

## CEP Magazine – January 2020 California utilities potentially liable for fires under "inverse condemnation" law

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By Sascha Matuszak

US law holds that, when the government seizes or damages land and does not pay compensation as required under the Fifth Amendment, the landowner must sue in court for damages. It is known as inverse condemnation, because the standard roles are switched: the government, although taking land or damaging it for an ostensibly official purpose, is the defendant.<sup>[1]</sup>

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