

# Southern California Edison PSPS and Wildfire Mitigation

Assembly Utilities and Energy  
Committee | March 3, 2021



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
**EDISON**



# Wildfire Prevention Occurs Prior to PSPS

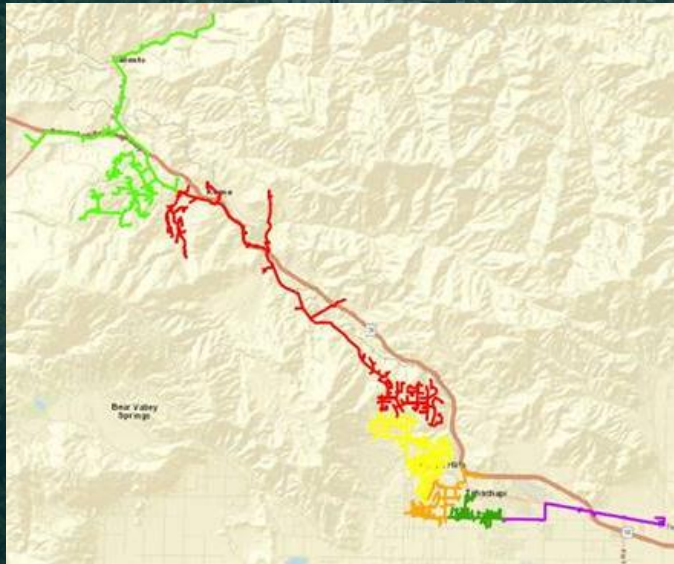


## Prior to peak fire season:

- Continued grid hardening in the highest-risk areas
- Inspected from the air and ground every distribution and transmission structure in the highest-risk areas
- Focused on areas impacted by 2020 drought



# PSPS is Used as Measure of Last Resort



*Circuit segments (shown) can be de-energized separately.*

- Customers notified based on forecasts, de-energized based on real-time conditions
- Circuit segmentation plans for all 1,100 circuits in high fire risk areas
- Pre-event patrols conducted for every circuit at least 48 hours in advance to remediate problems that require de-energization
- Perform switching and reconfiguration to remove customers in scope for PSPS where available
- Identify critical COVID-19 sites (hospitals, vaccine storage), conduct outreach, move to other circuits when possible
- Weather forecasts performed daily for each circuit for fuel conditions (fire potential index), wind speeds
- Threshold alert levels established based on known risks



# PSPS is Used as Measure of Last Resort

- Trained, dedicated team specific to PSPS response
- Live observations by field personnel on the ground
- Validating hazardous conditions - each circuit segment monitored for actual conditions
- Weather stations and handheld weather devices used
- Meteorology and Fire Science review and confirm
- Every effort made to de-energize only where actual hazards exist
- Public safety partners engaged for feedback (e.g., fire, water, telecom, hospitals, COVID-19 sites)
- Restoration - hundreds of field crews





# SCE is Committed to Further Reduce PSPS and Enhance Transparency in Decision-Making

## Challenges and Gaps

- Better stakeholder understanding of PSPS decision points
- Need to further refine thresholds

## Improvement Opportunities

- Additional grid hardening to increase wind thresholds
- Accelerating grid hardening work in highly impacted communities
- Continued refinement of thresholds based on additional weather, fuel and circuit data
- Improving engagement with CPUC, CAL FIRE, Cal OES and local, state and tribal governments to provide better understanding of decision-making
- Reflect changes into corrective action and post-event reports

