

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA JOINT POLE COMMITTEE

437 So. Cataract Ave. Unit 3
San Dimas, CA 91773
Phone (909) 592-4001
Fax (909) 592-4636

January 15, 2003

A meeting of the **ad hoc Committee on Authorized Cost Elements** took place on the above date, at 1:00 p.m., at the Committee office. Those in attendance were:

Mr. Ernie Solorzano	Southern Calif. Edison
Ms. Sherri Goetz	Southern Calif. Edison
Ms. Kathleen Dell	AT&T Wireless
Ms. Velma Prouty	SBC Pacific Bell
Mr. Robert Allen	City of Los Angeles (DWP)
Ms. Lynn Prescott	Verizon Wireless
Mr. Malcolm Brown	Verizon Wireless
Mr. Manuel Ponce	Cingular Wireless
Mr. Cory Autrey	Sprint PCS
Ms. Jennie Corella	Committee Staff

Chairman, Ernie Solorzano opened the meeting at 1:00 PM. The first topic on the agenda was **Item 1330: Revised 2002-2003 Lightweight Steel Prices**. Mr. Solorzano reported that this item is still pending at this time.

The next issue on the agenda was **Item 1334: Visibility Strips**. Mr. Solorzano opened the discussion by stating that the material cost for a visibility strip is about \$3.40. He stated that there are requirements and compliance standards when poles are set on the road, allies, or curbside. Ms. Dell stated that she was not aware of the visibility strip requirements. Mr. Allen stated that he believed it was a GO 95/165 requirement. Mr. Solorzano concluded by stating that upon his return he would have a cost for visibility strips, which would include material and labor.

Under miscellaneous items Mr. Solorzano raised the issue of emergency storm condition calls. The primary issue is the time factor in which service must be reinstated to the customer, which creates additional costs for SCE. SCE crews work overtime to expedite returning service to the customer as quickly as possible. Mr. Solorzano's concern is reimbursement to SCE for the additional costs incurred from emergency storm calls. These additional costs are not considered when pole costs are set. Pole prices apply to normal pole setting conditions. Mr. Solorzano stated that upon his return to his organization, he would research the costs for pole replacing under emergency storm conditions, versus normal conditions, and arrive at a cost differential. He is proposing an Authorized Cost for setting poles under emergency storm conditions. Ms. Prescott inquired if Mr. Solorzano is recommending language in the Routine Handbook for this situation. Mr. Solorzano responded that it is dependent on how the members choose, and agree to address this issue.

Mr. Prouty inquired as to how SCE handled this problem in the past, and if SCE absorbed the costs. Mr. Solorzano responded stating that in the past SCE has in fact absorbed these costs. Therefore, he is of the opinion, and for the sake of equity, the power utilities should be compensated in these situations. It was agreed to assign **Item 1341: Storm Costs**, to this issue. Mr. Solorzano inquired, if in the opinion of the attending members, does his proposal appear reasonable. Mr. Dell responded stating that in her opinion, when approaching pole costs annually, the method needs some revision. The variables taken into account when setting costs should be clearly defined, to ensure that all variables are considered (viz. emergency storm costs, visibility strips). Ms. Dell agreed with Mr. Solorzano that for the sake of equity, this issue needs to be addressed. Ms. Prescott inquired as to how the Committee could arrive at a fair and equitable Authorized Cost for this situation. Mr. Solorzano responded stating that the JPA would reflect the x number of poles at the x cost. Mr. Solorzano stated that using Section 1.2 would delay the JPA process, because of the difficulty of the two utilities actually coming to an agreement. Mr. Prouty stated that what SCE is attempting to avoid, is delaying the finalization of the JPAs in this situation. Mr. Autrey stated that, regardless of which utility responded to the emergency call, all members are joint owners and should be accountable to share in the additional costs. Mr. Ponce agreed with Mr. Autrey, that all members should share in these costs. The members discussed how to determine a cost for the additional expenses that the power utilities incur, when responding to an emergency storm condition in an expeditious fashion. Mr. Solorzano is of the opinion that for the sake of simplicity, and equity, the cost should be determined on a per pole basis. The members did not arrive on a consensus, or agreement at this time, therefore, Item 1341: Storm Costs will remain open at this time for further discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m., until February 19, 2003.

Jennie Corella, Office Manager

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March 27, 2003

A meeting of the **ad hoc Committee on Authorized Cost Elements** took place on the above date, at 1:00 p.m., at the Committee office. Those in attendance were:

Ms. Sherri Goetz	Southern Calif. Edison
Ms. Lupe Hernandez	AT&T Wireless
Ms. Velma Prouty	SBC Pacific Bell
Mr. Dennis Walls	City of Los Angeles (DWP)
Ms. Lynn Prescott	Verizon Wireless
Mr. Manuel Ponce	Cingular Wireless
Ms. Jennie Corella	Committee Staff

Chairperson, Sherri Goetz opened the meeting at 11:15 PM.

