

## Vegetation Management Distribution Inspection Procedure

### Attachment 1, Strategies to Manage and Reduce Palms

This attachment discusses the management and reduction strategy for palm trees. Commonly, palm trees cannot be prescribed enough clearance to maintain one-year of compliance therefore, removal is preferred. The goal is to effectively address palm trees and ultimately, obtain permission to remove the palm.

#### Strategies to Manage and Reduce Palms

Options	Considerations
Removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is this an appropriate removal? Consider the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Is palm positioned below the conductors?</li> <li>○ Will the tree be in violation before the next cycle?</li> <li>○ Diameter at breast height (DBH) and height</li> <li>○ Reliability and facility protection</li> <li>○ Is it a city tree?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Will replacement tree(s) facilitate successful removal negotiations with the customer?</li> <li>• VPM may consider additional time and material (T&amp;M) for wood removal, to secure removal permission from reluctant customers. Use of 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractor list can be considered for wood removal if approved by VPM. Customer can provide dumpster for wood.</li> <li>• Do the land rights give PG&amp;E the authority to remove the tree in question?</li> </ul>
Prune	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be used only for palms to the side that will grow past the lines.</li> <li>• Do not negotiate pruning prescriptions with the customer.</li> <li>• Determine whether previous clearance distance maintained compliance for at least one (1) cycle.</li> <li>• Increasing the radial clearance may not be the best way to maximize the time the tree will stay in compliance.</li> <li>• Prescribe a side trim or slope cut and make notes to cut upper fronds that will droop down into violation in the future.</li> <li>• For feather palms, consider removing partial fronds when side pruning to slow the downward movement of upper fronds. Palms maintain a certain number of fronds at any one time. As you remove living fronds, new frond growth is encouraged. Not removing the whole frond may actually provide a longer cycle before next trim is required.</li> <li>• Inspection during subsequent cycles, including bi-annual patrols, can help determine whether trimming strategies are maintaining compliance. If not, consider alternatives such as removal.</li> </ul>
Work Tracking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Palm Letters by themselves do not ensure that one full year of clearance will be obtained. Individual palms or locations may fall through the cracks. For palms that will not hold clearance for a full year with normal pruning, the refusal process should be used.</li> </ul>

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Options	Considerations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The refusal process is used to track unmanageable palms when the customer refuses removal. Although PG&amp;E may or may not have the right to remove or kill the palm, PG&amp;E does have the right and responsibility to obtain one-year' worth of clearance even if that clearance removes the heart of the palm and kills it.</li> </ul>
Transplanting and Palm Brokers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Palms may be valuable enough to justify transplantation by the customer.</li> <li>Customer should contact palm broker and coordinate work.</li> <li>This alternative should be initiated at least 2-3 years before the tree enters within 10' of the high voltage lines. Palm brokers may not be interested in trees that have been pruned due to concerns about disease or appearance.</li> <li>Line-kills may be appropriate, at property owner expense, during transplantation to ensure safety.</li> <li>Always prescribe necessary pruning to maintain compliance until the next cycle, even if the customer says they will move the palm.</li> </ul>
Engineering and Line Construction Solutions  <i>For VPM/SCUF consideration only.</i>  <i>Do not share with customer.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not discuss engineering alternatives with the customer (VPM/Forester only).</li> <li>The best opportunity to address the adverse effects of trees on distribution lines is at the time of initial design. Notify VPM of the potential infrastructure alterations including new line construction, upgrades to the electrical system, and road widening or relocation projects.</li> <li>At the customer's request and expense, the electric construction department may consider overhead construction alternatives including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alley or wing arm construction</li> <li>Compact construction and/or changing pin spacing</li> <li>Aerial cable</li> <li>Tree wire or raychem wire covering</li> </ul> </li> <li>Always prescribe necessary trimming to maintain compliance until the next cycle, even if the customer says they will pursue a construction change.</li> </ul>

- Any additional costs associated with transplanted, re-engineering, and/or line reconstruction will be at the property owner's expense.

#### REVISION NOTES

Where?	What Changed?
NA	Original publication.