

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
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April 24, 2025

EA2024-1279

Melvin Stark  
Principal Manager, T&D Compliance Integration  
Southern California Edison Company (SCE)  
1 Innovation Way  
Pomona, CA 91786

Subject: Electric distribution audit of SCE's Ridgecrest District

Mr. Stark:

On behalf of the Electric Safety and Reliability Branch of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), Jose Lastra of my staff conducted an electric distribution audit of SCE's Ridgecrest District from December 16-20, 2024. The audit included a review of SCE's records and field inspections of SCE's facilities.

During the audit, my staff identified violations of one or more General Orders (GOs). Included with this letter is a copy of the audit findings that itemize the violations discovered during the audit. Please advise me no later than May 26, 2025, by electronic or hard copy, of all corrective measures taken by SCE to remedy and prevent such violations.

Please note that ESRB will be posting the audit report and your response to our audit on the CPUC website. If there is any information in your response that you would like us to consider as confidential, we request that in addition to your confidential response, you also provide us with a public or redacted version of your response that can be posted publicly on our website.

If you have any questions concerning this audit, you can contact Jose Lastra at (213) 507-1438 or [jose.lastra@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:jose.lastra@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fadi Daye".

Fadi Daye, P.E.  
Program and Project Supervisor  
Electric Safety and Reliability Branch  
Safety and Enforcement Division  
California Public Utilities Commission

Enclosures: Audit Findings

Cc: Leslie Palmer, Director, Safety and Enforcement Division, CPUC  
Eric Wu, Program Manager, Safety and Enforcement Division, CPUC  
Derek Fong, Senior Utilities Engineer, ESRB, SED, CPUC  
Jose Lastra, Utilities Engineer, ESRB, SED, CPUC

## AUDIT FINDINGS

### I. Records Review

During the audit, my staff reviewed the following records:

- Overhead and underground detailed inspection records
- Patrol records
- Completed and pending corrective action work orders
- Pole load calculations
- Intrusive test records
- Safety hazard notifications
- SCE's documented inspection program.
- Vegetation Records

### II. Records Review – Violations List

My staff observed the following violations during the records review portion of the audit:

**GO 165, Section III-B, Distribution Facilities, Standards for Inspection**, states:

*Each utility subject to this General Order shall conduct inspections of its distribution facilities, as necessary, to ensure reliable, high-quality, and safe operation, but in no case may the period between inspections (measured in years) exceed the time specified in Table 1.*

**GO 95, Rule 31.2, Inspection of Lines**, states in part:

*Lines shall be inspected frequently and thoroughly for the purpose of ensuring that they are in good condition so as to conform with these rules. Lines temporarily out of service shall be inspected and maintained in such condition as not to create a hazard.*

SCE's records indicated that from January 2022 to November 2024, SCE completed 4,633 detailed inspections and 76 patrol inspections past SCE's scheduled due date. Additionally, as of the date of the audit, SCE had 295 pending detailed inspections and 285 pending patrol inspections that were past SCE's scheduled due date.

**GO 165, Section III-B, Distribution Facilities, Standards for Inspection**, states:

*Each utility subject to this General Order shall conduct inspections of its distribution facilities, as necessary, to ensure reliable, high-quality, and safe operation, but in no case may the period between inspections (measured in years) exceed the time specified in Table 1.*

**GO 128, Rule 17.2, Inspection,** states:

*Systems shall be inspected by the operator frequently and thoroughly for the purpose of insuring that they are in good condition and in conformance with all applicable requirements these rules.*

SCE's records indicated that from January 2022 to November 2024, SCE completed 50 underground inspections past SCE's scheduled due date.

**GO 95, Rule 18-B1, Maintenance Programs,** states in part:

*Companies shall undertake corrective actions within the time periods stated for each of the priority levels set forth below. Scheduling of corrective actions within the time periods below may be based on additional factors, including the following factors, as appropriate ...*

**GO 95, Rule 31.1, Design, Construction and Maintenance,** states in part:

*For all particulars not specified in these rules, design, construction, and maintenance should be done in accordance with accepted good practice for the given local conditions known at the time by those responsible for the design, construction, or maintenance of communication or supply lines and equipment.*

SCE's records indicated that from January 2022 to November 2024, SCE completed 107 overhead work orders past SCE's due date for corrective action. Additionally, as of the date of the audit, SCE had 64 open overhead work orders that were past SCE's scheduled due date for corrective action.

