

## **Altadena Sheriff's Department Update**

### **Crime Trends & Community Engagement**

- Residential Burglaries: Reported numbers are very low and trending below pre-fire levels (specifically below January 2024 levels).
- Commercial Burglaries: Only four incidents for the month, including two in the Mariposa/downtown area.

### **Why the decline?**

- Community has become more proactive and involved.
- Sheriff's Department has identified suspects and executed multiple search warrants.
- Recent enforcement: On the previous Thursday before the meeting, three locations were searched, and several arrests were made.

### **Wildlife Activity**

- Bear sightings: A recurring bear has been spotted several times around Mendocino. The team is monitoring its movement.
- Coyote activity: A coyote was seen chasing the bear, indicating active wildlife corridors.
- Efforts are ongoing to encourage wildlife to return north away from residential areas.

## **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) – Debris Removal Update**

### **Program Participation & Progress**

- Total Opt-Ins: 5,508 properties have opted in.
- Opt-Outs: Only ~530 properties opted out.
- Debris Cleared: 5,424 properties (~98%).
- Debris Removal Fully Completed: 5,279 properties (~95%), meaning their Right of Entry (ROE) has been returned to the County.

### **Operational Workforce**

- Peak number of active debris removal crews: 129
- Current number of active crews: 19
- The decrease reflects the winding down of general residential operations.

### **Special Inclusions & Commercial Properties**

- Special Inclusion Properties: 47 total; 21 expected to be completed on the day of the meeting.

- Commercial Properties: 63 total, a 37% increase from the prior week.
  - This category includes businesses and multifamily housing that is not owner-occupied.
  - Owner-occupied properties are still considered residential for FEMA purposes.

#### Timeline & Final Properties

- ACOE expects the final batch of properties (mostly abatement cases) from LA County by July 15.
  - These are parcels where owners did nothing or opted out but haven't cleared debris.
  - LA County will initiate abatement procedures on these lots.

#### Altadena Golf Course Operations

- The Altadena Golf Course was used as a temporary staging and sorting facility.
- By July 4, ACOE will cease bringing debris to the site.
- Future debris will be taken directly to landfills or recycling centers.
- Restoration of the golf course will begin, though some truck traffic will continue for several months during cleanup

#### **SGV Mosquito & Vector Control – Public Health Operations**

Following the Eaton Fire, stagnant pools posed a major health risk due to the explosion of mosquito breeding grounds. Anais Medina-Diaz from SGV Mosquito Control detailed a multi-agency response to address the risk.

#### Treatments Applied

- Larvicide Treatments: Applied to nonfunctional and stagnant pools.
  - 90-day residual effect.
  - Safe for pets, birds, wildlife, and humans—targets only mosquito larvae.
- Mosquito Fish: Introduced as biological control, effective for long-term treatment.
  - Used in pools without pesticide; requires only occasional monitoring.

#### Disease Risk

- Mosquitoes are known carriers of:
  - West Nile Virus
  - Dengue
- These diseases can have serious public health impacts, particularly for vulnerable populations.

#### Legal Access & Health Code Authority

- SGV Vector Control was granted access under the California Health & Safety Code.
  - If there was no resident on the property, then we treated the pools.
  - For occupied homes, they knocked and asked permission.
- They treated all 1,475 pools in and near the burn zone, including those impacted by ash and debris.

#### Ongoing Monitoring

- 9 surveillance traps were deployed to monitor mosquito populations.
- Follow-up treatments and repellent education efforts are ongoing.

#### Altadena Eaton Fire Fund

- Launch Date: Applications open the day after the meeting via [eatonfirefund.org](https://eatonfirefund.org).
- Eligibility:
  - Resident of Altadena on Jan 7, 2025.
  - Adversely affected by the fire.
- Grant Details:
  - Range: \$500 to \$5,000, one-time per household.
  - Delivery: GoFundMe deposit or Visa gift card.
- Application Support: Hardcopy forms to be made available; minimal documentation required.

#### Lincoln Avenue Bridge Repairs Timeline

- Construction Start: July 1, 2025
- Completion Goal: September 30, 2025
- Impacts
- Detours and limited access will be in place.
- Pedestrian access: One side of the bridge will remain walkable during construction.
- The final design will include enhanced pedestrian accessibility.

#### UWS Rate Adjustment

- **July 2025 – March 2026:** Bills will include a county-approved rate increase, but UWS will issue a matching credit on each invoice.
  - This credit is listed as a line item that fully cancels out the increase.
- **April 2026:** The credit ends. Residents will see the 2025 increase now reflected on their bill.
- **July 2026:** A second, new rate increase (2026's scheduled annual adjustment) takes effect.

