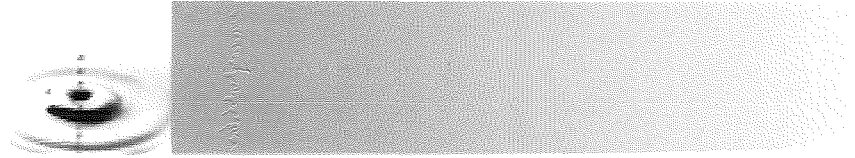
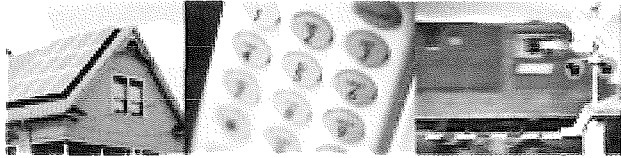


Presented in Committee - July 25, 2019

CPUC Oversight of Overhead Wires

Lee Palmer, Director
CPUC Safety and Enforcement Division
July 25, 2019

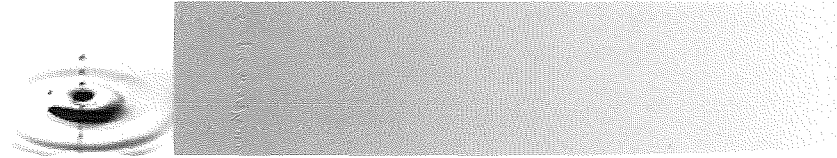
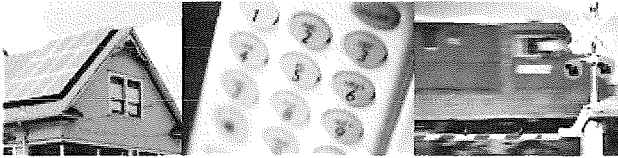




