

What happened this year will not happen again.

The State of California currently is suffering from extensive and frequent power outages resulting from Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) by PG&E. The frequency, scope, and duration of PSPS must be reduced to mitigate the impact on our communities and economy. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is taking immediate steps to accelerate utility investments in infrastructure, hold utilities accountable, and to ensure PSPS will be limited to necessary areas based on risk assessments, and only when absolutely required to protect life and property.

PG&E must invest in solutions to maintain service to as many customers as possible during PSPS events. This includes implementing processes and technical solutions before next fire season, such as increasing grid segmentation and distribution loops, distributed generation and backup generation for critical services, and hardening critical transmission and distribution lines. While PSPS events may be required, their implementation cannot take absolute priority over the obligation to provide safe, affordable, and reliable power.

Safe, affordable, and reliable service must be PG&E's number one priority.

The utility must be nimble to deal with the needs of local communities and the critical issues facing those communities. To ensure the reliable delivery of power, the state will establish operational requirements that the new utility must meet. This includes organizational reform, such as the requirement for a comprehensive operational risk assessment and mitigation group and organizational changes to increase connections to the communities served by the utility. The utility will be managed and operated in a way that is more responsive and accountable to its customers.

This begins with focusing on the pressing safety and operational reforms, and restructuring the utility so that it is able to respond to the needs of the day. It will also include advancements in data gathering and analysis to equip the utility to make real-time, data-driven decisions for fire prevention and mitigation. The utility will also be required to develop and implement proactive and robust communication plans to keep affected customers and communities informed with up-to-date information.

California will realize its clean energy future.

California will have the advanced grid of the future. The modern grid will support California's goal of 100 percent renewable energy, including a diverse portfolio of renewable sources such as solar, on-shore and off-shore wind, geothermal energy, and hydroelectric power. Clean energy generation will require the most advanced grid-scale storage system to enable flexible and segmented operation of the grid. This storage system will include current battery technology, flow batteries, compressed air energy storage, pumped storage, and cutting-edge technology like hydrogen conversion and fuel cells. We will increase electrification of structures and ground transportation, and integrate these into the grid. We will continue to drive the standards for, and adoption of, energy-efficient buildings and appliances.

While we are focused on delivering clean energy, we will not lose sight of resiliency. We will upgrade to a hardened transmission and distribution infrastructure with integrated mini-grids. We will develop and deploy distributed generation and distributed storage solutions. We will invest in smart grid infrastructure to maximize the efficiency of distributed operations and will make the necessary advancements in cybersecurity to protect our networked system.

The grid of the future will be clean, resilient, diverse, and will result in a mutually-beneficial partnership between our utilities and the customers they serve.