NOTICE AND AGENDA

SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE CITY COUNCIL
(Via Zoom)
SPECIAL MEETING 10:00 A.M.

MONDAY, AUGUST 30, 2021

SPECIAL NOTE: RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO VIEW THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING VIA THE CITY WEBSITE, LIVESTREAM (URL: https://cityoflcf.org/city-clerk/agenda-minutes) or Spectrum Channel 3 (East of ACH) or 16 (West of ACH)

REMOTE PUBLIC COMMENT IS AVAILABLE FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING BY LOGGING INTO THE ZOOM MEETING AT https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89004074250 OR BY DIALING THE FOLLOWING TELEPHONE NUMBER. YOU WILL BE PLACED INTO LISTEN-ONLY MODE AND MUTED UNTIL IT IS YOUR TURN TO SPEAK:

Phone No.: 1 669 900 9128
Enter Meeting ID: 890 0407 4250

CITY HALL
One Civic Center Drive
La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011

Terry Walker, Mayor
Keith Eich, Mayor Pro Tem
Jonathan C. Curtis, Councilmember
Michael T. Davitt, Councilmember
Richard B. Gunter III, Councilmember

CITY HALL
One Civic Center Drive
La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011

(818) 790-8880

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
10:00 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL:
Councilmember Jonathan C. Curtis
Councilmember Michael T. Davitt
Councilmember Richard B. Gunter III
Mayor Pro Tem Keith Eich
Mayor Terry Walker

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code Sections 54956.9(d)(4) and 54954.5(c)

Number of cases: 1

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION AND ANNOUNCE ANY ACTION TAKEN

CONSENT CALENDAR:
Items on the Consent Calendar will be enacted by one motion and roll call vote without individual discussion. If discussion is desired, the item will be removed and considered separately.

1. **Approval of Warrant Resolution No. 21-17 dated August 30, 2021 for $485,694.73**

OTHER BUSINESS:

2. **Consideration of the Filing of a Formal Complaint with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regarding Southern California Edison's (SCE) Recurring Power Outages**

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

CITY MANAGER AND/OR STAFF COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN:
I hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing agenda was posted on the City Hall bulletin board at One Civic Center Drive not less than 24 hours prior to the meeting in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

Dated: August 26, 2021

Tania Moreno, City Clerk

CITY OF LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE
WARRANT RESOLUTION NO. 21-17

CM Review: MA

Fiscal Review: AK

The following charges have been received by the City of La Cañada Flintridge and are herewith submitted for approval and payment:

	Vendor Name	Purpose	Amount	Warrant #
1	All City Management Services, Inc.	School crossing guards 7/11/21 to 7/24/21	3,164.63	14669
2	Athens Services	Refuse service - Lanterman House - Aug	159.27	14670
3	Athens Services	Refuse service - Memorial Park - Aug	199.00	14671
4	Barr Electric	City Hall Alarm Maintenance	100.00	14672
5	Barr Electric	ID City Hall	100.00	14672
6	Barr Electric	City Hall hybrid meeting setup	3,422.40	14672
7	Barr Electric	Zoom setup in C.C.	1,271.64	14672
8	Barr Electric	Fence repair - Skate Park	261.06	14672
9	Barr Electric	Building maintenance - Lanterman Bld.	150.17	14672
10	Barr Electric	AV system maintenance - City Hall	200.00	14672
11	Barr Electric	New IDs for staff - City Hall	200.00	14672
12	Barr Electric	Remove sign post stub at Green Lane	107.65	14672
13	Barr Electric	Men's restroom maintenance-City Hall	150.00	14672
14	Barr Electric	Remove restriction sign covers at Palm Crest Elementary & Viro street	600.00	14672
15	Barr Electric	Olberz Park Gazebo Consulting	1,200.00	14673
16	Barr Electric	Sign Install - Maintenance	485.39	14673
17	Barr Electric	Link Project - Copy Plans	200.00	14673
18	Barr Electric	Retreive records for Foothill @ Crown traffic signal	200.00	14673
19	Barr Electric	Assemble magnetic floor sweeper - City Hall	217.34	14673
20	Barr Electric	Inspect & clean water clarifier system - City Hall	1,352.76	14673
21	Barr Electric	Green Alley - sign work	523.62	14673
22	Barr Electric	Clear debris after traffic accident - A/C Highway & Town Center	100.00	14673
23	Barr Electric	Gould & Knight - retrieve downed sign	100.00	14673
24	Barr Electric	Camera set up - Glenhaven Park	150.17	14673
25	Barr Electric	Replace air filters - City Hall	100.00	14673
26	Barr Electric	Identify undergroud utilities - Houseman Project	100.00	14674
27	Barr Electric	Replace flag - Cerro Negro	171.57	14674
28	Barr Electric	Repair drawer locks - City Hall	100.00	14674
29	Barr Electric	Raise & lower flags - parks	200.00	14674
30	Barr Electric	Maintenance on irrigation valve - Green Alley	100.00	14674
31	Barr Electric	Investigate inoperative traffic signal - La Canada/Foothill/Verdugo	100.00	14674
32	Barr Electric	Alarm systm maintenance - City Hall	200.00	14674
33	Barr Electric	Reopening prep - City Hall	100.00	14674
34	Barr Electric	A/C investigation - City Hall	350.00	14674
35	Barr Electric	Tennis courts maintenance - High School	257.95	14674
36	Barr Electric	Stairwell lighting maintenance - City Hall	121.88	14674
37	Barr Electric	Inspect overhead bridge lights - La Canada Blvd	496.91	14675
38	Barr Electric	Review plans - FIS West Field	600.00	14675
39	Barr Electric	Replace CA Flag - Memorial Park	100.00	14675
40	Barr Electric	HVAC maintenance - City Hall	750.00	14675
41	Barr Electric	Card key & elevator key work- City Hall	240.01	14675
42	Barr Electric	Fire alarm & phone restoration - City Hall	800.00	14675
43	Barr Electric	Sewage pump work - Mayor's Discovery Park	250.00	14675
44	Big Belly Solar LLC	HC5 Trash compactor station & liner bags	11,613.13	14676
45	California JPIA	Property insurance 7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022	46,199.00	14677
46	Verizon Wireless	Wireless telephone charges - Jul/Aug	649.54	14678
47	Charter Communications	TV service at City Hall thru 7/3/21 - 9/3/21	372.42	14679
48	Cardmember Service	Postage, meeting expense, city/chamber mixer	95.80	14680
49	Cardmember Service	City/Chamber mixer, staff meeting	158.04	14680
50	Cardmember Service	Conference registration, office supplies, vehicle maintenance	4,556.53	14680

