

# Vegetation Management Enhanced Tree Management Program

As part of our commitment to public safety, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) wants to ensure that trees planted on private property do not interfere with the safe and reliable operation of our electric lines. Trees that fall or grow into electric lines may cause fires, outages or safety concerns. Our Vegetation Management Program manages approximately 147 million trees and other types of vegetation along electric lines to minimize the risk of outages and wildfires and to improve the reliability of electric service to our customers.

## What to expect

As part of our Vegetation Management Program, we will begin offering treatment with tree growth regulators (TGRs) in specific areas where customers permit us to do so. During routine inspection of electric lines, if a tree is a good candidate for treatment, we will explain the process and benefits to property owners and then provide them with the option to have TGR applied to their trees at no cost to them. Only licensed PG&E contractors are permitted to apply TGRs by injection into the tree root area; they do not spray on the surface of the soil.

## Benefits of tree growth regulators

TGRs regulate the growth of tree branches for up to 2-4 years and can boost root growth for improved tree health. Property owners benefit by having less routine pruning occur on their properties, improved tree health and aesthetics, and increased drought and pest tolerance.

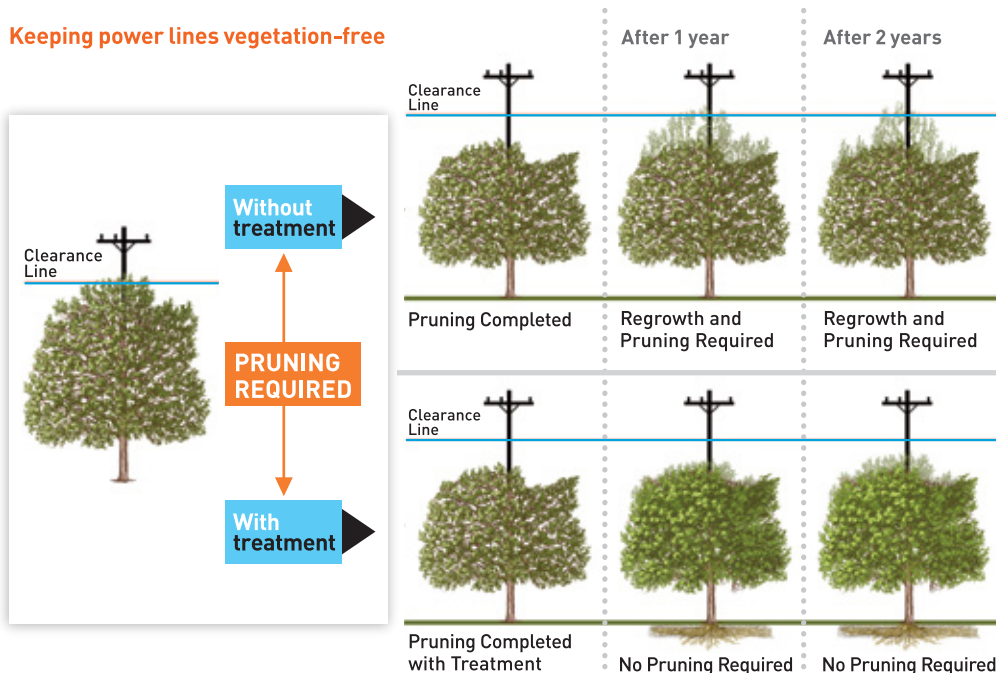
## Tree growth regulator history

TGRs have been in use for more than half a century. Home gardening and tree related industries have used them to produce ornamental plants since the 1960s. Utilities began using TGRs in the 1990s after researchers found that treated trees require less frequent pruning. Utilities, golf courses and nurseries routinely use TGRs as an alternative to frequent pruning.

## Focus on safety

The active ingredient in TGRs, paclobutrazol, carries the lowest caution label assigned by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. TGRs pose no unreasonable adverse effects to trees, humans, animals or the environment. TGRs may temporarily limit the growth of grass or shrubs against the base of the tree but do not damage those plants. Leaves, wood and chips of treated trees are safe to use as mulch since TGRs break down into harmless elements.

## Keeping power lines vegetation-free



Our use of TGRs for tree maintenance will create a safer, cleaner and more reliable electric system for your community. If you have questions, please reach out to your local PG&E representative.