

## **PUBLIC STATEMENT**

**This press conference evolves following my retention originally for investigating the cause of a variety of 2007 fires in Southern California.**

**I have determined that the San Diego Gas and Electric system has a system design/installation error that has plagued San Diego County for years and gone un-detected.**

**San Diego Gas and Electric is in direct violation of Public Utilities Commission General Order 95, rule 56, i.e. Clearances.**

**This rule does not allow multiple down guys, utilized to support poles, to be attached at the same point, unless insulators are utilized. Rule 56 calls for at least 1-foot vertical clearance.**

**Transmission line 637 is in the heart of the Cedar Fire and the Witch Fire and is in direct violation of rule 56, thus under the correct conditions, allows arcing at ground level at the point of attachment of the down guys igniting dry brush.**

**I took it upon myself to act further and independently investigate the Paradise Fire and the Cedar Fire in 2003, since the cause has never been determined. I printed a map off of the internet to show the burn area and the start of the Paradise fire and drove to what appeared to be the beginning of the fire, only to find the exact same problem with down guys attached at the same location on the pole.**

**Fortunately the firm I was retained by, and our client agreed that Public Safety comes first and aided in my desire to present a demonstration to San Diego Gas and Electric on 12-17-07 to get immediate exposure and the problem corrected.**

I re-visited the sites of all three fires on 12-21-07 only to find nothing has been done to correct a very serious problem that is an emergency situation to prevent future fires.

Consequently after careful consideration, the only way I can raise the awareness, and expedite the utility to make repairs immediately, is to make a public announcement, so everybody understands, for repairs to be completed before the next dry spell with high winds.

I am frustrated as a former Utility employee, in that the problems I have found are basic, are violations of GO-95, and have gone undetected by everyone involved, especially when one considers all of the Utility professionals, the numerous investigations, the loss of property, lives, and livelihood. There is no excuse for this problem to have ever have existed, thereby creating a dangerous situation for the public, as it is clearly outlined in PUC –GO-95. Which governs all utility construction standards in the State of California.

Ladies and gentlemen, upon me realizing the magnitude of what I have discovered, and the number of those who were affected, and realizing that many will be affected by this announcement today , this decision to make a public announcement has weighed heavily on my shoulders, but left without choice as Public Safety and awareness is first.