



News Release

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Lightning Causes Widespread Outage for Thousands of RPU Customers

Riverside, Calif. – Power was interrupted for more than twenty-one thousand customers, including Kaiser Hospital early this morning due to lightning strikes from this weekend’s storm.

At around 2:30 a.m. Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) experienced the sudden loss of three sub-transmission lines. Concurrently, Riverside’s Fire Department was called to contain a fire at the Harvey-Lynn substation located in the La Sierra area of the city.

Initially RPU crews worked quickly to restore both the transmission lines and power to the hospital, which was completed by 4:25 a.m. By 6:30 a.m. service was restored for more than 17 thousand customers and power for all remaining customers was restored before 8 a.m.

“During major storms it is inevitable that we will lose some power to our customers,” said General Manager Girish Balachandran. “But when one of those customers is a hospital, it is particularly important that we restore power quickly and safely. I’m truly impressed by the quick response and professionalism of our trained crews during critical times.”

Established in 1895, Riverside Public Utilities is a consumer-owned water and electric utility governed by a board of nine community volunteers that provides high quality, reliable services to over 107,000 metered electric customers and up to 64,000 metered water customers throughout the City of Riverside. The Utility is committed to increased use of renewable energy resources and sustainable living practices that help reduce environmental impacts within the City of Riverside and the state of California.

www.RiversidePublicUtilities.com

www.GreenRiverside.com

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