



September 6, 2019

SENATE FLOOR ALERT

**SB 167 (Dodd) - Electrical Corporations: Wildfire Mitigation Plans (as amended 8/30/19)
SUPPORT**

The California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS in in support of SB 167, by Senator Dodd, which would require Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs) to consider how Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) would impact customers receiving medical baseline allowances, first responders, and health and communication infrastructure in their wildfire mitigation plans.

In October 2018, over 60,000 residents in Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Lake, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, Sonoma, and Yuba Counties had their power shut off for up to three days in order to mitigate wildfire risk associated with extreme weather conditions. More recently, a PG&E deenergization impacted over 22,000 customers in Butte, Napa, Solano, Yolo, and Yuba Counties. Power outages, especially those lasting a day or more, pose serious risks to some residents, particularly the elderly or those with medical issues. Respirators and other electronic medical devices can go dark. With air conditioning out, the chance of heat stroke increases. People lose food in their refrigerators, putting them at risk of accidental food poisoning.

These are the Californians SB 167 seeks to protect.

CAPA supports efforts to plan for how wildfire mitigation efforts may impact medically vulnerable populations, first responders, and health and communication infrastructure. While the increased use of PSPS can be a reasonable way to decrease the likelihood of catastrophic wildfires, increased use of PSPS may leave vulnerable populations without power for prolonged periods of time. The provisions of this bill would require evaluation of the impacts of a PSPS on customers who depend on electricity for health needs as well as other impact to the local community.

For these reasons, CAPA respectfully urges your “aye” vote on SB 167.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Keeslar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Karen Keeslar,
CAPA Executive Director