Legal & Claims Committee

Report on Lithium-ion BESS Fire at Weymouth Plant and Authorize Increase for Consulting Services with Energy Services Agency, Inc.

Open and Closed Session Item 8-8

October 13, 2026

Presented by: Mai Hattar and Betty Kuo Brinton

Item 8-8

Subject

Report on lithium-ion BESS fire at F.E. Weymouth Plant in La Verne, CA and authorize increase of maximum amount payable under contract with Energy Services Agency, Inc. for consulting services by $200,000 to an amount not-to-exceed $450,000

Purpose

- Open Session: Provide a brief overview of the BESS project at the Weymouth plant and the incident
- Closed Session: Conference with legal counsel anticipated litigation/deciding whether to initiate litigation

Recommendation and Fiscal Impact

Authorize an increase of maximum amount payable under contract with Energy Services Agency, Inc. for consulting services by $200,000 for an amount not-to-exceed $450,000

Budgeted

Board Policy

Background

- Energy Management Policies intended to contain energy costs, reduce exposure to price volatility, promote cost-effective alternative energy resources
- Three megawatts of solar generation at the Weymouth plant in 2016
- 2020 Energy Sustainability Plan
  - Recommended BESS facilities at the Jensen, Skinner, and Weymouth plants

Battery Energy Storage System

Weymouth BESS

- Four separate 250kW systems totaling l Megawatt (lMW)
  - Each housed in a metal enclosure
- Two northeast units – involved in the incident
- Two southwest units – removed from service

Previous Board Action Information

Construction Contract - Siemens Industry, Inc.

- Board awarded June 2022
- Contractor Scope
  - Construction of equipment pads and sound walls
  - Furnishing and installing
    - Battery energy storage systems and appurtenant equipment
    - Monitoring and control systems with microgrid capability
  - Perform testing and commissioning per SCE and Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) requirements

Prior Board Action Information

Design Agreement – Stantec Inc.

- Performed final design
- Engineer of record
- Scope of support during construction
  - Engineering and technical support during construction
  - Submittals review and record drawings
  - Support for testing and commissioning

Prior Board Action Information

Metropolitan Scope

- Installation of network infrastructure for cybersecurity protection
- SCADA programming
- Construction management and inspection

Project Status

Project Budget and Schedule

- Project budget - $12.53 million
- Confirmation for $2.125 million on the Weymouth BESS application as part of the CPUC Self-Generation Incentive Program
  - No funds have been disbursed to date
- Construction completed Jan. 2025
- BESS operational June 2026

September 22-25, 2026

Incident Overview

- Fire incident at North BESS Units
- La Verne / LA County Fire Departments responded
- Evacuations 9/22 – 9/24; Evacuation Lifted 9/25
- Emergency response information at OPE meeting

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
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