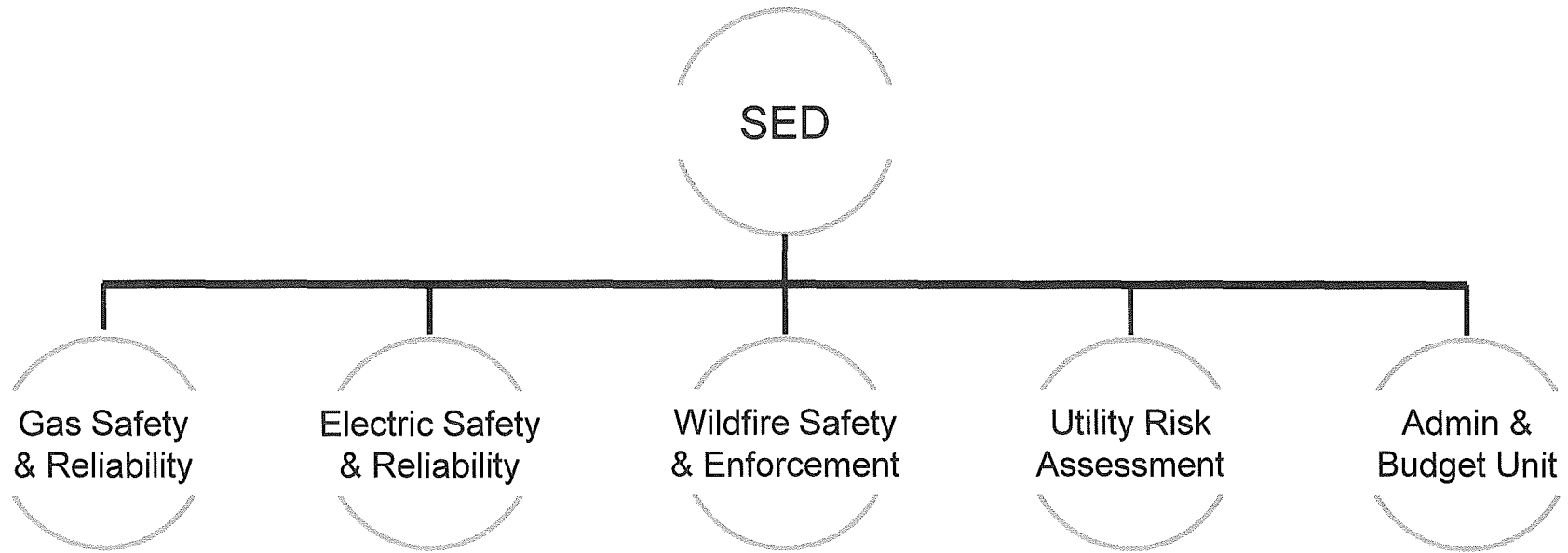
Overview

- Introduction
- Anatomy of a utility pole
- Role of the CPUC in pole safety
- Topics of interest identified by Supervisors
 1. Mapping of existing poles
 2. Systems and protocols for tracking of utilities on poles
 3. Timelines for audits/inspections
 4. Safety-related incidents reporting
 5. Abandoned facilities
 6. Overhead versus underground utilities





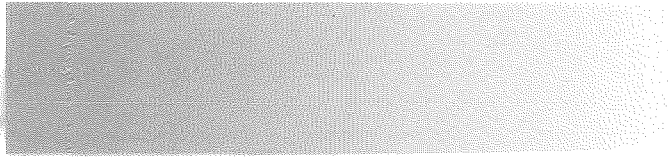
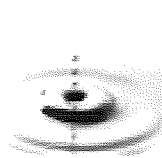
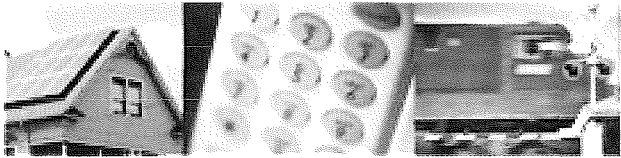
Safety and Enforcement Division Overview