	Vendor Name	Purpose	Amount	Warrant #
51	Cardmember Service	Soil, fuel, and supplies	670.31	14680
52	Cardmember Service	Staff/council meetings, registration, renewal	920.70	14680
53	Cardmember Service	Interest charge	162.26	14680
54	City of Glendale	Recycled water 6/30/21 to 7/30/21	129.57	14681
55	CleanStreet Inc	Street sweeping svc charges - July	13,500.00	14682
56	Eric's Tree and Landscape Pest Services	Watering of city trees - July	3,600.65	14683
57	Eric's Tree and Landscape Pest Services	Pest Control - City Hall - July	95.00	14683
58	Greenfields Outdoor Fitness	FIS Exercise equipment	14,000.00	14684
59	ICMA-RC	Employee 457 plan contribution for PPE 8/15/21	8,507.88	14685
60	La Canada Flintridge Employees Assn	Association dues 8/15/21	210.00	14686
61	La Canada Irrigation District	Water charges thru 7/23/21	1,163.92	14687
62	Oakridge Landscape Inc	Debris removal - Car accident Town Center Roundabout/Lillian	267.00	14688
63	Oakridge Landscape Inc	Backflow testing - City Hall	450.00	14688
64	Office Depot	Office supplies	579.19	14689
65	Intension Construction Inc.	C&D Refund - 4618 Encinas Dr	10,000.00	14690
66	F.S. Contractors, Inc.	C&D Refund - Citywide miscellaneous concrete repairs	3,110.00	14691
67	Daniel P. Moore	Refund inspection deposit balance - 4724 Hampton Rd	1,900.00	14692
68	Outlook Newspapers	PH Notice - 4602 Rockland Pl	687.00	14693
69	Outlook Newspapers	Notice inviting bids - Olberz Park Gazebo	1,373.00	14693
70	Petty Cash	Petty cash replenishment	303.23	14694
71	San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust	Affiliate membership for FY 2021-2022	2,018.00	14695
72	So Cal Industries	Portable restroom rental on 8/8/21	350.00	14696
73	Southern California Edison	Electricity charges - 7/12/21 to 8/9/21	2,835.87	14697
74	Southern California Edison	Electricity charges - 7/14/21 to 8/11/21	362.05	14698
75	Southern California Edison	Trail easement license	779.00	14699
76	SWANA	Staff membership dues	253.00	14700
77	Tyler Technologies Inc	EnerGov System software license renewal 8/1/21-7/31/22	123,161.94	14701
78	Utility Telecom Group LLC	Monthly telephone service - Aug/Sep	1,458.22	14702
79	Walters Wholesale Electric Co	Traffic sign bracket	268.27	14703
80	Wells Fargo Vendor Fin Serv	Copiers Lease - Aug	2,362.29	14704
81	Department of Transportation	Signals & lighting - Apr to Jun	2,579.27	14705
82	Los Angeles County Public Works	Industrial waste services - June	2,250.14	14706
83	Los Angeles County Public Works	Vegetation control - June	5,980.88	14706
84	Los Angeles County Public Works	Roadway drainage facilities maintenance-June	95.73	14706
85	Los Angeles County Public Works	Curb, gutter & sidewalk repairs - June	767.23	14706
86	Los Angeles County Public Works	Pavement patch & pothole repair - June	2,462.17	14706
87	Los Angeles County Public Works	Street inspections - June	4,950.51	14706
88	Los Angeles County Public Works	Emergency call-out road service to remove spilled load - June	1,627.56	14706
89	Los Angeles County Public Works	Road clearance - June	200.49	14706
90	Los Angeles County Public Works	Pavement patch & pothole repair - June	305.64	14706
91	Los Angeles County Public Works	Traffic & striping Foothill/Chevy Chase - June	3,895.59	14706
92	Los Angeles County Public Works	Traffic & striping Foothill/Chevy Chase - June	1,146.66	14706
93	Los Angeles County Public Works	Striping & marking on Castle Road - June	27,095.22	14707
94	Los Angeles County Public Works	Striping Maintenance - June	1,118.23	14707
95	Los Angeles County Public Works	Traffic signal maintenance - June	8,686.92	14707
		Sub-Total	$ 342,038.47	

