



To a customer of Lathrop Irrigation District

June 17, 2019

RE: PG&E Wildfire Mitigation Plan

Dear Customer,

Many of you have read or heard of the possibility of the customers in Manteca and Lathrop of losing power for up to a week due to wildfires. I am sure you are concerned if this will also happen here in River Islands. I have waited until now to inform you as I wanted to confirm directly with PG&E to ensure the information I forward is correct and not overstated.

Last Thursday the 13th of June I had a phone conference with the PG&E team that has been charged to distribute the information. So here is the background. PG&E has had for many years a wildfire mitigation plan for distribution. Distribution is the power that comes from a substation that takes power from a transmission line, very high voltage, and steps it down to a medium voltage that is then distributed to the neighborhoods and to transformers near your home to a useable voltage of 240/120 volts. In the PG&E wildfire mitigation plan it allows them to shut the power off to areas of potential danger of high winds and wildfire.

After the Paradise fire and Napa fire PG&E has elevated that plan to include its transmission lines. Customers may say "We are not in a wildfire area so why shut off our power?" PG&E transmission system is a crisscross of circuits from Bakersfield to the Oregon border. When maintenance, or in this case fire endangering the line, PG&E can reroute the power to a different line. The issue becomes relevant if too much power is shifted on one particular line it can cause additional problems like voltage drop or overheating the line. PG&E needs to protect those lines and would need to drop power to them. When danger is eminent, PG&E and the California Independent Service Operators (CAISO), which regulates the power grid, decide together whether to shut down a line. The lines, whether distribution or transmission, can be down for as long as the danger is present. That could be from a few hours to a few days.

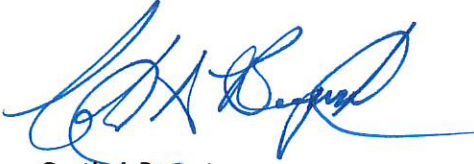
Here in River Islands we have a much lower possibility than areas like Napa, Paradise, or the foothills. The distribution lines for LID are underground and that protects them from fire and wind. Our 1.25 miles of transmission is mostly on steel poles and protected from fire. The area that is on wood poles is cleared of brush or foreign matter.

So what if LID cannot provide power? As with any emergency each family should be prepared. The City will make sure that emergency generators will be in place for water, sewer, police, hospitals, & fire. Unless you are in possession of a generator before outage the chances of getting one once it happens will be slim. Remember if power is lost for any length of time there will be no stores open, no gas stations, ATM, Banks or business.

On Monday July 8th PG&E will be making a presentation at the City Council meeting. I recommend that you have them field your question about their plans. In the next few weeks Lathrop Irrigation will be sending out flyers with suggestions on how you can prepare in the event of any emergency. After the City Council meeting LID will plan a community meeting to have an open forum round table discussion.

If you still have questions feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



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