



## STAFF REPORT

**Meeting Date:** June 21, 2016  
**To:** Honorable Mayor & City Council  
**From:** Pamela Mottice Muller, Director of Emergency Management  
**Subject:** Southern California Edison Summer Energy Forecast  
**Attachments:**

1. CAISO Grid and Emergency Communications Fact Sheet
2. Outages and a Modernized Grid – What You Need to Know (What to Do Before, During, and After an Outage)
3. What You Can Do to Conserve at Home
4. Quick Tips to Help Your Business Save Energy This Summer

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### INTRODUCTION

The recent decommissioning of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station and the Aliso Canyon gas leak have prompted Southern California Edison to advise that there may be a high risk of rotating power outages this summer. Given the relatively greater demand for power during the summer months and the circumstances of a reduced power supply, all residents of Los Angeles County must take action to conserve electricity. If electricity is not conserved, the risk of rotating power outages is likely to increase.

This memo addresses four objectives: to summarize the activities of Southern California Edison (SCE) regarding the decreased power supply, to outline the procedures that Beverly Hills Staff will follow in the event of a decreased power supply, to inform Councilmembers and the community how to access SCE outage information, and to discuss electricity conservation tips that the Community can follow.

### DISCUSSION

SCE recently released a brief explaining the steps they are taking to minimize the impact of the power storage issues on their customers. One way SCE is accomplishing this is by expanding customer programs to reduce the use of electricity and exploring contracts for electricity resources outside of Southern California. Additionally, SCE is enhancing the use of programs to reduce the use of electricity at the times of highest customer demand for both residential and commercial customers.

The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) monitors grid conditions to identify potential issues with the electricity supply. The main method through which SCE

is updated about these issues is through the CAISO. Attachment 1 contains information about the three stages of emergencies that the CAISO can declare. Staff, residents, and the public can sign up for alerts at [www.caiso.com](http://www.caiso.com) for the latest grid emergency information.

The CAISO uses three emergency stages to notify the public if power outages are likely. If a Stage 1 Emergency is declared, Staff will immediately ask those who work in City buildings to conserve electricity by turning off unnecessary lighting, shifting use of non-essential electrical equipment, and turning off A/C in unused rooms. Staff will then use Social Media to notify the public and advise them to conserve electricity within and around their homes and businesses. Under Stage 1 Emergency circumstances, conserving electricity will help reduce the possibility of rotating power outages.

In the most extreme situation, a Stage 3 Emergency will be declared by the CAISO. If this happens, the City will be notified of a pending rotating outage. At that time, City departments will follow the City's Power Outage Response Plan. Attachment 2 outlines what to do before, during, and after a power outage. It should be noted that several City buildings are considered essential use facilities and SCE will do their best to prevent outages to these places. Additionally, SCE will try to prevent outages to medical care customers in the event of a rotating outage. Letters have been sent to these customers to make them aware of these efforts. The Fire Department has been given a phone number meant for Public Safety personnel use only. In the case of a life threatening emergency, Public Safety Staff can call this number to have power restored to a specific location during a rotating outage if absolutely necessary.

Information regarding all types of power outages can be found at [www.sce.com/outage](http://www.sce.com/outage) (PC) or [m.sce.com/outage](http://m.sce.com/outage) (mobile). SCE strongly suggests everyone sign up via the SCE website to receive automatic notifications regarding routine or emergency outages. Signing up now to receive routine outage information will provide notification of any type of outage. Rotating outages are listed by group number on the SCE outage website and each SCE account is assigned to a particular group number. Group numbers can be found on each SCE bill.

The City also has links to SCE on its website which can be found at <http://www.beverlyhills.org/living/utilities/poweroutages/>. Additionally, the City may supplement SCE messages by providing information during rotating outages via various social media channels. Stay informed by following @CityofBevHills on Twitter, signing up for the Nixle accounts, liking the City of Beverly Hills' official Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/cityofbeverlyhills/>), and adding @citybh on Instagram.

Conserving electricity is the best strategy for avoiding the risk of rotating power outages. If residents or Staff observe any sort of power outage, they are encouraged to report it on the SCE website. The steps that residents and Staff can take to reduce electricity consumption are numerous and are outlined in Attachments 3 and 4.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

None that staff is aware of at this time.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Provided as information only.

A representative from SCE spoke at a recent Health & Safety Commission Meeting and is available to speak to the City Council if requested.

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Pamela Mottice-Muller

Approved By

PMM

# **Attachment 1**

## Grid and Emergency Communications

The California Independent System Operator (ISO) is constantly analyzing grid conditions to identify potential problems. Many issues are resolved without consumers ever seeing them. But when needed, the ISO will take steps to protect grid reliability.

Event severity determines the steps the ISO takes that includes calling for voluntary conservation to, under extreme conditions, requesting rotating power interruptions. This fact sheet explains the different types of actions the ISO can take.

