

MINUTES
MALIBU PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 1, 2018
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM
5:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Randall called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The following persons were recorded in attendance by the Recording Secretary:

PRESENT: Chair Carol Randall; and Commissioners Fred Roberts and Tracy Wright

ABSENT: Vice Chair Chris Frost and Commissioner Chris Hanson

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Dueñas, Public Safety Manager; Rob DuBoux, Acting Public Works Director; Arthur Aladjadjian, Public Works Superintendent; Matt Myerhoff, Media Information Officer; Deputy Mike Treinen, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; and Mary Linden, Executive Assistant

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ryan Embree led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION Commissioner Wright moved and Commissioner Roberts seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried 3-0, Vice Chair Frost and Commissioner Hanson absent.

REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

Executive Assistant Linden reported that the agenda for the meeting was properly posted on July 25, 2018.

ITEM 1.A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 1.B. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Wright asked when Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors would attend a commission meeting. She requested the status of sign work at Webb Way and Pacific Coast Highway (PCH).

Acting Public Works Director DuBoux stated the signage and striping would be done within a week or two.

Commissioner Roberts commended Caltrans for pavement striping on PCH near the State Beach at the westerly part of Malibu.

Chair Randall stated she attended the PCH Task Force meeting last week. She discussed an increase in sting ray attacks and suggested signage would be helpful to warn beachgoers. She discussed a small city that recently banned the use of cellphones in crosswalks. She discussed that city's penalties for first, second and third offenses. She requested the Commission discuss the issue at a future meeting.

ITEM 2 CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION Commissioner Wright moved and Commissioner Roberts seconded a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried 3-0, Vice Chair Frost and Commissioner Hanson absent.

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

- A. Previously Discussed Items
None.

- B. New Items
 - 1. Approval of Minutes – June 6, 2018
Staff recommendation: Approve minutes of the Public Safety Commission Regular meeting of June 6, 2018.

ITEM 3 OLD BUSINESS

None.

ITEM 4 NEW BUSINESS

- A. Southern California Edison Public Safety Power Shut-Off Program
Recommended Action: Receive and file report regarding the Southern California Edison (SCE) Public Safety Power Shut-Off Program.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas presented the report. She provided a history of the program and the resolution adopted by the California Public Utilities Commission

(CPUC). She stated Senate Bill (SB) 901, which has amended language stipulating that utility companies must conduct an assessment of risks to customers who would be affected by the power shut-down, was currently being discussed by a State legislative committee.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas introduced Diane Forte, SCE Government Relations Manager, Local Public Affairs. Ms. Forte introduced Bill Chiu, SCE Director of Grid Resiliency and Public Safety; Robert Quintero, Principal Manager, Government Relations; Bob Stiens, Public Affairs Manager, Local Public Affairs; and Steve Conroy, Director of Corporate Communications.

Ms. Forte explained the Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) program was for high fire risk areas in certain conditions as a last resort response to protect public safety when there is an imminent danger of wildfire. She stated SCE has been meeting with local government agencies about the program since February.

Mr. Chiu made the presentation for SCE. He stated wildfire season is now a year-round risk. He stated eight of the most destructive fires in California history occurred since 2015, and five of those eight happened within the past year. He discussed options devised by SCE to reduce fire risk exposure to power lines. He discussed remote capabilities developed by SCE to monitor equipment. He stated SCE installed about 4,000 weather stations to collect weather data. He discussed outreach to customers within high fire risk areas. He discussed the decision-making process leading to recommendation of a PSPS. He discussed the timeline for SCE to notify customers and the City about a possible PSPS. He stated a decision to initiate notifications would begin approximately 48 hours prior to implementing PSPS. He stated the City would be notified two hours prior to the power being shut down. He stated an additional round of notifications would go out approximately 24 hours prior to shutoff. He stressed that this is mitigation of the last resort due to the impact on the community, but it is based on potential risk to the community. He stated SCE would continue to monitor the weather and other conditions so when the risk was eliminated, the power could begin to be restored. He explained the power restoration would not be immediate but would follow a complete safety inspection to ensure equipment was safe to re-energize.

