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Palo Alto Utilities Sends Aid to Northern California Fire Victims

Electric Crews Dispatched to Help Restore Power at Fire-Damaged Facilities

Palo Alto, CA – September 25, 2015 –This week, the City of Palo Alto Utilities (CPAU) dispatched electric utility crews to the Northern California wildland fire area. CPAU Electric Operations staff will help restore power where major transmission lines, power poles, power plants and generating facilities have been severely damaged.

Some of the power plants, major electric transmission and distribution lines, and electricity generating facilities operated by the Northern California Power Agency (NCPA), of which the City is a member, have been impacted. As part of a mutual aid agreement under NCPA, five staff members from CPAU Electric Operations departed Wednesday for Healdsburg to provide assistance. They are expected to be there approximately five days, framing and setting poles to allow the restringing of electric wire. CPAU is also awaiting delivery of another vehicle to assist with restoration efforts. Once it arrives, a second crew of three more CPAU Electric Operations staff will depart for the area.

Earlier this month, the City of Palo Alto deployed two fire engines and crews as a part of the two separate Santa Clara County Strike Teams to help battle both the Butte and Valley Fires. The fire crews worked 24-hour rotations to help contain the fires, search for missing persons and protect homes. CalFire has since released both units back to Palo Alto. The City backfilled both fire crews with off duty staffing and used reserve fire engines to ensure continuity of operations for Palo Alto and Stanford while the crews were deployed.

The combined acreage of the two fires is more than 200 square miles. By comparison, the City of Palo Alto is almost 26 square miles. Thousands of homes, businesses and significant community infrastructure have been destroyed and more than 6,400 firefighters have been assigned to these fires.

We thank the CPAU and Fire Department staff for their service to our greater Northern California community, and look forward to the safe return of our CPAU Electric Operations staff.

About the City of Palo Alto Utilities (CPAU): The City of Palo Alto is the only municipality in California operating a full suite of utility services, including water, wastewater, electric and fiber optics, natural gas, refuse and storm drain services. As a public power utility, CPAU is able to deliver safe, reliable and cost-effective electric and other utility services to its customers. For more information, visit www.cityofpaloalto.org/utilities

About NCPA: Headquartered in Roseville, California, the Northern California Power Agency is a not-for-profit joint powers agency that represents and helps meet the power supply needs for 650,000 customers who reside in our 15 member communities and districts in Northern and Central California. The organization and its members have a long-standing commitment to provide California residents with an electricity supply that is reliable, affordable, and socially and environmentally responsible, and have a long tradition of investment in conservation projects. NCPA owns and manages a 700 MW portfolio of hydropower, geothermal and natural gas projects on behalf of its members.



Palo Alto Utility Workers Help Rebuild 21kv line



Power generating facilities, transmission and distribution equipment have been damaged.



Palo Alto Utility Crews Clean Up Downed Power Poles and Help with Power Transmission Line Restoration