



Public Advocates Office
California Public Utilities Commission

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PUBLIC ADVOCATES OFFICE DATA REQUEST

R. 18-10-007: Wildfire Mitigation Plans Rulemaking

Date: February 21, 2019

To: **Nguyen Quan**
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Re: **Data Request No. CalPA-BV-R1810007-002**
Responses Due: February 26, 2019

INSTRUCTIONS

You are instructed to answer the following Data Requests in the above-captioned proceeding, with written, verified responses per Public Utilities Code §§ 309.5 and 314, and Rules 1.1 and 10.1 of the California Public Utilities Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. Restate the text of each request prior to providing the response. For any questions, email the Public Advocates Office contact(s) above with a copy to the Public Advocates Office attorney.

Each Data Request is continuing in nature. Provide your response as it becomes available, but no later than the due date noted above. If you are unable to provide a response by this date, notify the Public Advocates Office as soon as possible, with a written explanation as to why the response date cannot be met and a best estimate of when the information can be provided. If you acquire additional information after providing an answer to any request, you must supplement your response following the receipt of such additional information.

Identify the person providing the answer to each data request and his/her contact information. Responses should be provided both in the original electronic format, if available, and in hard copy. (If available in Word format, send the Word document and do not send the information as a PDF file.) All electronic documents submitted in response to this data request should be in readable, downloadable, printable, and searchable formats, unless use of such formats is infeasible. Each page should be numbered. If any of your answers refer to or reflect calculations, provide a copy of the supporting electronic files that were used to derive such calculations, such as Excel-compatible spreadsheets or computer programs, with data and formulas intact and functioning. Documents produced in response to the data requests should be Bates-numbered, and indexed if voluminous. Responses to data requests that refer to or incorporate documents should identify the particular documents referenced by Bates-numbers or Bates-range.

If a request, definition, or an instruction, is unclear, notify the Public Advocates Office as soon as possible. In any event, answer the request to the fullest extent possible, specifying the reason for your inability to answer the remaining portion of the Data Request.

DEFINITIONS

Unless the request indicates otherwise, the following definitions are applicable in providing the requested information.

1. The terms “document,” “documents,” or “documentary material” include, without limitation, the following items, whether in electronic form, printed, recorded, or written or reproduced by hand: reports, studies, statistics, projections, forecasts, decisions, and orders, intra-office and interoffice communications, correspondence, memoranda, financial data, summaries or records of conversations or interviews, statements, returns, diaries, calendars, work papers, graphs, notebooks, notes, charts, computations, plans, drawings, sketches, computer printouts, summaries of records of meetings or conferences, summaries or reports of investigations or negotiations, opinions or reports of consultants, photographs, bulletins, records or representations or publications of any kind (including microfilm, videotape, and records however produced or reproduced), electronic or mechanical or electrical records of any kind (including, without limitation, tapes, tape cassettes, discs, emails, and records) other data compilations (including without limitation, input/output files, source codes, object codes, program documentation, computer programs, computer printouts, cards, tapes, discs and recordings used in automated data processing, together with the programming instructions and other material necessary to translate, understand, or use the same), and other documents or tangible things of whatever description which constitute or contain information within the scope of these data requests.
2. “Relating to” means concerning, addressing, referring, discussing, commenting upon, analyzing, mentioning or involving in any way.
3. “Identify”:
 - a. When used in reference to a person includes stating his or her full name, his or her most recent known business address and telephone number, and his or her present title or position;
 - b. When used in reference to documents includes stating the nature of the document (e.g., letter, memorandum), the date (if any), the title of the document, the identity of the author and/or the document, the location of the document, the identity of the person having possession, control or custody of the document, and the general subject matter of the document.
4. “CPUC” as used herein refers to the California Public Utilities Commission.
5. “BVES” as used herein refers to Bear Valley Electric Service and/or its affiliates.

DATA REQUESTS

Unless otherwise stated, all page and section references refer to BVES' 2019 Wildfire Mitigation Plan.

Question 1

Does BVES propose any cost- or efficiency-based metrics to track or indicate progress on any of its proposed programs in the Wildfire Mitigation Plan (for example: cost per mile reconducted, person-hours per device installed, cost per tree removed, etc.)? If so, please provide. If not, please explain why.

Question 2

On page 21, *4.1.2.1 Fusing* states:

“BVES plans on replacing approximately 457 conventional fuses with electronic fuses and approximately 2,327 conventional fuses with ELF.”