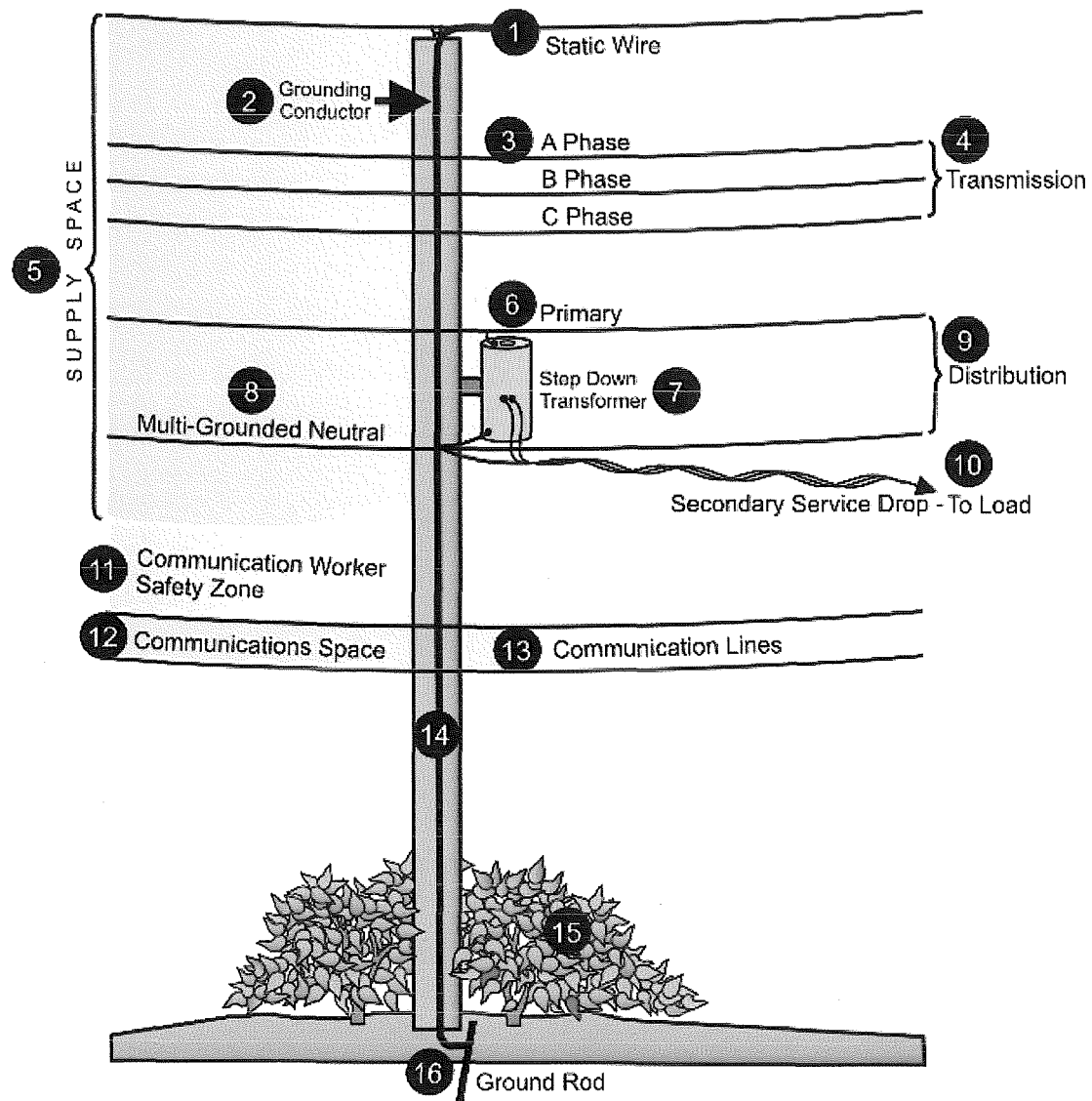
Mission

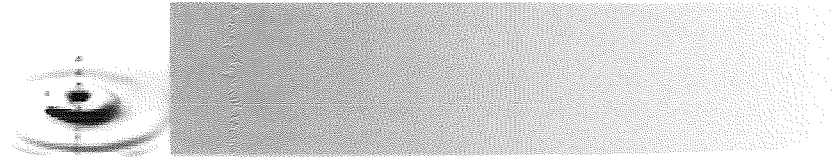
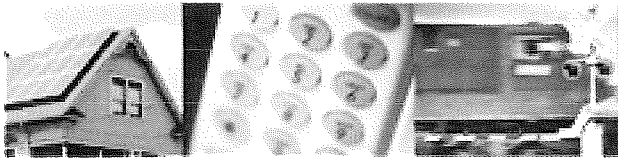
The CPUC's Safety and Enforcement Division (SED) works diligently to ensure that regulated services are delivered in a safe and reliable manner.





