

**PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
Wildfire Mitigation Plans Discovery 2023
Data Response**

PG&E Data Request No.:	CalAdvocates_018-Q006		
PG&E File Name:	WMP-Discovery2023_DR_CalAdvocates_018-Q006		
Request Date:	April 24, 2023	Requester DR No.:	CalAdvocates-PGE-2023WMP-18
Date Sent:	April 27, 2023	Requesting Party:	Public Advocates Office
DRU Index #:		Requester:	Miles Gordon

The following questions relate to your 2023-2025 WMP submission and your responses to data request CalAdvocates-PGE-2023WMP-15.

QUESTION 006

In response to question 19(b)(iii) of CalAdvocates-PGE-2023WMP-15, PG&E states:

The difference [in projected vegetation management costs] of \$24,861,000 between 2023 and 2024 is due to several factors, ... (3) reducing unit costs through efficiencies over the rate case period through targeted programmatic adjustments that refine processes and improve resource efficiency.

- a) For which specific programs does PG&E anticipate reducing unit costs as mentioned in the quote above?
- b) For each individual program identified in your response to the previous part, please state the following:
 - i. Program/initiative name
 - ii. What efficiencies does PG&E anticipate realizing?
 - iii. Describe the “targeted programmatic adjustments” that PG&E is considering or planning to make.
 - iv. State the current unit costs and the applicable units.
 - v. State the unit costs that PG&E anticipates achieving in 2024 (on average for the year).
 - vi. State the unit costs that PG&E anticipates achieving in 2025 (on average for the year).

ANSWER 006

- a) PG&E anticipates reducing costs on EVM Transitional, Routine, Tree Mortality, and VC pole clearing programs.

- b)
- i. The three EVM transitional programs are Vegetation Management for Operational Mitigation (VMOM), Tree Removal Inventory (TRI), and Focused Tree Inspections (FTI).
 - ii. To maximize reduction of wildfire risk effectively and efficiently, the EVM program concluded in 2022 the transitional programs will be incorporated into the 2023 workplan, we anticipate a significant decrease in VM spend due to this. As PG&E continues the effort to underground distribution lines, we anticipate a reduction in costs related to tree work, we are evaluating additional operational mitigations, including partial voltage detection, downed conductor detection, and breakaway connector, each of which we anticipate further reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires.
 - iii.

We have been working with IBEW to identify opportunities to grow our internal inspection workforce. We hired approximately 150 internal resources in 2022 and have plans to hire an additional 150 resources in 2023, there is typically lower turnover with internal resources. We anticipate that this will create an internal team with the ability to efficiently inspect vegetation around PG&E distribution and transmission lines. In 2023 we are consolidating from 24 prime vendors to 14 to build a stable and predictable workplan. We are also implementing controls for sub-contracting and regionalized work and resources. This will provide a better experience for our customers by limiting repeat visits and lowering costs.

- iv. The following are the unit costs¹ and applicable units by program/initiative:

Program/Initiative	2023 Forecast	2024 Forecast	2025 Forecast
Tree Mortality-Units	65,081	65,000	65,000
Tree Mortality-Unit Cost	\$1,546	\$1,509	\$1,437
VMOM-Units (Trees)	17,000	17,000	17,000
VMOM-Unit Cost	\$1,380	\$1,345	\$1,281
TRI-Units(Trees)	15,000	20,000	25,000
TRI-Unit Cost	\$3,566	\$2,608	\$1,987

¹ Costs presented in this table reflect the specific WMP initiative cost, and will not include associated WMP initiative costs such as UDS, Wood Management, Emergency Response and Quality

FTI-Units(Miles)	5,100	5,100	\$5,100
FTI-Unit Cost	\$16,356	\$15,949	\$15,189
Routine-Units(Trees)	\$1,486,111	\$1,537,100	\$1,522,576
Routine-Unit Cost	\$497	\$468	\$450

v. See table above

vi. See table above