

**LODI CITY COUNCIL
SHIRTSLEEVE SESSION
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2015**

A. Roll Call by City Clerk

An Informal Informational Meeting ("Shirtsleeve" Session) of the Lodi City Council was held Tuesday, July 14, 2015, commencing at 7:00 a.m.

Present: Council Member Kuehne, Council Member Mounce, Council Member Nakanishi, Mayor Pro Tempore Chandler, Mayor Johnson, and City Clerk Ferraiolo

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Schwabauer, and City Attorney Magdich

B. Topic(s)

B-1 Receive Presentation from Pacific Gas and Electric Regarding Community Gas Pipeline Safety (PW)

Darin Cline with Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding community gas pipeline safety. Specific topics of discussion included changes in gas safety operations, Pipeline and Informed Planning Alliance (PIPA), tree-by-tree review, tree replacement and restoration (franchise and private property), community partnership and outreach, next steps, 811 service, and contact information.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Mr. Cline stated that the website for both PG&E and the National Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration has information on the identification of neighborhood pipeline locations. In further response, Mr. Cline stated that PG&E has inspected 167 trees, out of which 11 are unacceptable due to their location directly over a pipeline. The staff report originally pinpointed 20 trees; however, those trees identified on Hutchins Street are manageable because the pipeline is on the opposite side of the street. PG&E will be conducting a tree-by-tree review on private property as well, but that has not yet been instituted as the initial step in this process is to discuss the project with City Council. Mr. Cline stated that first responder access to the pipeline is the primary concern when determining which trees should be relocated or replaced. He indicated there were some on the General Mills property that may need to be moved, but he felt confident that PG&E can work with the City on those private property trees to make the area safe. PG&E is open to developing alternative landscaping designs to work with property owners.

In response to Council Member Mounce, Mr. Cline stated that PG&E is performing this survey throughout San Joaquin County, including the cities of Tracy, Ripon, Manteca, and Escalon. The County has significantly more problematic trees than Lodi, and all of the cities, with the exception of Tracy, have moved forward on private property trees. In further response, Mr. Cline confirmed Lodi does not have a higher risk than the other cities and that statistics for Lodi are equal to the other communities; roughly 10 percent.

In response to Council Member Kuehne, Mr. Cline stated that the pipeline along the General Mills property does not run in a straight line and two of the Evergreen trees are directly over the pipe. The reason for doing this study at this time is that PG&E is looking at its pipe differently in order to be responsible in ensuring safe operation of its system. In further response, Mr. Cline stated that PG&E will work with the City to determine the best replacement options, including performing site drawings prior to any restoration work. PG&E has been successful in many other communities and can provide examples of other restorations.

In response to Council Member Kuehne, Public Works Director Wally Sandelin stated that the

exact restoration will depend on the location and he was hoping to receive Council input on what it would like to see in certain areas. He used Cherokee Lane as an example, stating that an option could be to move the trees to the back of the sidewalk or planting larger trees on the Grape Festival property. Mr. Sandelin pointed out that, under the franchise agreement with PG&E, the City is not required to cooperate, but he encouraged Council to support this joint effort to keep the pipeline safe, while also improving City streets. In further response to Council Member Kuehne, Mr. Sandelin confirmed there are no preliminary renderings at this time because the initial step is to educate Council on this program and receive feedback.

Mayor Johnson questioned if PG&E would consider the concept of removing more than only the two problematic trees at General Mills and planting uniform landscaping that would not leave gaps and be aesthetically pleasing. Mr. Cline responded that PG&E would ensure the design is compatible and appropriate along that stretch of roadway. Mayor Johnson pointed out a similar concern with Cherokee Lane, stating that both sides of the street should be uniform. Mr. Cline stated that PG&E's goal is to leave the area improved and compatible with the surrounding aesthetics and it has a record of working with other communities to meet their unique needs, including drought-tolerant landscaping in one community.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Chandler, Mr. Cline confirmed that the pipeline is 40 to 80 inches below ground and that the driving force behind this effort is to ensure PG&E is responsible and performing at a higher standard to ensure public safety.

In response to Council Member Nakanishi, Mr. Cline stated that there are no plans to build new transmission lines; therefore, this will not be an issue for future development. PG&E consistently monitors its pipelines on a regular basis and will continue to do so. Council Member Nakanishi questioned if PG&E considered other alternatives, such as inserting another pipeline into the existing pipeline. Mr. Cline responded that moving a pipeline is a three- to four-year process, can be quite costly, and still runs the risk of corrosion. He added that inserting a smaller pipe into the existing system does not eliminate the risk of tree roots damaging the pipeline. Mr. Cline agreed that trees add value, which is the reason for the company's effort to replace trees with the most appropriate species at the most appropriate location. He further stated he would inquire if other options were explored and provide that information to Council.

In response to Council Member Kuehne, Mr. Cline stated that the cathodic protection around the pipe keeps it from corroding and the material in the coating varies depending on the age of the pipe, but it is never made from asbestos.

Council Member Mounce expressed support for receiving information on alternatives to tree removal.

In response to Mayor Johnson, Mr. Cline stated that this review represents the extent of the problem with the transmission line and that there would be no additional trees earmarked for removal. Mayor Johnson expressed concern that the trees along Hutchins Street are on narrow private properties and questioned if this would entail taking portions of these properties, to which Mr. Cline reaffirmed that the solution would be to plant an appropriate species, such as Crepe Myrtle trees, in such locations to best fit a property. Mr. Sandelin pointed out that the trees along Hutchins Street are no longer in conflict because the pipeline was moved approximately one year ago. Mr. Cline stressed that PG&E is doing everything possible to work with owners to save trees if possible or to replant with a compatible tree to best fit the location.

Council Member Kuehne stated the other option is to move the pipeline instead of the trees, to which Mr. Cline reminded that the process would take years, during which time the risks from tree roots would increase. Mr. Cline stated that all attempts will be made to work with neighbors to determine the best option, while taking both sides of the street and aesthetics into account. Council Member Kuehne expressed interest in drought resistant plants on both side of Cherokee Lane to create a balanced appearance and a beautified entrance into the City. With regard to the General Mills property, he would like an alternative option considered instead of removing the Evergreen trees. Mr. Cline responded that all options will be explored.

Ed Miller expressed support for moving the trees on Cherokee Lane by the Grape Festival to the area behind the fence and suggested trees with some height be planted to reduce the barren appearance of the area.

Mayor Johnson informed PG&E that a citizen reported an individual who was posing as a PG&E worker in their neighborhood, claiming to check meters, yet the individual was not wearing a PG&E uniform or driving a marked vehicle. Dillon George, PG&E Local Government Representative, could not confirm if this individual was representing PG&E, but he stated that the company will often hire contractors for this type of work, all of whom are required to have identification.

Council Member Mounce expressed appreciation to PG&E for being proactive in this effort, but cautioned against making assumptions or decisions regarding private properties. Mr. George agreed, stating that outreach will be made to all property owners.

C. Comments by Public on Non-Agenda Items

None.

D. Adjournment

No action was taken by the City Council. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 a.m.

ATTEST:

Jennifer M. Ferraiolo
City Clerk