

December 11, 2020

201712959

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
ATTN: SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION  
320 W FOURTH STREET SUITE 500  
LOS ANGELES CA 90013

Re: Date of Incident: December 5, 2017  
Location of Incident: Little Tujunga Road (near Sylmar), Angeles National Forest

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In accordance with the reporting requirements set forth in Resolution E-4184, this letter supplements the notice Southern California Edison Company (SCE) provided to the Commission via the web-based reporting system on Friday, December 11, 2020 at 1:16 p.m., regarding the above-referenced incident. SCE is required to submit this information pursuant to Commission instructions, resolutions and the Public Utilities Code, and submits this report under Public Utilities Code Section 315 because litigation has been filed and served on SCE in which it is alleged that damage to third-party property is attributable to SCE facilities.

According to the applicable fire investigation report, on Tuesday, December 5, 2017, at approximately 3:33 a.m., during a Santa Ana wind event, a wildland fire that would become known as the Creek Fire ignited in the hills above Sylmar. According to the United States Forest Service (USFS), the fire was reported at approximately 3:44 a.m. and the 2017 Creek Fire in Sylmar burned approximately 15,619 acres, destroyed 60 residences, and an additional 144 structures were damaged or destroyed. To be clear, this incident has the same name as a 2020 wildfire event in Fresno County, but this letter concerns the 2017 event in Los Angeles County.

The origin and cause investigation of the 2017 Creek Fire in Sylmar was completed under the direction of the USFS. SCE cooperated with agency fire investigators (USFS and Cal Fire) during the initial stages of the investigation which revealed SCE electrical facilities were not in the immediate vicinity of the fire's area of origin. The USFS report concluded that non-SCE electrical facilities were identified as the ignition source of the 2017 Creek Fire in Sylmar. The subject electrical facilities involved a 500 kV transmission circuit owned and maintained by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). According to the USFS report, there was an eyewitness who reported seeing electrical arcing and sparks emerge from a LADWP transmission tower and create a fire where the USFS ultimately determined was the area of

origin. SCE did not have facilities in the immediate vicinity of the USFS report's stated area of origin.

Litigation was initially brought against LADWP. Plaintiffs have now sued SCE and Edison International in connection with the 2017 Creek Fire in Sylmar. SCE has a distribution circuit, the Lopez 16 kV circuit out of San Fernando Substation, in the general area. The Lopez 16 kV circuit did not relay or lock-out prior to the report of the 2017 Creek Fire in Sylmar. Given the allegations in the litigation, SCE is evaluating activity on the Lopez circuit, including a branch line fuse operation outside the vicinity of the origin of the fire and elevated amperage readings on the circuit on December 5, 2017.

In response to the first report of the fire, SCE personnel patrolled the circuit and noted a fuse operation and damaged service wire to a structure that had been consumed by the fire. However, these locations were beyond the area of origin of the 2017 Creek Fire in Sylmar.

The 2017 Creek Fire in Sylmar damaged 50 poles and over a mile of conductor and overhead communication cable that required replacement.

Sincerely,



Scott Hayashi