Commissioner Roberts asked about guidelines related to wind force. Mr. Chiu stated there is not a single wind speed criteria. He stated a Red Flag Warning must be issued in the area. He stated moisture level of the area's vegetation is also considered.

Commissioner Wright requested confirmation that SCE has had the authority for a while, as stated in the staff report. Mr. Chiu stated PSPS has been activated twice, including once last year affecting approximately 8,000 customers in Idyllwild. He stated that outage was less than 34 hours from initial shutoff to when the final

customer was restored.

Commissioner Roberts asked how many grids there are in Malibu and the size of the grids that would be shut down. Mr. Chiu stated SCE could minimize the footprint of customers that would be shut off.

Chair Randall asked what would be done for individuals who need electricity for medical equipment. Mr. Chiu stated SCE has them registered as critical care customers who receive notifications as early as possible. He stated critical care customers should be prepared with backup plans.

Lloyd Ahern deferred his time to Hans Laetz.

Carl Randall deferred his time to Hans Laetz.

Hans Laetz discussed his earlier interventions with the CPUC on power safety. He stated SCE is taking sane and prudent steps to protect its customers. He discussed fires caused or potentially caused due to utility poles. He stated the CPUC notified Malibu that its power would be cut off when the PSPS was initiated in Idyllwild. He discussed San Diego Gas and Electric (SDGE). He discussed ESRB 8, a resolution enacted on July 12, 2018, which would affect Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), SCE and some smaller utility companies but not SDGE. He discussed impacts of PSPS, including phone lines, cellphone towers and traffic signals. He stated SCE should not be making the decision. He stated the original resolution stated utility companies would mitigate problems, including installing backup power. He stated the CPUC requires SCE to provide safe and reliable power but is absolving them of their responsibility.

Juergen Cords, a Big Rock resident, discussed the 1993 fire. He stated about 50 houses were lost because there was no power to water pumps and tanks. He suggested SCE install backup generators for the pumps and tanks. He stated it was cost-effective based on the number of houses that would be saved.

Ryan Embree discussed the PSPS program. He stated how it is managed could be tweaked. He inquired what data path was used and whether it would be compromised if the line was shut down. He discussed how sub-systems, including water systems, would be impacted.

Randy Turtle deferred her time to Ryan Embree.

Mr. Embree stated the City's emergency radio system could be used to notify visitors.

Joanne Verdon expressed concern for elderly people who need power for medical equipment. She stated the risk is worse than the possibility of a fire. She expressed concern about not having phone service in an emergency situation.

Tom Molloy suggested the City join Laguna Beach in requiring that all utilities be undergrounded.

Georgia Goldfarb stated she strongly opposes the SCE plan to shut down power. She stated many homes would be uninhabitable due to high heat without power. She expressed concern for the most vulnerable. She discussed impacts on water supply and how it is pumped to homes and made available to the Fire Department. She discussed impacts on those who work from home if communications are blocked. She stated a better solution would be for SCE to bury its wires, rather than shutting down power.

Danuta Larson stated the plan complicates the matter. She stated Malibu is under a Red Flag Warning 32 times per year. She suggested SCE partner with the City to underground utilities. She stated the fire risk of power lines is constant, even when there are no winds.

Mr. Chiu thanked the speakers for their comments. He stated SCE's analysis estimated two to ten occurrences of PSPS events in a year. In response to Mr. Embree, Mr. Chiu discussed the weather stations being implemented in connection with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Bob Stiens, SCE Public Affairs, stated critical care customers were registered with SCE and notifications would be sent to them first. He stated SCE ensures that critical care customers are notified by first sending an automated call followed by a staff call or a personal visit by SCE field staff, if necessary, until notification is confirmed. He reminded all customers to update their records and contact information with SCE.

