

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
Wildfire Mitigation Plans Discovery 2023
Data Response

PG&E Data Request No.:	CalAdvocates_009-Q003		
PG&E File Name:	WMP-Discovery2023_DR_CalAdvocates_009-Q003		
Request Date:	April 4, 2023	Requester DR No.:	CalAdvocates-PGE-2023WMP-09
Date Sent:	April 7, 2023	Requesting Party:	Public Advocates Office
DRU Index #:		Requester:	Holly Wehrman

Situational Awareness and Forecasting

QUESTION 003

P. 598 of PG&E's WMP states: In 2022 we continued our assessment through the Electric Program Investment Charge 3.45, "Automated Fire Detection from Wildfire Alert Cameras," program. Through our assessment period we determined that AI detection on camera will improve our detection system and in 2023 we will select a vendor to install AI detection on our cameras.

- a) How did PG&E determine that AI detection would improve its detection system?
- b) Please quantify the extent to which PG&E anticipates AI detection will improve PG&E's detection system.
- c) Please provide any available studies, analyses or reports to support your statements in response to parts (a) and (b).
- d) As of the beginning of 2023, how much has PG&E spent on the Electric Program Investment Charge 3.45, "Automated Fire Detection from Wildfire Alert Cameras," program?
- e) How much does PG&E forecast spending on the Electric Program Investment Charge 3.45, "Automated Fire Detection from Wildfire Alert Cameras," program in each of the years 2023, 2024, and 2025?
- f) When is the earliest date that PG&E expects to realize benefits from automated fire detection?

ANSWER 003

- a) PG&E ran a pilot of AI technology in 2021 to determine the efficacy of this new technology to assist with the detection and notification of new ignitions. In 2022 a project was launched under the Electric Program Investment Charge 3.45 in which multiple potential vendors participated to prove out the ability of the AI technology to continuously monitor the feeds from the wildfire cameras installed in PG&E service territory and provide alerts to both PG&E and responding agency partners in order to reduce response time to detected ignitions.

During the EPIC project, PG&E's team determined that AI would enable both PG&E and First Responders to receive notifications of ignitions detected on installed

wildfire cameras. The decision was made to pursue AI implementation on all PG&E sponsored cameras in 2023. It is important to note that CAL FIRE, SCE, and SDG&E are all sponsoring AI implementation on their sponsored cameras in 2023. The ability for the over 1,000 wildfire cameras installed across the state to be continuously monitored with rapid alerting for responding agencies is seen as a major step forward in the detection and response to wildfire ignitions.

- b) AI detection will enable more rapid notification of responding agencies to new fire ignitions. Early results have shown between 2 and 30 minutes are saved when utilizing automated detection technology (AI). The anticipated improvement across the entire state is that responding agencies will become aware of new ignitions more quickly than relying on the public notifications that have been utilized to this point (i.e., calling 9-1-1).
- c) Please refer to attachment **WMP-Discovery2023_DR_CalAdvocates_009-Q003_Atch01** which contains a comparative analysis illustrating instances when the AI detection times were faster than the 9-1-1 calls (IRWIN Discovery Time).
- d) As of the beginning of 2023, PG&E spent \$1,043,000 on the Electric Program Investment Charge 3.45, "Automated Fire Detection from Wildfire Alert Cameras" program.
- e) The EPIC project has ended and there will be no additional spend on this going forward. The cost to implement AI on the PG&E sponsored cameras will be carried within the Wildfire Camera program budget. This is expected to be approximately \$1,600,000 in 2023 with incremental increases going forward. CAL FIRE, SCE, and SDG&E will also be supporting AI on their sponsored cameras at the same cost per camera.
- f) PG&E expects to realize benefits from automated fire detection as early as June 2023.