



CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Robert Fisher, Acting City Manager

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

MEETING DATE: June 24, 2025

SUBJECT: Consideration of Resolution 2025-93, Adopting the City of Banning Electric Utility 2024 Wildfire Mitigation Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution 2025-93.

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 Publicly Owned Utilities (POUs) to develop a wildfire mitigation plan (WMP). SB 901 required that POUs present their WMP at an appropriately noticed public meeting and receive public comment every year. The POU must also verify that the WMP complies with all applicable rules, regulations, and standards.

In 2019, another Senate Bill, SB 1054, required 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.

JUSTIFICATION:

The primary goal of City of Banning Electric Utility (BEU's) Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) is to describe BEU's existing programs, practices, and measures that effectively reduce the probability that BEU's electric system could be the origin or contributing source for the ignition of a wildfire. The attached WMP has been updated and meets all the required criteria in Section 8387 of the Public Utility Code. Furthermore, BEU 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 any public comment, as required by state law.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There are no fiscal impacts to updating and resubmitting the Banning Electric 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 2025-XXX and adoption of the City of Banning Electric Utility Wildfire Mitigation Plan - 2024 update allows the City of Banning to become eligible for Federal and State Wildfire mitigation and prevention funds.

ALTERNATIVES:

Do not approve and provide alternate direction.

BUDGETED?:

No

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT:

No

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Resolution 2025-93, Wildfire Mitigation Plan.docx](#)
2. [Exhibit A - BEU 2025 Wildfire Mitigation Plan](#)