



City Manager Kevin Woodhouse contributed a column to the *Pacifica Tribune* to connect with local residents and keep Pacificans informed on issues that are of current interest in the City of Pacifica. Below is the submission for the November 7, 2019 edition of the *Pacifica Tribune*, which focuses on the PG&E PSPS, United Against Hate Week of Action, and “For the Record”.

Responding to Power Shutoffs

This column focuses on Pacific Gas and Electric Public Safety Power Shutoff, the upcoming United Against Hate Week of Action, and the City’s “For the Record” webpage.

Although the recent Pacific Gas and Electric Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) was an inconvenience and impact to the Pacifica community – to residents, businesses, visitors, and the City organization – thankfully we have not been impacted by a major fire emergency locally like elsewhere in the region. However, not having power for multiple days is a challenge to plan for and deal with. Many City Departments quickly mobilized to prepare roads, intersections, and facilities in spite of short notice and constantly changing decisions by PG&E. I am proud of the way the City handled the PSPS, and we are now focusing on how we can improve for next time.

One area of improvement underway is securing back-up generators ready to deploy for the four signalized intersections along Hwy 1 (although they are Caltrans’ responsibility). Caltrans was not able to secure generators for the last PSPS. That failure led to long traffic delays and to having to reassign the City’s police force to conduct traffic control. While the Police Department had planned to staff up and provide appropriate police coverage for conducting traffic control during the heavy commute hours while also ensuring appropriate public safety response throughout the city, quickly revising plans for traffic control during the day on a Sunday was a challenge. Looking forward, the City has already taken action to secure our own backup generators, and is pursuing grant funding and other reimbursement channels for these costs. There is also a lot of county-wide and inter-agency debriefing underway about communications and other improvements. If PSPSs are PG&E’s new normal and continue to occur, the City will be better and better prepared. I encourage you to sign up for *SMC Alert* (hsd.smcsheriff.com/smcalert) if you haven’t already, as that’s a major emergency notification system that you can customize to the areas you want to be notified about directly to your mobile device.

November 17-23, 2019, is United Against Hate Week of Action. United Against Hate is a movement that emerged in the Bay Area in 2017 in response to increasing numbers of hate crimes in the Bay Area. The City of Pacifica has joined this cause and has begun promoting and distributing posters around town as a sign that hate will not be tolerated in our community. The website UnitedAgainstHateWeek.org offers a number of ideas for action and how to show your support. Posters are available at City Hall if you would like to put one up or help distribute them.

The City has a “For the Record” webpage intended to provide facts about varying issues and concerns of broad interest related to the City. When misinformation about important City projects or programs is widely disseminated in the community, whether through social media or other media, the City will respond with available information posted on this webpage at www.cityofpacifica.org/faqs/for_the_record.asp

As always, I encourage you to [sign up for the weekly Connect With Pacifica e-newsletter](#) through the City Manager’s page on the City’s website. It’s a quick and easy way to learn about important updates, meeting and event announcements, and other City-related news items.