**GO 128, Rule 17.1, Design, Construction and Maintenance,** states in part:

*Electrical supply and communication systems shall be designed, constructed, and maintained for their intended use, regard being given to the conditions under which they are to be operated, to enable the furnishing of safe, proper, and adequate service.*

SCE's records indicated that from January 2022 to November 2024, SCE completed 26 underground work orders past SCE's due date for corrective action. Additionally, as of the date of the audit, SCE had 22 open underground work orders that were past SCE's scheduled due date for corrective action.

### III. Field Inspections

My staff inspected the following facilities during the field portion of the audit:

No.	Structure ID.	Type of Structure	Location
1	88999S	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
2	2172027E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
3	4902246E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
4	2025463E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
5	2179502E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
6	4177372E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
7	2179981E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
8	2179982E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
9	4927707E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
10	1646448E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
11	4796273E	Wood Pole	Coso Junction
12	4721051E	Wood Pole	Coso Junction
13	4721057E	Wood Pole	Coso Junction
14	4721056E	Wood Pole	Coso Junction
15	4721055E	Wood Pole	Coso Junction
16	4721054E	Wood Pole	Coso Junction
17	4721053E	Wood Pole	Coso Junction
18	4721052E	Wood Pole	Coso Junction
19	4587967E	Wood Pole	Little Lake/Pearsonville
20	1899839E	Wood Pole	Little Lake/Pearsonville
21	1899840E	Wood Pole	Little Lake/Pearsonville
22	1899841E	Wood Pole	Little Lake/Pearsonville
23	4593900E	Wood Pole	Little Lake/Pearsonville
24	1899843E	Wood Pole	Little Lake/Pearsonville
25	1899844E	Wood Pole	Little Lake/Pearsonville
26	1899845E	Wood Pole	Little Lake/Pearsonville
27	1899846E	Wood Pole	Little Lake/Pearsonville
28	1899847E	Wood Pole	Little Lake/Pearsonville
29	1649847E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
30	1646385E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
31	4887885E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
32	4924112E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
33	4918384E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
34	525718S	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
35	2172374E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
36	4841950E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
37	1649975E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
38	1649976E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
39	1649977E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
40	1649979E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
41	1649978E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest

42	P5340267	Padmount Transformer	Ridgecrest
43	5183938	SOE	Ridgecrest
44	P5183652	Padmount Enclosure	Ridgecrest
45	P5376800	Padmount Transformer	Ridgecrest
46	P5484277	Padmount Transformer	Ridgecrest
47	5376347	Handhole	Ridgecrest
48	P5376348	Padmount Transformer	Ridgecrest
49	P5376348	Handhole	Ridgecrest
50	5183807	BURD	Ridgecrest
51	5183682	Manhole	Ridgecrest
52	P5653613	Padmount Transformer	Ridgecrest
53	5183683	BURD	Ridgecrest
54	5183683	Handhole	Ridgecrest
55	5183679	BURD	Ridgecrest
56	5183679	Handhole	Ridgecrest
57	1778575E	Wood Pole	California City
58	1778576E	Wood Pole	California City
59	2025268E	Wood Pole	California City
60	2025267E	Wood Pole	California City
61	1778571E	Wood Pole	California City
62	1778574E	Wood Pole	California City
63	4177346E	Wood Pole	California City
64	1778570E	Wood Pole	California City
65	1778569E	Wood Pole	California City
66	1849175E	Wood Pole	California City
67	1849176E	Wood Pole	California City
68	1849178E	Wood Pole	California City
69	1849179E	Wood Pole	California City
70	1849177E	Wood Pole	California City
71	1899723E	Wood Pole	California City
72	1899724E	Wood Pole	California City
73	1899725E	Wood Pole	California City
74	1899726E	Wood Pole	California City
75	1778577E	Wood Pole	California City
76	2110163E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
77	4739643E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
78	4868138	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
79	A1533090BE	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
80	1744569E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
81	A1533089BE	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
82	1924286E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
83	1998109E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
84	4418305E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
85	2055913E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
86	2055914E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
87	2110166E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest

88	2110165E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
89	2110164E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
90	2025184E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
91	2025186E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
92	4829972E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
93	2025185E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest
94	2025183E	Wood Pole	Ridgecrest

#### **IV. Field Inspection Violations List**

My staff observed the following violations during the field inspections portion of the audit.