### WHAT TRIGGERS A NOTIFICATION?

- peak electricity demand forecast
- generation unavailability (fuel shortages)
- loss of generating or transmission facilities
- hot temperatures / prolonged heat waves

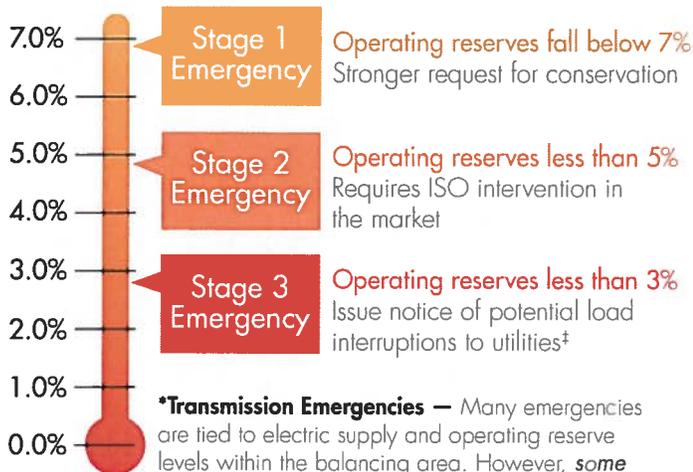
### TYPES OF NOTIFICATIONS:

#### Emergency Notifications

##### Stages of Electrical Emergencies\*

Stage Emergencies are triggered when immediate steps are required to protect the grid. A Stage Emergency can be issued in any order depending on events.

##### Operating Reserves



\*Transmission Emergencies — Many emergencies are tied to electric supply and operating reserve levels within the balancing area. However, *some emergencies are declared as a result of transmission line overloads, losses, or limitations.*

<sup>‡</sup> Affected areas are at the discretion of the utilities

#### Conservation Notifications

##### Flex Alerts

During times when the grid is under stress, the ISO can issue a "Flex Alert." This conservation call occurs when ISO analysis shows that unless demand is reduced grid operators will have to start using **power reserves** to keep up with use, such as on a hot day when air conditioning use is high. It is possible as well that a particular area may have to reduce local use because **transmission limitations** hamper efforts to deliver enough power to meet demand.

##### Warnings

This is a stronger conservation notification than Flex Alerts in that ISO is predicting grid operators will have to start using reserves. Not only does a Warning call for conservation, but utilities may also activate their demand response programs to help ease back on power use. Warnings may be called before a Stage Emergency, but only if time allows for voluntary conservation to have an impact in reducing demand.

Go to [www.caiso.com](http://www.caiso.com) for the latest grid emergency information and to sign up for alerts.

# **Attachment 2**



## Power Outages

# Outages and a Modernized Grid — What You Need to Know

### What To Do Before, During and After a Power Outage

- Have flashlights readily available throughout your work locations.
- Use surge protectors with electronic equipment, such as computers. Make certain to frequently backup important work and files.
- Learn how to open automatic doors/gates manually (without power).
- When your power supply is out or will be out for a maintenance outage, notify any security companies that monitor your work locations.
- Using a backup source of power can keep your business up and running during an outage, but generators can be dangerous if they are not properly connected or operated. Permanent, stationary generators installed by a qualified, licensed electrician are best suited for providing backup power to a business. If you use a backup generator, you are required to register the information with SCE.
- Elevators will automatically stop when the power goes out. However, there is no cause for alarm. Notify emergency personnel and wait for help. Never try to exit or help others exit through partially opened doors or a ceiling service door. Wait for trained emergency personnel to arrive. Even though it may get warm inside the elevator, there will be plenty of air circulating.
- Check perishable food after an outage. Depending on the length of the outage and temperature, food may not be safe to consume. Perishable foods should not be held above 40 degrees Fahrenheit for more than two hours. For more information on food safety, visit our website or [foodsafety.gov](http://foodsafety.gov).

**If you see a downed power line, call 911.  
Do not approach or touch it.**

### Outage Information

We realize power outages are an inconvenience. To communicate fully with you, in addition to our online Outage Center at [sce.com](http://sce.com), you can now use your web-enabled mobile phone to easily report and check on the status of power outages. Visit [sce.com](http://sce.com) to download our iPhone or Android app today. (Data usage charges may apply. Please check with your carrier.)



As a handy reminder, place this removable decal in a convenient location for reference.

#### To report or check on the status of a power outage:

From your  
PC:



[sce.com/outage](http://sce.com/outage)

From your  
mobile:



[m.sce.com/outage](http://m.sce.com/outage)

Call SCE:



**1-855-683-9067**

# **Attachment 3**

# This Summer



Natural gas provides fuel to many local area power plants



This year, the SoCalGas Aliso Canyon facility (a major storage facility of natural gas) has restricted operations and is unable to provide gas to power plants as it has in the past.



SCE is one of the largest users on the SoCalGas system. Because of Aliso Canyon's restricted operations, the risk to electric reliability has increased. SCE is very focused on this issue. Without gas to power generation plants, there are predictions that there could be rotating outages this summer.

## What SCE is Doing

SCE will do everything we can to minimize the impact of the natural gas storage issues on the reliable delivery of power for our customers.

