

WEEKLY SITUATIONAL AWARENESS DIGEST

Week of September 21, 2026

Dear CUEA Members,

This week's digest covers Southern California Edison's Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) event, which is still active and growing as of Monday morning, a battery storage incident at a Metropolitan Water District treatment plant in La Verne, fires with continuing access impacts, road and access conditions affecting utility crews, and the outlook for the week ahead, including coastal impacts from Hurricanes Polo and Odalys. It draws on Cal OES reporting from September 20–27, 2026, plus SCE's PSPS submission issued early Monday, September 28.

This digest is a CUEA member courtesy summary for situational awareness, not an official Cal OES publication — continue to rely on your own agency's direct Cal OES contacts for operational decisions.

This Week at a Glance

- **SCE PSPS is active and expanding.** SCE's event (weather window opened 9/25) grew from 2,698 customers potentially impacted on 9/24 to **33,937 across eight counties** as of Submission #13 early Monday, 9/28. 319 customers were de-energized at that time (Inyo, Los Angeles, San Bernardino), with a peak of 984 and 1,436 restored. The weather window now runs through **Wednesday, 9/30 at 1100 hours**. PG&E, SDG&E, Liberty, and PacifiCorp reported normal operations all week.
- **Battery incident at a water treatment plant.** On 9/22 a single battery storage module failed and exploded at MWD's F.E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant in La Verne, forming a vapor cloud that La Verne Fire mitigated. Evacuation and shelter-in-place orders were lifted and the La Verne EOC deactivated by 9/25. This is the second battery-related incident at a utility facility in two weeks, after Moss Landing.
- **Fires:** the Dome Fire in Yosemite grew to 4,809 acres (30% contained); the Timber Fire south of Big Sur is 77% contained with 54 evacuation orders and 1,510 warnings still in place; the Plaskett Fire is 98% contained. The Floriston Fire near Truckee, which threatened powerlines and critical infrastructure, dropped out of reporting after 9/23, and I-80 westbound reopened.
- **Coastal flooding risk peaks Monday–Tuesday.** Swell from Hurricane Polo is expected to bring moderate coastal flooding, beach erosion, and 4–7 ft surf on south-facing beaches in Los Angeles and Ventura counties. A Flood Watch covers San Bernardino County's Upper Colorado River Valley through early Tuesday.
- **Warm, dry turn mid-week.** Temperatures climb above normal from Tuesday, with weak offshore winds in Southern California Tuesday–Wednesday and elevated fire weather in the Sacramento Valley and foothills — conditions to watch alongside the ongoing SCE event.

Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)

SCE began notifying Cal OES of potential shutoffs on Thursday, September 24, ahead of a weather window that opened Friday, September 25 at 0600 hours. The event has cycled between de-energization and “activating protocols” stages as wind conditions shifted, and SCE has widened both the affected area and the event window three times. Sunday’s update more than doubled the count of customers potentially impacted, and Monday’s added Inyo, Mono, and Riverside counties. De-energizations so far have been limited (peak of 984 customers), but the pool of potentially impacted customers is now far larger than the SCE and PG&E events covered in CUEA’s September digests.

Date / Time	Sub. #	Stage	Customers Potentially Impacted	Currently De-energized	Counties
9/24, 1537	2	Activating protocols	2,698 (84 MBL)	0	Los Angeles, Mono, San Bernardino
9/25, 1523	6	De-energization initiated	12,686 (354 MBL)	762 (Mono)	Kern, Los Angeles, Mono, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, Ventura
9/25, 2021	7–8	Activating protocols	11,085 (331 MBL)	0 (763 restored)	Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, Ventura
9/26, 2021	10	De-energization initiated	14,159 (376 MBL)	5 (Los Angeles)	Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, Ventura
9/27, 1405	12	De-energization initiated	27,292 (605 MBL)	677 (Los Angeles, San Bernardino)	Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara
9/28, early a.m.	13	De-energization initiated	33,937 (599 MBL)	319 (Inyo, Los Angeles, San Bernardino); peak 984; 1,436 restored	Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Mono, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, Ventura
All week	—	PG&E, SDG&E, Liberty, PacifiCorp	Normal operations	—	—

MBL = Medical Baseline customers. Event window extended from 9/27 1800 hours (Sub. #2) to 9/29 0300, then 9/29 0900, and now 9/30 1100 hours (Sub. #13). Figures are from the Cal OES Internal Statewide Incident Briefings (evening), the 9/26 Daily Situation Report, and the SCE PSPS email notifications; they were checked against each other.

