

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

PG&E Data Request No.:	CalAdvocates_015-Q001		
PG&E File Name:	WMP-Discovery2023_DR_CalAdvocates_015-Q001		
Request Date:	April 11, 2023	Requester DR No.:	CalAdvocates-PGE-2023WMP-15
Date Sent:	April 14, 2023	Requesting Party:	Public Advocates Office
DRU Index #:		Requester:	Miles Gordon

The following questions relate to your 2023-2025 WMP submission and your response to data request CalAdvocates-PGE-2023WMP-08.

QUESTION 001

PG&E states in response to Question 1 (b) of CalAdvocates-PGE-2023WMP-08:

PG&E will maintain clearances where EVM work occurred. PG&E will also be prescribing a minimum radial clearance of 12 feet throughout the system within HFTD and HFRA. Two new programs, Vegetation Management for Operational Mitigation (VMOM) and Focused Tree Inspection, are likely to result in individual trees that warrant enhanced clearance where EVM was not implemented. These programs inform clearances based on available outage data and trends, as well as site and tree specific conditions. While not called out as a uniform scope, clearances in portions of these targeted circuit segments may have similarities to EVM.

- a) Are the abovementioned two new programs (Vegetation Management for Operational Mitigations and Focused Tree Inspections) to take place through PG&E's system, as opposed to just in the HFTD or HFRA?
- b) Please describe the circumstances in which an individual tree would warrant enhanced clearance under the Vegetation Management for Operational Mitigations program.
- c) Please describe the circumstances in which an individual tree would warrant enhanced clearance under the Focused Tree Inspections program.
- d) Please describe how each of the two new programs "inform clearances based on available outage data and trends, as well as site and tree specific conditions".

ANSWER 001

- a) Vegetation Management for Operational Mitigation (VMOM) will be primarily focused in HFTD and HFRA. There are instances where a circuit segment may cross in or out of HFTD/HFRA and VMOM would complete work on the whole circuit segment including the areas outside HFTD/HFRA. Focused Tree Inspections are planned for HFTD areas in the plan developed for 2023.

- b) Enhanced clearances under the VMOM may be warranted under a variety of circumstances because the driver for outages can vary by region. Examples include but are not limited to:
1. A tree identified under the Extent of Conditions patrol as having defects where enhanced clearances are needed to avoid tree-line conflicts.
 2. A scenario where larger overhang clearance will be prudent to avoid limb or branch failure towards the line.
 3. A tree identified under regional tree failure patterns based on historical outage data and local knowledge, such as sudden oak death in the California Coastal areas.
 4. A tree identified because of site specific conditions such as wind exposure, erosion concerns, or other environmental factors.
- c) The Focused Tree Inspection program will require inspection by Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) inspectors utilizing the Basic Tree Assessment Form as needed. Enhanced clearances may be required if the assessment identifies potential for tree-line conflicts. Circumstances where this would lead to enhanced clearances include, but are not limited to, when trimming work needed will result in more than 30% of the canopy being removed, making tree removal a better overall mitigation due to potential tree health impacts, and when lean or other structural defects of an otherwise healthy green tree has potential to strike assets.
- d) For the FTI pilots please refer to response provided for CalAdvocates _ 015 -Q 012 a and b for details on how outage data and trends inform inspections. The TRAQ certified Arborists are expected to determine appropriate clearances based on this knowledge in addition to their evaluation of site-specific tree conditions. For VMOM, historical outage data and is being utilized to develop regional inspection criteria based on species composition and failure patterns. The VMOM extent of condition patrols start by evaluating the tree that caused the outage and then patrolling 5 spans in all directions looking for additional trees that may exhibit similar site and tree specific characteristics.