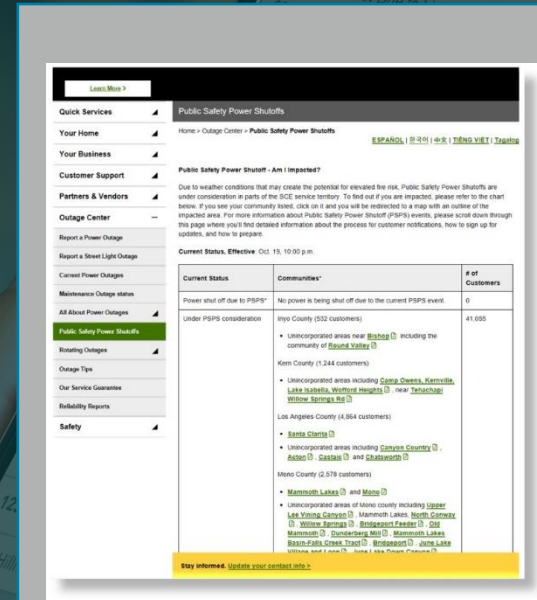




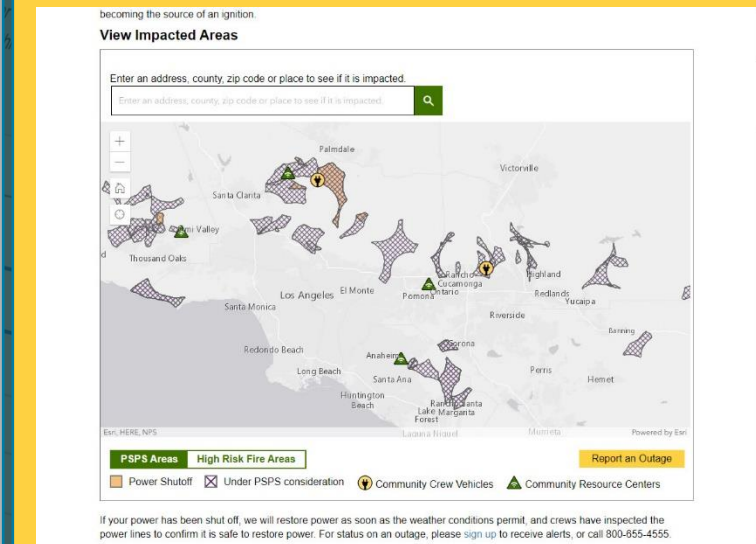
# Customer Notifications – Recent Progress and Current Issues

## Improvement opportunities

- Potentially confusing: often caused by customers receiving information from multiple communication channels or changes to which customers are in scope for an event
- Notification fatigue: not all customers who receive warnings are de-energized because they are notified based on forecasts to ensure they can prepare
- No notice: usually due to rapid weather shift or missing contact information



