

**Laurel Gazza**

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**From:** Frances Herbert  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2016 9:29 AM  
**To:** Agenda Management Support  
**Subject:** 6.14.16 Item 36

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**From:** Nancy Macy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 17, 2016 4:50:25 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** Bruce McPherson; Greg Caput; John Leopold; Zach Friend; Supervisor Neal Coonerty  
**Cc:** Press Banner News ([pbeditor@pressbanner.com](mailto:pbeditor@pressbanner.com)); Don Miller  
**Subject:** PG&E Tree Removal Program in unnecessary at best....

Dear Supervisor Chair McPherson, and Members of the Board,

We have spent dozens, if not hundreds, of hours researching the connection between trees, shrubs, roots and gas pipelines. We are convinced that PG&E's plan to remove trees and shrubs from above and along the pressurized pipelines is both ill-conceived and potentially dangerous to the very pipelines they seek to access.

We are not just concerned with saving trees and shrubs. It is the likelihood that living trees and their roots, by removing water from saturated soils around the pipeline, actually reduce corrosion, and by reducing erosion, improve stability. It is also the possibility that trees help stabilize the pipelines during an earthquake. We are, of course, concerned that we will be losing trees' ability to enhance property values and to add beauty and cleaner air to our lives and the lives of visitors to our region.

It is as if, in an effort to show they are responding to the San Bruno tragedy, PG&E is latching on to the most visible and easy way to demonstrate they are doing something.

Whether that is the case or not, we feel that there are far higher priorities for improving safety that should be focused on first, especially reducing the time and effort it takes to turn off the gas and evacuate the pipeline for repairs when there is a leak.

We are not alone in our concerns. The meeting last week in Supervisor Leopold's district is a case in point locally, as is Sierra Club's involvement.

Regionally entire cities are putting on the brakes with PG&E. Here is a summary, by a member of Canopy, a long standing tree advocacy organization an that worked to help the City of Palo Alto to find a way to slow down the process. (See the email below that Santa Cruz resident Colette Streight forwarded to us.)

We hope you, as the governing body of our County will work for the same type of agreement.

Respectfully,

Nancy Macy, Co-Chair  
Environmental Committee for the SLV  
Valley Women's Club

831/338-6578  
831/345-1555 cell

cc: Brian Holtzclaw, Editor Press Banner; Don Miller, Editor Santa Cruz Sentinel

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Catherine Martineau <[catherine@canopy.org](mailto:catherine@canopy.org)>  
**To:** [cstreight@yahoo.com](mailto:cstreight@yahoo.com)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 17, 2016 12:25 PM  
**Subject:** FW: PG&E Tree Removal question

Dear Collette,

Thank you for reaching out to us. There was a lot of activity at the end of last year which culminated with a community meeting where PG&E gave a presentation to neighbors and other stakeholders, City of Palo Alto elected officials and staff, and Canopy representatives. Following that meeting the City told PG&E to:

1. Not cut any trees
2. Stop entering into separate agreements with private property owners
3. Cancel any prior agreement they had signed
4. Work with City staff on a model agreement that would incorporate specific guidelines for potential removal and mitigation

I haven't heard much since then and I believe the model agreement is not yet finalized.

The truth of the matter is that trees do not pose the threat to the pipeline that PG&E represents. So there is very little justification for the proposed removals. PG&E is going at it in a very fragmented way, community after community, pushing forward where they do not encounter resistance.

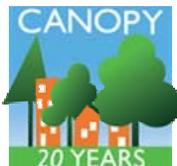
Involving the press seems to be a good strategy.

I've copied Palo Alto Urban Forester Walter Passmore who may be able to give you more information.

Best,

Catherine

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 Catherine Martineau  
 Executive Director  
[catherine@canopy.org](mailto:catherine@canopy.org) - (650) 964-6110 ext. 2



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**From:** Collette Streight [mailto:[cstreight@yahoo.com](mailto:cstreight@yahoo.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 17, 2016 12:14 PM  
**To:** [catherine@canopy.org](mailto:catherine@canopy.org); [pwps@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:pwps@cityofpaloalto.org)  
**Subject:** PG&E Tree Removal question

Hi,

I hope this email finds you well!

I am writing today because I am interested in finding out what is currently happening with Palo Alto's process to minimize the number of trees PG&E will kill in your community as part of their Community Pipeline Safety Initiative. I live in Santa Cruz County and we are in the middle of dealing with the same issue here. I think Palo Alto is further ahead of us in the process and we would like your guidance, counsel, collaboration in our efforts here.

I am coming from the perspective of a concerned citizen who also lives on a property that a transmission line runs through. My landlady and I have had several visits and meetings with PG&E reps, have been in touch with other concerned people, have helped motivate our County supervisor (John Leopold) to hold a community meeting with PG&E, etc. Things are heating up and we need support.

Any advice, information, insights and updates about your process would be MUCH appreciated.

My plan is to share any guidance and information you provide with our County Supervisors, our City Council members, our PWD folks, as well as our growing group of concerned citizens.

Thank you so much for your time and attention!

Collette Streight  
831/334-1478