	Vendor Name	Purpose	Amount	Warrant #
	The following warrants have already been paid:			
1	CalPERS	PE 7/31/21 retirement contributions (PEPRA)	8,218.48	EFT
2	CalPERS	PE 7/31/21 retirement contribution (Classic)	13,196.70	EFT
3	ADP, Inc	Payroll for period ending 8/15/21	122,241.08	EFT
		Sub-Total	$ 143,656.26	
		Total	$ 485,694.73	

Approved for presentation to the City Council of the City of La Cañada Flintridge at their meeting of August 30, 2021

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 30th day of August, 2021

Teresa M. Walker, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tania Moreno, City Clerk

CITY OF LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE

CM Review: SHH
Fiscal Review:____

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE:	August 30, 2021
SUBJECT:	Consideration of the Filing of a Formal Complaint with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regarding Southern California Edison's (SCE) Recurring Power Outages
PRESENTER:	Mark R. Alexander, City Manager
PROPOSED ACTION:	Motion to: authorize the City Manager to submit the attached Formal Complaint with the CPUC seeking assistance and relief from the recurring SCE power outages suffered by residents and businesses of the community.
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:	None
FISCAL IMPACT:	None

SUMMARY: Over the past two months, the City has experienced 16 separate and widespread unplanned power outages impacting hundreds of residents and local businesses to their detriment. Nine of these outages occurred along the "Haskell Circuit" (as referred to by SCE) and seven additional outages occurred along four other circuits. Combined, these outages have resulted in significant angst, frustration, interruption/suspension to daily life activities, possible property damage/food spoilage, loss of work productivity, equipment failure, loss of business opportunity/profits, potential loss of computer/software data and efforts, and other annoyances and inconveniences. Such outages can also become a health, safety and welfare threat particularly with regard to home/business security systems, medical equipment use and air conditioning, particularly during high heatwave temperatures.

The City Council is being asked whether it desires to direct staff to file a "Formal Complaint" with the California Public Utilities Commission seeking assistance and relief in the form of an investigation into the causes of the recurring outages and a determination as to the appropriateness of SCE's response and efforts to identify and rectify this recurring problem.

DISCUSSION: Over the past two months (since June 21, 2021), the community has suffered 16 unplanned power outages on five separate circuits. The impacted circuits and number of unplanned outages are as follows:

CIRCUIT	UNPLANNED OUTAGES (since 6/21/21)
Verdugo Circuit	1
Barley Flats Circuit	2
Ravine Circuit	2
Rosemont Circuit	2
Haskell Circuit	9
TOTAL	16

In addition to the high number of recurring outages, the community has additionally suffered as a result of the long duration of each outage given SCE's practice of not reenergizing its failed circuits until a thorough inspection of the entire circuit can been completed. SCE claims that this practice was enacted to protect against the inadvertent triggering of brush and wildland fires in very high fire hazard areas that can result from sparking as a circuit is being reenergized, particularly if the source of the initial outage has not been identified or corrected. The unfortunate effect of this practice results in much longer durations of outages which only adds to the negative impacts suffered by local residents and businesses. Thus, it is imperative that the underlying cause of the outages be identified and addressed proactively to prevent the outage from happening in the first place such that a prolonged duration is avoided.

While 16 unplanned power outages within a two-month period is highly unusual and suspect, the community has experienced its share of unplanned outages over a longer sustained period. For several years, unplanned power outages have become somewhat commonplace when compared to surrounding communities. The City even took steps to hire its own electricity consultant to aid the City's understanding of the current state of affairs of the SCE infrastructure due to excessive unplanned outages that had befallen the community.

In light of the recent spate of outages, and the negative and detrimental impacts outages are having on the community, it may be appropriate for the City to seek assistance from the California Public Utilities Commission, the State regulatory agency that provides oversight of SCE's operations. This can be accomplished through the filing of a Formal Complaint requesting assistance and relief.

The City's complaint (see attached) identifies and describes the recurring problem and experience. The request seeks a formal review by the CPUC of SCE's efforts to address and resolve the problem. In addition, the complaint includes a request for an evaluation of SCE's practices regarding the maintenance of its infrastructure and capital upgrade program to ensure the elimination of failing or obsolete equipment into the future.

OPTIONS:

1. Authorize the City Manager to submit the attached Formal Complaint with the CPUC seeking assistance and relief from the recurring SCE power outages suffered by residents and businesses of the community;
2. Provide input on the attached Formal Complaint and Authorize the City Manager to file the Formal Complaint as amended;
3. Defer action and provide direction to staff.

RECOMMENDATION: Option # 1 - Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to submit the attached Formal Complaint with the CPUC seeking assistance and relief from the recurring SCE power outages suffered by residents and businesses of the community.

ATTACHMENTS: 1. CPUC Formal Complaint Form [DRAFT]

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

(A) City of La Cañada Flintridge
One Civic Center Drive
La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011

COMPLAINANT(S)
vs.