## 2019 website was text-based

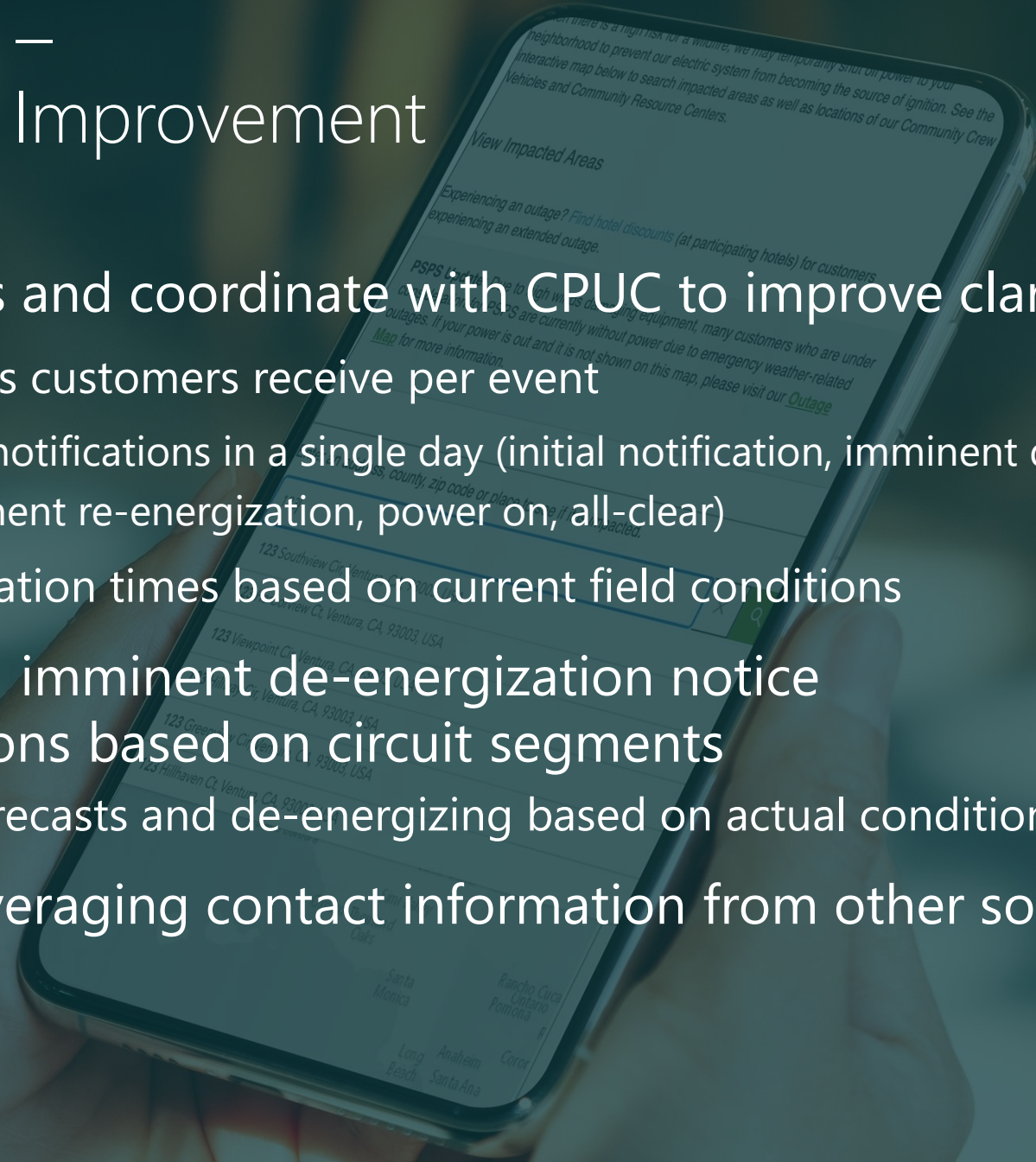


## 2020 website added maps and more near real-time details



# Customer Notifications – Action Plan for Further Improvement

- Redesign notification process and coordinate with CPUC to improve clarity
  - Rationalize the number of notices customers receive per event
    - Residential customers can get six notifications in a single day (initial notification, imminent de-energization, power shutoff, imminent re-energization, power on, all-clear)
  - Consider use of estimated restoration times based on current field conditions
- Improve accuracy by aligning imminent de-energization notice process with customer locations based on circuit segments
  - Continue warning based on forecasts and de-energizing based on actual conditions
- Reach more customers by leveraging contact information from other sources





# Customer Notifications – Reaching Our Most Vulnerable Customers

- Enhance scope of delivery confirmation
  - Currently prioritize most critical with ~96% success
  - Developing plan to scale confirmation of notice delivery to broader Medical Baseline population
- Share information with public entities
  - Currently provided manually during events
  - Evaluating an online portal for easier access
- Increase enrollment in Medical Baseline
  - Will continue to optimize outreach and enrollment approach
  - Integrating outreach into other customer program campaigns and expanding partnerships to reach customers





# Customer Care and Resiliency

- Encourage customer resiliency
  - Expanding portable battery program to ~12,000 eligible Medical Baseline customers in 2021
  - Additional rebates added for portable power
- Provide local care during events
  - Community Resource Centers expanded from 13 to 56 in 2020
- Build community resiliency
  - Resiliency zones underway in Agua Dulce & Cabazon
  - Microgrid operational in San Jacinto and others planned





# Coordination with Government Agencies & Public Safety Partners is Crucial



- Coordination occurs throughout year with Local Governments, State and County Emergency Management and Public Safety Partners
  - Identify critical facilities and PSPS circuits serving local/tribal governments
  - Share detailed information with critical infrastructure providers on potential facility impacts during PSPS events
- PSPS managed as emergency using Incident Command System to align with agencies and partners to protect public safety
  - Dedicated team with more than 40 trained professionals
  - Duty Manager as emergency contact for fast issue escalation
- Separate daily coordination calls through the duration of the event
- Statewide Executive Briefing, County Operational Briefing, Critical Infrastructure Briefing