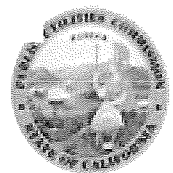
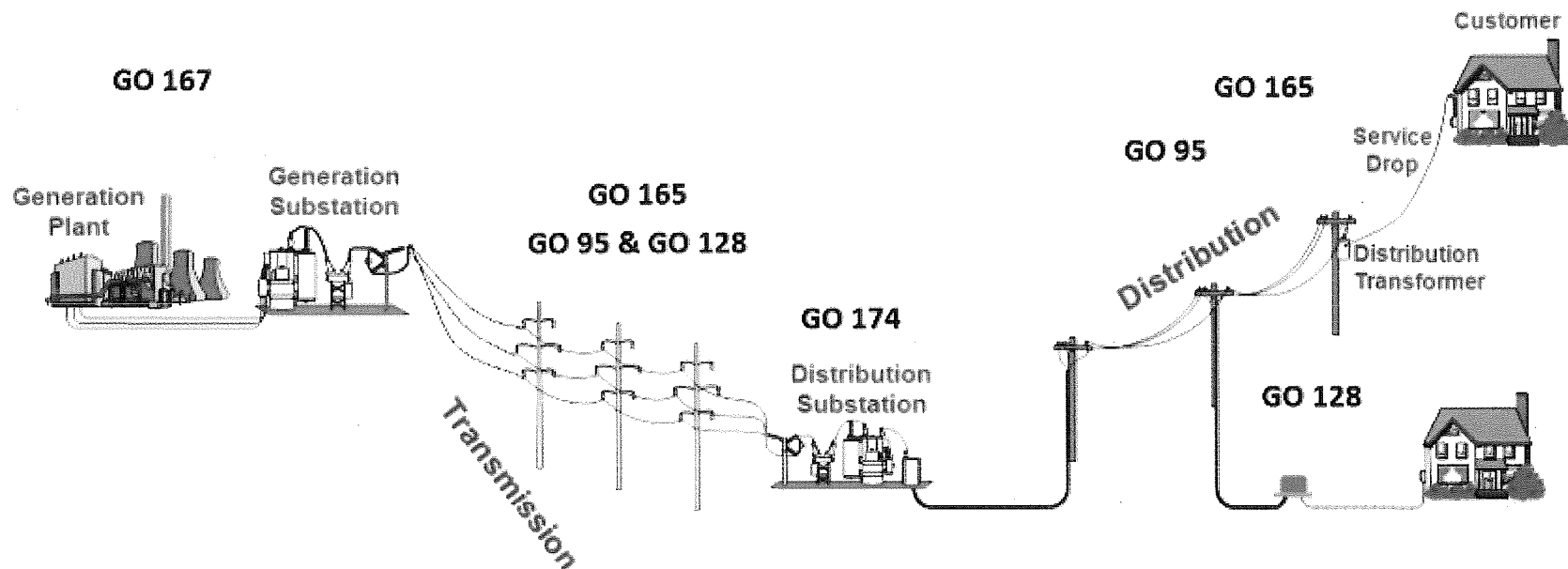
What's on a Pole?

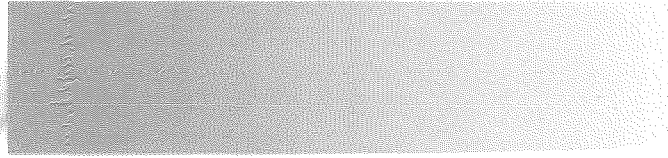
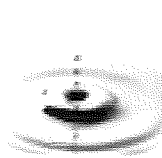
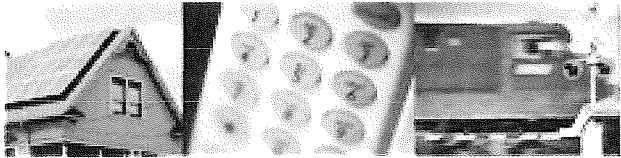




CPUC Regulation of Utility Safety from Generation to Customer Service Drop

General Orders (GO) 95, 128, 165, 167, 174

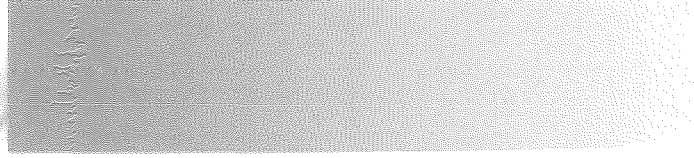
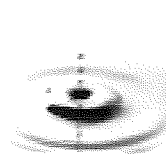
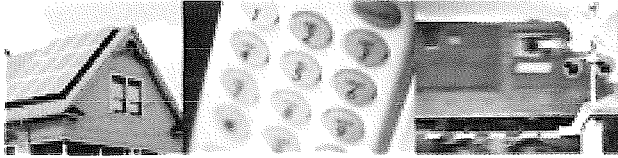




