



City Hall

1400 Highland Avenue

Manhattan Beach, CA 90266-4795

Telephone (310) 545-5621

Fax (310) 545-5234

TDD (310) 546-3501

August 26, 2013

Mr. Michael R. Peevey, President  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mr. Peevey:

The residents and businesses in the City of Manhattan Beach are subject to numerous service disruptions related to the electrical service provided by Southern California Edison (SCE). Some of these are planned outages in order to make equipment repairs while most are unplanned outages caused by various factors. In any case, the service reliability provided by SCE to the Manhattan Beach community is unacceptable. We are asking for the assistance of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to improve SCE service in Manhattan Beach.

Over the last few years, it seems as though the reliability of the SCE service to the City of Manhattan Beach has declined from what it was in the past and declined below the community standard for acceptable service. While outages may be planned or unplanned, when they occur they are an inconvenience to residents and impact many businesses and municipal services.

Residents may be affected by food spoilage, not being able to prepare meals, medical devices becoming inoperable or school children not having light by which to study or access to computers. For businesses, outages result in lost revenue and loss of the ability to service their customer base. Restaurants may be forced to close. For municipal services, personnel may need to be dispatched to direct traffic, respond to security alarms or be called in to monitor operation of the municipal utilities.

Fire Department Address: 400 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 FAX (310) 545-8925

Police Department Address: 420 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 FAX (310) 545-7707

Public Works Department Address: 3621 Bell Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 FAX (310) 546-1752

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Information provided by SCE shows that from 2011 thru June 2013 there were 129 service outages of various lengths in Manhattan Beach. According to SCE officials, 60 of those outages were planned. The listing of the causes of the outages is as follows:

- ~ Crew Repairs - 20
- ~ Transformer Failures - 19
- ~ Balloons - 16
- ~ Fuse - 14
- ~ Splice - 13
- ~ Vegetation - 10
- ~ Animals - 8
- ~ Other overhead - 6
- ~ Third party - 6
- ~ Other Unexplained- 17

Based on the information provided by SCE, the maximum outage time was 1442 minutes or 24 hours with the average outage being 300 minutes or 5 hours. According to the SCE website, "... an average SCE customer in 2012 experienced less than one sustained outage, and was without power for 1.8 hours, a small fraction of the nearly 8,800 hours in a year". Our experience in Manhattan Beach seems to be significantly different.

We would like the assistance of the CPUC in providing adequate funding for and directing SCE to make infrastructure repairs needed to improve system reliability in Manhattan Beach. We would like to meet with at your convenience to discuss what the City can do affect this change. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



David N. Carmany  
City Manager

cc: Southern California Edison  
State Senator Ted Lieu  
Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi