

Avian Protection Plan

Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) has a service territory with over 4,300 miles of overhead lines. This allows us to provide approximately 600,000 residential and business customers with safe, reliable electricity.

SMUD's service territory supports large and diverse bird populations which reside year-round, nest, and winter here. Birds often perch on power poles to hunt or rest.

While a variety of birds can perch without consequence, large birds like owls and hawks are at risk of direct contact with electric wires. This could result in electrocution. Birds can also collide with power lines while in flight. Bird electrocution and collisions may interrupt electric service, start fires, and cause significant equipment damage.



Powering forward. Together.





SMUD's Avian Protection Plan (APP) focuses on three types of bird and powerline interactions:

- 1) Electrocutions
- 2) Collisions
- 3) Nesting birds.

The overall goal of the APP is to reduce avian mortality and also to reduce electrical outages and improve service reliability.

SMUD's APP aims to reduce bird mortality and bird caused outages in several ways, including training for our employees, nest management procedures, reporting and tracking where mortalities may occur, and retrofitting structures where fatalities have occurred or high-risk areas. Making overhead structures avian-safe includes installing perch deterrents, adding insulation on wires, installing markers to make the lines more visible, providing adequate space between electrical lines, and providing alternative nest structures.

SMUD's APP represents a consistent approach that emphasizes long-term partnerships between SMUD, the conservation community, and

regulatory agencies. The APP provides a framework for our commitment to evaluating power lines, addressing electrocution hazards, and working with regulatory agencies to conserve federally protected migratory birds.

For more information, please contact Kim Crawford, SMUD Environmental Specialist, at kimberly.crawford@smud.org or 916-732-5063.



Flight diverters on powerlines