- a. What percentage of the total number of conventional fuses in BVES' service territory is being replaced?
- b. Please explain the reasoning behind replacing only approximately 457 conventional fuses with electronic fuses, but approximately 2,327 conventional fuses with ELF.
- c. Will priority installation be given to assets in a Tier 3 HFTD over those in Tier 2 zones?
- d. What are the determining factors of where electronic fuses will be placed compared to ELF.
- e. Why is BVES waiting until June 2019 to begin replacement of fuses?
- f. Please provide a chart showing, and explaining, the differences between conventional, electric, and ELF fuses.

Question 3

On page 33, *Chapter 4.4 Situational & Conditional Awareness* states:

“**Weather Forecasting:** BVES does not have a dedicated meteorologist on staff. Therefore, BVES relies on its Field Operations staff to interpret web-based weather feeds along with the raw data from its weather stations. Given BVES' small size, BVES does not consider it practical to hire fulltime meteorology staff. BVES believes it would be very beneficial to contract out for weekly part-time forecasting services tailored to BVES' service area and to have the ability to obtain analysis of weather data during, before, and after certain extreme weather events. BVES believes this would be achieved by sending the weather data to a local university or consulting meteorologist for detailed analyses on a weekly basis.”

- a. Does BVES have a list of sources they plan to contact to move forward with this proposal? If so, please provide the list of organizations. If not, please explain why this has not yet been addressed.
- b. Has BVES been in contact with any of these sources yet? If so, please explain which organization and what has been negotiated so far. If not, please explain the circumstances BVES is waiting for.
- c. Has BVES talked with the National Weather Service or any other governmental or non-governmental organizations about the needs for more granular weather data? Please explain.

Question 4

On page 33, *Chapter 4.4 Situational & Conditional Awareness* states:

“Remote Monitoring (via Camera): BVES would also like to install cameras to monitor its system in remote areas that are difficult to patrol on foot, such as the Radford Area. BVES plans to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for cost and equipment-specification information to further analyze the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of installing HD cameras. BVES does not have the staffing resources to monitor such cameras continuously. Therefore, BVES will explore other monitoring options, such as partnering with San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services (OES) before implementing this program.”

- a. Has BVES started the process to issue a RFP? If not, please explain why not and when BVES expects to start this process, as well as how long it is expected to take.
- b. What other monitoring options have been considered?
- c. What will be the deciding factors as to if this program will be implemented?

Question 5

On page 33, *Chapter 4.4 Situational & Conditional Awareness* states:

“Grid Automation: In the coming years, BVES plans to continue to implement grid automation into its system. Grid automation would enhance operational efficiency, safety, and wildfire prevention tactics by allowing remote monitoring and fault detection in real-time.”

- a. Please explain what is meant by “grid automation.”
- b. How does BVES plan to implement grid automation into its system?
- c. When will the grid automation process begin?

Question 6

On page 37, 4.5.1 *Public Safety Power Shut-Off (PSPS) or De-Energization* states:

“When de-energization is deemed necessary, BVES crews will manually shut off at risk circuits, lines, and other infrastructure. In the future, as it implements SCADA and other technologies, BVES will consider remote shut-off implementation, where cost-effective.”

- a. Has BVES considered the procedures for circumstances when a wildfire has already been ignited but it has been judged as critical to shut-off power in other locations? Please outline the steps BVES will take to ensure worker and public safety to maintain safe conditions.
- b. Please provide a copy of BVES’s policy on disabling automatic reclosers. If BVES does not have such a policy, please explain why not. If BVES does not have automatic reclosers, please state so.

Question 7

On page 53, 6.2 *Description of Metrics* states:

“Upon plan approval, BVES will create targets for each of the metrics.”

Please prepare and provide an end-of-year target of what BVES will use to evaluate their success in mitigating wildfire risk for each activity BVES has proposed. Is it possible for BVES to incorporate targets into its final plan so that it can be effectively examined for prudence and compliance?

Please send your response to the Originator, and a copy of your response to Project Coordinator and e-copies to the following Public Advocates Office representatives:

(none)

Please provide the above information as it becomes available but no later than the due date identified above. If you are unable to provide the information by this date, please notify the Originator **at least** 3 days before the data request is due and provide your best estimate of when the information can be provided. Please identify the person who provides the response and his/her phone number and email address.

END OF REQUEST