



AR 638 Community Engagement Work Group Kick-off Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

2:45 p.m. (PT)

Zoom Meeting

[Link to Meeting](#)

Call-in: 971 247 1195 US

Meeting ID: 825 0114 7644

Passcode: 9624439774

1. Introductions

Welcome and a round of introductions for Work Group Staff and participants

2. Rulemaking Process Overview and Work Group Objectives

Briefly review the rulemaking scope and schedule as well as the overall purpose and objectives of the Community Engagement Work Group

See: [Staff's Workgroup Launch Announcement](#)

3. Work Group Issues and Scope Discussion

Review Staff's straw issues list/work group scope and identify proposed additions, deletions, modifications.

See: Attachment A – Straw Issues List

Attachment B – Strawman Proposal: Community Engagement Rule Language

Attachment C – California Rules

4. Work Plan and Meeting Frequency Discussion

Discuss preferences for meeting schedule, meeting platform, and strategy to tackle issues (e.g., order and grouping of issues, facilitation and discussion methods)

5. Next steps

Discuss how future meeting announcements, meeting notes, other materials will be made available.

Questions

If you have questions on the process or content of this workshop series, contact:

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Attachment A - Straw Issues List for Community Engagement Work Group

- Definitions
 - Consistent use and mutual understanding of terms and references
 - Vulnerable Communities
 - Metrics and resources to identify vulnerable communities and households:
 - Medical certificates, State assistance recipients, rural zip codes etc.
 - Describe enhanced Community Engagement efforts unique to vulnerable communities
 - Roles
 - Protocols (protocols should include responsibilities before, during, and after a fire emergency or PSPS event as well as ongoing)
- Document roles and organizations that must remain informed and current with Community Engagement rules for WMP; both in terms of engagement in advance of and immediately prior to a fire emergency or PSPS fire mitigation effort
 - Stakeholder coordination
 - Leveraging efforts
- Define and describe utility protocols and responsibilities related to Community Engagement in a fire emergency or PSPS fire mitigation effort
- Ongoing Education and preparedness
 - Protocols related to:
 - Community outreach sessions
 - Training on emergency kits/plans/checklists
 - Accessing local resources
 - Coordination with county emergency managers and community leaders annually to improve outreach
 - Education and preparedness mediums to inform the public
 - Frequency of preparedness and outreach to inform the public
 - Evaluating effectiveness of outreach
 - Workshops with local fire and other first responders
 - Frequency of workshops
 - Tabletop exercises that includes communications providers, first responders, local jurisdictions and state agencies.
 - Frequency of exercises
 - Language accessibility
 - Identifying prevalent languages in a service territory

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- List languages public outreach resources and materials are available
 - Detail the community outreach efforts for PSPS and wildfire-related outreach. Include efforts to reach all languages prevalent in utility territory.
- Post Fire Emergency or PSPS Fire mitigation Community Engagement
 - Describe protocols for post-event community outreach efforts intended to mitigate the public safety impacts of PSPS on vulnerable, marginalized and/or at-risk communities.
- Other Objectives (not yet identified)

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Attachment B – Strawman Proposal: Community Engagement Rule Language

Guidelines to Ensure Utilities Work to Address Needs of Impacted Communities Prior to, During, and Following a PSPS

Utilities are required to:

- Establish quarterly regionalized working groups and advisory boards with local communities, access and functional needs representatives, and public safety partners to ensure that utilities hear directly from impacted communities and experts in public safety on the effects of PSPS on communities and incorporate the feedback into their PSPS planning.
- Work with community, local, and state partners to develop communication and notification plans and ensure the utilities' websites allow the public to access precise locality information of potential and active PSPS event-impacted service points.
- Work in collaboration with public safety partners, local governments, and representatives of people/communities with access and functional needs to develop ongoing preparedness education.
- Provide communications carriers with meter and circuit IDs to be de-energized and re-energized in advance of taking action to ensure communication carriers can deploy resources to minimize the impact of PSPS events on communications infrastructure.
- Identify people who may be at medical or safety risk of an extended power outage, above and beyond those on a utility's Medical Certificate Program and work in collaboration with public safety partners, local governments, and representatives of people/communities with access and functional needs to identify assistance required by vulnerable populations during PSPS events.
- Plan and execute PSPS exercises in areas with highest historical and forecasted risk of PSPS in coordination with local, tribal, federal and state government agencies, and other private and public sector organizations supporting vulnerable populations.

