

CASE STUDY

2022 Wildfire Mitigation Plan

BACKGROUND

Glendale Water & Power (GWP) is a municipal utility company located in Glendale, California. In California, there are three different utility models. GWP is a publicly owned utility (POU) that is dedicated to delivering reliable and sustainable electric and water utility services to its residents and businesses. In recent years, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has mandated that electrical corporations have their Wildfire Mitigation Plans (WMP) reviewed on a yearly basis.¹ GWP was seeking to partner with an experienced consulting firm to conduct the review.

Recognizing the critical nature of wildfire resilience and the need for continual improvement under CPUC guidelines, GWP sought an experienced consulting partner to conduct a rigorous third-party review of their WMP, ensuring their strategies remained compliant, current, and aligned with industry best practices.

CHALLENGE

The scope of the project extended beyond a simple technical edit. GWP required a partner who could research and benchmark WMPs from a range of comparable POUs—as well as other utility models, such as investor-owned utilities (IOUs)—across California. Based on the learnings from the research and benchmarking, GWP wanted recommendations for WMP improvement based on common strategies, technical requirements, and emerging best practices. Crucially, the third-party reviewer needed to highlight any deficiencies or missing elements in GWP's current WMP based on CPUC expectations, particularly around risk assessment methodologies, performance metrics, and vegetation management strategies. The partner needed to provide actionable recommendations, structured in a way that allowed GWP flexibility to selectively implement the proposed revisions; as well as ensure that the updated plan would withstand CPUC scrutiny and support GWP's commitment to fire safety.

This demanded not only technical expertise in wildfire mitigation but also a thorough understanding of regulatory trends, system hardening initiatives, and utility operations.

¹California Public Utilities Commission: Implementation of Wildfire Mitigation Plans, accessed April 28, 2025.

CLIENT



TYPE

Publicly-Owned Utility (POU)

SECTOR

Distribution Utilities

ISO

CAISO

LINE OF BUSINESS

Distribution Design

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Wildfire Mitigation Plan Support

LOCATION

Glendale, CA

COMPLETED DATES

May 2023

REFERENCE

Scott Mellon, Assistant General Manager – Power Management 818-548-3369
smellon@glendaleca.gov



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SOLUTION

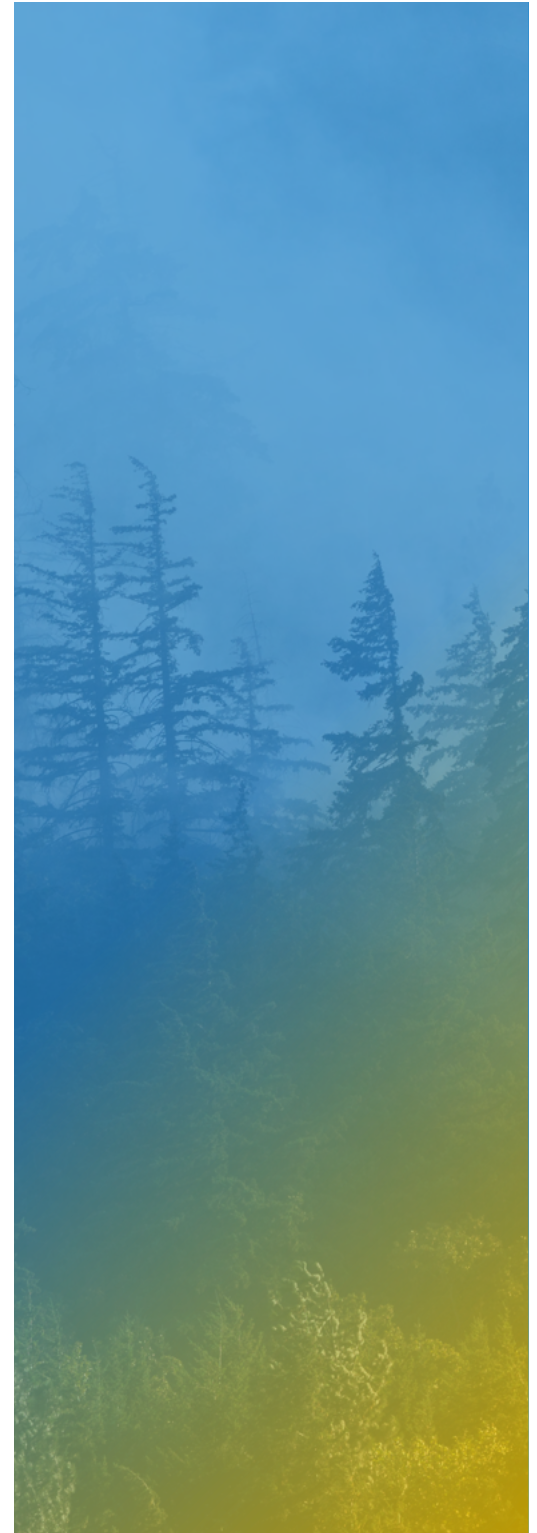
Electric Power Engineers (EPE) delivered a comprehensive and strategic approach to GWP's WMP review:

- **Benchmarking Analysis:** EPE analyzed WMPs from more than 10 utilities across California, including IOUs like PG&E and SCE, as well as POU's such as SMUD and LADWP. The research focused on system hardening measures, enhanced vegetation management practices, grid operational protocols, public safety power shutoff (PSPS) practices, and performance metrics.
- **Gap Analysis:** EPE systematically reviewed GWP's existing plan against CPUC mandates and industry trends, identifying gaps in documentation of asset inspection cycles, resource allocation strategies, and situational awareness systems (e.g., weather stations and cameras).
- **Actionable Recommendations:** EPE provided a detailed summary report outlining prioritized recommendations and improvement strategies. Specific focus areas included: enhanced documentation, improved articulation of PSPS protocols, refined emergency response coordination plans, and updates to online resources.
- **Deliverables:**
 - A marked-up WMP document, with embedded comments and recommended track changes, gave GWP full control to accept or reject each suggested revision.
 - An executive summary highlighted EPE's key findings and gave GWP an overview of strategic revision priorities.
 - A compliance checklist mapped GWP's WMP elements to CPUC requirements to help GWP with an easy cross-reference for internal and external review.
- **Collaborative Support:** EPE also made subject matter experts available for follow-up Q&A sessions to assist GWP in navigating any questions during their internal WMP update process.

By combining regulatory expertise, technical engineering knowledge, and a client-first approach, EPE helped GWP strengthen its wildfire mitigation strategy and confidently prepare for CPUC review.

RESULTS

GWP successfully incorporated key recommendations from EPE's review into its 2024 WMP. The revised plan strengthened GWP's ability to demonstrate proactive wildfire risk mitigation to both CPUC reviewers and Glendale residents. By partnering with EPE, GWP gained a clear, actionable roadmap for future updates to support their continuous improvement efforts year over year.



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