

Vegetation Management Distribution Inspection

Attachment 1, Strategies to Manage and Reduce Palms

This attachment discusses the management and reduction strategy for palm trees. Commonly, palm trees cannot be prescribed enough clearance to maintain one-year of compliance. Therefore, removal is preferred. The goal is to effectively address palm trees and ultimately remove the palm trees.

Table 1. Strategies to Manage and Reduce Palms

Options	Considerations
Removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this an appropriate removal? Consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Is palm positioned below the conductors? ◦ Will the tree be in violation before the next cycle? ◦ Diameter at breast height (DBH) and height ◦ Reliability and facility protection ◦ Is it a city tree? • Do the land rights give PG&E the authority to remove the tree in question? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ If not, has the property owner approved the removal? • Will replacement tree(s) facilitate successful removal negotiations with the property owner? • VPM may consider additional time and material (T&M) for wood removal, as needed. If removal is approved by VM Supervisor (or by leaders above the VM Supervisor), use Subcontract Partners that have approved rates. Property owner can provide dumpster for wood.
Prune	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be used only for palms to the side that will grow past the lines. • Do not negotiate pruning prescriptions with the property owner. • Determine whether previous clearance distances have maintained compliance for at least one cycle. • Increasing the radial clearance may not be the best way to maximize the time the tree will stay in compliance. • Prescribe a side trim or slope cut and make notes to cut upper fronds that will droop down into violation in the future. • For feather palms, consider removing partial fronds when side pruning to slow the downward movement of upper fronds. Palms maintain a certain number of fronds at any one time. As living fronds are removed, new frond growth is encouraged. Not removing the whole frond may actually provide a longer cycle before next trim is required. • Inspection during subsequent cycles, including bi-annual patrols, can help determine whether trimming strategies are maintaining compliance. If not, consider alternatives such as removal.
Work Tracking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a property owner objects to the full Scope of Work, send the Palm Letter. • When a property owner continues to interfere with the Scope of Work, the interference process should be used (See Utility Procedure TD-7102P-04, "Vegetation Management Interference.")

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Options	Considerations
Transplanting and Palm Brokers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Palms may be valuable enough to justify transplantation by the property owner. Property owner should contact palm broker and coordinate work. This alternative should be initiated at least 2-3 years before the tree enters within 10' of the high voltage lines. Palm brokers may not be interested in trees that have been pruned due to concerns about disease or appearance. Line-kills may be appropriate, at property owner expense, during transplantation to ensure safety. Always prescribe necessary pruning to maintain compliance until the next cycle, even if the property owner says they will move the palm.
Engineering and Line Construction Solutions For VPM, VPL, VM Representative, or Delegate consideration only. Do not share with customer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not discuss engineering alternatives with the property owner. The best opportunity to address the adverse effects of trees on distribution lines is at the time of initial design. Notify the VPM/VPL of the potential infrastructure alterations including new line construction, upgrades to the electrical system, and road widening or relocation projects. At the property owner's request and expense, the electric construction department may consider overhead construction alternatives including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alley or wing arm construction Compact construction and/or changing pin spacing Aerial cable Tree wire or Raychem wire covering Always prescribe necessary trimming to maintain compliance until the next cycle, even if the property owner says they will pursue a construction change.

1. Any additional costs associated with transplantation, re-engineering, and/or line reconstruction will be at the property owner's expense.

REVISION NOTES

Where?	What Changed?
Entire Document	Reviewed document as part of the distribution consolidation efforts. Updated publication and effective dates. Revised language for Removal and Work Tracking options. Changed "customer" to "property owner" throughout document.