#### Community Support

- UWS and the County are working together to reduce the burden by delaying and offsetting costs.

- Another public meeting is planned prior to April 2026 to remind residents and explain the changes.

## **Southern California Edison (SCE) Undergrounding & Rebuild Projects**

Following the devastating Eaton Fire, SCE is leading an ambitious, multi-year effort to underground 63 miles of electric infrastructure across Altadena, with a focus on increasing safety, reliability, and climate resilience. This project prioritizes areas where homes were lost and above-ground lines were destroyed, with the overarching goal of preparing the community to rebuild stronger, safer, and more sustainably.

### **2025 Phased Construction Plan**

Total 2025 Target: 23 miles undergrounded

These areas were selected due to the complete loss of electrical infrastructure and are critical to rebuilding efforts. The work will proceed in three sequential phases, organized to ensure immediate benefit to residents preparing to reconstruct their homes.

#### **Phase 1: July 2025 (~2.5–3 miles)**

- Location: East Loma Alta Drive & Sunny Oak Circle
- Status:
  - Civil work (vault installation, trenching) is already completed.
  - Electrical work (pulling cable through conduit) to be completed by July 4.
- Note: These projects were already planned before the fire, which allowed for an early start.

#### **Phase 2: August 2025 (~8 miles)**

- Location: Areas west of Lake Avenue, including:
  - Rubio Canyon Road
  - Zane Grey Terrace

#### **Phase 3: September 2025 (~13 miles)**

- Location: Southern Altadena, with routes extending east of Lake Avenue
  - Includes Windrock, Windfall, and Porter

### **Construction Stages**

Each phase of work follows a standardized 3-part process:

1. Civil Work:
  - Installation of underground vaults
  - Trenching between vaults
  - Placement of protective conduit
  - Repaving and restoration

## 2. Electrical Work:

- Pulling of high-voltage cable
- Connection into vaults and switching gear
- Final testing and energization

## 3. Cutover & Cleanup:

- Permanent switch from overhead to underground service
- Removal or capping (“topping”) of utility poles

## Fire Risk Zones & Infrastructure Strategy

- 40 of the 63 miles fall within the California-designated High Fire Risk Area (HFRA).
- The remaining 23 miles, while outside HFRA boundaries, are in areas severely impacted by the fire.
- SCE's strategy targets areas regardless of HFRA designation if infrastructure was destroyed.

## Grid Modernization

- Pre-fire infrastructure in west Altadena was outdated and operated on 4kV circuits.
- Post-fire rebuild has upgraded systems to 16kV capacity, ensuring readiness for:
  - Electric vehicles (EVs)
  - Heat pumps and all-electric homes
  - Battery storage and solar integration

This modernized infrastructure ensures that new homes can support climate-forward technologies as part of Altadena’s recovery.

## Right of Entry (ROE) Program – Access & Participation

### What is an ROE?

A Right of Entry (ROE) is a temporary, short-term access agreement that allows SCE to begin underground construction on private property before a permanent easement is signed. It is essential to initiating work quickly while preserving homeowners’ rights and ensuring transparency.

### ROE Agreement Details

- 3-page document with clear, simplified language.
- Includes a tailored exhibit showing:
  - Property boundaries (yellow dashed lines)
  - Access area (pink cross-hatch)
  - Planned equipment location (e.g., vault or pad-mount transformer shown in blue or green).

Each parcel has a custom plan—no two neighbors receive the same design. ROEs are highly specific.

### Property Owner Compensation

- \$500 stipend for signing the ROE.
- Additional compensation provided later when the permanent easement is signed, based on a professional appraisal.

### Timeline for ROE Collection

- SCE is requesting ROE agreements be signed within 30 days to maintain project schedules.
- If all required ROEs are not collected, construction in that area cannot proceed.

### Homeowner Rights & Legal Safeguards

- Signing an ROE does not waive legal claims.
- Homeowners retain full rights to pursue claims or engage in further legal actions if needed.
- No Certificate of Clearance is required to sign the ROE, contrary to earlier community concern.

### Community Outreach & Support

SCE is conducting extensive outreach to property owners using:

- Phone calls, text messages, and emails
- Direct mail
- Door-to-door visits

To support this outreach:

- SCE is partnering with ACONA, the Altadena Town Council, and the Block Captain Program to help locate hard-to-reach owners.
- These community partners are playing a critical role in ensuring 100% participation.

