

**PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
Wildfire Mitigation Plans Discovery 2022
Data Response**

PG&E Data Request No.:	CalAdvocates_018-Q01		
PG&E File Name:	WMP-Discovery2022_DR_CalAdvocates_018-Q01		
Request Date:	March 25, 2022	Requester DR No.:	CalAdvocates-PGE-2022WMP-18
Date Sent:	March 30, 2022	Requesting Party:	Public Advocates Office
PG&E Witness:		Requester:	Holly Wehrman

The following questions relate to your 2022 WMP Update submission.

QUESTION 01

PG&E's response to data request CalAdvocates-PGE-2022WMP-16, Question 11 referred to Exhibit PG&E-4 from PG&E's February 25, 2022 GRC Update.

Page 9-20 of this exhibit states,

“The updated EVM scope of work focuses on overhang clearing only; other activities previously included in the EVM scope of work are now addressed in Routine VM.”

Page 9-30 and 9-31 state,

“Ultimately, PG&E will conduct visual assessment of all sides of potential strike trees on routine vegetation management patrols in the entire 25,000 mile HFTD each year, whereas the existing hazard tree identification program under Enhanced VM addresses less than 2,000 miles annually.”

- a. Please explain what is meant by “visual assessment of all sides of potential strike trees” on pages 9-30 and 9-31 of Exhibit PG&E-4 from PG&E's February 25, 2022 GRC Update.
- b. Beginning in 2023, will PG&E's Routine VM patrols use PG&E's Tree Assessment Tool to assess potential strike trees on all HFTD circuit-miles?
- c. Beginning in 2023, will PG&E's Routine VM program include remediation and removal of potential strike trees on all HFTD circuit-miles? Please explain your answer.
- d. In comparing EVM work planned for 2022 and Routine VM work planned for 2023, does PG&E expect to remediate or remove more, fewer, or a similar number of potential strike trees in 2023? Please explain your answer.

ANSWER 01

For clarification, the excerpt from Exhibit PG&E-4, Chapter 9, pages 9-30 and 9-31 included in this data request was preceded by the following explanation:

Through 2022 PG&E is continuing a pilot program to include an enhanced process to perform visual assessment of all sides of potential strike trees on routine vegetation management patrols in HFTDs. The pilot program will inform an implementation of this enhanced process on 27 routine vegetation management patrols in HFTD.

The results of the pilot program will also help determine the need for the removal of the potentially hazardous trees.

- a. Visual assessment of all sides of the potential strike tree means that a Vegetation Management Inspector (VMI) would examine the strike tree from multiple angles to assess if existing tree conditions and/or if site conditions warrant the tree being abated.
- b. For 2023, PG&E will update its tree inspection standards, procedures and training which will outline how to identify the hazard trees. While an updated Tree Assessment Tool (TAT) will be available, how and if it will be used as part or Routine VM patrols has yet to be determined. For additional context, PG&E is currently in the process of updating the Tree Assessment Tool to make improvements based on feedback received over the course of 2021.
- c. Yes, beginning in 2023, PG&E's Routine VM program will include assessment of potential strike trees on routine vegetation management patrols in the entire ~25,000 mile HFTD each year. This assessment is referred to as Incremental Routine VM in PG&E's February 25, 2022 GRC Update. PG&E will remove hazard trees identified during this HFTD strike tree assessment. See Exhibit (PG&E-4), starting at p. 9-30, February 25, 2022 GRC Update.
- d. In comparing EVM work planned for 2022 and Routine VM work planned for 2023, under One Veg (strengthened Routine VM), PG&E expects overall to remediate more potential strike trees. This is because EVM work planned for 2022 covers 1,800 miles, while Routine VM work planned for 2023 will cover 25,000 miles.