

July 15, 2019

Ms. Alice Stebbins Executive Director California Public Utilities Commission 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, California 94102

## Re: Activation of SCE's CEMA as the result of the July 2019 Earthquakes in Kern and San Bernardino Counties

Dear Ms. Stebbins:

This letter is to inform you that Southern California Edison Company (SCE) has activated its Catastrophic Event Memorandum Account (CEMA) effective July 4, 2019, to restore service to customers and repair damage to its facilities from the recent 6.4-magnitude and 7.1-magnitude earthquakes in Kern and San Bernardino Counties within its service territory.

Resolution No. E-3238 (Resolution), issued on July 24, 1991, and Public Utilities Code Section 454.9, which codified the CEMA process, set forth the criteria for utilities to use the CEMA, providing, among other things that its "use will be restricted to events declared disasters by competent state or federal authorities." Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency in Kern County on July 4, 2019 "due to the effects of a 6.4magnitude earthquake near Ridgecrest in Kern County, and continued aftershocks, that have damaged critical infrastructure, homes, and other structures and caused fires." On July 5, 2019, Governor Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency for "neighboring San Bernardino County which was also impacted by the effects of a second large magnitude earthquake near Ridgecrest that has damaged critical infrastructure, homes, and other structures and caused fires." The Resolution specifically allows for a utility to use CEMAs to comply with government agency orders resulting from declared disasters. SCE's Commission-approved CEMA tariff states: "If a Catastrophic Event occurs SCE shall, if possible, inform the Executive Director by letter within 30 days after the Catastrophic Event, if SCE has started booking costs into the CEMA." This letter provides notice to the Commission of SCE's intent to seek recovery of costs related to the two major July 2019 earthquakes through the CEMA.

At this time, SCE has not yet developed a complete assessment of our system or a detailed estimate of the costs to restore service to our customers and to repair our facilities. SCE's damage assessment is on-going.

P.O. Box 800 8631 Rush Street Rosemead, California 91770 (626) 302-4177

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me or Sue DiBernardo of my staff at 626-302-4353.

Best regards,

Gary Stern

Managing Director, State Regulatory Operations

Attachments

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