The members did not address the items on the agenda, but discussed concerns with the Authorized Costs. Mr. Walls has a concern with Authorized Costs Item 5.C. It states that the cost is based on 2 cuts, however, it does not state not many feet define a cut. Ms. Hernandez suggested researching previous Authorized Costs meeting minutes to trace the origin of how this cost was determined. Mr. Corella will bring the minutes from the previous two years to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Ms. Prouty noted that Authorized Costs item 89 required revisions. She stated that at the end of the sentence the words, "per pair", should be deleted. The members all agreed. Also noted, were typing errors in 89.d. Ms. Corella will make the typing corrections.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m., until April 23, 2003.

Jennie Corella, Office Manager

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May 1, 2003

A meeting of the **ad hoc Committee on Authorized Cost Elements** took place on the above date, at 10:30 a.m., at the Committee office. Those in attendance were:

Mr. Ernie Solorzano	Southern Calif. Edison
Mr. Dan Lewis	Verizon California
Ms. Kathleen Dell	AT&T Wireless
Ms. Velma Prouty	SBC Pacific Bell
Mr. Robert Allen	City of Los Angeles (DWP)
Ms. Lynn Prescott	Verizon Wireless
Mr. Manuel Ponce	Cingular Wireless
Mr. Cory Autrey	Sprint PCS
Ms. Jennie Corella	Committee Staff

Chairman, Mr. Solorzano opened the meeting at 10:30 AM.

The first issue on the agenda was **Item 1330: Revised 2002 Steel Prices.** Per Mr. Solorzano, this item will remain open at this time.

Item 1334: Visibility Strips was next on the agenda. The members agreed that visibility strips are a GO 95 requirement. Mr. Solorzano stated that the cost of a viz strip is approximately \$3.00. The strips would be applied to the pole at the time when a crew is dispatched to the work-site. Therefore, there should be no additional labor costs incurred. Ms. Dell stated that, in her opinion, there was an Authorized Cost for strips. Mr. Solorzano agreed, but was not sure when the cost was removed, or if it was absorbed within another cost. Mr. Solorzano would research the cost and volume of viz strips.

The third topic on the agenda was **Item 1341: Storm Costs.** This issue concerns the additional labor costs incurred by SCE when poles are down due to storm conditions. Since, the primary concern in such situations, is to restore service to customers, SCE crews must work around the clock. SCE is then burdened with paying the collective bargaining costs

at double and triple rates. Mr. Solorzano would like furthering discussion on this issue in future meetings.

Ms. Prouty wanted to bring attention to errors she discovered in Authorized Costs. AC Item 89, the verbiage, "per pair" should be deleted. Also, discovered were typing errors in the last paragraph. Ms. Corella noted the corrections.

Under miscellaneous items, Mr. Solorzano reported that SCE has begun utilizing cranes to a greater extent. Therefore, at the next Authorized Costs meeting, the usage of cranes will be discussed. Mr. Solorzano is proposing creating an Authorized Costs for usage of cranes.

Another issue Mr. Solorano will bring to the table, is pole obstruction. He is referring to obstruction due to ivy.

Mr. Solorzano reported on dying trees in the Arrowhead and Idlewild areas. There is a beetle infesting the trees. Once the tree becomes infested; it dies within 3 to 6 weeks. The Governor has issued a proclamation, stating that all dead trees must be removed. SCE is mandated to clear dead trees that are within 40 feet of their power lines. Mr. Solorzano will continue to inform the members on this issue as he becomes informed.

Ms. Corella stated that Mr. Walls of DWP has a concern with AC 5.C, Topping Pole. It states that the cost is based on 2 cuts. Mr. Walls is of the opinion that footage should be defined. The members agreed that a definition is not necessary, therefore, there will be no changes.

A new issue for Authorized Costs is **Item 1348: Pulling Charges related to Section 7.4.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m., until May 22, 2003.

Jennie Corella, Office Manager

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July 16, 2003

A meeting of the **ad hoc Committee on Authorized Cost Elements** took place on the above date, at 10:30 a.m., at the Committee office. Those in attendance were:

Mr. Ernie Solorzano	Southern Calif. Edison
Mr. Sheldon Cox	City of Pasadena
Ms. Kathleen Dell	AT&T Wireless
Ms. Velma Prouty	SBC Pacific Bell
Ms. Lynn Prescott	Verizon Wireless
Mr. Vince Aragona	NextG Networks
Ms. Lynn George	NextG Networks
Mr. Cory Autrey	Sprint PCS
Ms. Jennie Corella	Committee Staff

Chairman, Mr. Solorzano opened the meeting at 10:15 AM.

