

# Community Pipeline Safety

## Atherton City Council

July 15, 2015





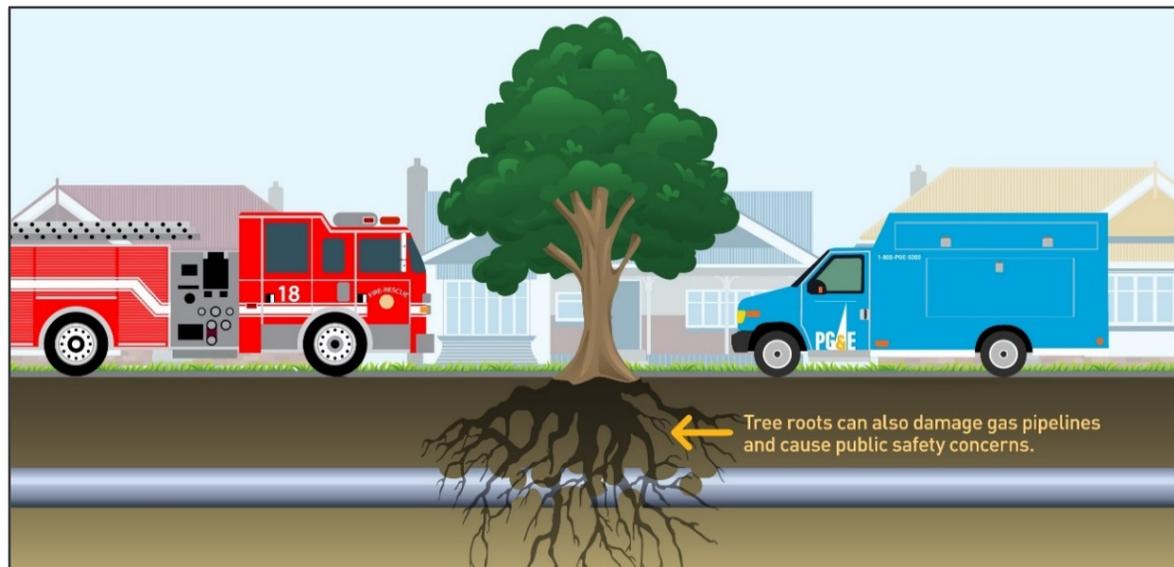
# Pipeline Safety

- PG&E's top priority is the safety of our customers and the communities we live in and serve
- We have made important changes to improve the safety and reliability of our natural gas transmission system
- This includes:
  - **Pressure-testing** gas transmission pipelines
  - **Installing** automated gas valves
  - **Replacing** transmission pipelines
  - **Leak surveying** all distribution and transmission pipelines



## Community Pipeline Safety Initiative

- We are checking the area above and around the pipeline to:
  - Ensure first responders and safety crews have immediate access in a natural disaster or other emergency, when every second counts
  - Confirm the pipe can be properly inspected, maintained and operated
  - Prevent tree roots from damaging the pipe by exposing it to corrosion
  - Make sure the area provides a clear visual indicator of underground facilities



## Pipeline and Informed Planning Alliance (PIPA)

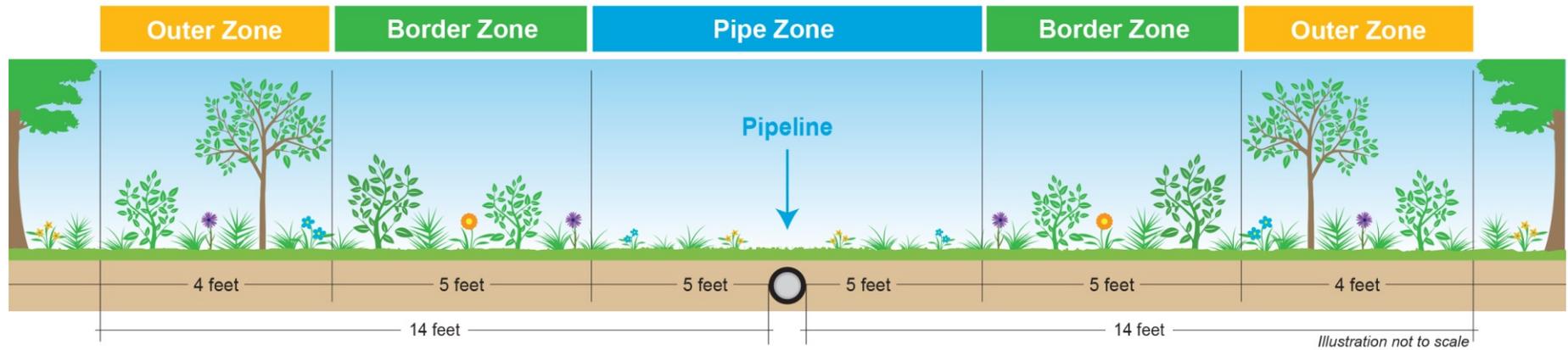
- Led and supported by the United States Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)
- “In the event of an emergency, a clear ROW [right-of-way] is necessary to facilitate access by both the pipeline operator and emergency response personnel. Obstructions on the ROW can prohibit their ability to respond.”
- “Trees should not be allowed within the boundary of the ROW. Tree roots have the potential to damage pipeline coatings which may contribute to the loss of integrity of the pipeline.” (*PIPA Report, November 2010, pg 41*)