(B) Southern California Edison
P.O. BOX 800
Rosemead, CA 91770

DEFENDANT(S)
(Include Utility "U-Number", if known)

(for Commission use only)

(C)

Have you tried to resolve this matter informally with the Commission's Consumer Affairs staff?
☐ YES ☒ NO

Has staff responded to your complaint?
☐ YES ☒ NO

Did you appeal to the Consumer Affairs Manager?
☐ YES ☒ NO

Do you have money on deposit with the Commission?
☐ YES ☒ NO
Amount $ _____

Is your service now disconnected?
☐ YES ☒ NO

COMPLAINT

(D)

The complaint of (Provide name, address and phone number for each complainant)

Name of Complainant(s)	Address	Daytime Phone Number
City of La Cañada Flintridge	One Civic Center Drive	(818) 790-8880
	La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011	

respectfully shows that:

(E)

Defendant(s) (Provide name, address and phone number for each defendant)

Name of Defendant(s)	Address	Daytime Phone Number
Southern California Edison	P.O. BOX 800	(800) 655-4555
	Rosemead, CA 91770	

(F)
Explain fully and clearly the details of your complaint. (Attach additional pages if necessary and any supporting documentation)

See attached "City Council Agenda Report" dated August 30, 2021

(G) Scoping Memo Information (Rule 4.2(a))

(1) The proposed category for the Complaint is (check one):

☒ adjudicatory (most complaints are adjudicatory unless they challenge the reasonableness of rates)

☐ ratesetting (check this box if your complaint challenges the reasonableness of a rates)

(2) Are hearings needed, (are there facts in dispute)? ☐ YES ☒ NO

(3) ☐ Regular Complaint ☒ Expedited Complaint

(4) The issues to be considered are (Example: The utility should refund the overbilled amount of $78.00):

1. The CPUC should evaluate SCE's efforts to address excessive and reoccurring unplanned power outages in the City of La Cañada Flintridge

2. The CPUC should assess SCE's maintenance and capital replacement program to determine its adequacy and appropriateness to address aging infrastructure and reducing unplanned outages.

(5) The proposed schedule for resolving the complaint within 12 months (if categorized as adjudicatory) or 18 months (if categorized as ratesetting) is as follows:

Prehearing Conference: Approximately 30 to 40 days from the date of filing of the Complaint.
Hearing: Approximately 50 to 70 days from the date of filing of the Complaint.

Prehearing Conference (Example: 6/1/09):	N/A
Hearing (Example: 7/1/09)	N/A

Explain here if you propose a schedule different from the above guidelines.

(H)
Wherefore, complainant(s) request(s) an order: State clearly the exact relief desired. (Attach additional pages if necessary)

1. The CPUC shall conduct an assessment and evaluation of SCE's efforts to address excessive and reoccurring unplanned power outages in the City of La Cañada Flintridge.

2. The CPUC shall conduct an assessment and evaluation of SCE's maintenance practices and investment in capital infrastructure to determine its adequacy and appropriateness in addressing aging infrastructure and reducing unplanned outages.

(I)
OPTIONAL: I/we would like to receive the answer and other filings of the defendant(s) and information and notices from the Commission by electronic mail (e-mail). My/our e-mail address(es) is/are:

malexander@lcf.ca.gov

(J)
Dated La Cañada Flintridge (City), California, this 30th (date) day of August (month), 2021 (year)

Signature of each complainant

(MUST ALSO SIGN VERIFICATION AND PRIVACY NOTICE)

(K)

REPRESENTATIVE'S INFORMATION:

Provide name, address, telephone number, e-mail address (if consents to notifications by e-mail), and signature of representative, if any.

Name of Representative:	Mark R. Alexander, City Manager
Address:	One Civic Center Drive, La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011
Telephone Number:	(818) 790-8880
E-mail:	malexander@lcf.ca.gov
Signature	

VERIFICATION
(For Individual or Partnerships)

I am (one of) the complainant(s) in the above-entitled matter; the statements in the foregoing document are true of my knowledge, except as to matters which are therein stated on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe them to be true.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

(L)

Executed on August 30, 2021 (date), at La Cañada Flintridge (City), California

_____
(Complainant Signature)

VERIFICATION
(For a Corporation)

I am an officer of the ~~complaining~~ municipality corporation herein, and am authorized to make this verification on its behalf. The statements in the foregoing document are true of my own knowledge, except as to the matters which are therein stated on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe them to be true.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

(M)

Executed on August 30, 2021 (date), at La Cañada Flintridge (City), California

_____ City Manager
Signature of Officer Title

(N) NUMBER OF COPIES NEEDED FOR FILING:
If you are filing your formal complaint on paper, then submit one (1) original, six (6) copies, plus one (1) copy for each named defendant. For example, if your formal complaint has one defendant, then you must submit a total of eight (8) copies (Rule 4.2(b)).
If you are filing your formal complaint electronically (visit http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/efiling for additional details), then you are not required to mail paper copies.

(O) Mail paper copies to: California Public Utilities Commission
Attn: Docket Office

505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2001
San Francisco, CA 94102

PRIVACYNOTICE

This message is to inform you that the Docket Office of the California Public Utilities Commission ("CPUC") intends to file the above-referenced Formal Complaint electronically instead of in paper form as it was submitted.

