

To: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
Re: 8/27/19 Hearing agenda item # 19-00746  
From: Cuyama Valley Community Association  
Date: 8/26/19

The CVCA represents residents throughout the Cuyama Valley. We are grateful to the Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management for presenting information about the PSPS program and the impact it may have on all residents in the Cuyama Valley. As an organization, the CVCA would like to encourage the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to advocate for much greater outreach and communication from the power companies with residents throughout the county, but specifically in the under-resourced and remote Cuyama Valley community. The CVCA invited PG&E representatives to present information to the community and gain a better understanding of the challenges we face, but our request was denied. For Cuyama, as a vulnerable community, the prospect of multiple days without power, the impact could be deadly. We do not have a facility that can serve as a “cooling station”, most water sources will be shut off, and in a region with temperatures that frequently exceed 100 degrees, residents are very concerned about the impact of a power shutoff. Moreover, the New Cuyama wastewater treatment plant will be seriously impacted, which would pollute local creeks. Compounding the issue, many residents have unreliable or non-existent cell phone service and minimal internet service. Communication with vulnerable populations will be difficult at best.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to require the power companies to take seriously their responsibility to perform outreach to communities such as Cuyama and provide resources and accurate, comprehensive information that will help communities develop emergency management plans that will protect residents from the potentially extremely negative impacts of the PSPS program.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of the Cuyama Valley Community Association

Brenton Kelly, Chair  
Pam Baczuk, Secretary  
Alex Gurrerro, Board Member  
Nicole Furstenfeld, Board Member  
Meg Brown, Board Member  
Em Johnson, Board Member  
Allison Mann, Board Member