

Enhanced Overhead Inspections and Remediation – City of Malibu FAQs

1. What is the SCE Wildfire Mitigation Plan?

The 2019 Wildfire Mitigation Plan, filed with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in February, is part of a larger, ongoing effort and incorporates and builds on the \$582 million Grid Safety and Resiliency Program SCE submitted last September to the CPUC. The plan is intended to address and greatly reduce fire ignitions caused by utility infrastructure. It also is intended to further fortify the electric system against the increasing threat of extreme conditions driven by climate change and the impacts of wildfires if they occur.

The plan takes a broad approach that includes enhanced inspections on all of the company's overhead power lines in high fire risk areas in the immediate term to identify and remediate potential issues outside of standard inspection cycles. It will further harden infrastructure, bolster situational awareness capabilities, enhance operational practices and harness the power of data and technology.

You'll see SCE and contract crews in the coming months doing both inspections and infrastructure improvement work in Malibu. SCE vehicles will feature the company's logos and contractor vehicles will have signage indicating they are SCE "approved contractors." SCE is doing this in all high fire risk areas – approximately 35 percent of their service area.

2. Why did SCE establish a Temporary Maintenance Yard in Malibu?

A temporary impact to the Malibu community will be a maintenance yard that we have set up near Stuart Ranch Road and Civic Center Way. The site will serve as a reporting location for personnel, vehicle parking and material storage. The Malibu site is centrally located to reduce vehicle trips to facilitate repairs in and around the City of Malibu. After considering multiple locations in Malibu, this site was the only one available to SCE throughout the duration of work in the Malibu area.



3. Did SCE consider the city property across the street?

SCE did not apply to use the city-owned lot across the street on Civic Center Way, which had been used for staging and emergency utility repair work immediately following the Woolsey Fire, because that lot is already reserved for parking for the Chumash Day Powwow and will be used for city hall parking when work begins on their solar project in the near future.

4. Did SCE obtain city approval for the use of the current site?

SCE has submitted the necessary applications for the temporary use of the property in compliance with local ordinances and requirements of the Coastal Development Plan Emergency Permit. Upon completion of the fire mitigation repairs and equipment upgrades, SCE will restore the site to its original condition.

SCE submitted applications for an Over-the-Counter Permit (OCP) No. 19-024 and an Emergency Coastal Development Permit (ECDP) No. 19-005 on Feb. 7. The OCP authorized SCE to prepare the laydown yard and install erosion control features; temporary perimeter fencing; blading, brushing, and/or compacting the soil; and applying gravel or crushed rock on top of the soil.

5. Why is an Emergency Coastal Development Permit (“ECDP”) necessary?

Staff from the city manager’s office, public works department, and planning department, met with representatives from SCE to discuss the proposed work to be done in Malibu and the level of urgency. SCE presented the city with a Letter of Justification for the ECDP stating, “without prompt remedial action, there is a clear danger that a devastating fire could occur.... The Applicant [SCE] must act to perform system repairs on an emergency basis to mitigate that risk.”

The nature of the emergency is such that immediate action is required in order to minimize the risks associated with delaying the pole remediation and system repair activities.

6. Did the city evaluate the site as an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area?

Yes, the site was evaluated as required by the Local Coastal Program (LCP) and determined not to be mapped as an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA).

7. What conditions did the city impose to minimize impacts to the community?

Conditions have been placed on the permit in order to protect the surrounding environment and minimize the impacts to the surrounding community, including the following:

- SCE is required to work with the city public works department to schedule work and vehicle movement activity in such a way to minimize traffic disruptions on the surrounding streets.
- SCE must adhere to noise ordinance requirements for work hours to minimize noise impact on the neighboring residents.
- The site must be monitored to ensure its activity will not cause excessive dust or mud and water runoff.
- SCE must maintain a 100-foot buffer to protect the neighboring wetland parcel from environmental damage as well as conduct an inspection performed by the city biologist before use of the site as a staging area commences. The description of this wetland area can be found in an attachment to the ECDP Notice of Decision.
- SCE must return the site to the condition in which it was found prior to project completion. This is also a requirement of the agreement between the property owner and SCE.

- SCE must place and direct their temporary lighting in such a way that it will not disrupt the residential neighbors or motorists on adjacent streets.
- **MAINTENANCE YARD DETAILS**

Hours of Operation: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays

Days of Operation: Monday through Saturday (closed on Sunday and Federal Holidays)

Approximate Date for Restoration of Site: End of July

8. Will toxic chemicals be stored at the SCE temporary maintenance yard?

SCE anticipates generating materials common to construction sites and routine SCE electrical maintenance operations. Material examples include petroleum products, fuel, aerosol cans, electrical equipment. SCE maintains safety procedures and has developed practices to minimize or eliminate the discharge of any pollutants from the site. SCE maintains the responsibility for compliance with all federal, state, and local laws regarding storage, handling, transportation, and disposal of any generated materials.

9. When will SCE be off the site?

If there is any community that understands the implications of our work, it is the greater Malibu community. SCE is mindful of all that residents have gone through recently and is grateful for your accommodation and patience. SCE's goal is to finish most of the grid resiliency work by the end of the rainy season. The approximate date for the restoration of the site is July 2019.

Vegetation Management

10. Does SCE have right-of-entry to private property to access equipment? (Veg and Equipment)

SCE will make reasonable efforts to work with and notify customers prior to accessing private property to access utility electrical equipment or vegetation control.

Some of SCE's infrastructure sits on easements on our customers' properties. In these instances, SCE asks for support from its customers to ensure safe access to equipment that needs to be inspected.

11. Is SCE employing an arborist to determine proper trimming and tree removals and do people have a right to contest this?

Currently SCE has over 25 in-house International Association of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborists who oversee the Utility Vegetation Management Program. SCE pre-inspection and tree crew contractors also have multiple certified Arborists on staff. If SCE contractors are unable to achieve the clearances required while upholding the generally accepted industry tree pruning standards (ANSI A300) as identified by the Tree Care Industry Association, a customer request for permission to remove the tree at no cost is initiated. SCE Arborists regularly conduct post work reviews which validate the contractor's performance in regards to trimming and removals. The property owner does have the right to contest the work as long as the tree in question is in a safe condition and in accordance with the law. SCE will evaluate each contested location/tree to ensure there is no compromise to public safety and electrical reliability.

12. What type of notification will be provided regarding tree trimming or removals?

SCE will notify the property owner via door hanger, and if there is no response, SCE personnel will make every effort to contact the owner.