

**DOCKETED**

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## **19-BUSMTG-02 ITEM 14. EPC-18-026 Nxt Generation Fire Models for Grid Resilience and Safety**

Thursday, June 13th, 2019

Regarding 19\_BUSMTG\_02 June 12th, 2019, CEC Business Meeting, AGENDA ITEM 14. EPC\_18\_026 Nxt Generation Fire Models for Grid Resilience and Safety

Dear Commissioners, Other California Energy Commission Staff and Spatial Informatics Group, LLC staff,

I was not present at the meetings which discussed solicitations for this or similar fire research EPIC grants. Please forgive me for that. I quickly reviewed the grant funding opportunity files and did not easily see any answer. I saw that there were other suggested GFOs for wildfire ignition and this particular grant is not of that type. I have listened to some of the CPUC wildfire meetings and not heard this discussed. Perhaps the issue I am about to write about has been brought up and already discussed. If it has been, can someone please point me in the right reading direction? In case it has not been, I figured I would add a note here.

I see that Spatial Informatics, LLC was granted this award. Congratulations. I am glad if we could have no more out of control, seemingly unnatural and dangerous, especially urban wildfires due to research happening now. At the meeting, I heard that possibly CALFIRE staff might serve in an advisory role. I understand that I have never been involved in fire science, and may not be qualified well enough to have an opinion that might count because of that lack. I also understand that the CEC, and other agencies, as well as Spatial Informatics, LLC, may have long had a list of fire research needs to attend to. I am not trying to criticize or add to their EPC\_18\_026 goals and work. I realize everyone is probably full to the rim with items to accomplish and need to have quality personal time too. But as a public person, who has listened to some wildfire research, I am not sure where to pose this question. I have asked in social media, Linked IN, even to a fire specialist, so I thought, with no answer yet.

Since now, it seems, the CEC EPIC program reignited researchers interested in fire science, I want to contribute the following question. If the fire science researchers know of research already satisfying this question, I ask that they please share their opinions in a public forum, i.e. social media, and/or share to a writer who can explain, without disturbing their work, in a similar manner.

Question. Does wireless communications and electricity contribute and, or exasperate the spread of wildfires?

I am not sure if this topic has been studied. Fields of wireless communication, satellite connections, cell phones and wifi, and other forms of electrical power and imaging such as radar

and infrared technology, are more prevalent in today's world than ever before. I wonder if these fields contribute, as an additional factor towards planet warming, extreme weather change and especially, wildfire exasperation.

I realize that wireless has become so popular that even if it is a contributing factor, it is unlikely something that the planet's citizens will want to lessen or remove this technology. I am more imagining that if wireless fields are problematic, our planet can make design solutions and advisories. I use wifi and cell phone technology too.

Also, it has been well known that wired electrical fields are hot and can cause fire. As an engineering designer at the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, I was taught that each building ought to have one main switch, in their meter panel, to turn off, possibly by the fire department, so that fire did not spread more through a structure. Because of that lesson, I do not understand why we are not turning off more wireless fields in times of wildfires. Are we exasperating the spread of wildfires, during wildfires, by using more wireless fields, that is cell phones to share the emergency details moment by moment with family and other professionals, and moment by moment scanning satellite and helicopter imagery to show and share with news watchers? Is it possible that wireless fields contribute more towards spreading wildfires than wired electricity? I absolutely see that wired electricity can easily cause fire, that is not what I am asking or debating. I have witnessed arcing with flying sparks, in-person of nearby 69 kV overhead lines, when a branch flew into wires, seemingly out of nowhere, after a storm, causing wired phases to be connected.

Please if possible, can someone, preferably in the fire science field, ease this question if at all possible with some kind of official explanation and, or research, somewhere, sometime soon. Many thanks.

Sincerely,

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