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San José Mayor Urges PG&E Fix Faulty Equipment After Failure Causes Outages for nearly 100,000 Residents and Three San José Hospitals

City to consider further legal action if adequate repairs do not begin

SAN JOSÉ, CA - Today, in response to recent power outages for more than 30,000 households and two San Jose hospitals, San José Mayor Sam Liccardo proposed that if PG&E does not present a plan for immediate replacement or repair of the company's failing infrastructure, the City seek a court injunction or Public Utility Commission (PUC) order mandating PG&E to do so.

"I have deep concerns about the safety of our residents and the viability of San José small businesses struggling against ongoing failures of a power grid hampered by poor maintenance and outdated equipment," said Liccardo. "The march of climate change will continue, but other California cities subjected to far worse heat do not suffer the rate of power outages as the City of San José. Our residents' health and safety depend on a reliable grid, and PG&E has an obligation to provide that to San José ratepayers."

In a frustrating and menacing replay of August 2020, fears of heat-induced rolling blackouts resulting from insufficient load capacity statewide did not materialize this week, but nearly 100,000 San José residents were left in the dark anyway. That is, San José residents suffered from the failure of PG & E's local distribution infrastructure—primarily blown transformers. These failures shut down power to more than 30,000 households. [Three hospitals-- Valley Medical Center, Regional, and O'Connor--lacked without power for several hours](#), and failures of backup generators at Valley Med caused a loss of air conditioning, lighting equipment, and computer access.

In some East San José neighborhoods—such in the retail area around Tully and King—residents reported that the power outages also took down cellular networks operated by AT&T, rendering cellular customers helpless to make a phone call or send a text to seek assistance.

Liccardo continued, "This is unacceptable. We need to better understand why these failures disproportionately afflict PG&E's operations in San José. More importantly, and we need to get them fixed—whether PG&E does so voluntarily, or under judicial or regulatory mandate. We can no longer merely hope that PG&E will live up to its obligation to San José ratepayers to do so."

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About the City of San José

With more than one million residents, San José comprises the 10th largest city in the United States, and one of its most diverse cities. San José's transformation into a global innovation center in the heart of Silicon Valley has resulted in the world's greatest concentration of technology talent and development