#### **GO 95, Rule 18-A3, Resolution of Potential Violations of General Order 95 and Safety Hazards, states:**

*(3) If a company, while performing inspections of its facilities, discovers a Safety Hazard(s) on or near a communications facility or electric facility involving another company, the inspecting company shall notify the other entity of such safety hazard(s) no later than 10 business days after the discovery.*

SCE did not notify the responsible third-party of the following safety hazards:

- Pole 2025463E: a third-party communications pedestal was completely uncovered, exposing the encased wiring
- Pole 2179981E: a third-party communications cable was hanging at the public level of the pole
- Pole 1849176E: multiple third-party communications conductors were hanging at the public level of the pole

#### **GO 95, Rule 31.1, Design Construction and Maintenance, states in part:**

*Electrical supply and communication systems shall be designed, constructed, and maintained for their intended use, regard being given to the conditions under which they are to be operated, to enable the furnishing of safe, proper, and adequate service.*

The following SCE facilities required maintenance:

- Pole 4902246E: an SCE down guy wire was touching the V-brace of a third-party communications crossarm (located on buddy pole), causing strain to the down guy wire
- Pole 2179502E: a bird guard was dislodged from the insulator and conductor
- Pole 1899847E: a brace of an SCE crossarm was detached and hanging.
- Pole 1649847E: a bird guard was dislodged from the insulator and conductor.
- Pole 4887885E: the SCE transformer had a large bird nest resting on it
- Pole 4918384E: the bird guard was dislodged from the insulator and conductor.
- Pole 1849177E: a bolt on the SCE pole mounted transformer bracket was loose.

**GO 95, Rule 38 - Minimum Clearances of Wires from Other Wires, Table 2, Column C, Case 19** requires the minimum radial clearance between guys and span wires passing communication conductors supported on the same poles to be 3 inches.

The radial clearance between an SCE down guy wire and a third-party communications conductor on Pole 88999S was less than 3 inches.

**GO 95, Rule 51.6, Marking and Guarding, High Voltage Marking of Poles**, states in part:

*Poles which support line conductors of more than 750 volts shall be marked with high voltage signs. This marking shall consist of a single sign showing the words “HIGH VOLTAGE”, or pair of signs showing the words “HIGH” and “VOLTAGE”, not more than six (6) inches in height with letters not less than 3 inches in height. A pair of signs may be stacked to a height of no more than 12 inches. Such signs shall be of weather and corrosion–resisting material, solid or with letters cut out therefrom and clearly legible.*

The high voltage signs on each of the following SCE poles were damaged:

- 2172027E
- 1778570E
- 1849176E
- 1849177E
- 1998109E
- 2110164E
- 2172374E
- 1778569E
- 1849178E
- 1899723E
- 4418305E
- 1649976E
- 4177346E
- 1849175E
- 1849179E
- 1899725E
- 2110166E

**GO 95, Rule 54.6-B, Ground Wires**, states in part:

*That portion of the ground wires attached on the face or back of wood crossarms or on the surface of wood poles and structures shall be covered by a suitable protective covering (see Rule 22.8).*

The ground moulding attached to each of the following poles was damaged:

- 2172027E
- 2179502E
- 2172374E
- 1849177E
- 2055913E
- 2110165E

**GO 95, Rule 54.6-E.1, Vertical and Lateral Conductors, Risers, Encased from Ground Level to 8 Feet above the Ground**, states in part:

*Risers from underground cables or other conductors shall be encased from the ground level to a level not less than 8 feet above the ground...*

An SCE riser supported on Pole 2172027E had a section that was not covered at ground level.



**GO 128, Rule 17.1, Design, Construction and Maintenance**, states in part:

*Electrical supply and communication systems shall be designed, constructed, and maintained for their intended use, regard being given to the conditions under which they are to be operated, to enable the furnishing of safe, proper, and adequate service.*

The concrete foundation for Padmount transformer P5376800 had a large hole underneath it, allowing animals to enter (we also discovered a deceased rabbit inside).