## Attachment 1



Pacific Gas and Electric Company 1220 Andersen Drive Santa Rosa, CA 94901

April 5, 2016

Jason Nutt, Director of Transportation and Public Works Department City of Santa Rosa 69 Stony Circle Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Re: Outreach to private property owners regarding upcoming community gas safety work

Dear Mr. Nutt,

On behalf of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), thank you for the opportunity to discuss PG&E's ongoing gas safety efforts in the city of Santa Rosa. The safety of our customers and communities will always be our top priority, and we appreciate your partnership during this important work.

As we discussed, PG&E is focused on improving community safety by addressing potential risks to our gas transmission pipelines. Certain trees, brush, and structures can threaten gas safety because they can block first responders' access during emergencies and prevent PG&E crews from performing critical safety and maintenance work. In addition, tree and brush roots can damage underground pipelines over time by impacting the pipes' protective coating, leading to corrosion. National experts on pipeline safety and first responders agree that moving or replacing trees and other obstacles located too close to underground pipelines will make the community safer.

PG&E understands how important trees and landscape are to the residents of the city of Santa Rosa. Trees are very important to us, too. That's why we are closely reviewing the area above our gas transmission pipelines to ensure that we are only replacing those trees and bushes that pose a threat to public safety. While removing all vegetation from a minimum of 10 feet on either side of the transmission pipeline is industry best practice, we will work with property owners to conduct a detailed assessment of trees located on or adjacent to residential private property as detailed below (additional information can be found in Attachment A).

- PG&E will share with private property owners what we know about the safety risks, gather specific information about their tree(s) and property, and conduct a safety assessment.
- Trees and brush located between zero and five feet from the edge of the pipe will need to be removed to:
  - Help ensure first responders and emergency response crews have the minimum clearance (five feet on either side of the pipeline) for immediate access in an emergency;
  - o Protect the pipeline from damage caused by tree and brush roots; and
  - Help improve community safety.
- For trees and brush located between 5.1 and 14 feet from the edge of the pipeline, they may be determined to be a manageable risk and can potentially remain in place with ongoing monitoring by PG&E professionals. In the future, if these trees become an unacceptable risk to the pipeline, we will work with the property owner to address the situation at that time.
- PG&E will meet with the property owner to review the results of the safety assessment. When
  trees need to be removed for safety reasons, we will work with the property owner to offer
  replacement trees, to be planted a safe distance from the pipe at appropriate locations on the
  property. A list of tree and plant species that are safe for planting in the area around the pipeline
  can be found in Attachment B.
- PG&E will obtain ministerial encroachment permits and/or building permits associated with this
  gas safety work and offer mitigation options.

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#### **Schedule for Outreach**

PG&E will be working directly with private property owners regarding all proposed tree removals in the city of Santa Rosa. Below is a timeline of proposed outreach. We will continue to work in close coordination with designated city staff. Please note this timeline is subject to change based upon scheduling and availability of property owners.

- Week of April 25: PG&E will begin outreach to private property owners by mailing personalized letters to each property owner.
- Week of May 2: PG&E will work with private property owners to schedule onsite visits.
- Week of May 9: PG&E will begin meeting with property owners to explain the program, gather any additional information and jointly plans forward.

The timeline for beginning the safety work will depend upon agreements with the private property owners. As always, if there are any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Again, thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Brian Bottari

Government Relations Representative

Phone: 1-707-674-7332

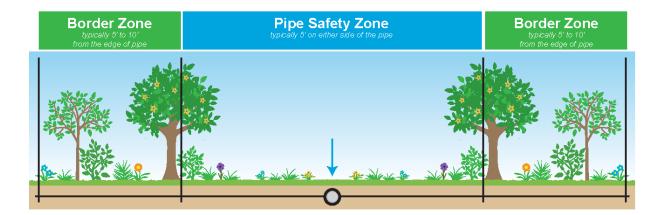
Email: brian.bottari@pge.com

### ATTACHMENT A

## Private Property Safety Assessment - Trees and Vegetation

PG&E understands how important trees are to customers, the community and the environment. To help ensure we are only replacing trees that pose a safety concern, we are conducting an assessment of trees located on private property. As part of this assessment, we will work with private property owners to share with them what we know about the safety risks and gather specific information about their tree and property. While removing vegetation from 10 feet on either side of the pipeline, and up to 14 feet for larger trees, is the industry's best practice to reduce safety risks, trees that are determined to be a manageable risk can potentially remain in place with ongoing monitoring and inspections by our PG&E safety professionals. In the future, it may be determined that these trees develop into a risk for the pipeline serving gas to the community, and we will work with the property owner to address the situation at that time.

The chart below outlines the steps PG&E will utilize to conduct the review of trees on private property. Please note the size of the tree canopy is not a factor affecting the safety review.



