

Per California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 548.5, the following information will be posted to CalHR's Career Executive Assignment Action Proposals website for 30 calendar days when departments propose new CEA concepts or major revisions to existing CEA concepts. Presence of the department-submitted CEA Action Proposal information on CalHR's website does not indicate CalHR support for the proposal.

**A. GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. Date

2019-12-04

2. Department

California Public Utilities Commission

3. Organizational Placement (Division/Branch/Office Name)

Safety Policy Division

4. CEA Position Title

Director, Safety Policy

5. Summary of proposed position description and how it relates to the program's mission or purpose. (2-3 sentences)

This position is responsible for overseeing the development and management of the new Safety Policy Division of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The division is responsible for advising and advocating on a broad set of policy matters according to safety management system principles and ensuring safety, security, and resilience of physical infrastructure and adequate operation of utilities in emergency events. The Safety Policy Division is tasked with the critical work of advocating and advising for utility safety through research and analysis of utility safety risks from a technical engineering and cost perspective. The division structure includes Safety Culture and Governance; Wildfire & Climate Adaptation Policy; Risk Assessment - Advisory General Rate Case (GRC) Support; Physical & Cyber Security; and Emergency Response & Public Safety Power Shut-off (PSPS) Policy.

6. Reports to: (Class Title/Level)

Deputy Executive Director, Safety - CEA (Level B)

7. Relationship with Department Director (Select one)

- Member of department's Executive Management Team, and has frequent contact with director on a wide range of department-wide issues.
- Not a member of department's Executive Management Team but has frequent contact with the Executive Management Team on policy issues.

(Explain):

8. Organizational Level (Select one)

- 1st
- 2nd
- 3rd
- 4th
- 5th (mega departments only - 17,001+ allocated positions)

## B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST

9. What are the duties and responsibilities of the CEA position? Be specific and provide examples.

Develop, administer and maintain all policy and operations pertaining to the Commission's Safety Culture and Governance; Utility Risk Assessment; Physical and Cyber Security; and Emergency Response ensuring regulated utility services are delivered in a safe, reliable manner to the citizens of California.

The immediate and urgent priorities of the Division are:

1. Safety Culture and Governance
2. Wildfire & Climate Adaptation Policy
3. Risk Assessment (advisory and GRC support)
4. Physical & Cyber Security compliance
5. Emergency Response and Public Safety Power Shut-off Policy - Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR) and Order Instituting Investigation (OII) related to PSPS
6. General Safety Advisory

The ongoing work will include:

1. Advisory work on wildfire issues
2. On-going implementation and improvement of CPUC safety regulations
3. On-going implementation and improvement of safety related policies

**B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST (continued)**

10. How critical is the program's mission or purpose to the department's mission as a whole? Include a description of the degree to which the program is critical to the department's mission.

- Program is directly related to department's primary mission and is critical to achieving the department's goals.
- Program is indirectly related to department's primary mission.
- Program plays a supporting role in achieving department's mission (i.e., budget, personnel, other admin functions).

Description: The CPUC regulates services and utilities, protects consumers, safeguards the environment, and assures Californians' access to safe and reliable utility infrastructure and services. The Safety Policy Division will carry out the mission and role of the CPUC by ensuring that the needed and appropriate safety policies are in place so that regulated services are delivered in a safe, reliable manner.

**B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST (continued)**

11. Describe what has changed that makes this request necessary. Explain how the change justifies the current request. Be specific and provide examples.

In 2016, the Office of Safety Advocates (OSA) (Senate Bill 62 [Chapter 806, Statutes of 2016]) was established “to advocate for the continuous, cost-effective improvement of the safety management and safety performance of public utilities.” Per the enacted legislation, the Office remains in effect until January 1, 2020 unless extended by statute. In early 2019, Senate Bill 199 was introduced to extend the existence of the Office but was vetoed and as of December 31, 2019, OSA will no longer be in existence.

The safety work of OSA is a corner stone of CPUC’s mission and must continue. The responsibilities of OSA in addition to new safety requirements mandated by Assembly Bill (AB) 1054 (Chapter 79, Statutes of 2019) and AB 111 (Chapter 81, Statutes of 2019) enacted July 12, 2019 will be carried out by the Safety Policy Division. To ensure continuity and implementation of safety policies mandated by legislation, the need of Safety Policy Division led by a CEA is critical.

