# PG&E / Sempra / Edison

The Honorable Mike Mcguire
Senate Majority Leader
1021 0 Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

October 28, 2026

**RE: Senate Bill 79 - In  Support**

Dear Chairperson Monique Limon and Appropriations Committee members, On behalf of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Sempra, and Southern California Edison (SCE), I am writing in support of Senate Bill 79, the California Forest Protection, Firefighter Support, and Forest Restoration Act.

SB 79 would establish a one time $10 million pilot program within Cal Fire to support wildfire prevention, firefighter preparedness, forest management, transportation, cleanup, and recovery efforts. PG&E, Sempra, and Southern California Edison support these efforts because reducing wildfire risk helps protect communities, critical infrastructure, and the reliability of California’s energy system. Wildfires can damage electrical infrastructure, cause outages, disrupt communities, and create major challenges for utilities and emergency responders. SB 79 takes a preventive approach by directing funding toward activities such as hazardous vegetation removal, fuel break construction and maintenance, prescribed fire projects, forest restoration, and wildfire preparedness.

We especially support the bill’s priority for projects that protect communities in high and very high fire hazard areas and projects that protect critical infrastructure. Electric transmissions and distribution systems often run through areas with significant wildfire risk. Reducing hazardous vegetation and improving wildfire prevention around these areas can help protect the infrastructure that homes, businesses, hospitals, and other public facilities rely on. SB 79 also provides support for firefighters and emergency

preparedness. Forty-five percent of the funding would go towards firefighter prevention and preparedness. While additional funding would support forest management, restoration, cleanup, emergency assistance, and research. These investments can improve California’s ability to prevent fires before they become disasters and respond more effectively when wildfires occur.

The updated bill also provides temporary assistance for individuals, including firefighters, whose homes are destroyed or made uninhabitable by wildfires. Supporting affected communities during recovery is an important part of building long term resilience. We also support the bill’s requirement that at least $1 million be reserved for federally recognized tribes, along with technical assistance and no matching fund requirement. Wildfire prevention requires cooperation among state agencies, local governments, fire departments, tribes, nonprofits, private landowners, and utilities.

For PG&E, Sempra, and Southern California Edison, wildfire prevention is closely connected to maintaining safe and reliable energy service. Investments that reduce hazardous fuels, protect critical infrastructure, and strengthen emergency preparedness can lower the risk of damage to the electrical system while also protecting the communities we serve.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to support and pass SB 79.

Sincerely,

Luis Martinez (He/Him) - Lobbyist

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