Guidelines to Minimize the Duration and Impact of PSPS Events on Communities

Utilities are required to:

- Develop a Community Resource Centers plan based on local demographic data for meeting a variety of safety needs for the access and functional needs community. Community Resource Centers should, at a minimum, provide device charging stations, cellular network services, water, chairs, PSPS information representatives, and restrooms, and must be operable from at least 8 a.m.-10 p.m. during a PSPS event.

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- Restore service after PSPS events as soon as possible and within 24 hours from the termination of a PSPS event, unless it is unsafe to do so.
- Work with local, tribal, federal and state government agencies, and other private and public sector parties to identify critical transportation, telecommunications, and water system infrastructure located in PSPS-prone areas requiring backup generation to ensure that critical infrastructure is not brought offline during a PSPS event.

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Attachment C – Suggested Reading: California Rules

Engaging vulnerable communities¹

Report on the following:

1. Describe protocols for PSPS that are intended to mitigate the public safety impacts of PSPS on vulnerable, marginalized and/or at-risk communities. Describe how the utility is identifying these communities.
2. List all languages which are “prevalent” in utility’s territory. A language is prevalent if it is spoken by 1,000 or more persons in the utility’s territory or if it is spoken by 5% or more of the population within a “public safety answering point” in the utility territory⁹ (D.20-03-004).
3. List all languages for which public outreach material is available, in written or oral form.
4. Detail the community outreach efforts for PSPS and wildfire-related outreach. Include efforts to reach all languages prevalent in utility territory.

Guidelines to Ensure Utilities are Better Comprehending and Addressing Needs of Impacted Communities²

Utilities are required to:

- Establish quarterly regionalized working groups and advisory boards with local communities, access and functional needs representatives, and public safety partners to ensure that utilities hear directly from impacted communities and experts in public safety on the effects of PSPS on communities and incorporate the feedback into their PSPS planning.
- Work with communities to develop communication and notification plans and ensure the utilities' websites allow the public to access precise locality information of potential and active PSPS event-impacted service points.
- Provide communications carriers with meter and circuit IDs to be de-energized and re-energized in advance of taking action to ensure communication carriers can deploy resources to minimize the impact of PSPS events on communications infrastructure.

¹ Wildfire Safety Division; Attachment 2.2: 2021 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Guidelines Template; November 2020, https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/uploadedFiles/CPUCWebsite/Content/About_Us/Organization/Divisions/WSD/Attachment%202.2%20to%20WSD-011%20-%202021%20WMP%20Guidelines%20Template.pdf.

² California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC); Docket #: R.18-12-005, May 28, 2021, <https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M338/K611/338611785.PDF>

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- Identify people who may be at medical or safety risk of an extended power outage, above and beyond those on a utility's Medical Baseline rate and work in collaboration with public safety partners, local governments, and representatives of people/communities with access and functional needs to identify assistance required by current and potentially eligible Medical Baseline customers during PSPS events.
- Plan and execute PSPS exercises in areas with highest historical and forecasted risk of PSPS in coordination with the CPUC, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), and representatives of access and functional needs communities.

Guidelines to Minimize the Duration and Impact of PSPS Events on Communities

Utilities are required to:

- Finalize a Community Resource Centers plan within 60 days based on local demographic data for meeting a variety of safety needs for the access and functional needs community. Community Resource Centers should, at a minimum, provide device charging stations, cellular network services, water, chairs, PSPS information representatives, and restrooms, and must be operable from at least 8 a.m.-10 p.m. during a PSPS event.
- Restore service after PSPS events as soon as possible and within 24 hours from the termination of a PSPS event, unless it is unsafe to do so.
- Work with local, tribal, federal and state government agencies, and other private and public sector parties to identify critical transportation, telecommunications, and water system infrastructure located in PSPS-prone areas requiring backup generation to ensure that critical infrastructure is not brought offline during a PSPS event.

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