

Comments on Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Recommendations

From: Audrey Ichinose <aichinose@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 10:53 AM
To: Wildfire Safety Advisory Board
Subject: Public Comment to the Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Recommendations

To Wildfire Safety Advisory Board:

Thank you for your diligent work and extensive report.

I am rather disappointed, however, that your analysis does not emphasize the need for PG&E to bring its transmission and distribution lines up to current technical standards. Your recommendations instead generally endorse PG&E's adherence to its previous outmoded practices that rely on vegetation management for fire safety.

As a strong environmentalist, advocate of local renewable energy distribution, and active supporter of Alameda County's East Bay Community Energy, I believe that future policy should emphasize the technical hardening of our transmission infrastructure. Devoting the majority of funding to vegetation management makes little sense. If one follows its logic, we shall be reducing one of the best means we have of fighting climate change. We need more--not fewer--trees and plants to absorb CO2 emissions, if we can ever get beyond the cycle of drought and fire. More clear-cutting is tantamount to fighting fire with more fire!

The WSAB must insure that our transmission infrastructure be hardened well enough to serve all of our disparate, far-flung needs. Communities throughout California wish to build out local renewable energy resources. They also need resiliency in times of emergency. It would better serve all of us to have PG&E replace unsafe wires, extensively install computerized circuit breakers, use up-to-date sensors and the like to upgrade our seriously outmoded system.

Ultimately, the CPUC needs to update the inadequate General Orders that guide PG&E and the other utilities. Most importantly, Wildfire Mitigation Plans should move forward upon the initiative of the Commission and its engineering staff. The Commission should not allow the utilities to set their own regulations.

Thank you.

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