



City of Needles, California Request for City Council Action

☒ CITY COUNCIL ☒ NPUA

☒ Regular ☐ Special

Meeting Date: August 12, 2025

Title: Accept the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Electric Distribution Audit Report dated June 25, 2025

Background: The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), through its Electric Safety and Reliability Branch (ESRB), conducted a scheduled audit of the City of Needles' electric distribution system from March 10–14, 2025. The audit included both a review of internal records and field inspections of overhead and underground infrastructure.

On June 25, 2025, the CPUC issued a formal audit report identifying multiple findings and potential violations under various General Orders (GOs), including GO 95, GO 128, and GO 165. The City was required to respond by July 25, 2025, detailing corrective actions taken.

City staff and management reviewed the CPUC audit findings and submitted a comprehensive response on July 25, 2025, detailing corrective actions and preventive measures. These include establishing auditable maintenance and inspection programs under GO 95 and GO 165, implementing vegetation management, patrol logs, and inspections of overhead and underground systems. Physical corrections included repainting corroded transformers, replacing missing high-voltage signage, repairing ground wires and molding, and addressing down guy wires and locking mechanisms. The response has been submitted to the CPUC and will be publicly posted in accordance with their transparency policy.

Fiscal Impact: The total estimated cost to address the CPUC audit findings is \$10,000. This includes the replacement of two leaking pad-mounted transformers at \$3,900 each, repairs to signage, ground wiring, pole steps, and equipment corrosion, as well as associated staff time and materials. All expenses will be covered by the Electric Department's existing Operations and Maintenance budget.

Environmental Impact: N/A

Recommended Action: Accept the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Electric Distribution Audit covering the period of March 10–14, 2025, as documented in the final report dated June 25, 2025.

Submitted By: Rainie Torrance, Utility Manager

City Manager Approval: Patrick J. Martinez

Date: 8/7/2025

Other Department Approval (when required): _____

Date: _____

Approved: ☐

Not Approved: ☐

Tabled: ☐

Other: ☐