



Bark Beetle Tree Removal Project

Guidelines for Reimbursement

Eligibility Requirements: SCE is authorized by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to reimburse property owners for their removal of dead, dying or diseased trees that meet the following requirements:

1. The trees are removed on or after April 3, 2003;
2. The property on which the trees are removed is located in the bark beetle-infested areas of San Bernardino or Riverside counties served by SCE; and
3. SCE has determined the trees could have impacted its electrical lines/facilities.

Reimbursement Amount: The CPUC has authorized SCE to reimburse property owners, for trees meeting the above eligibility requirements, the lower of their actual tree removal costs or SCE's average tree removal costs. SCE's average tree removal costs will be based upon factors including tree size, species and the method SCE would have used to remove the trees (*e.g.*, free fall, crane, or climbing). The reimbursement amount will be reduced by any federal, state or local funds, grants or assistance provided for the removal of the subject trees.

Reimbursement Process:

1. **Submittal of Reimbursement Form and Invoice:** A completed Request for Reimbursement Form and copies of the tree removal invoice(s) and any other required documentation as noted on the Form must be mailed to the address on the Form and postmarked no later than 60 days from the removal date of the trees.¹ The invoice should clearly identify the date the trees were removed, the number of trees removed, the cost for each individual tree and the contractor name. A separate form must be submitted for each property where trees have been removed.
2. **Verification of Impact on SCE's Electrical Lines/Facilities:** Once SCE receives the completed Request for Reimbursement Form, a trained forest technician will inspect the tree stumps of the subject trees to estimate the height of the tree, verify that the tree could have impacted SCE's electrical lines/facilities, determine the Diameter at Breast Height, and identify the method SCE would have used to remove the trees. The Reimbursement Applicant does not need to be present for the inspection. If the stumps of the trees have been removed, the Reimbursement Applicant will be required to substantiate through other means, to SCE's satisfaction, that the tree could have impacted its electrical lines/facilities.
3. **Determination of Qualification:** Based on the information contained in the Form and the results of the forest technician's inspection, a determination will be made whether all or some of the trees removed qualify for reimbursement. If all or part of the request for reimbursement is denied, the Reimbursement Applicant will be notified with an explanation as to why the request was denied.
4. **Reimbursement Payment:** For those trees determined to meet the Eligibility Requirements, SCE will mail a check for the reimbursement amount approximately 90 days from submittal of a completed Form and all required documentation.

Pre-approval of Eligibility: Unfortunately, because there are several hundred thousand dead and dying trees that could impact SCE's electrical lines/facilities, SCE is not able to pre-approve eligibility for reimbursement.

Contact: For further information about the reimbursement process or activities related to SCE's tree removal effort, call 1-800-640-3652 or visit SCE's Web site at www.sce.com/barkbeetle.

¹ For trees removed between April 3, 2003, and October 15, 2003, please mail completed Forms and other required documentation by December 15, 2003.