

Meals on Wheels Diablo Region and PG&E Partner to Provide Food to Vulnerable Seniors During Public Safety Power Shutoff Events

Meals on Wheels Diablo Region is pleased to announce a partnership with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to provide critical food support to individuals who experience food loss during natural disasters and Public Safety Power Shutoff events (PSPS).

Under the agreement and new for 2020, PG&E will provide MOW Diablo Region advance notice of a PSPS allowing MOW Diablo Region to coordinate with Mt. Diablo Unified School District to prepare an additional meal to be delivered to seniors impacted by a PSPS event. The additional meal ensures seniors in need have food support throughout the event. The funding provided by PG&E covers the cost of the additional shelf stable meal for seniors who are impacted by the shutoffs. While last year's PSPS events created challenges for MOW Diablo Region and its clients, the agency had a rapid response that was heralded in both local and national news, and successfully delivered meals to all its clients. Coupled with Covid-19, a PSPS event could be even more difficult on senior clients. This spring, the agency began delivering weekly frozen meals to clients in order to ensure greater social distancing. With power outages, seniors will not be able to heat the weekly meals or keep them cold and safe.

"For many of our clients, the loss of power is more than an inconvenience. It presents a real hardship," said MOW Diablo Region Executive Director Caitlin Sly. "We are pleased that PG&E has stepped forward to make sure that the most vulnerable seniors in our county will not go without a meal in the event of a PSPS event."

Due to rapidly changing environmental conditions in California, and in the interest of public safety, PG&E may need to turn off electricity if severe weather affects part of the electric system. The most likely electric lines to be shutoff for safety will be those that pass through High Fire Threat Districts (HFTD).

"PG&E understands PSPS event impacts are compounded for those already experiencing hardship. PG&E is proud of the partnership with MOW Diablo Region providing an immediate solution to food replacement needs as a result of shutting off the power for safety," said PG&E PSPS Engagement, Strategy and Planning Manager Vanessa Bryan.

For more information on PG&E resources and programs available to customers before, during and after a PSPS event visit www.pge.com/disabilityandaging/.

MOW Diablo Region is a non-government, independent nonprofit and the only MOW in the County that delivers meals and services directly to clients. "We are the boots on the ground. We have relationships with vulnerable seniors throughout the community and know their unique needs. Through this partnership, we can ensure that they are fed in the event of a power outage," explained Sly. "We are thrilled to be working with PG&E who can help us continue our ongoing support of the community in the event of a Public Safety Power Shutoff. This will make a huge difference in making sure the seniors we serve are safe and nourished."