

January 27, 2025

202500250

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ATTN: ED PIKE, WILDFIRE SAFETY ENFORCEMENT BRANCH
500 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94102-3298

Re: Date of Incident: January 7, 2025
 Location of Incident: Near Eaton Canyon, Altadena, California

Dear Mr. Pike:

In light of significant media attention and emerging information related to the Eaton Fire, this letter supplements the notice Southern California Edison Company (SCE) provided to the Commission on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 6:09 p.m. pursuant to Resolution ESRB-12.

According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), the Eaton Fire ignited in the Eaton Canyon, east of Altadena on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, and is 98% contained as of the date and time of this submittal. The Eaton Fire ignited and spread under conditions of a Santa Ana windstorm, with reports of blowing embers into and throughout the Altadena area. According to Cal Fire, the Eaton Fire has burned approximately 14,021 acres. Cal Fire also reported that there were 17 confirmed fire personnel and civilian fatalities, and nine confirmed fire personnel and civilian injuries attributed to the fire. According to information provided by Cal Fire, 9,418 residential, commercial and other structures were destroyed, and 1,073 structures were damaged. The fire also burned into and damaged SCE distribution facilities in the Altadena area, including the Fair Oaks Substation.

SCE understands that the Los Angeles County Fire Department (County) is the lead agency investigating the origin and cause of the Eaton Fire, with support from other agencies, including Cal Fire. Their investigation remains ongoing. On January 12, 2025, SCE received a letter from the County identifying the preliminary origin area for the Eaton Fire around coordinates N34.1860422292 W118.09357612511549 in Eaton Canyon. SCE has three transmission towers in proximity to these coordinates: (1) the M6T1 structure, carrying the Eagle Rock-Mesa 220kV and Mesa-Vincent No. 2 220kV transmission lines, (2) the M24T3 structure, carrying the Mesa-Vincent No. 1 220kV and Goodrich-Gould 220kV transmission lines and (3) the M16T1 structure, carrying the Mesa-Sylmar transmission line, which is no longer in service.

On January 16, 2025, the County informed SCE that it had released its investigation scene related to the origin and cause of the fire. The County has asked that SCE preserve in place its transmission facilities proximate to the County's preliminary area of origin but has not asked for SCE's assistance in removing any SCE facility from the field. SCE is complying with the County's request. It is unknown what evidence or materials, if any, the agency investigators

removed from the preliminary origin site. On January 22, 2025, SCE received a request from Cal Fire for data and records related to the transmission facilities in the preliminary origin area and other information. SCE is gathering the requested data and records.

Preliminary analysis of electrical data for the four energized transmission lines that run through Eaton Canyon for 12 hours prior to the reported start time of the fire shows that there were no faults on those lines until more than one hour after the reported start time of the fire. In addition, SCE has conducted a preliminary review of electrical data from January 7, 2025, for other portions of its transmission system, including certain transmission lines in the Los Angeles basin that do not traverse Eaton Canyon. Preliminary analysis shows that a fault was detected at approximately 6:11 p.m. on the Eagle Rock-Gould 220 kV line, which connects the Gould substation in La Cañada Flintridge to the Eagle Rock substation in Eagle Rock, and that SCE's system protection devices for this line operated as intended. The Gould and Eagle Rock substations are approximately five circuit miles and 12 circuit miles away, respectively, from the County's preliminary origin area, and the Eagle Rock-Gould 220 kV line does not traverse the Eaton Canyon corridor. Preliminary analysis shows that, because SCE's transmission system is networked, the fault on this geographically distant line caused a momentary and expected increase in current on SCE's transmission system, including on the four energized lines on M6T1 and M24T3. The current increase remained within the design limits and operating criteria for these circuits and, as intended, did not trigger system protection on these lines.

In connection with an article published by the *New York Times* on January 26, 2025, SCE first became aware of the existence of a surveillance video that appears to show two flashes of light in the Eaton Canyon area on the evening of January 7, 2025. SCE is reviewing the video further to assess any potential relation between the flashes shown in the video and SCE's facilities in Eaton Canyon. While our preliminary investigation uncovered no obvious damage to SCE's facilities, based in part upon this new video and statements made by plaintiffs' counsel claiming damage, we continue to assess the condition of our equipment in Eaton Canyon.

On January 25, 2025, after providing notice to the County and counsel for certain wildfire plaintiffs, SCE collected evidence from Eaton Canyon, including metal items found on the ground near the towers and items from an encampment located approximately 300 yards downhill from the towers. Collected items are being preserved in a secure location.

The transmission lines that run through Eaton Canyon are not currently energized. Counsel representing certain wildfire plaintiffs have requested that the transmission lines attached to the transmission towers be lowered for further visual inspection and remain deenergized until that can be accomplished. This is a complex request due to the challenging terrain and lack of accessibility in this area, and SCE is working cooperatively with interested parties to find a reasonable solution.

SCE has undertaken extensive work to make its system in Altadena safe and to restore power. Although no fire agency investigator has suggested that the origin of the Eaton Fire occurred anywhere outside of Eaton Canyon itself, two plaintiffs' law firms that have filed lawsuits

against SCE have nonetheless requested preservation of materials associated with SCE's distribution facilities in the residential neighborhoods adjacent to Eaton Canyon. SCE has documented and is preserving SCE equipment removed from an approximately one-square mile area west of Eaton Canyon in the area of Altadena closest to the fire investigators' preliminary area of origin, as shown in the figure below. One law firm has sought a more expansive preservation zone well beyond the one-mile radius already being preserved, and the issue is being reviewed by a Los Angeles Superior Court judge. If granted, this requirement may delay repair and clean-up efforts for those areas impacted by the windstorm and fire.



SCE's investigation and ongoing inspections of its facilities, records, potential witnesses, and other issues that could potentially shed light on causation continue. SCE will provide a further update to the Commission regarding this incident in its report pursuant to Resolution ESRB-12 and Public Utilities Code Section 315.

Sincerely,

Paul Pimentel