary inspection of distribution electric lines and equipment, beyond inspections mandated by rules and regulations, 5.3.5.2 Detailed inspections of vegetation around distribution electric lines and equipment, and 5.3.5.7 LiDAR inspections of vegetation around distribution electric lines and equipment.**

**Please describe BVES’ reasoning for scheduling the start of inspections for these programs in Q3.**

Response:

BVES is starting these programs in Q3 due to the availability of contractors and BVES staff. The contractors are meeting BVES’s contract requirements and are completing the tasks in a timely and cost effective manner.

7. **Page 21 of Advice Letter No. 424-E, Attachment A: Wildfire Mitigation Plan Quarterly Advice Letter Initiative Report for Q2 2021 describes BVES’ Quality Control for Electrical Inspections Program. BVES states that it “has not yet established quantitative or qualitative targets for the planned quality control program.” Please confirm whether BVES intends to establish quantitative or qualitative targets for its QA/QC programs, and if so, whether those targets will be included in BVES’ 2022 WMP update.**

Response:

BVES is in the process of establishing quantitative or qualitative targets for the planned quality control program. The QA/QC program will be included in BVES’s 2022 WMP update.