



SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District Office, 18966 Ferretti Road

Groveland, CA 95321

(209) 962-7161 www.gcsd.org

AGENDA

July 10, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Location: 18966 Ferretti Road

Groveland, CA 95321

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND IN PERSON AT DISTRICT OFFICE OR VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE AS DETAILED BELOW:

HOW TO OBSERVE AND PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING:

Computer, tablet or smartphone: Watch the live streaming of the meeting and submit timely comments from a computer by navigating to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7688070165> using a computer with internet access that meets Zoom's system requirements.

Telephone: Listen to the meeting live by calling Zoom at (253) 215-8782 or (301) 715-8592. Enter the Meeting ID# 279-281-953 followed by the pound (#) key. More phone numbers can be found on Zoom's website at <https://zoom.us/u/abb4GNs5xM> if the line is busy.

Mobile: Log in through the Zoom mobile app on a smartphone and enter Meeting ID# 279-281-953.

HOW TO SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS:

You may submit your comments in writing in advance of the meeting: Please email your comments to board@gcsd.org, write "Public Comment" in the subject line. In the body of the email, include the agenda item number and title, as well as your comments. If you would like your comment to be read aloud at the meeting (not to exceed three minutes at staff's cadence), prominently write "Read Aloud at Meeting" at the top of the email.

Telephonic / Electronic Comments: During the meeting, the Board President or designee will announce the opportunity to make public comments by voice and in writing, and identify the cut off time for submission of written comments. Comments can be emailed in advance of the Board meeting and up to the time of Board consideration of the item during the meeting. Send email to board@gcsd.org, and write "Public Comment" in the subject line. Once you have joined the Board meeting online using Zoom, public comments can also be submitted using the Chat function while in the Zoom Meeting. In the body of the email or Chat, include the agenda item number and its title, as well as your comments. The Board President will also allow public comment to be made verbally prior to consideration of each agenda item and will explain the procedure for making verbal comments during the meeting. Once the public comment period is closed, comments timely received in advance of consideration of the agenda item will be read aloud prior to Board action on the matter. Comments received after the close of the public comment period will be added to the record after the meeting.

ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION:

Board Meetings are accessible to people with disabilities and others who need assistance. Individuals who need special assistance or a disability-related modification or accommodation (including auxiliary aids or services) to observe and/or participate in this meeting and access meeting-related materials should contact Rachel Pearlman, Board Secretary, as far in advance of the meeting as possible at (209) 962-7161 or rpearlman@gcsd.org. Advanced notification will enable the District to swiftly resolve such requests to ensure accessibility.

PUBLIC RECORDS:

Public records that relate to any item on the open session agenda for a meeting are available for public inspection. Those records that are distributed after the agenda posting deadline for the meeting are available for public inspection at the same time they are distributed to all or a majority of the members of the Board. The Board has designated the District's website located at <https://www.gcsd.org> as the place for making those public records available for inspection. The documents may also be obtained by calling the District office.

ALL AGENDA MATERIAL ARE AVAILABLE ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE AT WWW.GCSD.ORG OR MAY BE INSPECTED IN THE GROVELAND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT OFFICE AT 18966 FERRETTI ROAD, GROVELAND, CALIFORNIA

Any person who has any questions concerning this agenda may contact the District Secretary. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the District at 209-962-7161. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (28FR35.102-35.104 ADA Title 11)



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Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Board Members

Nancy Mora, President

Janice Kwiatkowski, Vice President

John Armstrong, Director

Spencer Edwards, Director

Bob Swan, Director

1. Discussion and Action Items

The Board of Directors intends to consider each of the following items and may take action at this meeting. Public comment is allowed on each individual agenda item listed below, and such comment will be considered in advance of each Board action.

- A. Discussion and Board Direction Regarding the Potential for District Involvement in the Operation of the Groveland Community Resilience Center
- B. Discussion and Board Direction Regarding the Impacts from Frequent and Extended PG&E Outages

2. Adjournment



BOARD MEETING AGENDA SUBMITTAL

TO: GCSO Board of Directors

FROM: Peter Kampa, General Manager

DATE: July 10, 2023

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 1A: Discussion and Board Direction Regarding the Potential for District Involvement in the Operation of the Groveland Community Resilience Center

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This item is intended for Board discussion and direction, and to receive community input on how the GCSO can best coordinate, assist and partner with the County in the operation of the Groveland Community Resilience Center to benefit the region's needs.

BACKGROUND:

This item is before the Board today at the request of the Board President and concerned public members of the Groveland Community. In 2018 Groveland Community Services District (GCSO) offered the County of Tuolumne 2.5 acres of property free of charge to facilitate construction of a portion of the Groveland Community Resilience Center (GCRC). The land was donated in hopes of creation of a mutually beneficial partnership in operation of the GCRC. This Center was built with grant funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grant. The project cost approximately \$15,000,000 to construct and the intent of the GCRC is to "create a facility to foster social cohesion and community resiliency" for the greater Groveland area. The County OES committed to oversee the new facility during emergencies, and the County Recreation Department will oversee the center when emergencies are not happening. On November 9th, 2022, the County celebrated the Dedication of the Groveland Community Resilience Center, however due to a variety of issues beyond the control of the County, final construction and acceptance of the GCRC remains incomplete and the facility is currently not available for regular public use.

