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SoCal Edison hit by hot weather, rolling blackouts

It may have been ant-sized compared to the elephantine outage of last August, but tell that to 70,000 Southern California Edison customers hit by rolling blackouts Monday ordered by the ISO.

Power lines in central California overloaded when demand peaked with warm temperatures.

Units were ramping up more slowly than demand, overloading Path 26, the ISO said.

**Meanwhile memories of the August outage are fading fast, AUS Consultants found in a survey of 1,009 consumers nationwide.**

**Outage concerns dropped to 49% from 55% last November, the pollsters found.**

**Fewer than 10% of those contacted thought residential customers should pay for grid upgrades, AUS added, with two-thirds believing upgrades should be paid for by government, utilities and big power users.**

**What a quaint way of getting someone else to pick up the tab! You wonder where governments and utilities get their money.**

**"Time heals everything," said Andre Chon, an AUS vice president.**

**Though the industry is still buzzing about reliability, Chon noted, "consumers are increasingly more concerned about the effect on their pocket book" and that will make it tougher for regulators and utilities to convince them to pick up the tab.**

**The good news?**

**Nearly two-thirds of those surveyed who are worried about outages were "somewhat willing" to pay 10% more over the next 10 years for upgrades.**

**Fewer than half of those not concerned about outages agreed.**

**Consumers need to be educated, Chon advised.**

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