1. Roll Call:
   Present: Chair Steve Price, Vice Chair Robert Hrubes, Members, Cathy Bleier, Yan Linhart, Mike Srago, Mary Torrusio.
   Also present; City Council Liaison, Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto, and Staff Liaison, Stephen Prée.

2. Committee Member Announcements: None.

3. Comments from the Public on non-agenda items:
   - Karen Pfeifer introduced herself as an interested applicant to the Urban Forest Committee.
   - Ralph Boniello announced that he is investigating tree planting grants and he invited the UFC to collaborate with him on possible projects in El Cerrito and Richmond. He said that he would write the grant application and has ideas for specific planting sites. A discussion followed regarding the limited number of grant funds available to communities, such as El Cerrito, that are not designated as economically disadvantaged. Cathy Bleier recommended that an ad-hoc subcommittee be formed to investigate further; Robert Hrubes and Mike Srago volunteered to work together with Mr. Boniello to pursue these grant opportunities.

4. Report from the City Council Liaison: Ms. Pardue-Okimoto updated the UFC on the following City Council business:
   - Council heard a presentation from the Contra Costa County Public Defender’s Office regarding rapid response for immigrant rescue from I.C.E.; people that need help may contact Ali Saidi.
   - Lime Bike - El Cerrito’s new bicycle rental service
   - Council approved the sale of the Mayfair block (north east corner of Cutting Blvd. & San Pablo Ave.) for development.
   - Black History Month; El Cerrito Police Department honors; Lunar New Year.
   - West Contra Costa Unified School District presentation to Council regarding El Cerrito student standings and challenges for African American male students.
   - WCCUSD decision to discontinue a contract with ECPD that assigned a police officer to the high school.

5. Presentation by Pacific Gas & Electric on the Urban Forest, Utility Delivery Interface
PG&E Vegetation Program Manager, Matthew McLane, gave a presentation (see attachment) followed by a question and answer period on the following topics:

- Tree inspection program
- Pruning is based on ANSI standards including directional pruning rather than topping.
- The 2003 east coast black out inspired the 2007 federal regulations that assure safe distance of trees to transmission (high voltage) lines.
- Coast Live Oaks are not compatible with any power lines.
- PG&E voucher program for tree replacement and partnership for tree planting events.
- PG&E is planning a more systematic approach to pruning which will allow more cooperation with cities. The UFC expressed a desire to coordinate more closely in this regard and PG&E expressed willingness to work with the committee.
- Discussion: Utility pruning (topping) often causes excessive weak growth, how pruning could be coordinated with cities for health of trees; undergrounding electrical lines- “Rule 20 A” (costs are significantly more than overhead); species failure database; 8 ft. pole clearance; CEMA responds to emergencies; PG&E is looking for people who want wood chips; link to PGE.com trees: [https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/yard-safety/powerlines-and-trees/manage-trees-and-plants-near-power-lines.page?WT.mc_id=Vanity_trees](https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/yard-safety/powerlines-and-trees/manage-trees-and-plants-near-power-lines.page?WT.mc_id=Vanity_trees)
- The UFC unanimously expressed appreciation for Mr. McLane’s presentation.

6. **Action Items**- A motion to adopt the minutes from the January 8, 2018 meeting was made by Robert Hrubes, 2nd, Cathy Bleier; adopted unanimously.

7. **Report from the City Arborist**- Stephen Prée provided a brief update, on January volunteer work day removing ivy from forest trees in Canyon Trail Park with the Prospect Sierra Elementary School parents.

8. **Tree Committee Activities, Calendar and Work Plan Update** :
   A. Education and Outreach Planning-
      - Arbor Week – March 7-14. Chair Price reported that he attended the February Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) meeting and presented an invitation for an EQC, UFC collaborative Arbor Week event in Canyon Trail Park on March 10; the EQC proposed a weekday event that was to be investigated further by EQC members. UFC alternative activity discussion:
        i. Cerrito Vista Park Arbor Day planting of small native trees on March 7, with Prospect Sierra Middle School children.
        ii. Tree Circus to perform for Harding Elementary School children on a date TBD during Arbor Week.
      - Content of Urban Forestry Page on the City Website- Mary Torrusio collected web page mark-ups from UFC members; the ad-hoc subcommittee will review and record changes.

9. **Old/New Business** – UFC member inquired with Prée regarding approval status of City Tree List, Prée said that editing work is nearly completed; next step is submittal to City Manager.