Battery Storage Incident — MWD Weymouth Water Treatment Plant (La Verne)

At 1142 hours on Tuesday, September 22, an equipment failure and explosion occurred at the Metropolitan Water District's F.E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant in La Verne, Los Angeles County. A single battery storage module caused a vapor cloud, which the La Verne Fire Department mitigated.

- **Response:** the La Verne EOC activated at Level 3 (lowest). Mandatory evacuation and shelter-in-place orders were issued, a temporary evacuation point opened at the La Verne Community Center, and Grace Miller Elementary School closed. On 9/23 the Los Angeles County Sheriff requested law enforcement mutual aid on La Verne's behalf; LA County Area D agencies supported through 9/24.
- **Resolution:** by 9/25 the La Verne EOC had deactivated, evacuation and shelter-in-place orders were lifted, and all law enforcement mutual aid was cancelled. Cal OES reporting did not describe any impact to water treatment or delivery.
- **Why it matters for members:** after the 9/18 Moss Landing battery fire, this is the second battery-related incident at a utility facility in two weeks — this time at a water system rather than a power plant. Members with on-site battery storage (backup power, UPS, or grid-scale) may want to review thermal-runaway response, off-gassing and shelter-in-place procedures, and pre-incident coordination with local fire.

Fires Threatening Utility Infrastructure or Access

- **Dome Fire, Mariposa County (Yosemite, north of Wawona):** grew from 3,222 acres (15% contained) on 9/21 to 4,809 acres (30% contained) on 9/27. It is burning in heavy fuels in wilderness with limited access, spreading north and northeast. Road and trail closures are in place; CIIMT 3 is in command.
- **Timber Fire, Monterey County (south of Big Sur):** containment improved from 59% to 77% (about 25,350 acres). Evacuation orders (54) and warnings (1,510) remain in place, along with road and trail closures. Cal OES listed critical infrastructure among the threats early in the week; later reports cite structures only.
- **Plaskett Fire, Monterey County:** 29,993 acres, 98% contained; excess resources demobilizing and suppression repair underway.
- **Floriston Fire, Nevada County (I-80, northeast of Truckee):** 622 acres, containment rising from 65% to 85% through 9/23, with threats to structures, powerlines, and critical infrastructure reported as of 9/21. It no longer appears in Cal OES reporting from 9/24 onward.
- **Fire preparedness levels eased:** the national level dropped from 3 to 2 during the week; Northern California remains at 2 and Southern California at 3.

Non-Fire Incidents Relevant to Members

- **El Niño local emergency proclamations:** the City of Long Beach (9/21), City of Seal Beach (9/23), County of Los Angeles (9/23), and San Benito County (9/24) submitted proclamations tied to the 2026 El Niño event. Members serving these jurisdictions should expect continued coastal and storm-readiness coordination through the season.
- **Ongoing low-level EOC activations (Level 3):** Sacramento County (Golden Mussel infestation, relevant to water conveyance and intake operators), San Mateo County (Pacifica Pier recovery), and Orange County (early-September high tides and surf).
- Foster City (San Mateo County) ratified a local emergency proclamation on 9/25 for the 815 Sea Spray Lane structure fire.
- FEMA activated CA-TF8 and a Red Incident Support Team for Tropical Cyclone Nolo, reporting to Kona, Hawaii (noted 9/26–9/27).