### Rebuild Support & Preparedness Outreach

#### One Stop Shop

- SCE staff—including Energy Advisors and Planners—are stationed at the LA County One Stop Shop.
- Services include:
  - Rebuild planning guidance
  - Billing and energy efficiency questions
  - Assistance with property-specific power connections

### Coming Soon: SCE Community Hub

- SCE is planning to launch a dedicated Altadena community hub to provide long-term, local support for rebuild planning, especially as demand grows.

## Preparedness & Alerts

- SCE is actively sharing wildfire safety and outage preparedness materials.
- Website: [sce.com/psps](https://www.sce.com/psps) – real-time info during Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS).
- Residents have been receiving targeted newsletters based on their risk zone (HFRA vs. non-HFRA) with tips on:
  - Emergency plans
  - Backup power
  - Contact info updates

## Community Q&A – SCE Undergrounding & Rebuild

### **Q: Why is 100% participation required for ROEs in each segment?**

**A:** SCE needs signed ROEs from every affected property in a planned undergrounding segment. Missing even one makes the entire circuit design unbuildable. This is due to electrical planning dependencies (e.g., transformers serving 6–8 homes), and access to install conduits or vaults must be fully granted for the circuit to be complete.

### **Q: Will each property have a unique ROE plan?**

**A:** Yes. Every property gets a custom exhibit with detailed design showing the specific impact—where vaults or equipment will be placed, and what parts of the parcel SCE needs to access.

### **Q: Is a certificate of clearance required before signing an ROE?**

**A:** No. SCE verified that clearance is not a requirement. There's no known legal or policy limitation preventing installation under ROE due to fire clearance status.

### **Q: Will SCE provide maps of project areas and ROE coverage?**

**A:** Yes. SCE is developing a public ArcGIS map to show planned undergrounding areas. However, due to privacy rules, they cannot disclose which parcels have signed ROEs, unlike federal agencies such as the Army Corps.

### **Q: How is SCE supporting clean energy in the rebuild?**

**A:** SCE upgraded western Altadena's old 4kV infrastructure to modern 16kV, allowing for robust support of:

- Electric vehicles (EVs)
- Heat pumps

- Solar and storage
- All-electric homes.

**Q: What happens if we can't locate one or two neighbors for ROE?**

**A:** SCE is working with ACONA, the Town Council, and Block Captain Program to conduct door-knocking, mail-outs, texts, and calls. If community members help locate owners or relatives, it keeps the project from stalling.

**Q: Why isn't SCE using permanent easements instead of ROEs from the start?**

**A:** Easements require legal processing and appraisals and take much longer. ROEs allow construction to begin while easement negotiations continue post-construction. Each easement includes its own compensation.

**Q: Will there be pad mounts on every property?**

**A:** No. Transformers are installed based on load, roughly every 6–8 homes share one pad mount. Only some homes will see physical infrastructure installed on their parcels.

**Q: If undergrounding is in front of my home, will I still need an easement?**

**A:** Yes. If SCE infrastructure touches any part of private property—including front yards—an ROE is needed, followed by an easement. This is true even if most of the trench is in the public right-of-way.

**Q: Will we be allowed to landscape over underground lines post-construction?**

**A:** Yes, with some restrictions. Property owners can landscape over buried lines but must keep access clear around pad mounts and vault lids for maintenance and safety.

**Q: Why isn't SCE starting in areas with existing homes still at fire risk (e.g., The Meadows)?**

**A:** SCE is prioritizing zones where no infrastructure exists, enabling people to rebuild. The fire erased circuits in some areas entirely. Those areas can't rebuild without infrastructure first. High-risk areas with standing homes will follow.

**Q: What's the cost of a temporary pole if I'm rebuilding before undergrounding is complete?**



**A:** Approximately \$400–\$450, but SCE has submitted a request to the California Public Utilities Commission to waive the charge for fire-impacted customers.

**Q: What happens to poles owned jointly with telecom companies?**

**A:** If telecom companies don't join SCE in undergrounding, the poles won't be removed. SCE will "top" the pole (cut their portion off), but the rest remains until telecoms complete their own undergrounding.

**Q: Will SCE coordinate with telecoms to remove the poles entirely?**

**A:** SCE is actively coordinating with telecom providers. But removal depends on telecoms agreeing to go underground at the same time. Otherwise, telecoms must remove the remaining poles later.

**Q: Will moderate risk zones be included in the undergrounding plan?**

**A:** Yes. The plan covers high-risk areas first, but some moderate-risk or non-HFRA zones are included if they had severe fire damage and lost infrastructure.

**Q: Will we get more detailed maps of all phases, beyond what's shown in slides?**

**A:** Yes. A full ArcGIS viewer is in development. It will include future construction by phase and neighborhood, across Altadena and other communities. Release timeline pending due to system-wide rollout