Please Note: Whether or not your Formal Complaint is filed in paper form or electronically, Formal Complaints filed with the CPUC become a public record and may be posted on the CPUC's website. Therefore, any information you provide in the Formal Complaint, including, but not limited to, your name, address, city, state, zip code, telephone number, E-mail address and the facts of your case may be available on-line for later public viewing.

Having been so advised, the Undersigned hereby consents to the filing of the referenced complaint.

_____ 08/30/21

Signature Date

Mark R. Alexander for City of La Cañada Flintridge

Print your name

DocuSign Envelope ID: 9DF192E0-D4DD-4107-8CA6-CB08B9ACD8C1

City of La Cañada Flintridge
City Council Minutes
Special Meeting

Monday, August 30, 2021
City Council Chambers
One Civic Center Drive
La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Walker called the Special Meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

ROLL CALL: Councilmember Jonathan C. Curtis, Michael T. Davitt, Richard B. Gunter III, Mayor Pro Tem Keith Eich, and Mayor Terry Walker.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Alexander, City Attorney Guerra, Assistant City Manager Alameda, Division Manager Parseghian, and Administrative Clerk Yesayan.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: David Haxton, resident, led the pledge of allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:
Mayor Walker stated that if anyone is interested in addressing the City Council regarding any agenda item herein, they may participate via Zoom or telephonically and speak during the item. Instructions on how to participate can be found on page 2 of the meeting's agenda.

Division Manager Parseghian stated that the City received one public comment.

David Haxton, a resident, stated that the new football scoreboard at Saint Francis High School is four times the size of the old scoreboard. He noted that the scoreboard is all digital and shows videos and instant replays, which is very nice. However, the scoreboard has a new sound system that is very loud. The high school had the volume on very high, directly across Foothill, directed at hundreds of homes - including his. He stated that they were able to clearly hear every word spoken. He noted that when the music was played at halftime, it was like being adjacent to an outdoor concert. The previous sound system was not nearly as loud. Further, he added that the sounds they used to hear at their homes before were usually muffled and indistinct. He noted that the sound system has speakers on top of the scoreboard pointing at Foothill Boulevard and the houses beyond. He asked the City Council to work with Saint Francis High School to turn the volume down and to reposition the speakers. Lastly, he noted that, on September 3rd, the high school is having their next home football game; he encouraged the City Council to visit his neighborhood to hear how invasive the new sound system is. Mayor Walker stated that she appreciates Mr. Haxton's comment.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Walker asked legal counsel to read the topic of the closed session into the record.

City Attorney Guerra read the Closed Session title into the record.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code Sections 54956.9(d)(4) and 54954.5(c)
Number of cases: 1

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RECONVENE OPEN SESSION AND ANNOUNCE ANY ACTION TAKEN
City Attorney Guerra reported that the City Council met in closed session to discuss item 1. He stated that a discussion was held, and direction provided to staff, but no reportable action was taken by the City Council.

CONSENT CALENDAR:
A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Gunter, seconded by Councilmember Davitt, and carried (5 – 0) to approve Consent Calendar 1.

A roll call vote was taken, and the results were read by Administrative Clerk Yesayan as follows: **AYES:** Davitt, Curtis, Eich, Gunter, Walker; **NOES:** None; **ABSTAIN:** None

1. **Approval of Warrant Resolution No. 21-17 dated August 30, 2021, for $485,694.73 (Approved 5 – 0, as recommended)**

OTHER BUSINESS:

2. **Consideration of the Filing of a Formal Complaint with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regarding Southern California Edison's (SCE) Recurring Power Outages**

City Manager Alexander explained that the City Council is aware that, over the past two months, the community has experienced 16 separate power outages that were unplanned. These power outages have occurred in various circuits but nine out of the 16 outages occurred along the Haskell Circuit. Other circuits that were impacted included the following: The Verdugo Circuit, Barley Flats Circuit, Ravine Circuit, and the Rosemont Circuit. As the City Council is aware, power outages have become commonplace in the community and have been occurring in the City for more than 10 years. In fact, several years ago, the City Council decided to hire an independent consultant to evaluate Southern California Edison's ("SCE") infrastructure. Through that effort and in working with SCE, in particular the Monrovia District Office, SCE has made some headway in implementing improvements to various circuits within the community. However, the power outages continue to persist. These power outages have had significant impacts on both our residents and our local businesses. Aside from the fact that they are unpredictable, they have created the potential for damage to private property, as well as loss of income for both residential and business owners within the community. Hence, the question that is being put before the City Council today is whether there is an interest in filing a formal complaint with the California Public Utilities Commission ("CPUC"). As the City Council is aware, the City does not have any regulatory authority over SCE or any public utility. The regulatory body that oversees SCE is the CPUC. The CPUC has a complaint process for which a resident or an entity such as a local municipality, can file a formal complaint. In this case, the recommendation would be to file a formal complaint to seek the assistance of the CPUC in evaluating and assessing SCE's response to these power outages. Further, to evaluate the infrastructure within the City and whether SCE is doing enough to maintain the infrastructure and to replace aging infrastructure. Lastly, the discussion today is for the City Council to determine whether it wishes to direct staff to proceed with the option of filing the formal complaint; the other option is to continue to try to work with

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SCE at a local and corporate level in order to address this issue. Mayor Walker asked if the City Council has any questions.