In January 2023 the Groveland area experienced heavy snowstorms which resulted in a county declared disaster. The storms also resulted in an emergency situation in the Groveland area with extended electrical power outages, little to no road access to many areas and freezing temperatures. The GCRC was inaccessible due to snow accumulation. GCSO worked with the county OES and encouraged the opening of the GCRC as a warming center and possible shelter due primarily to the expected long power outage. GCSO assisted with opening the facility by sending staff, shoveling snow from walkways and plowing snow from the parking lot. As the GCRC was not yet publicly open at that time, there was no formal communication plan in place by the county or GCSO to notify the public of the temporary shelter opening, however both entities pushed the message

out on their normal communication channels and there were a few visitors that enjoyed and needed the warm rooms, snacks, water and electronics charging capabilities.

The first significant heatwave occurred during the last week of June 2023, with multiple days of temperatures over 100 degrees and little nighttime cooling. On Friday June 28th parts of Pine Mountain Lake lost power for several hours due to a vehicle accident, with power restored Friday evening. On Saturday June 29th the township of Groveland, Pine Mountain Lake and the 120 Corridor woke up to no power due to what PG&E stated was a weather-related issue and no notification was given to affected customers. The power outage was nearly continuous from Saturday morning through Monday evening.

This outage happened during an Excessive Heat Warning as issued by the National Weather Service, and on the busiest weekend of the year for the Groveland area. The hotels, rental homes, camps and resorts were all fully occupied. The power outage caused many of Groveland and surrounding area community members and tourists considerable stress such as heat exhaustion, spoiled food and the inability to recharge communication devices or E-vehicles, or to operate critical medical equipment. Restaurants closed, hotels and rentals lost guests and the ability to serve those that remained. GCSD experienced stressed employees with many hours of overtime and thousands of dollars in fuel for backup generators.

Following a full day power outage which was expected to continue, high heat and population in the area, GCSD management on Sunday morning conferred with County OES to determine if they planned to open the GCRC as a cooling center/community resource center and was informed they were not opening. Therefore, GCSD management determined that a community emergency existed and that the opening of a cooling center/community resource center was needed as a public health and safety matter. Please note that GCSD is not the health official and is not qualified or authorized to make public health emergency determinations on behalf of the county. The District does have the ability to predict and recognize such emergency conditions and can provide public facilities for this type of emergency under its Park/Recreation, Community Center Operation and Fire/Emergency Services authorities. The District opened a cooling center from noon to 4PM on Sunday in its office Board room and staffed it with CERT members, District staff and board members. The GCSD cooling center reopened on Monday from 7:30 AM to 4:00PM when the power went off once again. GCSD management coordinated the opening of the center with County OES, who provided bottled water from PG&E.

GCSD acted to open the cooling center after confirming with the County that this particular emergency did not meet their criteria for a Public Health Emergency. District staff opened the Board room as a temporary cooling and charging station center out of care and concern for the community. The GCSD Board room has a small capacity and is accessed by traversing through portions of the administrative office, which can be a risk to District property and safety liability. In addition, the cost of staffing, supplies and power for the cooling center are paid by District taxpayers and ratepayers. As one of the purposes for which the GCRC was funded and constructed, planning is of critical

importance for opening this facility as a cooling and community resource center during emergencies such as experienced last week.

GCSD may be well poised to assist the county in managing or assisting in the operation of the GCRC in emergency situations such as this, or on a regular basis since the GCSD office is in close proximity to the GCRC and has qualified, experienced personnel. Regardless of any formal GCSD involvement in the GCRC, it would be most helpful to receive from the County information on how it intends to operate the facility, such as when it is anticipated to open, how emergency openings will be managed, use scheduling, charging of rental fees, staff assigned to the facility and any regular hours on site, as well as how those entities intending to use the facilities on a regular basis are integrated into the operation. GCSD intends to hold its Board of Directors meetings in the GCRC once it is open to the public.

