



**DANIEL ANAIAH KIRK
DISTRICT 3 SUPERVISOR**

2 South Green Street
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 533-5521
email: akirk@co.tuolumne.ca.us

Tuolumne County | October 20, 2026

1. Weather Forecasting and Data Sources

1. What specific weather services, forecasting models, and data sources does PG&E rely on when determining whether to initiate a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)?
2. When multiple forecasts predict different wind speeds, does PG&E average those forecasts, weigh them according to historical accuracy, or base decisions primarily on the worst-case projections?
3. For the October 14–16 PSPS event, can PG&E provide the actual weather forecasts and supporting data used to justify shutting off power in Tuolumne County, including the predicted wind speeds for the affected areas?

2. Historical Forecast Accuracy and Accountability

4. What is PG&E's historical track record in comparing predicted weather conditions, particularly wind speeds and gusts, with the conditions that actually occurred during PSPS events?
5. Does PG&E conduct post-event reviews comparing forecasted versus actual weather conditions? If forecasts consistently overestimate wind speeds, is there a mechanism to adjust future PSPS decision-making? Can PG&E provide the results of these reviews?

3. Timing and Execution of Power Shutoffs

6. How long does it actually take PG&E to de-energize a power line or circuit once the decision has been made?
7. Rather than shutting off power hours before predicted high winds arrive, could PG&E use real-time weather monitoring and wait until predetermined wind speeds or other risk thresholds are reached before initiating a shutoff?
8. What technical, operational, or safety limitations prevent PG&E from keeping power on longer when actual weather conditions remain below the predicted levels?
9. Can PG&E identify which specific lines or circuits serving Tuolumne County were considered at risk during the recent event, and whether the predicted hazardous conditions actually materialized along those lines?

4. Covered Conductor ("Tree Wire") and Infrastructure Safety

10. What is the documented safety record of covered conductor, commonly called "tree wire," compared with traditional bare overhead power lines, particularly regarding wildfire ignition risk?
11. Does covered conductor significantly reduce the likelihood of wildfire ignitions caused by falling branches, vegetation contact, or wires contacting one another?

12. Does installing covered conductor reduce the need for future PSPS events? Can these upgraded lines safely remain energized under higher wind conditions than traditional bare conductors?
13. If PG&E continues to shut off covered-conductor lines under the same conditions as traditional lines, what specific wildfire prevention and service reliability benefits does PG&E expect these investments to provide?

5. Infrastructure Improvements in Tuolumne County

14. Approximately how many miles of existing overhead electrical lines in Tuolumne County could benefit from conversion to covered conductor?
15. How many miles of covered conductor have already been installed in Tuolumne County, and how many additional miles are currently planned?
16. What is PG&E's timeline for completing these improvements, and are there opportunities to prioritize communities that experience repeated PSPS events?
17. What other infrastructure improvements, such as undergrounding, circuit segmentation, or automated switching, are being considered to reduce the number of residents and businesses affected by future PSPS events?

6. Business Losses and Reimbursement

18. During the recent PSPS event, many residents and businesses experienced outages lasting approximately 42 hours, from Wednesday around 11 p.m. until Friday around 5 p.m.

PG&E's Storm Inconvenience Bill Credit program requires an outage of at least 48 consecutive hours and excludes PSPS events and business customers. Does PG&E offer any other reimbursement, compensation, or claims process for businesses that suffer losses during a PSPS?

19. Specifically, what assistance is available for businesses experiencing spoiled food or inventory, lost revenue, interrupted operations, or additional expenses associated with running generators?
20. Given that businesses can experience significant financial losses during planned outages, is PG&E considering any changes to its policies to provide financial assistance or compensation when PSPS events cause substantial economic harm?

Additional Request

For the recent October 14–16 PSPS event, I would appreciate PG&E providing the supporting source documents, forecasted versus actual weather data, and any available post-event analysis specific to Tuolumne County.

Sincerely,



Daniel Anaiah Kirk

District 3 Supervisor, County of Tuolumne Board of Supervisors

Phone: (209) 352- 1369 | www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov | www.anaiahkirk.com