In response to a question raised by Councilmember Curtis, City Manager Alexander responded that Marissa Castro-Salvati, the representative for SCE, is on the Zoom call and she could provide more detailed information. He noted that since these power outages started occurring, the local SCE office has been committed to providing resources to assess where the problems might occur. He stated that SCE has initiated drone inspections of the lines, they have had crews inspecting the lines, and they also had helicopter inspections of the lines. However, whenever the City has an outage, because the nature of the area is an extremely high fire hazard area, before SCE reenergizes a circuit, they must ensure that they have identified the problem. Hence, they do a complete inspection of the line before they reenergize the line to avoid any kind of a spark which might lead to a brush fire. He added that these inspections can take more than three to four hours. Thus, many of these recent outages have been long in duration, as well as frequency.

In response to a question raised by Mayor Walker, City Manager Alexander explained that three of the outages, along the Haskell Circuit, were attributed to critters and the cause of the rest is unknown.

Councilmember Gunter stated that along the Haskell Circuit there were nine outages and that 66 percent of the time there is no useful report of what caused the outage.

City Manager Alexander stated that Councilmember Gunter is correct.

Mayor Walker opened the public comments period at 10:35 a.m.

Project Manager Parseghian stated that Marissa Castro-Salvati, the representative for SCE, is on the phone line for a public comment.

Public Affairs Region Manager Castro-Salvati stated that they continue to acknowledge that the recent power outages in the City, especially those experienced by customers served by the Haskell Circuit, have indeed created a significant hardship for constituents and customers. She noted that SCE has realized the severity of the problems and has taken proactive measures in determining the root causes of the most recent outages on the Haskell Circuit. In order to reduce frequency of these recent outages, SCE crews have been diligently working to analyze circuit performance to identify any potential issues and immediately making the proper repairs. Hence, to correct and improve the Haskell Circuit, SCE has devoted a significant number of resources. She stated that they have scheduled planned outages from August 18th through September 1st to conduct necessary repairs. She added that SCE has done additional installation of animal guards, remote automatic reclosers, and equipment repairs and replacements. She stated that, as partners, SCE remains committed to engaging in regular communication with the City and fully appreciates the concerns that have been raised to them. Lastly, she added that SCE is doing everything to address the outages, including areas they do not suspect are problematic. On behalf of SCE, she asked the City Council to reconsider their formal CPUC complaint and to allow SCE to continue with the much-needed work.

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In response to a question raised by Mayor Walker and Councilmember Curtis, Public Affairs Region Manager Castro-Salvati stated that the Presbyterian Church has graciously allowed SCE to use their parking lot as their staging area. She noted that they have 10 to 12 crews at the site who are being dispatched and assigned to different areas that they have identified in the Haskell Circuit. She stated that District Manager Ken Bodenhoefer is also on the call and that he can give a better explanation of SCE's technical operational work.

District Manager Bodenhoefer stated that, since Tuesday of last week, SCE has had 9 crew members onsite every day. A typical crew is anywhere between 4 to 5 men. He noted that they have found 4 squirrels that were dead in the lines either at the primary level or the secondary. He stated that they also found blown out determination points. He added that SCE is finding the issues and they are making repairs. He added that SCE has completed the first remote automated recloser that will help SCE better sectionalize future events. In other words, it will not take the entire circuit out. He stated that he is encouraged by what SCE is finding and the work that they are able to perform.

Mayor Pro Tem Eich noted that SCE has done a great job segmenting the Haskell Circuit and offloading residents. There were about 1,500 customers on the Haskell Circuit and now SCE has it down to about 750. He asked if these numbers are accurate numbers still.

District Manager Bodenhoefer confirmed that the numbers are fairly accurate.

Mayor Walker clarified that the offloading is just a temporary situation while SCE finds the cause of the outages.

Public Affairs Region Manager Castro-Salvati noted that Mayor Walker is correct.

Councilmember Curtis asked how SCE is analyzing which lines to replace.

District Manager Bodenhoefer responded that SCE crewmembers conduct a visual check by climbing on the poles to check the equipment closeup. Typically, when a line begins to fail, there is a large flash of fire, and it will leave black marks and the cable will melt. When the squirrels get in there, there is a flash of fire. He added that squirrels get caught up in the secondary wires as well and get electrocuted. He stated that SCE is taping those connections to mitigate any further contact.

In response to a question raised by Mayor Walker, Mr. Bodenhoefer explained that most of the homes have 120 and 240 volts. He stated that the squirrels start chewing on the wire and it begins to fail. SCE's crewmembers do a close visual inspection, and they replace the wire.

Councilmember Gunter stated that the Haskell Circuit cannot be the only circuit that squirrels are attracted to. He noted that the City has one part of town that is clearly suffering an unusual number of failures, which is unacceptable. SCE's response seems to be a wildlife situation that exists across North America, however, for some reason this circuit is suffering significantly.

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City Manager Alexander stated that, during the last two months, the Ravine Circuit suffered two power outages and one of them was attributed to a squirrel. The Rosemont Circuit suffered two outages and one of them was attributed to a squirrel. There was another outage with an unknown cause.

