

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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April 24, 2025

EA2025-1261

Jordi Burbano
Electrical Engineer
Regulatory Compliance Section
City of Los Angeles, Department of Water and Power (LADWP)
111 North Hope Street, Room 1515
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Electric distribution audit of LADWP's Northridge District

Mr. Burbano:

On behalf of the Electric Safety and Reliability Branch (ESRB) of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), Mily Vaidya of my staff conducted an electric distribution audit of LADWP Northridge District from February 10-14, 2025. The audit included a review of LADWP's inspection and maintenance records and a field inspection of LADWP's facilities.

During the audit, my staff identified violations of one or more General Orders (GOs). A copy of the audit findings itemizing the violations is enclosed. Please advise me no later than May 26, 2025 by electronic or hard copy, of all corrective measures taken by LADWP 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 Mily Vaidya at (213) 999-8528 or Mily.Vaidya@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

Enclosure: Audit Findings

Cc: Lee Palmer, Director, Safety and Enforcement Division, CPUC
Derek Fong, Senior Utilities Engineer, ESRB, SED, CPUC
Eric Wu, Program Manager, Safety and Enforcement Division, 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
- LADWP's documented inspection program.
- Vegetation Management 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 a condition as not to create a hazard.

LADWP's records indicated that from January 2022 to October 2024, LADWP completed 57,433 overhead detailed inspections and 37,825 overhead patrol inspections past LADWP'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 of these rules.

LADWP's records indicated that from January 2022 to October 2024, LADWP completed 12,655 underground inspections and 12,168 underground patrol inspections past LADWP'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.

LADWP's records indicated that from January 2022 to October 2024, LADWP completed 5,202 overhead work orders past LADWP's 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.

LADWP's records indicated that from January 2022 to October 2024, LADWP completed 170 underground work orders past LADWP's due date for corrective action.

III. Field Inspection

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

No.	Structure ID.	Type of Structure	Location
1	240956M	Pole	North Hills
2	240448M	Pole	North Hills
3	333259M	Pole	North Hills
4	239023M	Pole	North Hills
5	239024M	Pole	North Hills
6	239025M	Pole	North Hills
7	259608M	Pole	Balboa Blvd, Northridge
8	259607M	Pole	Balboa Blvd, Northridge
9	413197M	Pole	Balboa Blvd, Northridge
10	255036M	Pole	Balboa Blvd, Northridge
11	411634M	Pole	Balboa Blvd, Northridge
12	255034M	Pole	Balboa Blvd, Northridge
13	255033M	Pole	Balboa Blvd, Northridge
14	240001M	Pole	Sherwood forest
15	GT202270	Pole	Sherwood forest
16	271797M	Pole	Sherwood forest
17	245833M	Pole	Sherwood forest
18	276737M	Pole	Sherwood forest
19	246738M	Pole	Sherwood forest
20	276739M	Pole	Sherwood forest
21	276740M	Pole	Sherwood forest
22	276741M	Pole	Sherwood forest
23	74220M	Pole	Sherwood forest
24	384870M	Pole	Sherwood forest
25	91738M	Pole	Sherwood forest
26	416682M	Pole	Sherwood forest
27	91740M	Pole	Sherwood forest
28	91741M	Pole	Sherwood forest
29	91742M	Pole	Sherwood forest
30	240000M	Pole	Sherwood forest
31	1034487	Padmount	Nordhoff PL
32	1581867	Padmount	Nordhoff PL
33	1046457	Padmount	Nordhoff PL
34	1016393	Padmount	Nordhoff PL
35	1015197	Vault	Melvin Ave
36	1015809	Padmount	Melvin Ave and Nashville Ave
37	1024561	Padmount	Tulsa and Belmar Ave
38	1013523	Padmount	Los Alimos and Belmar
39	1045673	Padmount	Celtic st
40	1001213	Padmount	10800 Bothwell Rd

41	427894M	Pole	San Jose st and Shoshone ave
42	531909M	Pole	Jellico ave and Donmetz st

IV. Field Inspection – Violations List

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

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.

LADWP's facilities on the following pole required maintenance:

- Pole 259608M – the eye of the down guy anchor was buried

The ground moulding supported on each of the following poles was damaged:

- 245833M
- 276740M
- 74220M

GO 95, Rule 84.7-A, Climbing Space, states in part:

Climbing space shall be maintained on one side or quadrant of all poles or structures supporting communications conductors excepting at the level of the one pair of conductors attached to the pole below the lowest crossarm (Rules 84.4–C1c, 84.4–D1 and 87.4–C3) and the top 3 feet of poles carrying communication conductors only which are attached directly to pole in accordance with the provisions of Rule 84.4–C1c.

The climbing space on each of the following poles was obstructed or not maintained:

- 240448M
- 259608M

GO 95, Rule 51.6-A, 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 attached to each of the following LADWP poles were damaged:

- 240448M
- 239025M
- GT202270
- 245833M
- 276737M
- 276740M
- 91740M
- 91741M
- 240000M

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 following LADWP underground facilities required maintenance:

- Padmounted transformer 1024561: vegetation obstructed the door from opening.