

From: [McCartney, Tyson](#)
To: [Terzich, Christina P](#); [Richard Lam](#); [Inglin, Damian](#); [Webb, Jimmie](#); [Daleo, Michael](#); [Veihl, Richard K](#); [Molumby, William D](#)
Cc: [Woldemariam, Jonathan](#)
Subject: (External):RE: Hold IOU WUI Research Coordination - Fuel Clearing and Modification Study - Problem Statement Drafts
Date: Monday, December 11, 2023 11:59:28 AM

Classification: Internal

Team,

Below are my initial problems statement drafts. Your review and enhancements/additions are appreciated.

1. 10ftx8ft firebreak per PRC 4292 and Guidance provided for SRA land in 14 CCR 1255

Statement

The origin of these clearance recommendations is unclear warranting a contemporary documented evaluation of these clearance requirements to validate adequacy or propose alternatives for consideration of California Utility Regulatory (CPUC, OEIS and CalFire/Board of Forestry).

Considerations

- Current code is targeted at specific equipment and normal operations that may expel hot or molten material to ground, ladder or aerial fuels.
 - Are there different clearance considerations to mitigate Transmission or Distribution equipment failures
- Transmission and Distribution poles and structures are variable in size and shape. Do these variations warrant different clearances based on operational and site considerations?
- Are there management practices or situations that do not justify bareground firebreak maintenance
 - Residential Landscaping
 - Areas where surrounding conditions or improvements act as appropriate firebreaks
 - Hardscape
 - Environmental impacts of bareground firebreaks

2. Additional Fuel Management Activities for utility asset protection and/or wildfire mitigation

Statement

California utilities are beginning to explore the benefits of conducting additional fuel management activities to protect or minimize impacts of wildfires (all causes) to assets and reduce risk of utility ignitions contributing to the rapid spread or development of destructive wildfires.

Considerations

- Are radial clearances around assets an appropriate approach or is maintenance/modification of fuels in the entire Right-of Way more beneficial.
 - What are appropriate size(s) or area(s) of treatment
- Are there recommendations for different fuel types and fuel loading situations that can inform specific recommendations for horizontal and vertical continuity of fuels
- What are appropriate maintenance intervals
- Are there situations where fuel management practices may increase wildfire risks?

- Removal of brush or overstory fuels creating space for more flashy annual fuel crops
- Creating opportunity for noxious or invasive weed species spread
- Potential for conflicts with environmental regulation or California Forest Practice Rules

Thanks

Ty McCartney

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Wildfire Risk Management
Pacific Gas and Electric Company

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The measures included in this email are contemplated as additional precautionary measures intended to further reduce the risk of wildfires.

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Terzich, Christina P <CTerzich@sdge.com>

Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 11:16 AM

To: McCartney, Tyson; Richard Lam; Inglin, Damian; Webb, Jimmie; Daleo, Michael; Veihl, Richard K; McCartney, Tyson; Molumby, William D

Cc: Woldemariam, Jonathan

Subject: Hold IOU WUI Research Coordination - Fuel Clearing and Modification Study

When: Thursday, December 7, 2023 1:00 PM-2:00 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

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AGENDA

- I. Review Fuels Management Program Questionnaire by each IOU – Each IOU Lead (see attached SDG&E Responses)
- II. Review Updated Fuels Management Scope Outline – **Richard Lam**, SCE
- III. Finalize for Sharing with the WUI the Updated Fuels Management Scope Outline – All
- IV. Identify a lead and team to add details to scope outline using existing information and new language – All
- V. Action Items and Next Steps

Research Initiation Form

Cal Poly's Role: Cal Poly is the lead/prime

Sponsor: Investor-Owned Utilities Consortium Sponsor Contact: tyson.mccartney@pge.com Prime

Sponsor: Investor-Owned Utilities Consortium Proposal Deadline: Fri, 12/01/2023 Pass-through

Entity: Investor-Owned Utilities Consortium Working Proposal Title: Optimum Vegetation Clearance to Protect Electrical Transmissions & Distribution Towers/Poles Request for Proposal (RFP) /

Solicitation Document Type: Other Information RFP / Solicitation Other Information:

Current Practice

- Brush clear 10' from the base of pole, in line with compliance requirement
- Each year, proactively select 500 high risk poles to perform fuels management for a 50' radius

Goal

- Determine optimum brush clearing/fuel management distance(s) to mitigate ignition risk
 - o Different conditions and/or types of pole mounted equipment may have different optimum clearance distances

Request for Support

- Investigate what, if any, research has previously been conducted related to:
 - o Brush clearing around utility poles
 - o Optimum brush clear distance(s) and corresponding parameters
 - o Historic ignition distances from utility poles
 - o Theoretical ignition distances from utility poles
 - o Projection distances associated with pole mounted equipment failure, may vary depending on equipment type
- Initiate a work plan to fill any data gaps in the above with the WUI leading the research

Action Items from 11/9/2023 Meeting:

Action Items. [Mike D](#) to prepare a veg/fuel management current practice questionnaire for each utility to fill out which will include SDG&E's responses. [Richard L](#) to update the current scope based on input from SCE SMEs based on the three topic areas that he outlined in the meeting. I will prepare an agenda for next meeting on Dec 7th and circulate ahead of time. Make sure to forward the meeting to all of the pertinent SMEs.

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