



COUNCIL AGENDA: 12/10/19
FILE: 19-1159
ITEM: 3.5

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: David Sykes

**SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF A
PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL
EMERGENCY**

DATE: November 22, 2019

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution terminating the Director of Emergency Services' Proclamation of October 26, 2019 of the existence of a local emergency resulting from predicted high wildfire risk conditions and PG&E's notice that it would execute a Public Safety Power Shutoff affecting portions of the City of San José.

OUTCOME

Termination of the Director of Emergency Services' (City Manager), or designee proclamation, of a local emergency allows the City to return to normal business operations when the conditions of local emergency have passed.

BACKGROUND

Action

On October 26, 2019 the Director of Emergency Services proclaimed a local emergency related to predicted high wildfire risk conditions and the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's ("PG&E") stated intention to execute a Public Safety Power Shutoff ("PSPS") and resultant need to prepare for portions of the City that would be without power for an extended period of time. Pursuant to the San Jose Municipal Code and the California Government Code, the local emergency must be terminated by the City Council as soon as conditions allow.

1. PSPS Event #1:

The City activated the Emergency Operations Center ("EOC") on Wednesday, October 9, 2019 in anticipation of a PGE PSPS event impacting the City of San José due to high wildfire risk conditions including the potential for high winds. PGE notified the City that the PSPS would start on October 9, 2019 and last as long as seven days.

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The Director of Emergency Services designee, EOC Director Kip Harkness, signed a Proclamation of Local Emergency at 2:00 PM on October 9, 2019. The weather conditions met the criteria used by PGE to initiate a PSPS event, and power was shutoff beginning at 10:45 PM on October 9, 2019 to approximately 22,974 customer accounts.

Full restoration of power was achieved during the early morning hours of October 11, 2019. City Council Ratified and Terminated the Proclamation of Local Emergency on Wednesday, October 16, 2019.

2. PSPS Event #2:

The City activated the Emergency Operations Center (“EOC”) on Saturday, October 26, 2019 in anticipation of a PGE PSPS event scheduled to be initiated between the hours of 8:00 PM and 11:00 PM due to high fire risk conditions including the potential for high winds.

The Director of Emergency Services designee, EOC Director Kip Harkness, signed a Proclamation of Local Emergency at 2:00 PM on October 26, 2019. The weather conditions met the criteria used by PGE to initiate a PSPS event, and PGE issued a notice that it would turn off the power to portions of San Jose. Power was shut off to approximately 7,487 customer accounts.

The City of San José EOC was staffed by 4 pm on October 26, 2019 to begin preparing for the PSPS event, which included deployment of generators, opening of Community Resource Centers (“CRC”), and notification of residents with qualifying medical baseline accounts. Field staff deployed by Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services set up CRCs and conducted door knocks. Field staff deployed by the Department of Transportation working with the Department of Public Works placed traffic cones and portable stop signs at pre-identified intersections at risk of generating traffic accidents.

Notices of the pending PSPS event and the location of CRCs were initiated at 4:00 PM on October 26, 2019 and continued throughout the event. The alerts were made by digital recording, text and social media via AlertSCC in three languages: English, Spanish and Vietnamese. The power was completely restored to all City residents during the evening hours of October 28, 2019.

The City Council ratified and continued the Proclamation of a Local Emergency on October 30, 2019 due to ongoing forecasted high wildfire danger conditions.

3. PSPS Event #3:

The City began monitoring a third potential PSPS event on October 29, 2019 based on a notification received from PGE on October 27, 2019, and on October 28, 2019. As a result of changing weather conditions, PGE rescinded their previous notifications and canceled the anticipated PSPS event.

4. PSPS Event #4:

The City began monitoring a fourth potential PSPS event on November 20, 2019 based on a notification from PGE. The PSPS was anticipated to impact the portions of the City boundary near Los Gatos. PGE later canceled its notification to Santa Clara County event due to changing weather conditions, and San Jose was no longer expected to be impacted.

ANALYSIS

The authority to proclaim a Local Emergency in San José is vested in the City Council, or in an emergent situation, the Director of Emergency Services (City Manager), or designated alternate. Pursuant to Title 8, Chapter 8.08 Part 2 Section 808.210 of the San José Municipal Code and the California Government Code, Section 8680.9, the Proclamation of Local Emergency must be ratified by the City Council within seven (7) days if Proclaimed by the Director of Emergency Services (or his/her designee) or it shall have no further force or effect. In addition, ratification is a prerequisite for requesting state or federal assistance. Moreover, the City Council must terminate of the Local Emergency as soon as conditions warrant. The high wildfire conditions have abated with the first rains of the season and more rain forecasted in the coming weeks. As such, conditions warrant termination of the local emergency.

The City incurred costs of approximately \$746,000 in response to the first PSPS, \$706,000 for labor (including overtime costs of \$19,000) and \$40,000 for supplies and services. Costs for the second and third events are being calculated, though are anticipated to be lower. At this time, no response costs are reimbursable from the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) until the Governor declares an emergency, nor from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, until the President declares a disaster. What has been made available from CalOES is a \$500,000 grant for the preparation costs and purchase of emergency power systems, prior to the first PSPS. The City has submitted an application for those funds, and the State has approved. Actions to recognize and appropriate this grant funding will be brought forward as part of the 2019-2020 Mid-Year Budget Review.

CONCLUSION

The City of San José has experienced two limited PSPS events since early October, 2019, that impacted critical facilities, businesses, and residents. The operational response to these events by City staff has been robust and well received by residents, but comes at a cost. The State of California is providing some relief for those costs through the institution of a PSPS event grant program, to which the City is expecting some reimbursement. City is identifying gaps in plans, programs, and resources to effectively deal with a city-wide event of this type. Future conversations will address resource gaps in order to respond to PGE's claim that PSPS events are anticipated to continue for the next ten years.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

No further action by the City Council is necessary. If the Proclamation of a Local Emergency is approved by the California Office of Emergency Services Director or concurrence is identified by the Governor in a Gubernatorial Declaration of an Emergency, the San José Office of Emergency Management will take action to file reimbursement claims.

CLIMATE SMART SAN JOSE

The recommendation in this memo has no effect on Climate Smart San José energy, water, or mobility goals.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The memorandum will be posted for the December 10, 2019 agenda.

COORDINATION

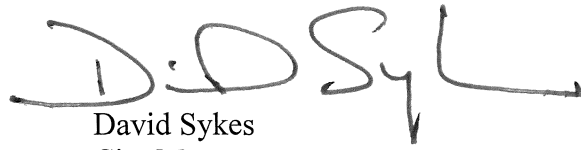
The report was prepared by the Office of Emergency Management in coordination with the City Attorney's Office and Budget Office.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

No commission recommendation or input is associated with this section.

CEQA

Statutory Exempt, Section 15269, Emergency Projects


David Sykes
City Manager

For questions, please contact Raymond Riordan, Director of the City Manager's Office of Emergency Management at (408) 794-7055.