

RESOLUTION NO. 20-057

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SARATOGA
IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 2178 (LEVINE) EMERGENCY SERVICES: DEENERGIZATION
DEFINITION**

WHEREAS, California has seen some of the most devastating wildfires in United States history in recent years and as a result power utilities have started initiated planned deenergization events, including public safety power shutoffs, on days when there is an increased risk for the spread of wildfire; and

WHEREAS, these shutoffs have resulted in the loss of power for millions of Californians and planned outages are expected to become more prevalent as the fire season gets longer and longer; and

WHEREAS, public safety power shutoffs represent a significant threat and the consequences are akin to a major disaster, putting those who rely on power for medical purposes at risk, compromising our telecommunications networks, creating traffic hazards with signal outages, and threatening our water and sanitation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the City of Saratoga experienced two public safety power shutoff events in October 2019, which required the City to deploy significant resources to ensure the safety of residents and timely communications on the planned outage; and

WHEREAS, the City of Saratoga Wildfire Public Safety Task Force has reviewed Assembly Bill (AB) 2178 and determined that it recognizes that planned deenergization events are comparable to a disaster and response efforts may exceed the available resources of a jurisdiction impacted by the outage by allowing local agencies to declare a local emergency for a planned deenergization event and would allow cities and counties to respond to power shutoffs more effectively and seek financial assistance from the State to recover response costs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Saratoga Wildfire Public Safety Task Force has recommended that the City Council support this bill.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Saratoga does hereby support AB 2178 (Levine), encourages Saratoga community members to express their thoughts on this bill to their State representatives, and urges the California State Legislature to adopt and the Governor of California to sign this bill into law.

The above and foregoing resolution was passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Saratoga City Council held on the 19th day of August 2020 by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Howard A. Miller, Vice Mayor Mary-Lynne Bernald, Council Members Yan Zhao, Rishi Kumar

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:



Howard A. Miller, Mayor

ATTEST:



Debbie Bretschneider, CMC, City Clerk

DATE: 8/20/2020