

*Southern California Edison*  
*2022-WMPs – 2022 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Updates*

**DATA REQUEST SET O E I S - S C E - 2 2 - 0 0 2**

**To: Energy Safety**  
**Prepared by: Napa Tayavibul**  
**Job Title: Senior Advisor, Compliance**  
**Received Date: 3/15/2022**

**Response Date: 3/18/2022**

---

**Question 16:**

Vegetation Management Personnel Retention:

- a. On page 406, SCE notes that it fell short of its 200,000 pole brush target in 2021 citing “access constraints and the ability to retain crews.”
  - i. How is SCE addressing turn-over and assuring retention of pole brushing personnel?
  - ii. Has SCE developed targets for improvement in vegetation management personnel retention?
    - (1) If SCE has developed targets for improvement in vegetation management personnel, what are those targets?
    - (2) If SCE has not developed targets for improvement in vegetation management personnel retention, what is the timeline for the development of those targets?

**Response to Question 16:**

- i. Pole brushing contractors manage their personnel. SCE’s contracts with its pole brushing vendors include performance targets that SCE relies on the contractors to meet; however, SCE does make hiring decisions for the contractors or control turn-over and retention of their personnel. In 2022, however, SCE is seeking additional contractors to meet SCE’s future pole brushing targets. SCE had two prime contractors to perform pole brushing activities in 2021. Pole brushing contracts are currently in the Request For Proposal (RFP) stage, and new contracts are expected to be awarded mid-year 2022. While the number of contractors selected is dependent on the bidding process, SCE would prefer to award at least three contracts to provide for adequate coverage in the event of performance issues. Additionally, SCE has refined its approach to expanded pole brushing in 2022, using a risk-based approach to focus its expanded pole brushing efforts on areas of greatest risk. This resulted in a lower WMP minimum target for pole brushing. *See* SCE WMP, Table SCE 4-1, page 32, and Table 5.3-1, pages 139 and 144-45.
- ii. In the 2022 WMP, there is a target for recruiting and training of skilled vegetation management personnel. Specifically, SCE’s target is to have 95 ISA-certified arborists supporting its vegetation management programs (*see* Table 5.3-1, page 143 of SCE’s 2022 WMP). This includes both SCE personnel and contractors who hold this certification.

With respect to pole brushing, that work is not performed by ISA-certified arborists, and does not require professional training or certification. In SCE’s experience, the labor force performing pole brushing work is more susceptible to general labor market shortages and trends, including for example, those related to the global pandemic. For these reasons, and the reasons stated in section

(i) above, SCE has not set staffing targets related to the retention of pole brushing personnel, but hopes to onboard additional pole brushing contractors in the RFP process described above.

(1) SCE's target is to maintain the current staffing level of 95 ISA certified arborists, see above.

(2) Not applicable.