

**LODI CITY COUNCIL
SHIRTSLEEVE SESSION
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019**

A. Roll Call by City Clerk

An Informal Informational Meeting ("Shirtsleeve" Session) of the Lodi City Council was held Tuesday, October 15, 2019, commencing at 7:02 a.m.

Present: Council Member Mounce, Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Kuehne, and Mayor Chandler

Absent: Council Member Johnson

Also Present: City Manager Schwabauer, City Attorney Magdich, and City Clerk Ferraiolo

NOTE: Council Member Mounce participated in the meeting via teleconference.

B. Topic(s)

B-1 Informational Overview of Senate Bill 901 and Lodi Electric Utility's Draft Wildfire Mitigation Plan (EU)

Electrical Engineer Tim Conn provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Lodi Electric Utility's Wildfire Mitigation Plan. Specific topics of discussion included timeline; SB 901; progress; drought; construction grade; wind; contact between vegetation and power lines; factors specific to Lodi; California Public Utilities Commission fire threat map; factors specific to Lodi Electric Utility; water resources; fire-fighting resources; and deenergization/public safety power shut-offs - benefits, hazards, considerations, and impacts.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Kuehne, Electric Utility Director Jeff Berkheimer stated that Lodi does not have the resources to cover the City's peak load and, to operate outside of PG&E, Lodi would need transmission access into the service territory. City Manager Schwabauer further explained that the cost to connect a line to the White Slough Water Pollution Control Facility, which would be funded by ratepayers, could be in the \$20 to \$30 million range, which is expensive especially if it is done solely to mitigate the potential loss of power for two to three days a year. He added that this does not mean a power line to the west is not right for other reasons, but to do it only to remove the City from the potential risk of power shut-offs is quite costly. He pointed out the City tried twice to get a westerly line going, but it was met with heavy opposition from land owners from Lodi all the way to White Slough. The City did a feasibility study in the past for the purpose of adding a redundant line to the City, but did not study it in connection with the concept of a power shut-off risk. Mayor Pro Tempore Kuehne stated that citizens will be asking these questions and he felt the City should start taking incremental steps to move in this direction over time. Mr. Schwabauer stated staff continues to study various options, including hook-ups to other power plants, and pointed out once again that the risk is low right now regarding power shut-offs for Lodi and the price to protect the City from the potential is high.

Council Member Mounce commented that she too hears citizens discussing the potential of power shut-offs in Lodi and Council Members and staff should be prepared to respond to them. In response to Council Member Mounce, Mr. Berkheimer confirmed that Lodi has never lost power due to a shut-off event from PG&E, but it has lost power due to other reasons, such as a line failure. He stated PG&E will not give a definitive answer on whether Lodi's power will be shut off; however, based on reasons given during the presentation, such as Lodi's location, water supply, and other resources, he stated it is difficult to envision a scenario where Lodi will be taken out of power. Lodi is in the bottom tier of territories to be turned off, but that does not completely guarantee Lodi against how PG&E prioritizes shut-offs or against additional legislative mandates that could be added in the future.

Mayor Chandler agreed that residents will have questions and that all of the points in Lodi's favor brought up during the presentation, including Lodi's water, topography, surrounding vineyards, etc., be shared with citizens.

In response to Council Member Nakanishi, Mr. Berkheimer stated the City has backup generators for some of the Utility sites, but not one to handle peak power Citywide because that would be extremely expensive. Mr. Schwabauer added that, in addition to back-up generators for some of the Utility's facilities, the City also recently purchased a portable back-up generator that would allow the City to power a site that could serve as a cooling or charging center and provide assistance to those who need energy for medical equipment.

Mike Lusk expressed support for a secondary, westerly connection from Lodi to White Slough to help, not solely with the potential for power shut-offs, but also from loss of power on PG&E's lines due to lightning storms or problems with rebuilding its infrastructure. He stated he lacks confidence in PG&E keeping Lodi supplied with power from a single line, which is why he strongly supports a westward connection at White Slough. He further stated he believes the eminent domain process to get access to White Slough would likely work because, with more of that land being devoured, it is less likely vineyard owners will complain. He questioned where the California Independent System Operator (CalISO) falls in managing the drop station east of town and who controls the supply to Lodi. Mr. Lusk stated the 230 kV study looked like a viable secondary option, but that changed and is now moving out to the east to the single source of supply, which leaves Lodi still dependent on the single source.

In response, Mayor Chandler stated many generations of vineyard owners will continue to live along the route to White Slough; therefore, it will take multiple generations before a transmission line is approved along that route. Mr. Schwabauer also pointed out the change in the 230 kV line project was a California Public Utilities Commission decision, not Lodi's.

With regard to CalISO, Mr. Berkheimer explained that Lodi owns and operates its own system and CalISO manages the power flow and sets prices; it is a balancing act of load and generation. If PG&E were to cease to exist, he was not overly concerned about those power lines because there will always be an entity to operate them. The operating decision on what happens on the transmission system is outside of Lodi's control.

C. Comments by Public on Non-Agenda Items

None.

D. Adjournment

No action was taken by the City Council. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 a.m.

ATTEST:

Jennifer M. Ferraiolo
City Clerk