



Dear Customer/Property Owner:

As you may already know, the California Public Utilities Commission recently approved our request to reimburse eligible property owners who incur costs on or after April 3, 2003, to remove bark beetle-infested trees that could impact Southern California Edison's electrical lines and facilities. The purpose of this letter is to provide you a copy of the enclosed *Request for Reimbursement Form* and the *Guidelines for Reimbursement* document and to highlight some important facts about the reimbursement process.

We draw your attention to the following guidelines:

- Only trees located in the bark beetle-infested areas of San Bernardino and Riverside counties served by SCE that are removed on or after April 3, 2003 and could impact SCE's electrical lines/facilities are eligible for cost reimbursement.
- 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 If you have multiple addresses where trees have been removed, submit a separate form for each address.
- Once a completed reimbursement form is submitted, SCE will send a trained forest technician to the identified property to determine the size and location of the tree and verify that the tree could have impacted SCE's electrical lines/facilities.
- Reimbursement checks for eligible tree removal costs will be sent approximately 90 days from receipt of the completed *Request for Reimbursement Form* and all required documentation.
- Because there are several hundred thousand dead and dying trees that can impact SCE's electrical lines/facilities, SCE is not able to pre-approve eligibility for reimbursement.

SCE is dedicating its resources to the mitigation of fire hazards and is working with various government agencies to remove bark beetle-infested trees. Everyone is working as quickly as they can, based on schedule and geographic priorities established by the team of agencies. However, if you are planning to remove trees, here is some important information to keep in mind:

- Use only a qualified tree removal contractor/arborist to remove bark beetle-infested trees.
- If you need SCE to temporarily drop service wires to allow your contractor to perform tree removal work, call 1-800-640-3652. With a minimum notice of five business days, we will perform this service at no charge.
- For the work done at each address, obtain an invoice that clearly specifies the date trees were removed, the number of trees removed, the cost for each individual tree and the name of the contractor.
- It is best to leave the stumps so SCE can verify the height and location of the trees after they have been removed.

We know this massive tree removal effort will pose varying degrees of inconvenience to you and your neighbors for some time. But we thank you for cooperating with us in the long-term protection of all forest residents and guests. If you have any questions, please call us at 1-800-640-3652 or visit our 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.