Councilmember Gunter stated that he wants to make sure that the City is focusing on how we will be maintaining continuous electricity service to all residents and spending a little less time on blaming animals.

District Manager Bodenhoefer responded that SCE has patrolled the entire Haskell Circuit area and has identified covers that are filled with acorns. He added that, when SCE finds a failed conductor, they replace that failed conductor.

Mayor Walker asked about the presentation that SCE provided a couple of months ago which showed a pie chart. The instances of animal or critter related cases was miniscule compared to the rest of the pie chart, less than five percent. Hence, it is concerning that most of the outages are "no cause found." She stated that SCE could not find the causes of these ongoing outages. During the presentation, SCE stated that they would look at replacing the entire line. The City has not heard any more of that discussion. She asked SCE to provide an update.

District Manager Bodenhoefer stated that he is working on a plan right now. They are working with the engineering team to replace all the aerial cables on the Haskell Circuit. He stated that it is going to be a very large project and an extremely invasive process for the residents. It will likely mean replacing some of the poles in the deep backyards, significant trimming of trees to be able to do the work for the new conductor.

Public Affairs Region Manager Castro-Salvati stated that the photos that were provided to the City Council were taken at different sites during their emergency repairs and showed the squirrels. She stated that some of the photos are a bit graphic and others show exposed wires.

In response to a question raised by Mayor Walker, Public Affairs Region Manager Castro-Salvati responded that, on emergency repairs, they typically do a robo call or broadcast messaging, whether residents have signed up for text messaging or calls. She stated that SCE has also left door hangers to all the impacted customers on the day that SCE plans. Typically, when SCE had emergency repairs, they did not give any notice. However, because this is a unique situation, SCE wanted to make sure that they communicated accordingly with their customers.

Mayor Walked asked if there was any follow-up communication with residents as to why there was an outage and what was done.

Public Affairs Region Manager Castro-Salvati responded that SCE does not have that in place. She noted that she would ask SCE's outage communication team if there is a way of doing that.

Mayor Pro Tem Eich stated that he had an emergency outage on Friday evening, during the Saint Francis High School game. He noted that they received an email notification before and after the

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outage. He clarified that there is some communication with some of these outages, however, SCE could probably do a better job.

City Manager Alexander stated that one of the complaints that he is hearing is confusion over the dates of when there is going to be a planned outage. He asked Marissa Castro-Salvati to address the issue of multiple notices with differing dates.

Public Affairs Region Manager Castro-Salvati explained that there was a situation that was a mix up in notices that were sent out. When the glitch was found, door hangers were sent out but, by then, people were confused. However, it is an unfortunate glitch on SCE's outage communication which they have already addressed.

District Manager Bodenhoefer stated that, if there is confusion between an email or a text message, to always default to the door hanger.

In response to questions raised by Mayor Walker and Councilmember Gunter, District Manager Bodenhoefer responded that SCE typically builds their system to last 30 years. He believes that the cable being presented on the screen has been in service for about 15 years. He explained that a cable can fail catastrophically in one occurrence, or it can fail over time.

Mayor Walker stated that it is important whether the City wants to file a complaint to assess if SCE has been negligent. She opened the public comment period at 11:03 a.m.

Division Manager Parseghian noted that there are two public comments.

Stacy, a resident, stated that she appreciates the City Council having this meeting today. She urged the City Council to proceed and file a complaint. She stressed that the only opportunity residents get to hear from SCE has been through City Council meetings. At the last City Council meeting, residents were told that there were calls, announcements, and letters that would explain outages. She stated that she did not see those announcements. She stated that there has been no follow up or explanation about any of the outages including maintenance outages that are listed as emergency outages. She noted that when she received a flyer, she had less than 24-hours notice of an 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. power outage. She stated that these outages impact her ability to work and her son's ability to handle schoolwork. She stated that, given the number and frequency of outages, she purchased a generator to be able to continue to work. She noted that, when they call customer service, SCE is typically not aware of the outages and their reporting process is extremely cumbersome. She urged the City Council to take action. She stated that the outages have been extremely difficult and she does not see the follow-through happening without actual action being taken. As a resident, it is difficult to get information from SCE. She stated that she understands that it is likely an inconvenience for SCE to have to deal with responding to a formal complaint; however, if the City does not formally complain now, when exactly would anyone complain? She urged the City Council not to be dissuaded from that action. Lastly, she stated that there are actual costs and real consequences associated with these outages.

Al Frank, a resident, stated that he moved to the City about six months ago and is delighted to be a resident. He noted that he lived in the City of Glendale for 35 years and had about three power

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outages. He stated that SCE has the worst customer service. During his construction project, SCE was impossible to deal with. He noted that he has not received a bill from SCE for his electricity. He noted that it took him an hour to speak to someone over the phone. He added that he still has not received a bill but at least SCE has him in the system. He stated that now the electricity seems to be going out an enormous number of times. He noted it is beyond his comprehension that the squirrels are causing major outages in the City. He stated that SCE should be embarrassed. Last week, there was an eight-hour power outage right after the City Council meeting. Lastly, he stated that the City should file a formal complaint and we should do everything we can to get SCE's attention. This is a problem that needs to be fixed and it needs to be fixed now.

