



# OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Naomi Kelly, City Administrator

**Lifelines Council  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 5, 2019  
City Hall, Room 305  
10:30AM-12:00PM**

## **Meeting #29**

### **Co-Chairs**

Naomi Kelly, City Administrator, City and County of San Francisco  
Chris Barkley, AECOM, Private Sector Co-Chair

### **Represented Agencies**

AECOM	San Francisco Office of Resilience & Capital Plng
ABAG/MTC	San Francisco Dept. of Emergency Management
Comcast	San Francisco Planning
BART	San Francisco International Airport
Wells Fargo	San Francisco Department of Technology
PG&E	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
NERT	Port of San Francisco
UASI	San Francisco Department of Public Works
Extenet Systems	City Attorney of San Francisco

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chief Resilience Officer (Acting Co-Chair), Brian Strong called the meeting to order at 10:35am.

#### **2. INTRODUCTIONS AND AGENDA REVIEW**

Brian Strong facilitated introduction of all the participants. Chris Barkley (Co-Chair) adjusted the agenda to accommodate schedules.

#### **3. SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS FOR PSPS**

Bijan Karimi presented the outcomes from three workshops San Francisco hosted with city departments, private sector and nonprofit partners and regional agencies to prepare for potential Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS). A PSPS is issued to proactively turn off electric power for safety when gusty winds and dry conditions, combined with a heightened fire risk, are forecasted to threaten a portion of the electric system. Although, there are no wildfires in San Francisco, PG&E transmission lines that bring power to San Francisco pas

through wildfire areas and we must prepare for potential outages. Business continuity is also critical. Some business losses may be covered by an insurance policy, however planned outages are not, and private companies are beginning to address that more carefully.

Chris Barkley asked what was the sense of what is coming out of the work and how does it influence Danielle's work for Lifelines. Mary Ellen Carol responded a lot of this would aid in the recovery work. The recovery sequencing and overlaying that with the impacts, we are getting detailed impacts, which is getting us more granular.

Brian Strong noted this is great work and very proactive about thinking about these issues.

Bijan Karimi commented that DEM is taking a more aggressive approach than some others counties. We are being proactive and thinking early. We think about what are the steps that we are going to take, while offering all our resources and sharing what we have learned to all our partners so they can benefit.

#### 4. **PG&E PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF PROGRAM (PSPS)**

Pamela Perdue and Dave Gabbard presented the Community Wildfire Safety Program and the Public Safety Power Shutoff Program. The Community Wildfire Safety program is built on three pillars; Real Time Monitoring System, New and Enhanced Safety Measures and System Hardening and Resiliency. Real Time Monitoring system includes 24/7 wildfire safety operations center, over 1,300 new weather stations and 600 high definition cameras by 2022. New and Enhanced Safety Measures include increased focus on vegetation that pose a higher risk of wildfire risk and PSPS. System Hardening and Resiliency focuses on installing stronger and more resilient power poles and power lines, and upgrading electric equipment and infrastructure. It is important to understand power lines work integrally to provide power across counties and regions. Power may be shut off in your area due the electric lines most vulnerable in the high fire-threat areas. With PG&E's dedicated web page, 7-day weather forecasting conditions that may lead to a PSPS event is now available. Information on back-up generators are also available to provide resources to customers such as safety practices and determine if necessary. PG&E is increasing visibility with customers, offering PSPS code alerts, informing the public through social media and targeted outreach to small and large businesses. Dave Gabbard also explained the risks of de-energizing transmission lines and minimizing its impacts on public safety.

Sebastian Conn offered his contact if there are any specific questions to respective agencies. PG&E is actively working with DEM and planning a more robust workshop for San Francisco as they have already done with other counties. There will be more workshops in the near future.

Steven Reel (SF Port) asked if there were any projections of how often shut offs might occur and their duration. Dave Gabbard answered that the frequency for certain type of weather conditions in certain areas are analyzed. In addition, the likelihood of PSPS that impacts distribution is significantly higher than having PSPS impacts from transmission infrastructure. Scenarios that would affect the city of San Francisco would require de-energization of a large number of transmission facilities coming into the east bay hills. This is less likely than a high wind event coming through the northern region causing the de-energization of distribution facilities.

Brad Benson (SF Port) asked from an earthquake perspective, is the risk analysis and risk exposure questioning the idea of creating redundant transmission capacities to avoid the shutdown scenario? Dave Gabbard answered that it is definitely a consideration and being looked at a more macro level. While it looks like a low probability issue, there are not a lot of options for mitigation.

Michael Gemeraad (ABAG/MTC) asked if the PSPS program is an interim solution or if this is the new normal. Dave Gabbard answered PSPS is the mitigating measure which happens to be the most effective solution in the short planning horizon.

Michael Gemeraad asked is it possible to look back over the past 10 years, what would the impact have been with these measures. Dave Gabbard answered some historical assessments were made, but it is difficult to compare conditions of transmission lines along with the different weather patterns of the past.

Brian Strong asked how could we as the Lifelines Council, transportation, communication providers, etc. provide information that would help PG&E manage better or be more predictive. Dave Gabbard answered it would be helpful to be engaged in the work that is going on. There is a list of critical services assessed throughout the years, but the ones from the communities are different, so bringing that together would be helpful.

**5. OPEN DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Brian Strong thanked PG&E and DEM for today’s presentation. Danielle Mieler will give an update on the status of the key findings from the Lifelines Restoration Performance Project on the December 5 meeting.

**6. NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting date is December 5, 2019.

**7. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

**List of Attendees**

Naomi Kelly	City Administrator
Danielle Mieler	Office of Resilience and Capital Planning
Brian Strong	Office of Resilience and Capital Planning
Chris Barkley	AECOM
Michael Cochrane	San Francisco Fire Department
Terry Yip	San Francisco Municipal Transit Agency
Cynthia Chono	San Francisco Public Works
AnMarie Rodgers	San Francisco City Planning
Sean Nozzari	Caltrans
Sam Young	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Chris Snyder	PG&E
Sebastian Conn	PG&E
Chris Jones	GGBHTD

Mark McLean	San Francisco Controller's Office
Claire F. Stone	San Francisco Controller's Office
Rod Iwashita	San Francisco Port
Paul Giusti	Recology
Peter Ohtaki	Wells Fargo
Linda Gerull	San Francisco Department of Technology
Josh Gale	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Jeff Airth	San Francisco International Airport
Tom Maguire	San Francisco Municipal Transit Agency
Bijan Karimi	San Francisco Department of Emergency Management
Heather Green	Office of Resilience and Capital Planning
MaryEllen Carroll	San Francisco Department of Emergency Management
Lee-Ann Peling	Comcast
Nina D'Amato	San Francisco Department of Technology
Sean Elsbernd	San Francisco Mayor's Office