CPUC Safety Oversight of Overhead Facilities

- CPUC creates the rules for pole construction, maintenance, and inspections (General Orders)
- Audits the company's records regarding construction, inspection and maintenance and performs spot inspections of facilities
- Investigates reportable electric safety incidents including pole-related
- Investigates customer or whistleblower safety complaints and inquiries
- Takes enforcement actions for violations of General Orders and other requirements
 - Staff Notices of Violation
 - Staff Citations
 - Adjudicatory CPUC Investigations

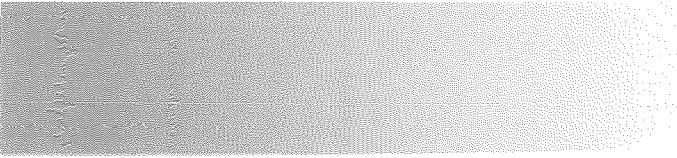
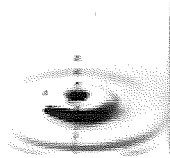
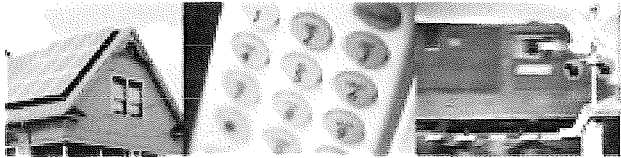




Topics of Interest from Supervisors

1. Mapping of existing poles
2. Systems and protocols for tracking of utilities on poles
3. Timelines for audits/inspections
4. Safety-related incidents reporting
5. Abandoned facilities
6. Overhead versus underground utilities

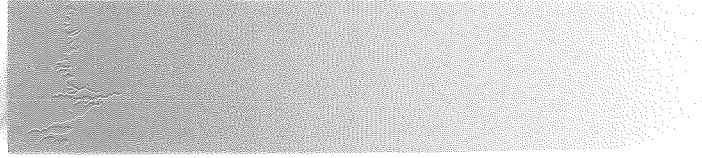
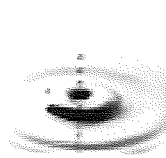
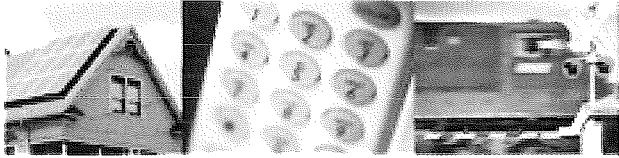




CPUC Utility Pole Proceeding

- Consider strategies for increased and non-discriminatory **access to poles and conduit by competitive communications providers**, the impact of such increased access on safety, and how best to ensure the integrity of the affected communications and electric supply infrastructure going forward.
- Investigate the **feasibility of a data management platform** that will allow stakeholders to share key pole attachment and conduit information
- Consider rules that will allow **broadband Internet access service (BIAS)** providers to attach facilities to poles and to use conduit following their classification as public utility telecommunications carriers in the FCC's 2015 *Open Internet Order* and
- Consider rules specific to underground conduit, and **better pole management practices**.
- See Docket Card for Investigation I1706028 for more information:
<https://apps.cpuc.ca.gov/apex/f?p=401:1:0>

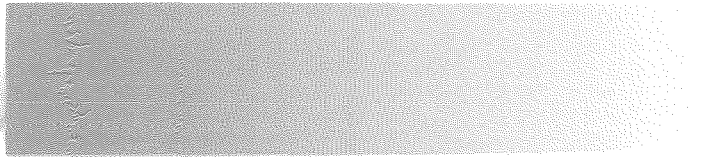
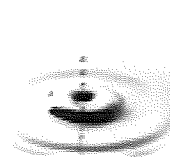
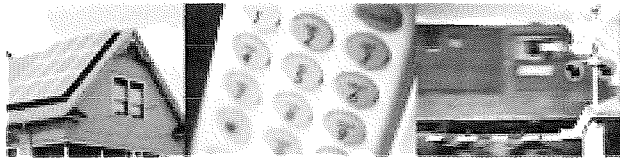




