

**PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
Wildfire Mitigation Plans Discovery 2022
Data Response**

PG&E Data Request No.:	WilliamBAbrams_002-Q20		
PG&E File Name:	WMP-Discovery2022_DR_WilliamBAbrams_002-Q20		
Request Date:	April 13, 2022	Requester DR No.:	Email Transmittal – 2022WMP DR-02
Date Sent:	April 25, 2022	Requesting Party:	William B. Abrams
PG&E Witness:		Requester:	Will Abrams

**SUBJECT: PG&E WMP GAP ANALYSIS GIVEN KINCADE FIRE TESTIMONY AND
SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

Expert Testimony: Mr. Gary Uboldi, Fire Captain Specialist Peace Officer with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection who has investigated over 400 wildfires across his 20+ year career

Testimony Date: February 8, 2022 (See Attachment A: Pre-Trial Transcript)

BACKGROUND TESTIMONY/EVIDENCE:

Pg. 146 (line 27) to “ Pg. 147 (line 8)

“Q. So in your experience as a firefighter, when you're getting a wind reading, is that a surfacelevel wind reading? A. Yes. Q. And in your experience, does that indicate anything to youabout whether that wind would be stronger than the surface level wind up above? A. Yes. Q. And on that day, it was windy conditions? A. Yes, it was.”

QUESTION 20

Given that wind readings were different on the surface vs. up on poles and towers and these differences contributed to the miscalculations and causes of both the Sawmill and Kincade Fires, has PG&E accounted for different wind sensor placement of wind (ground-level vs. high up on tower) within their WMP?

ANSWER 20

The cited testimony says nothing about “miscalculations,” nor is there any suggestion that any “miscalculations” or differences in ground-level and above-ground-level wind conditions caused the Sawmill or Kincade Fires. The witness was merely explaining that “a wind reading” taken by a firefighter is typically a “surface level wind reading,” rather than a reading reflecting what the wind speed might be at some distance above ground.

PG&E has installed a network of over 1300 weather stations and uses data from these stations to conduct state-of-the-art mesoscale meteorological modeling (used by meteorologists throughout the world) to calculate wind at different elevations and locations to account for local terrain and microclimate effects. These weather stations

range from 4 to nearly 8500 feet above mean sea level. Similar to the NWS and RAWS weather station networks, PG&E's weather stations are installed at a standard height above ground to ensure consistency.

Wind speed forecasts and historical data at standard heights are used by the Operability Assessment (OA) Model to assess the probability of failure of a given PG&E transmission asset. The OA Model computes an asset-based fragility (probability of failure due to wind gust speed) by quantitatively assessing the condition (or health) of transmission structures and components and accounting for known degradation mechanisms. Probability is calculated based on an asset fragility curve that is a function of windspeed. More information can be found in Section 4.5.1(h) of the 2022 WMP.