



CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Douglas Schulze, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Brandon Robinson, Electrical Engineering Supervisor
Art Vela, Director of Public Works

MEETING DATE: June 25, 2024

SUBJECT: Public Hearing and Consideration of Resolution 2024-106, Adopting the City of Banning Electric Utility 2024 Wildfire Mitigation Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution 2024-106.

BACKGROUND:

In 2018, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) completed the development of the statewide Fire Threat Map that designates areas of the State at an elevated risk of electric line-ignited wildfires. This updated map incorporated historical fire data, fire-behavior modeling, and assessments of fuel, weather modeling, and a host of other factors. The map development and approval process involved detailed review by the relevant utility staff and local fire officials, a peer review process, and ultimate approval by a team of technical experts led by CAL Fire.

The CPUC's Fire Threat Map includes three Tiers/Levels of fire threat risk. Tier 1 consists of areas that have the lowest hazards and risks. Tier 2 consists of areas where there is an *elevated risk* for destructive electric line-ignited wildfires. Finally, Tier 3 consists of areas where there is an *extreme risk* for destructive electric line-ignited wildfires.

In 2018, Governor Brown signed SB 901 (stats. 2018), which addressed a wide range of issues relating to wildfire prevention, response, and recovery. SB 901 substantially revised the Public Utilities Code Section 8387, eliminating the prior process established by SB 1028 and instead mandated all POUs (regardless of size or wildfire risk) develop a wildfire mitigation plan. SB 901 requires that POUs present their WMP at an appropriately noticed public meeting and receive public comment every year. The POU must also verify that the wildfire mitigation plan complies with all applicable rules, regulations, and standards.

Another Senate Bill, SB 1054, requires that all POUs must submit their wildfire prevention and mitigation plans updates to the California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board (WSAB) in each year. WSAB will then review the POU plans and will provide comments and advisory opinions on the content and sufficiency of the plan. The members of the board must be selected from industry experts, academics, and people with

labor and workforce safety experience. At least three members must be experienced in the safe operation, design, and engineering of electrical infrastructure.

JUSTIFICATION:

The City of Banning Electric Utility is required to meet the requirements of SB 901 by presenting the 2024 update of the WMP at an appropriately noticed public meeting and receive public comment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There are no fiscal impacts to updating and resubmitting the Utility's Wildfire Mitigation Plan. The costs of implementation are unknown and dependent upon the degree of fire mitigation efforts needed to protect residents, businesses, and property throughout the service territory. Approval of Resolution 2024-106 and adoption of the 2024 City of Banning Electric Utility WMP allows the City of Banning to become eligible for Federal and State mitigation and prevention funds.

ALTERNATIVES:

Do not approve and provide alternate direction.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Resolution 2024-106, Wildfire Mitigation Plan.docx](#)
2. [BEU 2024 Wildfire Mitigation Plan_.pdf](#)