## **Pipe Safety Zone**

This zone includes the area five feet on either side of the transmission pipeline, which is the minimum clearance required to:

- · Ensure emergency access to the pipeline
- Protect the pipe from damage
- · Keep the community safe

As part of the private property safety assessment, PG&E will:

- Work together with the property owner
- Gather the distance from edge of pipe to edge of tree, including tree size at maturity
- If it is determined that a tree is located in the pipe safety zone, PG&E will offer the property owner a replacement tree to be planted a safe distance from the pipe

## **Border Zone**

Trees located in the border zone may be far enough away from the pipeline that they pose a risk PG&E can manage through ongoing monitoring. As part of the private property assessment, PG&E will work with the property owner to:

- Gather information about the tree and its distance from the pipe
- Review the data to determine if a tree is a manageable risk and can potentially remain in place for the time being with regular monitoring
- Provide replacement trees and restoration for any tree that the property owner would like removed for safety reasons

Note: for larger trees, the Border Zone extends to 14 feet from the edge of the pipe

Please note for trees located on property owned by the city of Santa Rosa, PG&E will continue to work with city leaders to conduct an in-depth review of every tree.

#### ATTACHMENT B



# **Community Pipeline Safety Initiative** Guide to Safe Landscaping Near Gas Pipelines

When planning new landscaping near underground utilities, it's important to remember that the right plant in the right location can both enhance the natural beauty of your home and help protect the safety of your community. Trees and plants located too close to gas transmission pipelines can delay emergency access for first responders and damage pipes. Below is a list of ultra-drought tolerant plant types that are safe in certain locations around the pipeline. Please note the suggested list is not all-inclusive.

**Outer Zone** Outer Zone **Border Zone Border Zone** Pipe Safety Zone

#### Pipe Safety Zone

Lawns, flowers, low-profile grasses and low-growing herbaceous plants are permitted within the Pipe Safety Zone. See the list below for plant suggestions.

azure penstemon

belladonna lily (Amaryllis belladonna)

blue eyed grass (Sisyrinchium bellum)

Bulbine

(Calylophus spp.)

California poppy (Eschscholzia californica)

chalk lettuce (Dudleya spp.)

daffodil (Narcissus spp.)

dymondia (Dymondia margaretae) grama grass (Bouteloua spp.)

June grass (Koeleria macrantha)

kangaroo paw

Monardella

purple needle grass (Stipa pulchra)

sea lavender (Limonium spp.)

showy milkweed (Asclepias speciosa) silverbush

stonecrop (Sedum spp.)

thyme (Thymus spp.)

UC Verde buffalograss (Buchloe dactyloides 'UC Verde')

yarrow (Achillea spp.) yellow sundrops (Calylophus spp.)

#### **Border Zone**

Small to medium shrubs with a trunk or main branch less than 8" in diameter at full maturity are permitted within the Border Zone. Diameter is measured at chest height. See the list below for plant suggestions.

Adam's needle (Yucca filamentosa)

agave (Agave spp.)

bear grass (Nolina microcarpa) buckwheat

(Eriogonum spp.) bush anemone

(Carpenteria californica)

California fuchsia (Epilobium canum)

California lilac (Ceanothus spp.)

California native sage (Salvia spp.)

California sagebrush (Artemisia spp.)

coffeeberry (Rhamnus californica)

coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis)

island tree poppy (Dendromecon spp.)

manzanita (Arctostaphylos spp.)

matilija poppy mountain mahogany (Cercocarpus betuloides) pipestem clematis (Clematis lasiantha)

rockrose (Cistus spp.) sacaton (Sporobolus spp.)

smoke tree (Cotinus coggygria)

snowberry (Symphoricarpos spp.)

silver bush lunine

sticky monkey flower (Mimulus aurantiacus)

westringia (Westringia spp.)

wild rye grass (Leymus spp.) wooly blue curls

Large shrubs and small trees with a trunk less than 36" in diameter at full maturity are permitted within the Outer Zone; however, if space allows, we recommend planting trees at an even greater distance from the pipeline. Diameter is measured at chest height. See the list below for small tree suggestions.

bottlebrush (Callistemon viminalis)

Catalina cherry (Prunus ilicifolia spp. lyonii) Catalina ironwood (Lyonothamnus floribundus ssp. asplenifolius) chitalpa (X Chitalpa tashkentensis)

desert willow flannel bush

(Fremontodendron spp.)

honey mesquite

lemonade berry lilac chastetree (Vitex agnus-castus) madrone/strawberry tree (Arbutus spp.)

Olive (Fruitless) (Olea europaea 'Swan Hill')

paloverde (Parkinsonia spp.)

toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia)

tree yuccas western redbud



## Be Safe. Dig Safe.

Before you begin any landscaping work, always call 811 at least two business days in advance. With one free call to 811, PG&E will send a crew that can mark our underground gas and electric facilities before you begin work, helping you plan a safe project.

The above list includes water-wise plants suited for most California climate zones, however each location is different, PG&E makes no representation or quarantee that these plants are suitable for every location. Please consult your local nursery for more information. If there is an electric powerline on or near your property, there may be additional land use restrictions. Please take care to consult any easement agreement you may have for your property or call PG&E at 1-877-259-8314.