The Safety Policy Division will continue General Rate Case (GRC) work currently being completed by staff of OSA. This work includes intervening at proceedings to advocate for effective public utility safety management and infrastructure improvements. Work related to developing policies and procedures will also be absorbed by the new division.

In addition to carrying out the current work of OSA, the Safety Policy Division will act as "strike team" to work on urgent safety policy matters while creating and cultivating a safety environment to address emergencies such as the catastrophic wildfires that California is currently facing. Per the requirements of AB 1054 and AB 111, the division will work with the Wildfire Safety Division to ensure that the utility's Wildfire Management Plan address and adhere to safety requirements. The division will also play a critical role in evaluating actions related to emergency situations by reviewing utility emergency response plans and PSPS policies. In addition to work mandated by AB 1054 and AB 111, the Safety Policy Division will support the Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center created by SB 209 (Chapter 405, Statutes of 2019).

### C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE

12. Provide 3-5 specific examples of policy areas over which the CEA position will be the principle policy maker. Each example should cite a policy that would have an identifiable impact. Include a description of the statewide impact of the assigned program.

**Public Safety Power Shut-off:** CPUC is working closely with state agencies such as the Department of Fire and Forestry (CalFire) and California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to reduce the risk of utility infrastructure starting wildfires, to strengthen utility preparedness for emergencies, and to improve utility services during and after emergencies. The State's investor-owned electric utilities may shut off electric power to protect public safety under California law (Public Utilities Code Sections 451 and 399.2(a)). The power shut-offs are referred to as Public Safety Power Shut-offs (PSPS). Policies for the use and deployment of PSPSs are critical to the safety of Californians as well as minimizing the impacts of PSPS events to the health and economy of California.

**Emergency Response:** Per SB 209, the CPUC is to be represented at the Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center (Center). The Center's mission is to collect, assess, and analyze fire weather data, atmospheric conditions, and other threat indicators of catastrophic wildfires in the effort to reduce the likelihood and severity of wildfires. CPUC's participation at the Center will provide data to the Safety Policy Division for the development of policies and procedures for the utilities to use when developing and implementing their emergency response plans. The policies related to the utilities' emergency response plan will carry out the intent of the new law which is to protect the citizens of California from enduring more disastrous and deadly fires.

**Safety Culture and Governance:** The Safety Policy Division will take an advisory or advocacy role in OIR and OII proceedings related to utilities safety culture. The Division will provide subject matter expert testimony during proceedings and recommendations influencing the decision of Commissioners. In addition to acting in an advisory role during proceedings, the Division will advise on the governance of utilities' structure impacting the ratepayers serviced by the utilities.

**C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE (continued)**

**13. What is the CEA position's scope and nature of decision-making authority?**

The Director of the Safety Policy Division will be directly responsible for: (1) directing and coordinating the development of the Safety Policy Division; (2) developing, administering, and maintaining all policy and operations to CPUC's Safety Culture and Governance; Utility Risk Assessment; Physical and Cyber Security; and Emergency Response; (3) coordinating with Executive level leadership of other state agencies during emergency events; (4) representing the CPUC at the Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center; and (5) coordinating with the Director of the Wildfire Safety Division on safety issues related to wildfire safety to ensure compliance by utilities. The CEA will have final decision-making authority regarding all advocacy and advisory positions taken by the Division in regulatory proceedings. The CEA will develop recommendations to influence the Executive Director and Commissioners regarding safety policies. The CEA will have final decision-making authority regarding recommendations that the Division will offer to the CPUC Executive Director. The CEA will work collaboratively as a peer with CPUC division directors to identify potential improvements to safety policies and procedures.

**14. Will the CEA position be developing and implementing new policy, or interpreting and implementing existing policy? How?**

The CEA will be developing and implementing new policy as well as interpreting and implementing existing policy. The CEA is tasked with implementing the requirements of new legislations such as AB 1054, AB 111, and SB 209. The CEA is also responsible for continuing the safety policies established by OSA and revising policies per new legislation.