Commissioner Roberts asked if there was a system in place for determining which areas in Malibu have undergrounded utilities. Mr. Chiu stated the City has funds for undergrounding and the City decides how the funds are allocated. He stated undergrounding is seven to ten times the cost of PSPS.

Chair Randall suggested a ban on mylar balloons. She announced that SCE would make its PSPS presentation to the City Council at its Regular meeting on August 27, 2018.

MOTION Chair Randall moved and Commissioner Wright seconded a motion to receive and file the report regarding the SCE PSPS Program. The motion carried 3-0, Vice Chair Frost and Commissioner Hanson absent.

B. Update on Projects Affecting Traffic on Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) and City Streets

Recommended Action: 1) Receive and file status updates on projects affecting traffic on PCH and City streets, including: a) PCH at La Costa Pedestrian Improvements Project; b) Civic Center Wastewater Treatment Facility (CCWTF) construction; c) Slope Stabilization Project (Caltrans); d) Fiscal Year 2017-18 Street Maintenance Project; e) Topanga Canyon Creek Emergency Embankment Repair Project (Caltrans); f) PCH Median Improvement Project (Caltrans); and g) Caltrans maintenance work; and 2) Provide feedback or questions for Caltrans staff.

Public Works Superintendent Aladjajian presented the report. He stated the poles for La Costa were on order and work was still anticipated to begin after Labor Day. In response to Chair Randall, Acting Public Works Director DuBoux discussed responses to the City's bid for the Fiscal Year 2017-18 Street Maintenance Project.

Public Works Superintendent Aladjajian announced that Caltrans completed all the work required on Topanga Canyon last weekend and would not require any additional full closures.

Chair Randall asked if a crosswalk installed near Malibu Seafood was included in the Caltrans median project. Public Works Superintendent Aladjajian stated the crosswalk would be a separate project. Acting Public Works Director DuBoux stated the City requested that Caltrans do the two projects simultaneously. In response to Chair Randall, Acting Public Works Director DuBoux stated Caltrans had confirmed the crosswalk would be a hawk system. He stated Caltrans was also considering hawk crosswalk installations at three beaches.

In response to Commissioner Wright, Public Works Superintendent Aladjajian confirmed the slope stabilization project was scheduled for completion by Fall 2019.

C. Public Safety Agency Activity

Recommended Action: Discuss recent Public Safety Agency activities and receive and file activity reports from the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, Fire Department, and Lifeguards, and the Malibu Volunteers on Patrol.

Deputy Treinen presented the report. He discussed trends in crime and traffic statistics since last year.

Chair Randall asked if there was a reason for the increase in motorcycle incidents. Deputy Treinen stated good weather often brings an increase in motorcycles on the highway. He stated the Sheriff's Department, in conjunction with Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors, the Housing Authority and St. Joseph Center, conducted a homeless outreach on the beach in Topanga yesterday.

In response to Commissioner Wright, Deputy Treinen discussed homeless encampment sweeps planned for Tuna Canyon and other areas. He stated Reverend Paul Elder, The People Concern, and others had cleared numerous encampments. He stated State Parks was also clearing encampments along Malibu Creek and near the bridge.


Chair Randall stated bicycle violations seemed to be getting worse. She questioned why there were not more citations issued. She discussed an increase in vehicles driving on the median during heavy traffic times. She stated a neighbor mentioned a stronger Sheriff presence in eastern Malibu. Deputy Treinen stated the addition of the Beach Team and Volunteers on Patrol (VOP) allows for a stronger presence throughout the City.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION At 6:34 p.m., Commissioner Wright moved and Commissioner Roberts seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion carried 3-0, Vice Chair Frost and Commissioner Hanson absent.

Approved and adopted by the Public Safety Commission of the City of Malibu on September 5, 2018.


CAROL RANDALL, Chair

ATTEST:

MARY LINDEN, Executive Assistant