ATTACHMENTS:

None



TO: GCSB Board of Directors

FROM: Peter Kampa, General Manager

DATE: July 10, 2023

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 1B: Discussion and Board Direction Regarding the Impacts from Frequent and Extended PG&E Outages

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends the following actions:

1. Direct staff to convey to PG&E and the CPUC the severity of damage experienced by the District, residents, property owners and businesses in the Groveland region caused by the power outage of July 1 – 3, 2023 and our expectation of financial restitution.
2. Direct staff to convey to PG&E and the CPUC our opposition to the further deployment and use of the Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS) which result in extended power outages with no advance customer notification or consideration provided to protect public health and safety or offset negative community impacts.
3. Direct staff to convey to PG&E and the CPUC our demand for immediate action to address and remedy electrical grid infrastructure defects in the region, including undergrounding as needed to ensure local power reliability and optimize against fire hazards.
4. Direct staff to convey to PG&E and the CPUC our demand for the immediate installation of permanently installed emergency backup generators, connected to the Permanent Interconnection Hub (PIH) at Mary Laveroni Park. These generators must be capable of powering the downtown Groveland electrical system during all power outages including those triggered by the EPSS.
5. Direct staff to convey to PG&E and the CPUC our demand that it should fully adhere to all previously established Public Safety Power Shutdown (PSPS) protocol and requirements including the required documentation of weather conditions and other factors in shutdown decisions, advance public notification of shutdowns, establishments of local community resource centers, rapid installation of generators and their use at the PIH to minimize outages during planned PSPS.
6. Direct staff to convey to PG&E and the CPUC our demand to remove the PIH equipment and abandon the associated easements on District property if PG&E intends to not install permanent generator(s) at the PIH site or re-implement the PSPS protocol and procedures, including the rapid installation of temporary generators connected to the PIH in advance of PSPS shutdown.

BACKGROUND:

On August 11, 2020, the Board approved [Resolution 37-2020](#) which authorizes the following actions related to the installation of a Permanent Interconnection Hub (PIH) in Mary Laveroni Park. This resolution authorized the following:

1. The General Manager is authorized to execute the Letter Agreement with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)
2. The General Manager and Board President are authorized to execute the permanent easement deeds attached hereto as LD# 2201-16-10002 and LD 2201-16-10003, and any necessary related documents to consummate this transaction to provide for the proposed Permanent Interconnection Hub (PIH) installed near Mary Laveroni Park.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) requested that the District grant various exclusive and nonexclusive easements on property owned by the District at Mary Laveroni Park, for the purpose of facilitating the provision of generated electrical power by PG&E into the downtown Groveland power grid during emergency PG&E Public Safety Power Shutdown (PSPS) events. In addition, PG&E offered just compensation to the District for the purchase of easements, and the PIH will provide emergency power to District facilities at Mary Laveroni Park and the Groveland Fire Station during PSPS events.

The PIH was constructed by PG&E in 2020 and 2021 and is substantially complete. The PIH consists of the equipment needed to allow PG&E to bring in large backup generators to be located in the parking lot and connected, to be used during PSPS events only. PG&E had agreed to provide 48 hours advance notice when they intended to ship and install the temporary generators, based on predicted/planned PSPS events, with the intent of having the generators in place before the PSPS event began. Since the temporary generators had to be trucked in, this PIH system was never intended to be used on an immediate basis for all power outages. Please note that at the time of this agreement with PG&E in 2020, the only time that PG&E could shut down the power for Fire safety was during a declared PSPS event which met very specific criteria including documentation of necessity, and 24 hour advance public notification of planned shutdowns.

PG&E first implemented “*Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings*” also known as (EPSS) as a pilot program in 2021 across 11,500 miles of distribution circuits in High Fire Threat Districts (HFTD). In 2022, PG&E expanded the scope of its EPSS program to cover all circuits in the HFTD and selected HFTD-adjacent areas. These settings allow our powerlines to automatically turn off power within one-tenth of a second. Implementation of the EPSS results in unexpected outages which can happen for multiple reasons, like a tree branch falling into a powerline, temperature, or wind. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) does not require PG&E to issue advance notification to customers for an EPSS related shutdown.

Since EPSS was put in place and the grid can be shut down at any time for any reason that triggers an event, there does not appear to be the need for PG&E to implement

formal PSPS events in the future, and therefore we should plan on having no advance notification of EPSS outages. EPSS may be an effective way for PG&E to reduce fire risk and prevent the ignition of wildfires, but this is not efficient for all rural communities such as the Groveland region. It is staff's opinion that the public health and safety risk attributable to the recent EPSS shutdown far exceeds the benefit, as truly the only beneficiary is PG&E as it is now allowed to rely on technology alone to shut down the grid to protect PG&E finances.

As we experienced July 1-3, 2023, the EPSS outage events are extremely unpredictable and difficult to plan for. When the power jumps on and off multiple times as it did, our sensitive water and sewer electronic equipment, motor starters and protection devices are regularly damaged and fail. Our operations and maintenance staff work many overtime hours continuously restarting equipment, recalibrating, fueling and checking backup generators as well as monitoring the system online 24 hours per day.

As a responsible local government providing critical local services, the District is in the position to provide recommendations to PG&E to set our region as a priority in its plans for power reliability and safe delivery. We can also present our case to the CPUC for consideration if PG&E is unresponsive.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS) “Weather Related Outage”
https://www.pge.com/en_US/residential/outages/enhanced-powerline-safety-settings/enhanced-powerline-safety-settings.page