



## City Council Agenda Item

**City Council Meeting Date:** June 20, 2023

**TO:** Dean Albro, City Manager

**FROM:** Charles J. Berry, Utility Director  
c\_berry@ci.lompoc.ca.us

**SUBJECT:** Adoption of Resolution No: 6583(23) Adopting the 2023 City of Lompoc Wildfire Mitigation Plan

---

### **Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the City Council adopt Resolution No. 6583(23) adopting the 2023 City of Lompoc Wildfire Mitigation Plan (attached).

### **Background:**

To help reduce the risk of a wildfire starting from an electric utility's equipment, Senate Bill (SB) 901 was enacted in 2018. A section of the bill, amending Public Utilities Code (PUC) section 8387, directed local publicly owned electric utilities (POUs) and electric cooperatives to annually prepare a wildfire mitigation plan related to its power lines and equipment and to incorporate in their plan's specified information and procedures.

Additionally, SB 901 requires public electric utilities such as the City of Lompoc Electric Division (Lompoc Electric) to annually evaluate and update its wildfire mitigation plan; provide it to their governing board for approval; receive an independent review of the plan to assess compliance and ensure it complies with all applicable rules, regulations, and standards; and provide the review report to their governing body at a noticed public meeting.

Assembly Bill (AB) 1054 was further enacted in 2019 establishing the Wildfire Safety Advisory Board (WSAB) who was to review each utility's wildfire mitigation plan beginning in 2020 and provide guidance opinions for improvements and future considerations in subsequent wildfire mitigation plans. The bill further requires each electric utility to submit by July 1 of each year, its plan to the WSAB for review with a comprehensive revision not less than every three (3) years.

To comply with SB 901 and to meet the requirements outlined in PUC section 8387(b), Lompoc Electric developed the 2019 Wildfire Mitigation Plan (Plan). The Plan was adopted in 2019 and implemented in 2020. In 2021 and 2022, the Plan was updated,

approved by the City Council and has been submitted annually to WSAB as required by AB 1054.

**Discussion:**

In accordance with PUC section 8387, Lompoc Electric staff evaluated the 2022 Plan and determined that implementation of the Plan has been successful. Lompoc Electric has a very low risk for starting a wildfire from its equipment. Only 1.15% of Lompoc Electric's overhead distribution lines are located in the Tier 2 High Fire Threat District (HFTD).

Staff used five outcome and performance metrics to measure the performance of the Plan in the HFTD as required by Section X (A) of the Plan: (1) number of fire ignitions; and (2) wires down; (3) number of outages (4) inspection completion; and (5) vegetation management completion. No wildfires were started by electric equipment or overhead lines in 2022 in the HFTD.

Lompoc Electric submitted its 2022 Plan to WSAB in July 2022. After a review of all publicly owned utilities' (POUs) plans, November 16, 2022, WSAB prepared its "Guidance Advisory Opinion for the 2023 Wildfire Mitigation Plans of Electric Publicly Owned Utilities and Rural Electric Cooperatives" (the Opinion). The Opinion recommended consistency in the 2023 comprehensive revision of WMPs and that the POUs consider following the model comprehensive revision template found in the Opinion. Guidance opinions specific to Lompoc Electric were also provided by WSAB in the Opinion.

In the 2023 comprehensive Plan revision, Lompoc Electric used the recommended template. In addition, Lompoc Electric considered the specific recommendations made by the WSAB and has implemented changes where applicable. In the Opinion, it was noted that the WSAB "observes the same commitment to improvement in wildfire mitigation planning in Lompoc's 2022 WMP as in their past submittals."

Due to the number of changes to the format, as recommended by the WSAB, a detailed list of changes is not included in the Plan but will be included in future updates. Lompoc Electric will continue to evaluate comments from the WSAB for applicability to its service territory.

**Plan Accomplishments:**

Since the adoption of the Plan in 2019, Lompoc Electric has completed all the system hardening projects found in Section VII(C) of the Plan and will continue to evaluate other technologies.

Lompoc Electric completed vegetation management and pole inspections in accordance with the Plan in 2022 and will continue enhancements to traditional vegetation management strategy and enhanced inspection strategy as noted in Sections VII(D) and VII(E) of the Plan.

Lompoc Electric contracted with a qualified independent evaluator, Guidehouse, to review and assess the comprehensiveness of the Plan as required in Section XI of the Plan. The report and findings were presented to the City Council at a public meeting on July 21, 2020. The independent evaluator determined that the Plan complies with PUC section 8387(b). No recommendations were made for improvements to the Plan.

**Fiscal Impact:**

To comply with PUC section 8387(b), there are three separate costs that are incurred in the development and implementation of the Plan: (i) Materials (less than \$50,000); (ii) Labor; and (iii) Plan evaluator fees. Those three costs are budgeted in the Electric fund. There is no expected impact to the General Fund.

**Conclusion:**

Distribution system protection for both public and asset safety has been paramount. Lompoc Electric has been successful in preventing wildfires from its infrastructure and has not had a wildfire start from its electrical lines or equipment. The implementation and annual evaluation of the Plan will help Lompoc Electric continue its successful practice of preventing wildfires from its electrical lines and equipment.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Charles J. Berry, Utility Director

**APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:**

---

Dean Albro, City Manager

Attachment: Resolution No. 6583(23)