August 6, 2019

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903


RECOMMENDATION: Receive Report

BACKGROUND: Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) is implementing a Public Safety Power Shutdown (PSPS) program to help reduce the risk of wildfires. If fire danger conditions threaten a portion of the electric system serving our community, PG&E may turn off electricity with power shutdowns that could last potentially a week or more.

In response, the Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services (OES) and my office are coordinating plans to prepare, respond and recover. OES is leading on creating an Annex to the County’s Emergency Operations Plan focusing on impacts, notifications, public education, and coordinating public safety response - including plans for coordinating among our cities, towns and partner agencies, and identifying logistics, planning and other needs.

My office is leading on developing a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) in partnership with OES, which includes determining our most critical County services and how we will continue to provide them. We’ve engaged Kelle Kroll Group to assist in this effort. A COOP details the procedures and resources that define how a government will continue its minimum essential functions in the event of a disaster or any event that disrupts normal operations. We’re focusing initially on PG&E’s PSPS program as a prime example of why we need a COOP. However, a COOP is applicable to any disaster, emergency or disruption of services.

We’re engaging every County department, focusing initially on nine with foundational interdependencies important to all departments, as well as the most essential services to the community in a PSPS event - most notably those with Access and Functional Needs. These departments include: the County Administrator, Information Systems and Technology, Human Resources, Finance, Health & Human Services, County Counsel, Sheriff/OES, Fire, and Public Works.

The purpose of today’s status report is to help educate the community regarding PSPS and its potential impacts. We’ll update your Board on County preparations, and will look to receive your feedback. Urging individual preparedness will be key; the County will be as affected by loss of power as residents and businesses, and County efforts will need to focus on public safety and the most vulnerable in our community.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Prepared By,

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Eilerman
Assistant County Administrator
Matthew H. Hymel
County Administrator