Road/Access Closures Affecting Utility Crews

- **I-80, Sierra County / Nevada state line:** westbound traffic reopened and is no longer reduced to one lane after the Floriston Fire (reported 9/21).
- No Emergency Transportation Route, non-emergency route, or wildfire closures were reported statewide from 9/24 through 9/27.
- Fire-area access remains limited: road and trail closures continue around the Dome Fire (Wawona area, Yosemite) and the Timber Fire (Big Sur). Crews working in these areas should confirm access with the incident and Caltrans before dispatch.
- Early this week, coastal flooding may briefly affect low-lying coastal roads, beach parking lots, and harbor walkways in Southern California (see outlook below).

Weather Outlook for the Week Ahead (September 28 – October 4)

- **Southern Region — tropical coastal impacts:** Hurricane Polo will stay off the coast, nearing the west side of the Baja peninsula on 9/28, but its swell (plus Odalys) is expected to bring moderate coastal flooding, beach erosion, and strong rip currents, peaking **Monday–Tuesday, 9/28–9/29**, especially around late-morning high tides near 7 ft. Surf of 4–7 ft is likely on south-facing Los Angeles and Ventura county beaches, and 3–5 ft on the Santa Barbara south coast. Areas of concern include Long Beach, Malibu, Avalon, the Santa Barbara Harbor entrance, and north Orange County beaches. Beach Hazards Statements run through Wednesday, 9/30.
- **Desert flooding and showers:** a Flood Watch is in effect through early Tuesday, 9/29 for San Bernardino County's Upper Colorado River Valley. Light showers (generally 0.2 in. or less) and a low chance of thunderstorms are possible in far Southern California through Monday; burn scars are unlikely to be affected.

- **Inland Region:** below-freezing temperatures are likely in Eastern Sierra valleys Monday and Tuesday mornings, with snow levels near 8,500 ft but little to no accumulation. Reno expects a 20–50% chance of rain and high-elevation snow above 9,000 ft into Monday. Sacramento expects periods of elevated fire weather (breezy winds, low humidity) Monday and Tuesday.
- **Coastal Region:** Bay Area stays cool through Monday before seasonal warmth returns Tuesday; Eureka sees isolated interior frost and a moderate risk of sneaker waves early in the week, with gale-force gusts possible south of Cape Mendocino.
- **Mid-to-late week:** a ridge builds Tuesday–Wednesday, pushing temperatures above normal across central and northern California through Friday. Southern California has a moderate chance of weak offshore north-northeast winds (10–20 mph, gusts 20–30 mph) Tuesday–Wednesday. The 6–14 day outlook (Oct. 2–10) strongly favors above-normal temperatures statewide.

Member actions this week

- SCE-served facilities in the eight affected counties: confirm backup generation and fuel for pumping, treatment, and telecom sites through at least 9/30.
- Coastal assets in Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, and Santa Barbara counties: check low-lying facilities, outfalls, and harbor-area equipment ahead of the Monday–Tuesday high tides.
- Sites with battery storage: review thermal-runaway and shelter-in-place procedures with local fire, in light of La Verne and Moss Landing.
- Northern California: watch for PSPS notices if mid-week warming and dry winds develop in the Sacramento Valley.

Source note: the 9/24 Incident Briefing's PSPS summary text says "PG&E notified" under the SCE heading, while its status table shows SCE activating protocols; the counties, submission sequence, and later reports confirm this is SCE's event, and it is reported that way here. Timber Fire acreage was revised down slightly (25,452 to about 25,350 acres) mid-week without explanation in the reports.

Compiled from Cal OES Internal Statewide Incident Briefings (September 20–27, 2026), Daily Situation Reports (September 21–27), Cal OES Weather Threat Briefings and 7-Day Threat Outlooks (September 20–27), Situation Cell Weather Outlooks for the 2026 Late September Hurricanes Event (September 25–27), and SCE PSPS notifications through Submission #13 (September 28, 2026). This is a member courtesy digest, not an official Cal OES publication. Always refer to your own agency's direct Cal OES contacts for operational decisions.

— Prepared by CUEA for member distribution. Questions or corrections? Reply to this email.