



**Pacific Gas and
Electric Company**

Patricia K. Poppe
Chief Executive Officer

77 Beale Street, 32nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

August 27, 2021

President Marybel Batjer
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Batjer:

Thank you for your August 18, 2021 letter regarding the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) review of PG&E's recent self-reports. We share the Commission's laser-focus on safety and reducing the growing wildfire risk. We have taken a stand that catastrophic wildfires shall stop, and we are putting all our might behind that every day.

We work tirelessly to meet your expectations—which match our own—to make our energy system safe. We have been in ongoing, regular communications with the Commission's Safety and Enforcement Division (SED) on the specific issues raised in your letter, have addressed immediate corrective actions and are diligently working on the remaining corrective actions. We will continue to work with the Commission and SED to ensure that each and every item is completely addressed.

These self-reports came from co-workers doing the right thing and raising issues while validating our work plans and performing quality reviews. The speak-up/follow-up culture that we are fostering is working. Thanks to these efforts and others, we were able to find these issues and work aggressively to identify and implement corrective actions and report issues to the Commission proactively. We know the importance of doing our work right and holding ourselves to the highest safety standards.

As we find issues that need to be corrected, we will continue to raise and address them with the Commission. We expect we may find other issues through the implementation of our Lean Operating System, which is a sustainable way to improve the way we work. We are hopeful that the Commission will work with us as we continue to build this system that enables visibility, control and predictability for better outcomes for our customers and communities.

Our Wildfire Mitigation Plan continues to improve. It includes short-, medium- and long-term plans to prevent wildfires, and we welcome the Commission's oversight, input and engagement to ensure that we carry out our commitments. Our wildfire safety work includes:

- Hardening the electric system in areas of high wildfire risk with stronger poles and lines, including targeted undergrounding in the highest fire-risk areas;
- Piloting new technologies that detect threats to the electric grid and rapidly reduce or shut off power, thus reducing the need for larger Public Safety Power Shutoffs;
- Inspecting all lines and structures in Tier 3 High Fire Threat District (HFTD) areas and one-third of the lines and structures in Tier 2 areas; and
- Meeting and exceeding state vegetation safety standards with our Enhanced Vegetation Management (EVM) program to manage trees and other vegetation located near power lines that could cause a wildfire or power outage. As of the end of July, we have completed 788 EVM miles this year, with more than 96% of the work being completed in the top 20% of the highest risk areas, and completed a total of 5,164 EVM miles since 2019.

In addition, we aren't waiting to make changes as we continuously monitor the increased risk. This fire season we adopted several additional, proactive safety measures for 2021 as we continue to see extreme and elevated drought conditions greatly amplify the wildfire risk. For example, we are addressing high-priority vegetation issues that may pose a safety risk and conducting aerial safety patrols on these circuits beyond our established inspection protocols, and implementing fast-trip settings for high-priority circuits in HFTDs, which will quickly turn off the flow of power if a fault occurs (for example, if a foreign object contacts an energized line). We are starting with circuits in locations that are difficult to access and at a higher risk for a catastrophic wildfire.

We are tenaciously focused on safety and making sure catastrophic wildfires stop, and we know that we must take a leading role in this effort. We look forward to continuing to work with your team so that everyone and everything is always safe.

Sincerely,



Patti Poppe

CEO, PG&E Corporation

cc: Service List I.15-08-019
Service List R.18-12-005
Service List R.18-10-007