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Sent: 3/26/2014 8:55:44 PM  
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Bcc:  
Subject: Pipeline Pathways outreach plan

Terrie

I know you're getting a lot of inquiries about our tree removal plan for areas near our gas transmission pipelines.

I have a few hard copies of a package of materials (prepared by Ivan Altamura who is Director of our Pipeline Pathways program) that I will drop off for you tomorrow when I come to the Commission meeting. That package is a compilation of materials we give to customers, including local governments, at various stages in the communication process.

But Liza asked that I get you info tonight about our outreach plan and I am hopeful these two attachments will begin to explain the approach we use.

The attached "City Engagement Timeline" is an internal planning document, but it's not confidential. You'll see that we plan at least 8 weeks ahead, and continue through completion. The second attachment is a flowchart that describes the program from end to end.

By way of brief background, the Pipeline Pathways Program is the title we've given to the gas transmission pipeline inventory, encroachment remediation and right of way "reclamation" work that's been underway for the last two years. (The second attachment lays this out.) At the risk of giving you more into than you want, the steps in that program included:

- First we conducted a comprehensive survey of our 6,750 mile gas transmission pipeline using GPS mapping technology so we have a precise pipeline map.

- We installed pipeline markers where they were missing or damaged.
- We identified facilities and vegetation that were in the right of way and that might interfere with our ability to safely maintain and operate the pipeline. We need access to the pipeline to be able to do things like conduct ground level leak surveys and examine pipelines for evidence of external corrosion. And if there are leaks or emergency situations, both we and emergency responders need ready access to the gas facilities. In addition, industry-leading work we have commissioned in the last year to examine the potential effects of tree roots on transmission pipelines has strongly influenced our view of the need to remove certain vegetation.
- Now that we have identified encroachments that need to be removed, we are working with individual customers and local governments to discuss ways to remediate the incompatible items at no cost to the customer.

That sounds pretty straightforward, but of course we encounter a variety of issues. We have already worked with many individual customers to remove structures that were built over pipelines on their property. We enlist the services of architects and landscape architects and builders as appropriate to restore and improve customers' property; we have many positive examples (with before and after photos) where we have been able to successfully negotiate with individual customers to resolve their property issues.

We also have some positive local government relationships as well, but as you know things have taken a turn in the East Bay, and we are now preparing an enhanced plan to reach out to the cities and more fully explain the program and our intent to work collaboratively with them to develop a mutually agreeable right of way reclamation strategy for each city. This will take time, and we have communicated to the Mayor of Walnut Creek that we will not remove trees on public lands in Walnut Creek while we continue to work with city officials on a plan.

I'll drop off the hard copies with the additional materials tomorrow, and I also will email you an example of a "strategic planning document" that is typical of the information we provide to a city in our initial outreach. It includes maps of the affected areas, and an overview of the projects planned for the city.

I will also send you a separate email tonight that includes the tree root study I referenced above. We also provided it today to the City of Walnut Creek.

Sorry for the long email. Greg or I will keep you updated as things progress.

Thanks for your patience.

Laura