

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 305142

DATE OF FINAL PASSAGE JUL 31 2009

WHEREAS, both devastating wildfires in San Diego County in October 2003 and October 2007 created a tremendous hardship for local, regional, and state firefighting resources; and

WHEREAS, the wildfires of 2003 and 2007 originated in the rural backcountry of San Diego County and spread rapidly to the west into more populated areas of the City of San Diego; and

WHEREAS, the evacuation of several hundred thousand San Diegans was required at the time of the wildfires, as well as the deployment of the majority of the City's Fire-Rescue Department; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to make sure that new fire safety recommendations are implemented each year, Governor Schwarzenegger established a Blue Ribbon Task Force on June 29, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force recognizes the critical role of timely emergency notification of the public of imminent threats and recommends that local governments prioritize the development of appropriate early warning systems to address the needs of their communities; and

WHEREAS, with the annual fire season approaching, the City of San Diego reviews existing and new fire safety policies and procedures each year in an effort to prepare for and properly respond to wildfires; and

WHEREAS, San Diego Gas & Electric's Emergency Power Shut-Off Plan ("Plan") is a new fire safety option that would temporarily disconnect electricity service in areas of San Diego County where extreme fire and weather conditions create a high risk of wildfires; and

WHEREAS, the Plan would only be used as a last resort to prevent catastrophic fires when all five of the following conditions are met: moisture level in "non-living" fuel is ten percent or less; moisture level in "live" fuel is seventy five percent or less; relative humidity is twenty percent or less; the National Weather Service declares a Red Flag Warning; localized wind speeds are sustained at 35 mph, or 55 mph gusts or greater with 30 mph sustained winds; and

WHEREAS, San Diego Gas & Electric, as part of the Plan, is committed to working with stakeholders to minimize the impact of any power outage by providing backup generators, opening community care centers, and coordinating with fire, law enforcement, telecommunication companies, and the County Office of Emergency Services; and

WHEREAS, while San Diego may be entering another fire season during serious drought conditions, it is important for the City to consider all options for preventing fires and allocating resources to protect San Diegans; and

WHEREAS, the City releases no liability for past or future fires by supporting this resolution; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council expresses its support for San Diego Gas & Electric's Emergency Power Shut-Off Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council encourages the California Public Utilities Commission to approve this Plan for the safety of the citizens of San Diego.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council requests that San Diego Gas & Electric create and annually report on a 5-year plan with measurable annual targets for making improvements in: (1) pole and power line inspections; (2) tree-trimming/brush clearing; (3) 700+ new steel structures; (4) undergrounding power lines; (5) disable automatic switches; (6) staged work crews; and (7) new detection technology, which annual report shall be heard at the City Council Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhood Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council by taking this action, in no way supports any action that would shift liability from San Diego Gas & Electric to any other entity.

APPROVED: JAN I. GOLDSMITH, City Attorney

By Catherine M. Bradley  
Catherine M. Bradley  
Chief Deputy City Attorney

CMB:lkj  
07/14/2009  
07/27/2009 REV.  
Or.Dept:Council-Emerald

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was passed by the Council of the City of San Diego, at this meeting of JUL 27 2009

ELIZABETH S. MALAND  
City Clerk

By [Signature]  
Deputy City Clerk

Approved: 7-31-09  
(date)

[Signature]  
JERRY SANDERS, Mayor

Vetoed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
JERRY SANDERS, Mayor