Protections Against Pole Overloading

- Pole loading calculations are required (GO 95) to be conducted by service providers when new attachments are proposed
- Pole owners verify whether the proposed attachment can be allowed or whether the pole would need to be replaced or reinforced
- CPUC audits the pole owners and attachers and investigates safety incidents to ensure they are following the GO 95 rules



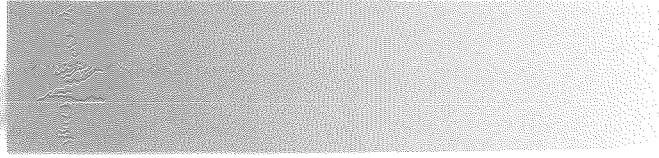
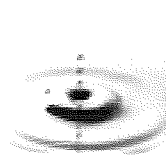
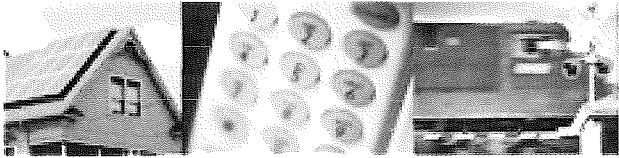


Distribution Inspection Requirements

Distribution Inspection Cycles (Maximum Intervals in Years)

	Patrol		Detailed		Intrusive	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Transformers						
Overhead	1	2 ¹	5	5	---	---
Underground	1	2	3	3	---	---
Padmounted	1	2	5	5	---	---
Switching/Protective Devices						
Overhead	1	2 ¹	5	5	---	---
Underground	1	2	3	3	---	---
Padmounted	1	2	5	5	---	---
Regulators/Capacitors						
Overhead	1	2 ¹	5	5	---	---
Underground	1	2	3	3	---	---
Padmounted	1	2	5	5	---	---
Overhead Conductor and Cables						
Overhead Conductor and Cables	1	2 ¹	5	5	---	---
Streetlighting	1	2	x	x	---	---
Wood Poles under 15 years	1	2	x	x	---	---
Wood Poles over 15 years which have not been subject to intrusive inspection	1	2	x	x	10	10
Wood poles which passed intrusive inspection	---	---	---	---	20	20

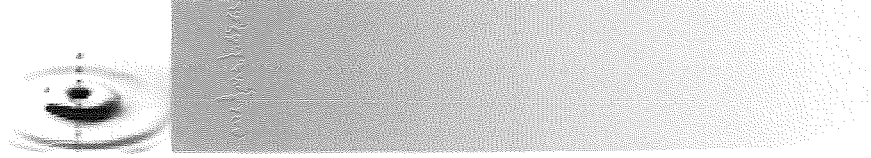
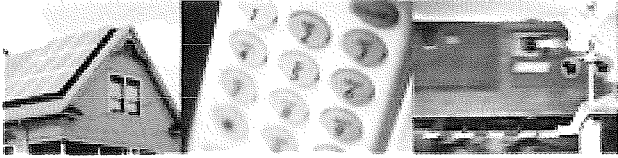




Audits of Utility Districts

- CPUC audits utility and communication company compliance with inspection, construction and maintenance rules
- There are approximately 5 million utility poles in California, located in about 300 “districts”
- Goal is to audit each district every 5 years, more often for larger districts
- Audit records and conduct spot facility inspections
- 2019 audits in the San Francisco area include
 - PG&E’s San Francisco distribution district, July 22-26
 - PG&E’s Mission (Fremont/Hayward/Livermore) distribution district, June 3-7
- Link to audit reports:
<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/General.aspx?id=2065>

