December 6, 2018

Claim No. 201810541
Woolsey Fire

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: November 8, 2018
Location of Incident: E Street and Alfa Road, South of Simi Valley, California

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 Thursday, November 8, 2018 at 8:07 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.

On November 8, 2018, a wildland fire identified as the Woolsey Fire was reported in the vicinity of E Street and Alfa Road, south of Simi Valley (Ventura County). The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (“CAL FIRE”) identifies the start time of the fire as 2:24 p.m. It is our understanding that the fire was first reported in an area south of SCE’s Chatsworth Substation located near the Santa Susana Field Laboratory. Multiple agencies responded and were involved in fire suppression activities. The lead investigative agencies are Ventura County Fire Department (“VCFD”) and CAL FIRE. The Woolsey Fire burned approximately 96,949 acres and has been fully contained.

On November 8, 2018 at 2:22 p.m., under conditions of high winds and low humidity, with Red Flag Warning and System Operating Bulletin 322 (reclosers in manual) in effect, the Big Rock 16kV circuit (“15kV circuit”) out of Chatsworth Substation relayed and was blocked from testing due to the constraint on the recloser. VCFD and CAL FIRE initially restricted access to the property, but eventually permitted SCE limited access primarily for the purpose of cooperating with their investigation.
SCE's first responding troubleman conducted a patrol to evaluate the operational status of its facilities and found no wire down on the 16kV circuit. SCE subsequently found a guy wire in proximity to a jumper at a lightweight tubular steel pole. At the request of VCFD and CAL FIRE investigators, SCE removed and provided to CAL FIRE portions of SCE's facilities located in the vicinity of the guy wire and jumper, including communication wires, a pole top, multiple guy wires, as well as equipment not owned by SCE. As you are aware, SED personnel also were present during at least portions of the investigation and the removal of materials from the scene for retention by CAL FIRE.

The cause of the relay to the 16kV circuit has not been determined and it may not be definitively understood until additional information is available, including information which can only be obtained through examination and testing of the equipment retained by CAL FIRE. SCE is evaluating whether the above-mentioned guy wire came into contact with the jumper, which, in turn, may have been a cause of the relay on the 16kV circuit as well as other potential causes such as weather, debris, vegetation, design, construction, operations, and maintenance.

The damage and injuries caused by the Woolsey Fire are still uncertain. According to information obtained from CAL FIRE, 2,007 structures have been damaged or destroyed within Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. It was also reported that there were three civilian fatalities within the evacuation areas and three injuries to firefighting personnel. Additionally, the damage to SCE facilities has not yet been tabulated, and restoration efforts are ongoing as of the date of this letter. It is estimated that approximately 41,000 customers were affected by outages from this incident.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Robert Ramos