SCE is expanding customer programs to reduce the use of electricity and exploring contracts for electricity resources outside of Southern California.

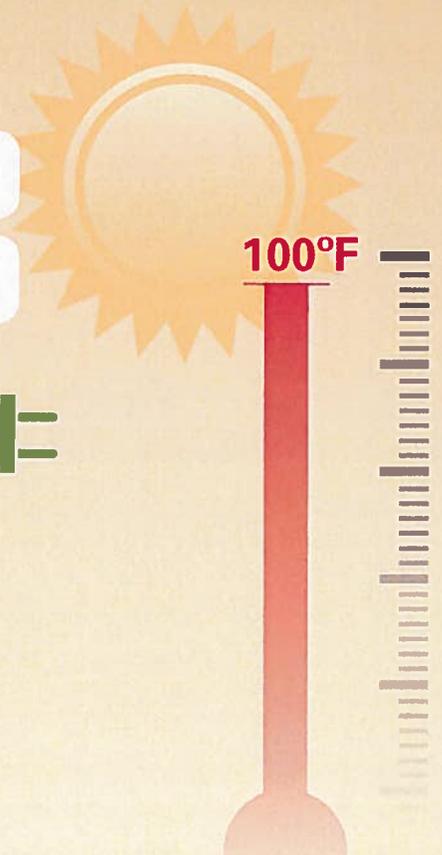
### SCE Programs

SCE is enhancing the use of programs to reduce the use of electricity at the times of highest customer demand.

These include programs for residential and business customers to reduce the amount of electricity they use.

More on SCE programs can be found at:

Residential Customers: [on.sce.com/tips](http://on.sce.com/tips)  
Business Customers: [on.sce.com/drp](http://on.sce.com/drp)



# What You Can Do to Conserve

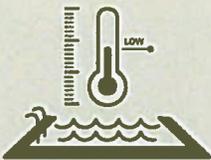


## Around Your Home



- Set your thermostat to 78 degrees or higher.
- Cook with your grill or microwave to keep your home cooler.
- Close your blinds to keep out the afternoon heat.
- Give your dryer a break and hang-dry your clothes.
- Reduce the temperature of your home's natural gas water heater.

## Around the Pool



- Check the accuracy of your spa's natural gas thermostat.
- Lower the temperature setting on pool or spa heaters, and turn down while on vacation.
- Use a solar pool cover and have the sun heat the water's surface.

## At Work

### Flip the Switch



- Turn off unnecessary lighting.
- Adjust lighting time clocks or computer-lighting programs to reduce occupancy cycles.

### Power Down



- Shut down lighting and A/C in unused rooms.
- Charge batteries and battery-operated equipment before or after TOU On-Peak hours.
- Turn off decorative fountains.
- Shift use of non-essential electrical equipment.

### Keep Your Cool



- Pre-cool building/work areas at night or in the morning.
- Lower or close your window treatments to block the solar heat
- Disable A/C start during TOU On-Peak hours.
- Turn off hot-water boilers early and allow temperatures to coast.
- Duty-cycle less critical A/C equipment not susceptible to cyclic damage.



# **Attachment 4**

## Quick Tips to Help Your Business Save Energy This Summer

With Time-Of-Use (TOU) rates in effect, when you use electricity can be just as important as how much you use—especially in the summer, when demand and rates are at their highest.

That's why we provide a variety of solutions, tips, and tools to help take the heat off your summer energy bills. We've listed many of our no-cost and low-cost tips below, but you'll also find tips specific to your industry at [sce.com/energytips](http://sce.com/energytips).



### Top Ten Cost-Effective Tips for Curbing Energy Use



1. Turn off unnecessary lighting and take advantage of the longer daylight hours.
2. Turn off power to fountains, ice machines, and unused elevator banks, and shut down unused rooms and facilities.
3. Charge batteries and battery-operated equipment before or after peak hours.\*
4. Install occupancy sensors in general usage areas so lights automatically turn off when unoccupied.
5. Perform routine maintenance on A/C filters, belts, coils, and bearings with our HVAC Quality Maintenance program.
6. Pre-cool building/work areas by installing ceiling fans or cycle air conditioning and ventilation throughout the day.
7. Sign up for the Summer Discount Plan to earn bill credits when we cycle your A/C during energy events.
8. Replace incandescent or halogen lamps with CFL or LED lamps.
9. Shift use of non-essential electrical equipment to before noon or after 6 p.m. weekdays.
10. Add interior or exterior blinds or window film to block heat in the summer and allow daylight in during winter.

For More Solutions Specific to Your Business,  
Visit [sce.com/energytips](http://sce.com/energytips)

#### Business Energy Advisor: Valuable Insights for Your Business

Get an in-depth analysis of how your business uses energy. We will provide:

- Recommendations on how to use less energy during on-peak hours\*
- A useful review of energy efficiency equipment
- Information on financial incentives and assistance for saving energy

\*Noon to 6 p.m. from June through October.