



**DIANNE JACOB**  
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**AGENDA ITEM**

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
2020 MAR -2 PM 12:06  
CLERK OF THE BOARD  
OF SUPERVISORS

**DATE:** March 10, 2020

**11**

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**SUBJECT**

**SUPPORT SENATE BILL 378 – REIMBURSING RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES DURING POWER SHUT-OFFS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

Investor-owned utilities (IOU), such as San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), have been proactively shutting off power to millions of customers across California to reduce the chances of their electrical equipment igniting a fire. In San Diego County, SDG&E has proactively shut off power to residents and business owners in the back country numerous times, and the impact and hardship these communities experience is profound.

To address the impact power shut-offs have on communities and businesses, Senator Wiener introduced SB 378, which would require utilities to reimburse customers for impacts during power-shutoff events. Specifically, SB 378 would require utilities to establish a procedure for customers, local governments, and others affected by power shut-off events to recover their costs. The bill would prohibit utilities from billing customers during a power shut-off event, and lays out specific penalties for utilities if they fail to act in a reasonable and prudent manner in the execution of a power shut-off event.

Today’s action directs the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a letter expressing this Board of Supervisors’ support for State Senate Bill 378 to San Diego County’s legislative representatives in Sacramento, and add to the County’s Legislative Program support for legislation or administrative actions to hold power companies responsible for the effects of power shut-off events, including compensation for financial costs incurred during an event.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**  
**SUPERVISOR DIANNE JACOB**

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a letter for the Chairman’s signature expressing this Board of Supervisors’ support for State Senate Bill 378 to San Diego County’s legislative representatives in Sacramento.

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2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to add to the County’s Legislative Program support for legislation or administrative actions to hold power companies responsible for the effects of power shut-off events, including compensation for financial costs incurred during an event.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None by this action.

**BACKGROUND**

Investor-owned utilities (IOU), such as San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), have been proactively shutting off power to millions of customers across California to reduce the chances of their electrical equipment igniting a fire. In San Diego County, SDG&E has proactively shut off power to residents and business owners in the back country numerous times and the impact and hardship these communities experience is profound.

Proactive power shut-off events leave communities without power for multiple days and residents are forced to endure, oftentimes in extreme weather conditions, with no electricity to power wells for water, heat or cool down their home, refrigerate food, feed livestock, power lifesaving medical devices, contact loved ones, 9-1-1 or 2-1-1, or get disaster information in the event of an emergency. In addition, businesses are forced to close, causing owners to lose valuable revenue and food product, while employees must stay home, unable to work.

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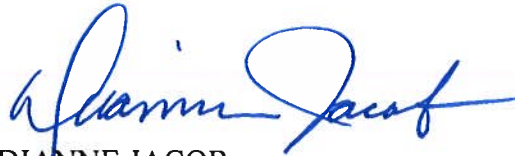
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**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Today's proposed actions supports the Living Safely Strategic Initiative of the County of San Diego's Fiscal Year 2020-2025 Strategic Plan by supporting legislation that protects residents and business owners in the back country from undue hardship caused by proactive public safety power shut-off events.

Respectfully submitted,



DIANNE JACOB  
Supervisor, Second District

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

N/A

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**AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**

**REQUIRES FOUR VOTES:**       Yes     No

**WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED**  
 Yes     No

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:**  
N/A

**BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:**  
N/A

**BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:**  
N/A

**MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:**  
N/A

**ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):**  
N/A

**ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:** Board of Supervisors, District 2

**OTHER CONCURRENCE(S):**    N/A

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

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