Mayor Walker closed the public comment period at 11:13 a.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Eich stated that he does not see any urgency in filing a complaint today. He noted that, as the situation develops, the City will know more. He added that SCE's sense of urgency has changed. He stated that he would like to leave this matter on the table to file a complaint and would like to see it develop more before the City makes a decision.

Councilmember Gunter stated that he respectfully disagrees with Mayor Pro Tem Eich. He emphasized that it is time to file a complaint. It is clear that this has been a recurring problem and the City is just asking the CPUC to evaluate SCE's efforts on excessive and recurring unplanned outages and to help the City evaluate the maintenance and capital program. He noted that the CPUC is much better able to do that than the City. The point of a Public Utilities Commission is for agencies to advise them periodically and give updates. The City can use CPUC's perspective on what is going wrong and see how they can help. He stated that he is a strong proponent of filing a formal complaint with the CPUC as written by staff.

Councilmember Davit stated that he acknowledges and appreciates the efforts that SCE has made over the last few weeks. It is helpful and encouraging, although this has been an ongoing issue for the City. He noted that the City, independently, has spent money and resources trying to investigate the problem. However, it is not the City's job to take that extra step. He stated that he has a difficult time believing that SCE will not continue their efforts if the City files the complaint. Hence, it is incumbent upon the City to file the complaint. The residents want the City to file. Lastly, he stated that he strongly believes that the City Council needs to do what is best for the residents and that would be to file the complaint.

Councilmember Curtis stated that he had filed a complaint with CPUC before over a Metro matter, and it immediately brought about some progress with Metro. He stated that, if the City is going to file a complaint, the City needs to hire an expert to help the City understand further what SCE is doing and their proposal of replacing the line. He stated that he appreciates everything that SCE has done with all the crewmembers.

Mayor Walker stated that she agrees with her colleagues apart from Mayor Pro Tem Eich. She stated that she feels that there is an urgency to this and that is why the City called a Special City Council meeting. She noted that the City cannot put this off any longer and it is the City Council's responsibility to be the voice of the residents. She stated that the City Council has been getting email after email, and we have been guaranteeing the citizens that we are doing everything possible

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to remedy this situation. Hence, the City Council must do everything possible, including a formal complaint to the CPUC to make them aware of the situation. The City cannot correct the problem and must seek help from the CPUC. Also, the City must seek the help of our state representatives. Lastly, he stated that it is incumbent on the City Council to file a complaint sooner rather than later.

Mayor Pro Tem Eich asked if there is a downside to filing a formal complaint other than the City cannot retract the complaint once filed. He asked if SCE would stop their work or anything of that nature.

City Manager Alexander stated that he cannot speak for SCE on what they will or won't do, however, there could be a risk of SCE slowing down its efforts to prepare a response to the complaint. He noted that he does not know their inner workings and whether they would react that way to a formal complaint.

Councilmember Gunter stated that the complaint says the action will be in 12 to 18 months, hence, when the City files, they will have time. Second, it suggests a conference in 30 days. Therefore, the City's hope is that, within 30 days, SCE will report that they got the chance to solve the issue.

Public Affairs Region Manager Castro-Salvati stated that SCE has indicated, at the last City Council meeting, that SCE has proactively alerted the CPUC of the issues that have been happening in the City. She explained that SCE's organizational group that deals with CPUC has been engaged with their representatives to keep them apprised of what is going on. Hence, SCE has proactively reached out to CPUC to make sure that they know what SCE is doing for the community.

City Manager Alexander asked Ms. Castro-Salvati why SCE would not want the City to file a formal complaint.

Public Affairs Region Manager Castro-Salvati responded that it is the City's right to file a formal complaint. She explained that SCE has done a tremendous amount of work in the last few weeks. She stated that they are hoping that the City will reconsider the formal complaint given the work SCE has done. She noted that they are already looking at some other options if they are not able to isolate the problem, then they will go to the next level. However, at the end of the day, it is the City's decision. As a company, SCE would ask the City to reconsider.

Mayor Walker stated that she would briefly add that SCE's communications department needs to be informed that they need to better communicate with the residents. She stated that, if most of the residents were better informed and understood the process, they would be a lot more patient.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Gunter, seconded by Councilmember Davitt, and carried (5 – 0) to file a formal complaint with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regarding Southern California Edison's (SCE) recurring power outages

A roll call vote was taken, and the results were read by Administrative Clerk Yesayan as follows: **AYES:** Davitt, Curtis, Eich, Gunter, Walker; **NOES:** None; **ABSTAIN:** None

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City Manager Alexander reported that City Hall will be closed in observance of Labor Day on Monday, September 6th. He informed the City Council and the community that the Governor's Recall Election will occur on September 14th. If the public wants to come in to vote or drop off their ballot, the City will have a Flex Vote Center on Monday, September 13th, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Lastly, he added that starting September 4th through the 14th, the public will be able to vote at the La Cañada Unified School District Office round building. Alternatively, residents can drop off their ballot in the box in front of the La Cañada Flintridge Public Library.

ADJOURNMENT

A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Gunter, seconded by Councilmember Curtis, and carried (5 – 0), to adjourn the Special meeting at 11:35 a.m.

DocuSigned by:
Arpi Yesayan
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Arpi Yesayan, Administrative Clerk

Minutes approved by the City Council on October 5, 2021.