

*Southern California Edison*  
*2026-WMPs – 2026-WMPs*

**DATA REQUEST SET S P D - S C E - W M P 2 0 2 6 - 0 0 4**

**To: SPD**  
**Prepared by: Jonathan Wuo**  
**Job Title: Sr Manager**  
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**Response Date: 8/8/2025**

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**Question 02.a-b:**

In 2024, SCE experienced a large increase in the number of ignitions on lines which were covered conductors compared to 2023, from 2 ignitions to 19 ignitions, an increase of 850 percent.<sup>1</sup> Explain which factors led to the increase in ignitions.

a. SPD is generally aware that it was drier in 2024 compared to 2023 but also notes that the ignitions count from covered conductor lines in 2023 had been exceeded by March of 2024.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, Bare Wire lines ignitions accounts increased from 15 to 23 – an increase of 53%.<sup>3</sup> If weather is one of the driving factors:

i. Demonstrate how the weather drove the early increase in ignitions comparing the amount of fire weather between 2023 as a whole and 2024 through March, as well as all of 2024.

ii. Demonstrate why the impact of weather on the increase in number of ignitions on bare wire lines was modest compared to the increase in covered conductor.

b. SPD notes there was an increase in the number of miles of covered conductor between 2023 and 2024, but the increase appears to be from 5572 miles versus 6372 miles, an increase of 14 percent.<sup>4</sup>

i. If the increase in miles is used as one of the driving factors, demonstrate specifically how the 14 percent increase in additional miles led to more ignitions comparing 2023 to 2024.

<sup>1</sup> SPD\_SCE\_WMP2026\_002\_1a.xlsx

<sup>2</sup> SPD\_SCE\_WMP2026\_002\_1a.xlsx

<sup>3</sup> SPD-SCE-WMP2026-003 Tables Response Q9.xlsx

<sup>4</sup> SPD-SCE-WMP2026-003 Tables Response Q9.xlsx

**Response to Question 02.a-b:**

- a. i. The above average rain and snowfall from the winter of 2022-2023 alleviated drought concerns throughout 2023; reducing dry fuels and replenishing reservoirs around the state. However, as drought conditions returned to Southern California leading into 2024, increased vegetation growth from 2023 combined with drier conditions led to additional fuels, which increased ignition risks. 2024 saw ~1M acres of wildfire burn statewide, compared to just 330k acres in 2023. Santa Ana winds in mid-March 2024 also contributed to higher risks of Contact with Foreign Object (CFO) related failures (two of the three incidents in March 2024 were weather related, with the third incident a vehicle hit pole incident). Trying to “normalize” weather for year-over-year comparisons is a difficult exercise, as multiple factors contribute to the likelihood of an ignition, such as weather, fuel, and exposure. Isolating individual drivers does not accurately capture the full context of ignitions throughout a year.

ii. As noted in the previous response, exposure is a contributing factor to the likelihood of ignitions. SCE's covered conductor program was prioritized and implemented in regards to severe risk and high consequence areas. The exposure of increased covered conductor implementation in drier fuel or windier areas is increased. Although ignitions associated with structures that had covered conductor were higher, 12 of 15 ignitions associated with structures that had covered conductor were due to Equipment and Facility Failure (EFF) or CFO of components connected to covered conductor, for which covered conductor is not expected to mitigate ignitions.

b. i. Please see the response to a.ii.