*Example of the impact tree roots can have on a gas pipeline.*

## Guide to Safe Landscaping

Making sure the right plants and trees are located in the right location adds to the safety and natural beauty of your community



- Pipe Zone – Lawns, flowers, low-profile grasses and low-growing herbaceous plants are permitted within the Pipe Zone.
- Border Zone – Small to medium shrubs with a trunk or main branch less than 8” in diameter at full maturity are permitted within the Border Zone. Diameter is measured at breast height.
- Outer Zone – Large shrubs and small trees with a trunk less than 36” at full maturity are permitted within the Outer Zone. Diameter is measured at breast height.

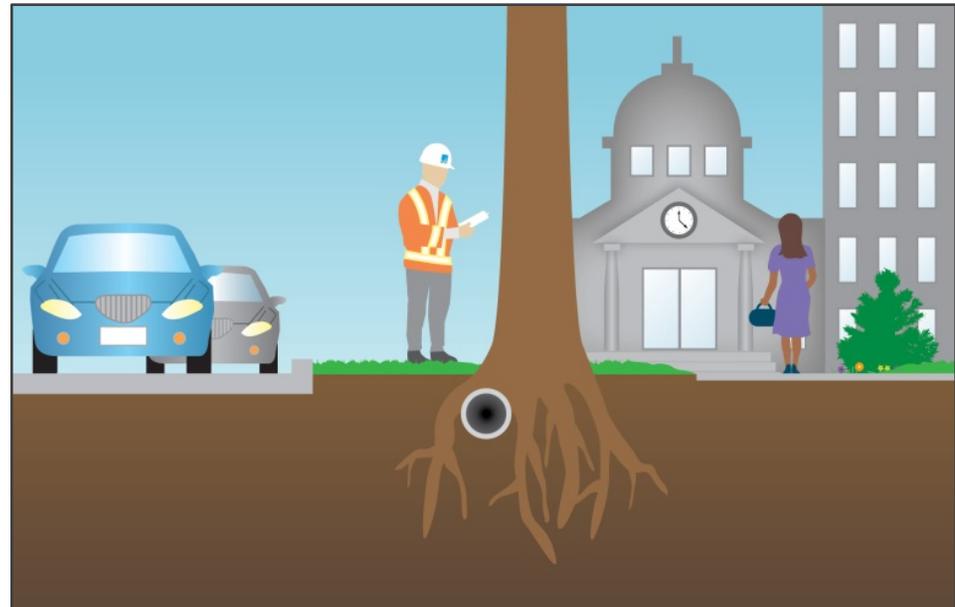
## Tree Replacement and Restoration (Private Property)

- When a tree needs to be replaced for safety reasons from private property, PG&E will work with property owners to offer the following:
  - **Restoration:** Work together to develop a landscape plan that restores the area with native, drought-tolerant landscaping, such as grasses, mulch or bark
  - **Replacement:** Provide replacement tree(s) or an in-lieu payment for each tree removed
  - **Delivery:** Coordinate with the property owner and deliver the replacement tree(s) to be planted by the property owner
  
- We recognize every customer and yard is different, and we will address special circumstances on a case-by-case basis



## Tree-by-Tree Review

- We understand how important trees are to you, your residents and the environment
- To ensure we are only removing trees that pose a safety or access concern, an in-depth review is conducted on all trees
- The review is completed by our pipeline integrity and risk management experts and involves analyzing specific vegetation and pipeline data, such as the tree height, species and its distance from the pipe





# Community Partnership and Outreach

- When a structure or tree poses a safety concern, PG&E will work together with the municipality or property owner to develop a plan that ensures public safety while preserving the unique character of the community or property
- Our outreach involves:
  - Meeting with city officials and staff to share what we know about the safety risks and work together to plan for the gas safety work on franchise and city-owned areas
  - Communicating about gas pipeline safety to all residents within 500-feet of the safety work
  - Reaching out to those residents who live in close proximity to the upcoming safety work
  - Conducting direct outreach to private property owners
  - Door-to-door outreach to the residents adjacent to the gas safety work on franchise areas, as needed

# Questions?



Thank You

