

MOTION

ENERGY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

California has faced a number of catastrophic climate-exacerbated wildfires. The majority of which are caused by human activity including campfires, arson, fireworks and vehicle fires. Some fires are the result of natural events such as lightning strikes. Electrical facilities including power lines cause less than ten percent of fires. Of that ten percent, 38% are the result of downed or impacted power lines (including by Mylar balloons), 18% are due to failed hardware and 16% are attributed to vegetation contact, the remainder are due to line slapping and animal contact. High temperatures, low humidity and high winds can tremendously impact fire potential and spreading.

The Department of Water and Power (LADWP) has been addressing these issues for the last 10 years preparing its first Fire Prevention Standard (FPS) in 2008. The FPS includes Construction Standards as well as a Vegetation Management Program that includes an Inspection and Maintenance Program.

LADWP maintains a tree database of more than 400,000 trees which are inspected annually. Annual brush clearance is completed by LADWP crews and the Fire Department (LAFD) conducts annual brush clearance inspections of LADWP facilities. LADWP has 9 tree crews, oversees 55-60 contract crews and budgets approximately \$25M to the effort.

LADWP meets and exceeds all state and federal regulations and follows best management practices for tree pruning. Specifically, LADWP is in compliance with the December 2016 Senate Bill 1028 which addresses "Significant Risk of Causing a Catastrophic Wildfire" as well as Senate Bill 901 "Risk of Wildfire" compliance which begins January 2020 for Publicly Owned Utilities.

The portion of fires caused by vegetation contact with electrical facilities may decrease if power distribution facilities such as poles and wires are underground rather than overhead. Approximately, 35% of LADWP's distribution system is underground. Underground distribution systems would not be susceptible to vegetation contact, Mylar balloons, cars hitting poles or high winds.

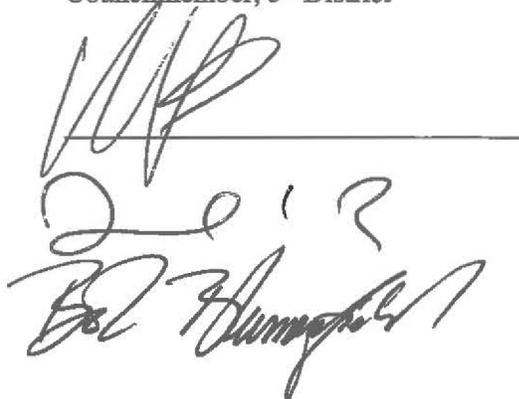
I THEREFORE MOVE, that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power report back in 60 days relative to the process as well as the feasibility, including costs, to underground electric distribution facilities in LAFD designated high fire zones.

PRESENTED BY:



PAUL KORETZ  
Councilmember, 5<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

NOV 05 2019

