

**DATA REQUEST RESPONSE**  
**Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc.**  
**2022 Wildfire Mitigation Plan**

**Response provided by:** Tom Pecchia  
**Title:** Utility Manager  
**Data Request Number:** CalAdvocates-BVES-2022WMP-06  
**Date Received:** May 18, 2022  
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**Date Provided:** May 23, 2022

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**Question 1**

On p. 67 of BVES's Revised 2021 WMP, BVES provided a chart that forecasted 100% completion of the Radford Line Covered Conductor Replacement Project by the end of 2021. Page 95 of BVES's 2022 WMP states that BVES plans 100% completion of the Radford Line Covered Conductor Project in 2022. However, on p. 159, BVES states that the project may be deferred until 2023.

Please explain all factors that prevented BVES from completing this project in 2021 as indicated in the Revised 2021 WMP.

Response

The delay for this project is caused by an extremely long lead-time in obtaining a permit from the US Forest Service. This project is located on US Forest Service land.

**Question 2**

For the Radford Line Covered Conductor Project, please state the month and year that BVES initiated:

- a) Project planning

Response

Initiated in May 2019

- b) Design and engineering

Response

Initiated in September 2019

- c) Outreach to affected stakeholders (e.g., local and federal agencies of jurisdiction)

Response

The US Forest Service is the only federal agency involved and BVES has been in contact with the agency through the entire project

- d) Permitting

Response

Initiated in December 2019

- e) Construction  
Response

Construction is planned to begin in Summer/Fall 2022 or Spring 2023, depending on when the permit from the US Forest Service is obtained.

### **Question 3**

For the Radford Line Covered Conductor Project, please state the month and year that BVES completed or currently plans to complete:

- a) Project planning  
Response

Completed in September 2019

- b) Design and engineering  
Response

Completed in December 2019

- c) Permitting  
Response

BVES is uncertain when a permit will be obtained from the US Forest Service.

- d) Construction  
Response

If a permit can be obtained quickly, construction is planned to take place in Summer/Fall 2022. If there are additional delays in obtaining a permit, construction is planned for Spring/Summer 2023.

### **Question 4**

BVES has deferred the Radford Line Covered Conductor Replacement Project several times:

- 2019 WMP, p. 23: Planned to complete Radford Line Covered Conductor Replacement Project in 2019, with possible deferral to 2020.
- Revised 2020 WMP, p. 131: Estimated completion of the project in October 2021.
- Revised 2021 WMP, p. 87: Project on track for completion in 2021.
- 2022 WMP, pp. 95 and 159: Estimated completion in 2022, possible deferral to 2023.

- a) Please list all factors that have contributed to the deferral of the Radford Line Covered Conductor Project from the original plan to complete the project in 2019.

Response

The delay for this project is caused by an extremely long lead-time in obtaining a permit from the US Forest Service. This project is located on US Forest Service land.

- b) For each factor listed in response to part (a), please list the actions BVES has taken to mitigate these factors and prevent the project from being deferred to 2023.

Response

BVES is in frequent contact with US Forest Service representatives and BVES contractors to help expedite the permitting process.

- c) Please list any factors that BVES anticipates may cause the completion of the Radford Line Covered Replacement Project to be deferred until later than 2023.

Response:

Based on BVES conversations with the US Forest Service, BVES is confident that the permit will be obtained sometime in 2022. However, BVES does not control when the permit will be issued.

- d) For each factor listed in response to part (c), please list the actions BVES has taken to mitigate these factors and prevent the project's completion from being deferred beyond 2023.

Response

BVES is in frequent contact with US Forest Service representatives and our contractors to help expedite the permitting process.

### Question 5

Table 12 of BVES's Revised 2021 WMP stated that BVES planned to remove 100 tree attachments in 2021 and 100 more in 2022. P. 96 of BVES's 2022 WMP states that BVES's target number of tree attachments in 2021 was 70, and that BVES plans to remove 80 tree attachments in 2022.

- a) Please explain why BVES's 2022 WMP states a lower 2021 target for the Tree Attachment Removal Program than was stated in BVES's Revised 2021 WMP.

Response

BVES field crews and contractors have limited time to work on multiple WMP projects. Tree attachment removal has a lower wildfire risk reduction than priority projects such as installation of covered wire, evacuation route hardening, fuses replacement, installation of fault indicators, and grid automation. In addition, a majority of the higher risk tree attachments has already been removed. Therefore, less time has been allocated to tree attachment removals.

- b) Please explain the reason for the reduced number of tree attachments to be removed in 2022 compared to the forecast in BVES's Revised 2021 WMP.

Response

BVES field crews and contractors have limited time to work on multiple WMP projects. Tree attachment removal has a lower wildfire risk reduction than priority projects such as

installation of covered wire, evacuation route hardening, fuses replacement, installation of fault indicators, and grid automation. In addition, a majority of the higher risk tree attachments has already been removed. Therefore, less time has been allocated to tree attachment removals.

- c) Both the Revised 2021 WMP and the 2022 WMP state that the Tree Attachment Removal Program will be complete by the end of 2026. Does BVES anticipate any difficulties in achieving this goal as a result of the reduced 2021 and 2022 targets?

Response

Yes. After 2022, BVES plans to increase to a rate of 100 tree attachment removals per year. The project is planned to be completed in 2028.

- d) If the answer to part (c) is yes, please list the actions BVES plans to take in 2022 to mitigate such risk.

Response

BVES plans to continue to focus on WMP projects, which provide a higher wildfire risk reduction.