



COUNCIL DIRECTION
TO VOTING DELEGATE
LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES
2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

City Council Meeting
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(1)



LOCC Resolution Introduction

- Policy development is a vital and ongoing process within the League of California Cities.
- Each member city has one Voting Delegate at the General Assembly, which will be held in Long Beach on October 16-18, 2019.
- This year, there are two resolutions for consideration that have been assigned to the policy committees:
 - Environmental Quality
 - Transportation, Communication & Public Works



Resolution #1





Proposed LOCC Resolution #1 - Amendment to Rule 20A

A resolution from the League of California Cities calling on the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to amend Rule 20A to add projects in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) to the list of eligibility criteria & to increase funding allocations for Rule 20A projects.



Rule 20A Summary

Current Rule 20A: Utilities allocate ratepayer funds in the form of credits for utility undergrounding projects that have a public benefit & meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Eliminate a heavy concentration of overhead lines;
- Involve a street with a high volume of traffic;
- Benefit a civic, public recreation, or scenic area, &
- Be listed as an arterial street or major collector as defined in the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) Guidelines.

Implemented in 1967 to address visual blight



Res. #1 Background Information

*Notably Fire Safety is excluded from that list

In our community & statewide deadly wildfires were sparked by electrical power equipment. The cause of the Camp Fire, in Butte county, is still under investigation, initial reports suggest that electrical equipment owned by PG&E led to the fire.

Shifts criteria away from aesthetics & towards undergrounding projects that potentially reduce fire risk, preserve property & environment, save dollars and lives.



Res. #1 & State of CA



The increasing frequency and severity of CA wildfires have prompted officials to seek urgent mitigation actions:

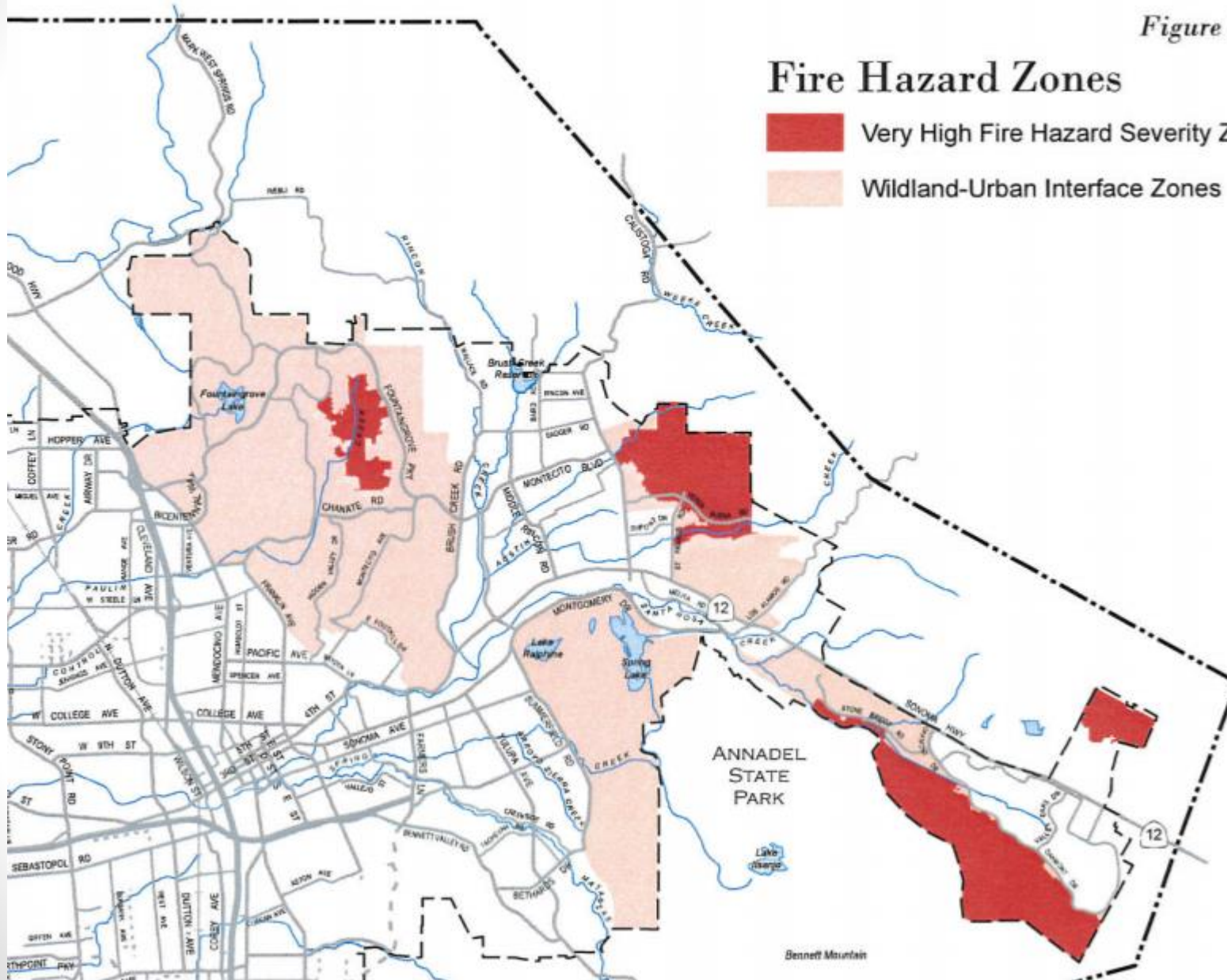
- Governor Newsom’s Wildfire Strike Force Prog. identifies that hardening of the electrical grid is critical to wildfire risk management
- Key component of the strategy is undergrounding utility lines in high-fire areas
- “High-fire & risk” designations differ among Federal, State and local agencies.



