

From: Allen, Meredith  
Sent: 5/16/2014 2:31:28 PM  
To: Terrie D. Prosper (terrie.prosper@cpuc.ca.gov)  
Cc: Doll, Laura (/O=PG&E/OU=CORPORATE/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=LRDD)  
Bcc:  
Subject: RE: Questions on Tree Trimming on Oakland

Terrie,

Below is the information concerning the tree trimming. Do you have a few minutes to discuss this afternoon?

Thanks,  
Meredith

PG&E inspects all of its line each year for public safety and compliance with General Order 95. As a result of this process, 11 trees in Glen Oak Park near high voltage lines have been scheduled for pruning. These trees were inspected by a certified arborist. We plan to remove 30% or less of the canopy of the 11 trees for public safety and compliance with CPUC requirements. Most of these trees have been pruned in the past through our routine, safety maintenance program. There are six Acacia, two Redwood, two Oak and one Cedar that need to be trimmed. We do not plan to remove any trees.

We are not required to seek permits for trimming on City of Oakland property. We have developed a cooperative process with Oakland under which we notify the City of removals on City property, but generally not tree trimming. In this case, we did notify the Oakland Department of Public Works of the planned work as we had two customer calls raising concerns with the work. We have reached out to the customers and offered to meet with them, but so far they have not returned our phone calls. One of the customers stated that they are requesting information on PG&E's Rule 20A undergrounding program and they are meeting with a City Council member and Director of Environmental Indicator Projects to discuss the work.

We have heard from the City that two oak trees recently fell in the park and they have done pruning work there. The City typically does not inform us of their work unless it impacts our facilities.

In addition, the City of Oakland has not initiated a Rule 20A project for the Oak Glen Park

neighborhood.

The process to initiate a Rule 20A project is that either the City Council or City Staff contacts either PG&E Government Relations or the Rule 20A team. PG&E's Rule 20A team would then work with City Staff to define a qualifying project (project boundary), work with other utilities (AT&T, CATV and city streetlights) and prepare a draft resolution that would be presented to the Council for a public hearing and adoption as a formal Rule 20A project. Then, assuming the city had enough Rule 20A credits, the project would be placed in the queue for engineering and construction.

Qualifying Rule 20A projects are chosen by the City, not by the utilities. Oakland has a process whereby neighborhoods can petition the city for a Rule 20A project. This is described within the City of Oakland

website: <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/PWA/o/IO/s/UU/index.htm>

In the recent past, Oakland approved a Rule 20A project along Macarthur Blvd from the San Leandro border. The Macarthur Blvd project was completed in 2010. Currently, PG&E and the other utilities are nearing completion of another Rule 20A project – Piedmont Pines Phase 1. The only other Rule 20A projects that the City of Oakland has in the queue as formal resolutions are Piedmont Pines Phases 2 and 3.

On May 16, 2014, at 7:36 AM, "Doll, Laura" <[LRDD@pge.com](mailto:LRDD@pge.com)> wrote:

Terrie  
Meredith is going to run this down and get info to you soon, most likely today.  
You're in good hands.

Thanks and happy Friday!  
Laura

**From:** Prosper, Terrie D. [<mailto:terrie.prosper@cpuc.ca.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 15, 2014 11:34 PM Pacific Standard Time  
**To:** Doll, Laura  
**Subject:** Questions on Tree Trimming on Oakland

Hi Laura,

At today's Voting Meeting a gentleman representing Friends of Oak Glen Park made comments about tree trimming in Oakland. He subsequently sent the email below to Paul Clanon. Paul has asked that my office meet with Mr. Harkinson and offer information about our process, safety efforts, and undergrounding.

I am reaching out to you to see what information you can provide about the situation that Mr. Harkinson describes, such as:

- What is the status of PG&E's permit request to remove 30 trees
  
- Whether you have spoken directly with Oakland City Council Member Lynette McElhaney and with Brooke Levin of the Oakland DPW about your plans
  
- Whether PG&E and ODWP are both trimming trees (and if so are you coordinating)
  
- Whether you've had an arborist evaluate the trees in the park that have been trimmed and the 30 proposed for removal
  
- Whether you are re-planting other trees if you receive permission to remove the 30
  
- If you know whether the process has started to request Rule 20A funds

etc.

Thanks!

Terrie

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**From:** Josh Harkinson

**Subject:** Friends of Oak Glen Park -- burying power lines

**Date:** May 15, 2014 at 1:49:48 PM PDT

**To:** <[pac@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:pac@cpuc.ca.gov)>

Paul,

Thanks for approaching me at today the CPUC meeting and expressing interest in our group's issues with the excessive cutting of oak trees in our park.

Photos of the affected trees, a map showing the park, and a lot of other relevant background information are on our blog: <http://glenechopark.tumblr.com/>

So far, we've been in contact with our city council member, Lynette McElhaney, and with Brooke Levin, head of the Oakland DPW, but we feel that this is ultimately an issue that deserves attention from the CPUC.

As I mentioned in part during today's meeting, Oak Glen Park has some of the oldest and best oak trees in the city of Oakland. These oaks screen the views and noise of the freeway and bio-filter its pollution. They also help stabilize the banks of Glen Echo Creek, which runs parallel to Richmond Boulevard through the length of the park. Oak Glen Park lies along the base of a steep slope that is part of an earthquake liquefaction zone. The park exists in the middle of a very dense inner city neighborhood that contains a large amount of multi-unit public housing and a number of families with kids who have asthma. More broadly, the park lies within Oakland's Broadway/Valdez District, which is slated to become even denser under the city's forthcoming Broadway Valdez Plan. In addition, several of the properties adjacent to the park are designated Oakland Heritage Properties, and Richmond Blvd is a candidate to become a historic district. Oak Glen park is actively used by the surrounding neighborhood as a place for people to gather and kids to play.

Despite playing a vital role in community health, beautification, history, and public recreation, Oak Glen Park is being devastated by excessive tree "pruning" carried out with little or no coordination by multiple utilities and public agencies. As you can see from photos on our blog, the park is marred by a dense collection of power lines. Its ancient oaks have been excessively hacked and stunted to keep them away from these lines, which has in turn exposed them to disease, caused them to become unstable in some cases, and impeded their role as visual screens and filters of pollution and freeway noise.

PG&E is currently applying for a permit from the City of Oakland to remove more than 30 percent of the canopies of some of the park's largest and oldest oaks. We are asking that this permit be withdrawn or denied, and we would like the CPUC to prohibit PG&E and all other utilities from doing any tree pruning in the park until the park's overhead utility lines can be undergrounded through the 20A rule.

We believe that this is ultimately an environmental justice issue. Ratepayer money available through the 20A rule has been used to bury electrical lines in many other public areas around the state, yet our park, which was dedicated more than 100 years ago, has been repeatedly passed over in favor of other projects, often in wealthier, less populous neighborhoods with less pressing needs.

Thanks again for reaching out after the meeting. I will follow up to schedule a time for us to talk over the phone or in person, or feel free to give me a ring anytime at Redacted  
Redacted

Thanks,

Josh Harkinson

Friends of Oak Glen Park