

**PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
Wildfire Mitigation Plans Discovery 2023
Data Response**

PG&E Data Request No.:	CalAdvocates_016-Q005		
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DRU Index #:		Requester:	Holly Wehrman

The following questions relate to your 2023-2025 WMP submission.

QUESTION 005

Please explain PG&E's selection criteria for where to install the following equipment on underground circuits

- a) Pad-mounted transformers
- b) Subsurface transformers

ANSWER 005

- a) PG&E's standard is to install pad-mounted transformers on underground circuits where transformers are need. See the response to subpart b for when a pad-mount may not be used in favor of a subsurface transformers [For residential customers, we prefer to install pad-mounted transformers in the street franchise, easement, or right-of-way areas for multiple customers or on the customer's property for a single service. For non-residential customers, the preference is to install pad-mounted transformers outside / adjacent to the building on a concrete pad.]
- b) Subsurface transformers are typically not installed unless it is required to support easement acquisition, there is no space available for a pad-mounted transformer to be installed, or it is otherwise specified due to project-specific concerns. Reasons that subsurface transformers are not preferred include that a subsurface transformer located in an enclosure where the air circulation is restricted and the ambient temperature is high, such as in the Central Valley or some of the HFTD areas that see high summer temperatures, may exceed its capabilities at nameplate loading due to excessive temperature. Space is also limited in a subsurface enclosure, so load requirements that influence the size of the transformer may limit the option of installing a sub-surface transformer.

When one is needed, the preferred location for a subsurface transformer (from most preferred to least preferred) is generally:

- i. On the customer's property beside a sidewalk.
- ii. In a planted area between the curb and the sidewalk.
- iii. In the sidewalk.
- iv. In the paved portion of a parking lot.
- v. In the parking / shoulder area of a street.
- vi. In the trafficked portion of the street