The members did not follow the agenda at this meeting. The topic of discussion was poles, and pole costs. Ms. Corella stated that the new pole costs are to be set for 2004. Therefore, she distributed the pole price matrix for the members to review.

Ms. Dell inquired into the cost of transferring equipment from a wood pole to a fiberglass pole. Mr. Solorzano responded that the costs for transferring equipment from a wood to a composite pole are the same. Ms. Dell stated that her concern was with the equipment on arms. Mr. Cox stated that the material cost of a composite fiberglass arm is greater than that of wood.

Ms. Prouty inquired if Edison decides to place a composite fiberglass pole, do they allow the joint members the option of deciding the manufacturer. Ms. Dell responded that Edison would be using the authorized fiberglass pole vendor that they have approved. Mr. Solorzano stated that all manufacturers pole classifications are in the same standard. Ms. Prouty stated that, according to a demonstration she viewed within her organization, there are different types of fiberglass poles. Therefore, depending on the type of construction required, it would be best to choose the correct vendor. Mr. Solorzano responded that he has faith that his

organization would contract a vendor who would manufacture quality poles that meet all construction standards. Ms. Prouty stated that her concern is the type of pole, or its physical shape (round or octagon). Mr. Cox responded that regardless of the shape of the pole, if it is a Class 4 pole, it should meet all the standards of its class.

Ms. Corella inquired if the members approved of the pole matrix and the elements. She would like to ensure that the matrix is correct prior to distributing the document to the membership. Mr. Solorzano stated that the Committee had agreed the matrix was correct in 2002.

Ms. Prouty inquired when loading would be added to JPAs for individual poles. Mr. Solorzano responded stating that loading is in the pre-planning and engineering column of the matrix. Ms. Prouty stated that her primary concern is loading calculations on composite fiberglass poles. Mr. Solorzano, and Ms. Prouty will discuss this further.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m., until May 22, 2003.

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October 15, 2003

A meeting of the **ad hoc Committee on Authorized Cost Elements** took place on the above date, at 11:00 a.m., at the Committee office. Those in attendance were:

Mr. Ernie Solorzano	Southern Calif. Edison
Ms. Sherri Goetz	Southern Calif. Edison
Mr. Randall Starkey	Adelphia Communications
Mr. Dan Lewis	Verizon California
Mr. Steven Schillert	Verizon California
Ms. Velma Prouty	SBC Pacific Bell
Ms. Lynn Prescott	Verizon Wireless
Ms. Lupe Hernandez	AT&T Wireless
Mr. Cory Autrey	Sprint PCS
Ms. Jennie Corella	Committee Staff

Chairman, Mr. Solorzano opened the meeting at 11:10 AM.

The first issue discussed was **Item 1350: 2004 Pole Prices**. Ms. Corella distributed the worksheet, which reflects the pole costs submitted by various members. The weighted average method is used to determine the proposed costs for the incoming year. The weighted average is determined by the number of poles set in the last five years by those members that have submitted pole costs. Mr. Lewis stated that in the past the high and low costs were removed. In reviewing the costs submitted, the members noted that the labor hours reported by the City of Los Angeles for digging and erecting appeared excessive. They agreed that they were not questioning the validity of the hours, but were curious at how the City of Los Angeles arrived at the total hours. Mr. Allen was not in attendance to answer the questions. Therefore, it was agreed to carry this issue over to the next meeting when Mr. Allen is in attendance. This item will remain open.

The next issue for discussion was **Item 1330: Revised 2002 Steel Prices**. Mr. Solorzano stated that he continues to review lightweight steel and fiberglass costs within his organization. He stated that Edison has confirmed that the only method to set lightweight steel poles is to use a crane. These poles are manufactured in two pieces, and the longer poles may be manufactured in three pieces. He further stated that the question of when is it necessary to use a crane for setting a steel pole has been raised in

the past. Mr. Solorzano stressed that a crane is always necessary to raise the second or third pieces onto the pole. Ms. Hernandez stated that the questions in the past were in regards to whether setting a steel pole would only benefit the setting utility. If a wood pole would satisfy the other joint members, than a steel pole would not be necessary and would only benefit the setting member. Ms. Hernandez was not aware that steel poles were in two or three parts. Mr. Solorzano stated that this item would be on the discussion calendar of the November Board meeting. The issue of imbedding the crane costs into the lightweight steel pole prices will be the topic of discussion. If the Board approves the steel pole costs this item will be closed.

Mr. Solorzano reported that he would bring documentation in regards to **Item 1334: Visibility Strips** to the next Authorized Costs meeting. He stated that in the past viz strips were an Authorized Costs, and that Edison must maintain GO 95 standards. Edison must ensure that poles situated in precarious locations must be made visible. Total costs for viz strips are approximately \$10.00 to \$12.00 dollars. This item will remain open for further discussion.

Item 1341: Storm Costs was next on the agenda. Mr. Solorzano stated that he would propose doubling the labor costs required placing a pole back in the ground after a storm. Edison is the first utility called out during storm emergencies to re-establish service to customers. Service must be restored to customers as soon as possible even if it requires crews to work weekends, and evenings. Edison's labor costs are doubled, even tripled at times. Mr. Autrey inquired if this situation would be handled via Section 1.2, special agreement. Mr. Solorzano responded that he would like to create an Authorized Costs. This item will remain open at this time.

The last issue on the agenda was **Item 1351: 2004 Authorized Costs**. Mr. Lewis stated that in the past the Committee would agree on a percentage and increase all costs by the agreed upon rate. Mr. Solorzano reported that his staff is reviewing costs that are routinely used on JPAs. This item will remain open for further discussion.

Under miscellaneous items Ms. Prescott inquired if the year an anchor is placed should be reflected on a JPA. Ms. Prescott stated that the costs of purchasing into an anchor are high. She is aware that iPole will have the ability to reflect the year set of anchors. She would like to know how these costs were created, and the logic. It was decided to discuss this at the Routine Revision meeting, which would meet the following day.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m., until May 22, 2003.

Jennie Corella, Office Manager

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November 19, 2003

A meeting of the **ad hoc Committee on Authorized Cost Elements** took place on the above date, at 12:30 p.m., at the Committee office. Those in attendance were:

Mr. Ernie Solorzano	Southern Calif. Edison
Ms. Sherri Goetz	Southern Calif. Edison
Ms. Kathleen Dell	AT&T Wireless
Ms. Paula Haney	Verizon California
Mr. Robert Allen	City of Los Angeles (DWP)
Ms. Velma Prouty	SBC Pacific Bell
Ms. Lynn Prescott	Verizon Wireless
Ms. Lupe Hernandez	AT&T Wireless
Mr. Cory Autrey	Sprint PCS
Ms. Jennie Corella	Committee Staff

Chairman, Mr. Solorzano opened the meeting at 12:35 PM.

The first issue for discussion was **Item 1330: Revised 2002 Steel Prices**. Mr. Solorzano stated that he would research why the FOB costs for lightweight steel change dramatically from the 45-foot to 50-foot pole. In regards to the increase in crane costs, Mr. Solorzano stated that there are different size cranes.

The second issue on the agenda was **Item 1334: Visibility Strips**. Mr. Solorzano reported that in some instances, to meet GO 165 compliance, viz strips must be placed on poles. An example would be poles in alleys, or poles on corners. He further stated that in the past, the cost of viz strips was imbedded in the pole costs. He stated that the cost is minimal, approximately \$3.00 to \$5.00 dollars. He would like to propose an Authorized Costs for visibility strips. This item is to remain open at this time.

Item 1341: Storm Costs was next on the agenda. Mr. Solorzano stated that this issue regards the additional labor costs incurred by SCE when they are called to restore service to customers. He further stated that this issue has nothing to do with CEMA. SCE's labor costs double, and

triple in storm situations. Crews working evenings, and weekends in order to rapidly restore service to storm hit areas. What Mr. Solorzano will be proposing is additional hours/costs in this type of situation.

The fourth issue on the agenda was **Item 1350: 2004 Pole Prices**. Mr. Solorzano stated that he has submitted his pole costs to the JPC office. Ms. Hernandez briefed the members on this item. She reported that a question the members had from the prior meeting was the DWP pole costs. Under the digging and erecting column, DWP reflects 26 hours. The members are of the opinion that the hours are excessive. Mr. Allen reported that the majority of poles set by DWP are on property lines. His crews consist of five men. He further stated that these issues might not have been taken into account in the past. However, Mr. Allen stated that he would research the costs further. Mr. Solorzano reported that his pole costs would not be included in the weighted average, and that he would have separate costs. Ms. Prouty stated that she would like to view the weighted average pole spreadsheet with SCE costs included, as well as DWP. Ms. Corella responded that she would modify the pole spreadsheets.

The last issue on the agenda was **Item 1351: 2004 Authorized Costs**. Ms. Solorzano suggested that an email notice be sent to the entire Board asking them to review the Authorized Costs to ensure that the costs are in line with the way business is transacted today. Also to be included in the notice, is to ask the members if there is any Authorized Costs they might have a question or concern with, to send a notice to the JPC office, and/or plan on attending the January 2004 meeting.

Under miscellaneous items Ms. Solorzano reported that in conversations with PG&E, they have mentioned an interest in returning to the Committee. He further stated that he has asked Mr. Brian Morrow to send a communication to the Committee stating their interest in membership.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m., until December 17, 2003.

Jennie Corella, Office Manager