Figure 12-5

Fire Hazard Zones

-  Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones
-  Wildland-Urban Interface Zones





Fiscal Impact

RESOLUTION #1

There is no projected fiscal impact to the City's General Fund. The Resolution does call for an "unspecified increase" in funding for Rule 20A projects.

PG&E is currently facing bankruptcy and re-structuring as a direct result of culpability in recent wildfires, expanding Rule 20A will increase the cost to rate payers.



Recommended Action

It is recommended that the Council approve the Delegate to take the following action to:

- “Aaa” - Approve with additional amendment(s)+
Resolution 1- Amendment to Rule 20A
- Add the term “Wildland Urban Interface”(WUI) along with Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) to the list of criteria for eligibility
 - Please refer to pg. # 5 Key to Actions Taken within the attachment titled – “Annual Conference Resolutions Packet”



Resolution #2





Proposed LOCC Resolution #2- International Transboundary Pollution flows

A resolution calling upon the Federal & State Governments to address the devastating impacts of international transboundary pollution flows into the Southernmost regions of California and the Pacific Ocean.



Res. #2 Context

- The New River flows North, from Mexico, across the US Border and into the Salton Sea, Imperial County
- The Tijuana river flows through Mexico and in the last few miles crosses the border and empties into an estuary in Border Field State Beach, San Diego County
- These rivers carry transboundary pollution flows that are major a source of raw sewage, trash, chemicals, heavy metals, and toxins
- Pollute local communities and the environment
- Threaten the health of residents in California & Mexico, harms the ecosystem, forces closures at beaches, damages farm land, makes people sick, and adversely affects the economy of border & coastal communities.
- Border Field State Beach closed for over 800 days in the past 5 years



Background Resolution #2

- Rapid growth of urban centers along border & NAFTA generated increased pollution, expansion of the environmental infrastructure & H2O treatment capacity has not kept pace
- The degradation of existing water treatment infrastructure & pollution flows exceeding treatment capacity coincides with federal governments repeated defunding of the 1996 Border Water Infrastructure Program(BWIP)
- Past 20 years annual funding decreased from \$100 million to \$10 million, this is the total allocated across the entire Southern Border – not just CA



Impacts Resolution #2

- Paramount for improving environmental & public health conditions for coastal communities along the border and is essential for maintaining strong border, safety, security and economy with Mexico
- California is in a unique position to take the lead and work with local and federal partners to implement real solutions that will addresses the long standing and escalating water quality crisis along the border.



Fiscal Impact

- Budget year 2020 the Administration proposed the elimination of the BWIP

Support of this resolution will not directly impact the City's general fund.

A decline in the reputation of our state beaches and pollution flows into the Pacific Ocean could carry macroeconomic and environmental effects that ripple outside San Diego County and affect coastal communities throughout California.



Recommended Action

It is recommended that the Council approve the Delegate to take the action to:

“A” – Approve

Resolution 2 -International Transboundary Pollution Flows

- Please refer to pg. # 5 Key to Actions Taken within the attachment titled – “Annual Conference Resolutions Packet”



QUESTIONS?