



**AGENDA REPORT**

**PROPOSED ACTION: Resolution:** Approve and Authorize the Executive Director to Continue Adoption of the Existing 2024 Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) and to Submit the 2025 WMP Alternative Reporting to the California Public Utilities Commission Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Detailing the Unchanged Status of the Port's WMP and Finding that the Proposed Action is Exempt Under the California Environmental Quality Act.

**Submitted By:** Andre Basler, Director of Utilities; Kristi McKenney, Executive Director

<b><u>Parties Involved:</u></b> California Public Utilities Commission, Wildfire Safety Advisory Board	<b><u>Amount:</u></b> \$0
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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** The Port of Oakland (Port) is required by Public Utilities Code Section 8387(b) to annually submit its wildfire mitigation plan to the California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board (WSAB). There is an extremely low probability of the Port's electric system starting a wildfire. New guidance by the WSAB allows for alternative reporting. Port Staff has prepared the Port's 2025 Wildfire Mitigation Plan alternative report to submit to the WSAB.

**BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS**

The Port is a publicly owned utility (POU) delivering electricity to the Seaport and Airport. On July 12, 2019, the California Legislature amended Public Utilities Code (PUC) 8387(b) to require every POU to prepare a wildfire mitigation plan (WMP) regardless of the geographical area of its service territory, and to resubmit the WMP each year.

Subsequently, Assembly Bill 1054 created the California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board (WSAB), a board of independent expert advisors, to advise a new Wildfire Safety Division within the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on wildfire safety measures. WSAB adopts Guidance Advisory Opinions for the POUs, including a November 16, 2022 Guidance Advisory Opinion for the 2023 Wildfire Mitigation Plans of Electric Publicly Owned Utilities and Rural Electric Cooperatives and a draft Advisory Opinion for the 2024 POU Wildfire Mitigation Plans published in November 2023.

In 2020, Port Staff worked with a consultant to create a wildfire mitigation plan. That Plan was submitted to the CPUC by July 1, 2020 and presented to the Board on December 3, 2020. The Plan provided an overview of the Port electrical system and determined that the Port utility distribution system is not located within a high wildfire threat zone as described by the CPUC. There is very little concern about the threat of wildfires at the Port.

Port Staff prepared and submitted to WSAB updated Plans with few or no changes:

- 2021, adopted by the Board, Resolution 21-70
- 2022, adopted by the Board, Resolution 22-85
- 2023, comprehensive review, no significant changes, adopted by the Board, Resolution 23-80.
- 2024, adopted by the Board, Resolution 24-61.

WASB's 2025 Advisory Opinion introduces alternative reporting for POU's with low wildfire risk. Due to the Port not owning or controlling any overhead electric supply facilities in a high fire threat district, the Port qualifies for alternative reporting as outlined in the 2025 Advisory Opinion recommendation #7. Instead of submitting a new WMP every year, this alternative reporting allows the Port to submit its base 2024 WMP and a supplemental letter to the CPUC describing its status and updates.

## **OTHER FINDINGS AND PROVISIONS**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

The proposed action was analyzed under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and was found to be:

- ☐ Categorically exempt under the following CEQA Guidelines Section:

Choose an item.

- ☒ "Common Sense" exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).

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### **BUDGET**

- ☒ Administrative (No Impact to Operating, Non-Operating, or Capital Budgets); OR

☐ Operating

☐ Non-Operating

☐ Capital

Analysis: There is no impact to the Board adopted FY 2025 Operating and Capital Budgets.

### **STAFFING**

- ☒ No Anticipated Staffing Impact.

- ☐ Anticipated Change to Budgeted Headcount.

Reason:

- ☐ Other Anticipated Staffing Impact (e.g., Temp Help).

Reason:

### **MARITIME AND AVIATION PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT (MAPLA):**

Applies? No (Not Aviation or Maritime CIP Project) – proposed action is not covered work on Port's Capital Improvement Program in Aviation or Maritime areas above the threshold cost.

- ☐ Additional Notes:

### **LIVING WAGE** (City Charter § 728):

Applies?

No (Not Covered Entity) – proposed action involves entity not covered by Living Wage requirements because it is not a covered service provider or tenant, does not employ at least 21 employees, or receive from or pay to Port at least \$50,000.

- ☐ Additional Notes:

### **SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES:**

Applies? **No.**

### **GENERAL PLAN** (City Charter § 727):

Conformity Determination:

<p><u>Reason:</u> The WMP presents the Port's plan for mitigating risks of wildfire ignition from its electrical utility infrastructure. This mitigation reduces the chance of incidents damaging or destroying resources within the Port area.</p>	<p>Not Required – conformity determination not required because proposed action does not change use of or make alterations to an existing facility, or create a new facility.</p>
<p><b><u>STRATEGIC PLAN.</u></b> The proposed action would help the Port achieve the following goal(s) in the Port's Strategic Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Capture Our Market and Grow the Economic Base</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Modernize and Upgrade Infrastructure</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Transition to Zero-Emissions and Build Climate Resilience</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Maximize Land Use Value and Revenues</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Workforce Training and Jobs Development</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Create Opportunities for Local Businesses and Community Economic Development</li> </ul>	