



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

February 27, 2025

Mr. Pedro Pizarro  
2222 Walnut Grove Avenue  
Rosemead, California 91770

Dear Mr. Pizarro,

Following the devastating fires in the Los Angeles region, the State of California continues to work to help communities recover and rebuild quickly and more resiliently so we can prevent similar catastrophic fires in the future. Strong partnerships between federal, state and local agencies as well as our colleagues in the private sector have been – and will continue to be pivotal to getting these communities back on their feet. Together, we must harness the resources, expertise and innovation of the private sector and also bring best practices developed in response to other recent catastrophic events to build these communities back stronger and as cost-effectively and efficiently as possible.

As part of this effort, we also must consider what and how to rebuild and upgrade utility infrastructure, including electric infrastructure. As the electric service provider for customers in the Altadena and Malibu communities with responsibility for rebuilding its electric infrastructure in impacted communities, I appreciate that Southern California Edison (SCE) is currently working to develop a plan to expeditiously reconnect customers. For electric infrastructure that must be completely rebuilt, SCE has the opportunity to build back a more modern, reliable and resilient electric distribution system that can meet the community's immediate and future needs. It is critical this plan incorporates the undergrounding of new electric distribution equipment to the extent feasible



and should also consider how this work can be done most cost-effectively and quickly.

Given that undergrounding electric distribution powerlines can take longer to install, I also welcome detailed information and actions on how such efforts could be advanced efficiently and effectively to avoid delays in connecting and energizing homes and businesses. In light of the significant increased cost per mile to underground electric distribution lines compared to installing overhead electric distribution powerlines, I would appreciate SCE's analysis and proposals to complete this work at the lowest possible cost to ratepayers, including the possibility of accessing federal funding to minimize rate increases to SCE customers.

I look forward to understanding SCE's plan to rebuild the impacted electric infrastructure and respectfully request that SCE share a plan for undergrounding electric distribution powerlines with my Administration and the County of Los Angeles within 45 days of this letter. Thank you for your partnership and I look forward to working with you and others to rebuild a safe and reliable modern electrical grid for our impacted communities.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California