10. **Future agenda items**
    - Website content
    - City Street Tree Planting Opportunities - Grants ad-hoc subcommittee
• Tree Ordinance Revision

Adjournment- 9:10
Electric Vegetation Management Program

Keeping communities safe with a proactive, data driven vegetation management program

Together, Building a Better California
Energyizing California for over 150 years

Provides electric service to
16 million people

Spans our diverse
70,000 square-mile service territory

20,000+ employees

Regulated by
FERC, NERC, WECC, CAISO
and the California Public Utilities Commission

Together, Building a Better California
About our program

Our Electric Vegetation Management Program:

- Inspects and monitors **134,000 miles** of overhead high voltage lines/year
- Annually visits **2 million properties**
- Manages an inventory of **55 million trees**
- Works an average of **6,000 trees per day**
Trees in contact with power lines are hazardous. They can:

- Disrupt electric service
- Endanger public safety
- Cause fires

Trees and power lines don’t mix.
2003 Northeastern outage

Failure to manage a single walnut tree underneath a transmission lines resulted in:

• Electrical outage lasting 3 days
• 50 million people affected
• 11 deaths
• Costs over $10 billion

The cause...failure to manage tree growth underneath transmission lines
Effective Vegetation Management provides public safety

PG&E employees work every day to reduce community hazards.

An effective Vegetation Management program:

• Allows safe, reliable and compliant delivery of electricity to your community
• Prevents the ignition of wild fires
• Protects and maintains the utility grid
• Complies with applicable regulatory requirements

We work every day to reduce community hazards
Vegetation Management performs a variety of work throughout California.
This minimum clearance requirement must be met at all times, in all weather.
### Minimum Compliance and regulatory Requirements requirements

|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 18” clearance 4KV-70KV (greater on transmission)              | Clear 10x8 cylinder at the base of subject poles and transmission structures | 4’ clearance 4KV-70KV  
10’ clearance 115 KV and above  
Dead, diseased, decayed trees in forested and wildland areas | Comply with PG&E’s filed maintenance program along all transmission lines | Clearance standard on voltage 15’ 500KV  
Zero tolerance for vegetation caused outages  
$1M fines each day of infraction  
Self report requirement |
| Dead, diseased, decayed trees                                 | Remove dead Vegetation up cylinder to primary                           |                                   |                                                                                           |                                                                                           |

- **Dead, diseased, decayed trees**
- **Minimum Compliance and regulatory Requirements requirements**
- **Clearance standard on voltage 15’ 500KV**
- **Zero tolerance for vegetation caused outages**
- **$1M fines each day of infraction**
- **Self report requirement**
Distribution reliability—it’s working

**Distribution Vegetation Zones**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ZONE</th>
<th>TREE POPULATION</th>
<th>ANNUAL TREES WORKED</th>
<th>% OF OUTAGES</th>
<th>VEGETATION RELATED OUTAGES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wire Zone</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>PG&amp;E: &lt;10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Border Zone</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>Other Utilities: 40–50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Zone</td>
<td>40,000,000</td>
<td>55,000</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Planting distances from power lines

200 ft.

50 ft.

15 ft.
PG&E’s Employees and Contract Work Force

Routine Transmission and Distribution Operations PG&E
- 1 Senior Manager
- 4 Manager
- 9 Supervising VPMs
- 28 VPM’s and specialized positions
- 7 Operating Clerks

CEMA PG&E
- 1 Manager
- 2 Supervising VPM’s
- 3 VPM’s
- 1 Operating Clerk

Planning and Strategy
- 1 Manager
- 2 Supervisors
- 5 Support Specialists
- 5 Quality Control and Quality Assurance Specialists
- 1 Operating Clerk

Contract Team Members
- 3,100 tree crews
- 690 Pre-Inspectors
- Annual CWAs for emergency response
- Specific contracts for major catastrophes
Electric Vegetation Management Methods
PG&E tree pruning methods are Recommended by the Arbor Day Foundation, The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and the American National Standard Institute (ANSI A-300). For example:

- Directional pruning is an industry recognized standard
- Provides the opportunity for power lines and trees to coexist safely
- Promotes growth away from power lines
- Proven to cause the least impact to the health and vigor of the tree

PG&E is recognized by The Arbor Day Foundation as a utility that protects and enhances America’s urban forests.
Tree removal

Often it is necessary for safety and regulatory compliance to remove tree that are:

• Incompatible with electric lines
• Dead, dying or diseased
• Hazardous and are unable to be pruned
Wood debris is defined by the California Board of Forestry as:

trees or tree branches < 4 inches in diameter

• We chip and remove accessible **wood debris < 4 inches** in diameter

• **Valuable wood > 4 inches** in diameter is cut into lengths for the customer use

• During the declared state of emergency, **PG&E does have some expanded options to support customers with large debris management and removal of dead and dying hazard trees**

Wood can be used as firewood, or for disposal, we instruct customers to contact their local fire safe council, visit [cafiresafecouncil.org](http://cafiresafecouncil.org).
Thank You!

Matthew McLane  
Vegetation Program Manager  
(925) 222- 1461