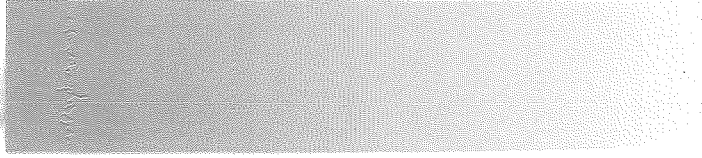
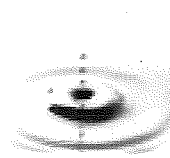
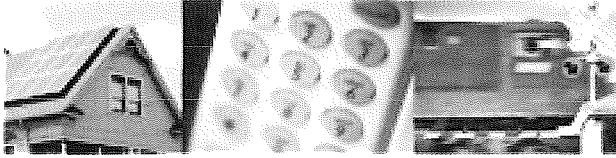




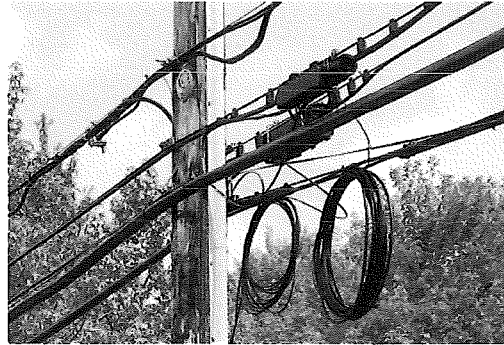
Electric Safety Incidents Involving Poles

- Electric utilities report incidents to Safety and Enforcement Division within 2 hours (4 hours if incident isn't during business hours).
- SED investigates, including a site visit the same day if feasible.
- The CPUC annually reports all electric and gas safety incidents to the Legislature.
- Electric safety incidents are in Appendix A to the CPUC's Annual Reports:
<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/AnnualReports/>



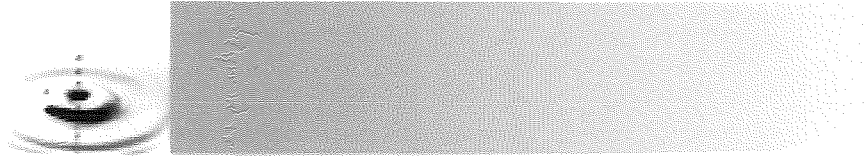
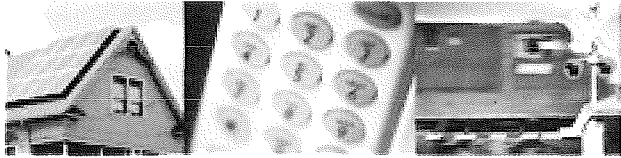


Abandoned Facilities



- GO 95 requires that permanently abandoned lines be removed by the owner
- “Permanently abandoned” is defined as “no foreseeable future use” and is determined by the owner

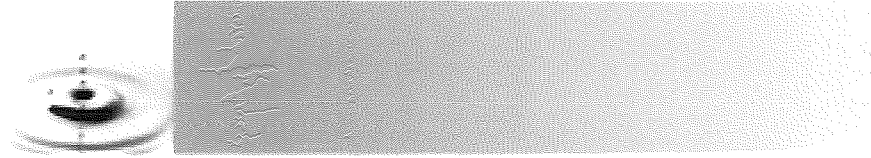
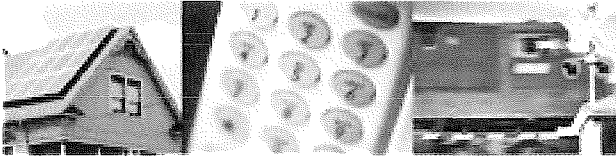




Undergrounding

- Existing overhead electric, communication, and cable facilities can be converted to underground (procedures are in a utility's Tariff Rule 20)
- The CPUC requires electric utilities to set aside funding that is rate based for the program in accordance with a formula and can approve deviations in the funds allocated to a specific city.
- Projects must meet CPUC-determined criteria to be 100% funded by ratepayers, but other projects can be undertaken with local contributions. The project scope and rationale are determined by the local government and the utilities.
- More information is available at:
 - <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/General.aspx?id=4403>
 - Powerpoint:
<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=6442456943>





Questions?

