



Office of the City Manager

October 16, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager
Re: Public Safety Power Outage Update: Friday, October 16, 2026

Situation Summary

On Thursday, September 15, 2026 around 9:15 AM, PG&E conducted a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) affecting 2,132 customers in the North Berkeley Hills.

PG&E restored power in Berkeley Friday afternoon 10/16/26.

Berkeley's PSPS-impacted area included:

- 87 medical baseline customers.
- Berkeley Fire Station 7 (3000 Shasta Rd)
- Cragmont Elementary School (830 Regal Rd). BUSD confirmed on Thursday 10/15 that a backup generator is in place and operating well, and the school is operating normally.
- Berkeley Tuolumne Camp in Groveland, CA (run by the City's Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department).
- Despite the PG&E's online maps showing outages on the UC Berkeley campus, UC Berkeley confirmed it was not impacted by the PSPS.

Berkeley's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activated for the event and held six EOC briefings. The EOC is now deactivated.

Community Inquiries Update

During the event, the 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Center reported one (1) community inquiry about the PSPS, and the 3-1-1 Customer Service Center reported zero (0) inquiries.

These exceptionally low numbers reflect the EOC staff's coordinated efforts to support City residents, particularly those most vulnerable to an extended power outage, by

providing timely information, assistance, and resources throughout this PG&E-initiated event.

Over the last two days, the EOC has developed and delivered information to the community about City and PG&E sites for device charging and cooling. EOC staff have delivered this information to the community through:

- An AC Alert message targeted to areas impacted by the PSPS, delivered via voice call (including “Reverse 911”), text, and email;
- A Community Message posted to BerkeleyCA.gov, along with ongoing updates with new power restoration times from PG&E;
- Posts to the City’s BlueSky account;
- Direct calls from Aging Services to eleven (11) Meals on Wheels clients within the PSPS area
- Direct calls from Public Health to 57 PG&E customers who self-reported a “Life Support” need for power in PG&E’s Medical Baseline Data; and
- Automated emails, phone calls, and texts from Aging Services to approximately 1,000 Berkeley seniors.

PG&E Actions

PG&E reports having sent alerts to customers who are being impacted by the scheduled PSPS, including Medical Baseline Customers.

PG&E representatives noted that they do not send customer notifications when power restoration time estimates shift, as they did today. Instead, PG&E notifies the news media and posts updated PSPS information online at the [Latest PSPS Updates Page](#). This site includes an address lookup feature and map.

PG&E has established an outdoor Community Resource Center (CRC) with device charging and wifi on the Clark Kerr Campus. PG&E will have it open 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM daily. **The correct address for the PG&E CRC is the Campus Southwest Parking Lot at 2649 Warring Street, Berkeley 94704.** On Thursday 10/15 the City EOC notified PG&E that the address posted on the PG&E website (1 Tanglewood Rd) is incorrect and must be updated; PG&E responded that they will work on the update.

PG&E reports 87 people attended the Community Resource Center (CRC) during the PSPS event.

OES, Aging Services, and PG&E coordinated to deliver PG&E “grab-and-go” bags from the Community Resource Center (CRC) to the 11 Meals on Wheels clients in the impacted area.

PG&E has established relationships with hotels to provide discounts to people experiencing outages, listed at the [PG&E Accessibility assistance and resources webpage](#).

City Support Sites

As detailed in the [Community Message about PSPS](#), City of Berkeley libraries and senior centers are open during normal hours and can support device charging.

Berkeley hills temperatures during the PSPS are reaching the mid- to high-80s, so community messaging is emphasizing sites with air conditioning for residents who need to escape the heat during the PSPS.

The Berkeley Senior Centers did not observe a notable increase in foot traffic during the event.

The North Branch Library reported that it was very full during the event, with every seat and outlet taken.

Weather Details

PG&E conducts a PSPS when its meteorologists observe high-risk weather conditions. However, PG&E and National Weather Service (NWS) forecasts did not align for this event. The National Weather Service did not identify high-risk conditions in the East Bay during the PSPS time period and did not issue a Red Flag Warning for the Berkeley hills. This is unusual; in the past, a Red Flag Warning has been in place when a PSPS occurs.

cc:

David White, Deputy City Manager
Jenny Wong, City Auditor
Farimah Brown, City Attorney
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Matthai Chakko, Communications Director/Assistant to the City Manager
David Sprague, Fire Chief
Sarah Lana, Emergency Services Manager
Jamie Parks, Director of Public Works
Scott Gilman, Director of Health, Housing & Community Services
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Scott Ferris, Director of Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront