\*\*Sample PSPS News Release\*\*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June xx, 2019

Contact: [Agency Contact]

[AGENCY] **Urges Customers to Prepare for Power Outages That Could Impact Water and Sewer Service**

[DATELINE] — In preparation for potential power outages under the Public Safety Power Shutoff Program, [AGENCY NAME’S] is urging customers to understand the potential effects on water and sewer service and make necessary preparations.

[AGENCY NAME’S] water and sewer facilities rely on electrical power from [POWER PROVIDER’S NAME] to ensure safe and reliable operation of the system. A loss of power for an extended period could result in reduced water pressure or loss of water service.

In the event of a power outage that is expected to affect water and sewer service, [AGENCY NAME] will notify customers [HOW?] with instructions, such as limiting water use to critical public health and safety needs to help maintain water supply for fire suppression.

 [INSERT SPECIFIC STEPS YOUR AGENCY HAS TAKEN TO PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES AND NEW OR ONGOING STEPS RELATED TO THIS ISSUE, IE: HOW MANY OF YOUR FACILITIES HAVE A GENERATOR, DO YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN, HAVE YOU BEEN MEETING WITH YOUR LOCAL POWER PROVIDER ABOUT RESPONDING TO POWER OUTAGES, ARE YOU PURCHASING ADDITIONAL GENERATORS, ETC. ]

[AGENCY NAME] is committed to providing the reliable 24/7 service our customers expect. However, the extent of potential power outages are unknown. As such, we urge all customers to prepare for possible multi-day outages by taking the following steps as soon as possible.

* Have a 3-5 day emergency supply of drinking water available.
* Plan for medical needs, such as medications that may require refrigeration or devices that need power.
* Identify backup charging methods for phones and keep hard copies of emergency numbers.
* Build or restock your emergency kit with flashlights, fresh batteries, first aid supplies, and cash.
* Sign up for alerts about Public Safety Power Shutoff events by going to [www.prepareforpowerdown.com](http://www.prepareforpowerdown.com), a collaboration between Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric Company.
* [SIGN UP FOR ALERTS FROM YOUR AGENCY, IF THIS SERVICE IS AVAILABLE.]

To arrange a media interview with one of [AGENCY NAME’S] water managers about preparations for potential shutoffs, please contact [NAME OF EMPLOYEE] listed above.

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