



**MEMORANDUM**

Community Services Department

**DATE:** November 14, 2018

**TO:** Urban Forestry Board

**FROM:** J.P. de la Montaigne, Community Services Director  
Michael A. Fuller, Public Works Director

**SUBJECT:** Community Pipeline Safety Initiative Tree Mitigation

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**PRESENTATION**

Public Works Director Mike Fuller and a representative from PG&E will provide an overview of the tree mitigation measures being taken through PG&E's Community Pipeline Safety Initiative.

**BACKGROUND**

As a courtesy to the City, PG&E is providing an update to the Urban Forestry Board regarding their tree mitigation efforts as part of the Community Pipeline Safety Initiative (CPSI). According to Section 32.27 of City Code, PG&E is not required to apply for permits for removal of Heritage trees.

*"SEC. 32.27. - Permit required: Exemptions.*

*b. Exemptions. A permit is not required to cut, encroach, remove or relocate a tree(s) under the following circumstances:*

*[...]*

*4. Public utilities subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California may take such action as may be necessary to comply with the safety regulations of said commission and as may be reasonably necessary to maintain the safe operation of their facilities. No pruning at the direction of any public utility or its agents pursuant to this subsection shall be performed in such a manner as to leave the tree in an unbalanced, unstable or other dangerous condition; or [...]"*

Despite not being required to apply for a permit, PG&E has agreed to provide information to the Urban Forestry Board and continues to work closely with staff and residents regarding every tree that needs to be removed for pipeline safety. PG&E has a 13-point checklist for each tree in order to determine whether it needs to be removed for safety. If a tree meets the requirements in that checklist, PG&E will work with either the City or the resident, depending on whether the tree is on public or private property.

For every Heritage tree that is removed, PG&E is planning to follow the City's guidelines of replacing at a 2:1 ratio. If it is not feasible to plant two trees as replacement, PG&E will pay into the City's Tree Mitigation Fund based on the fees in the Master Fee Schedule.

Attachment 1 is a memo from the Public Works Director which explains the Community Pipeline Safety Initiative in greater detail, including the tree removal and mitigation steps being taken by PG&E.

JPdIM-MAF/BR/2/CSD

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Attachment: 1. PG&E Gas Pipeline Safety Initiative Memo