

*Southern California Edison*

*WSD-011 – Resolution implementing the requirements of Public Utilities Code Sections 8389(d)(1), (2) and (4) related to catastrophic wildfire caused by electrical corporations subject to the Commission’s regulatory authority*

**DATA REQUEST SET T U R N - S C E - 0 0 6**

**To: TURN**

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**Job Title: Senior Manager, Compliance**

**Received Date: 3/12/2021**

**Response Date: 3/17/2021**

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**Question 005:**

Please identify whether enhanced vegetation management will also be required on miles where covered conductor is deployed. If the answer is yes, please quantify the cost of enhanced vegetation management on miles where covered conductor is deployed.

**Response to Question 005:**

SCE objects to the question as vague and ambiguous as to the term “enhanced vegetation management” and interprets that term to mean both SCE’s expanded 12-foot clearance at time of trim program in HFRA as well as SCE’s Hazard Tree Management Program (HTMP) in HFRA. Subject to that objection, SCE responds as follows:

It is appropriate to conduct enhanced vegetation management on areas that also have or will have covered conductor deployed for two principal reasons. First, the installation of covered conductor in large quantities takes material amounts of time and wildfire risk needs to be mitigated immediately and in the near-term. Enhanced vegetation management is relatively expeditious compared to the installation of covered conductor. Second, while covered conductor is an effective mitigation against certain wildfire risk drivers, especially intermittent contact from object such as small tree branches, palm fronds, etc., it does not completely mitigate against all types of wildfire risk, including certain vegetation contact blow-ins and fall-ins from large diameter tree trunks and limbs, that SCE’s enhanced vegetation management programs are intended to address.

SCE does not track vegetation management costs on a per mile basis and therefore cannot provide the cost for the miles where covered conductor has been or will be deployed without conducting a detailed study. Pruning costs in locations with covered conductor are expected to remain consistent with recently recorded costs. For hazard tree removal, the cost depends on the type, size, location, density and number of trees assessed that require removal which are adjacent to circuits with covered. SCE also does not track these costs by mile and therefore cannot provide the cost for the miles where covered conductor has been or will be deployed without conducting a detailed study.