

Innovative Solutions for Controlling Undesirable and Invasive Vegetation Near Power Lines

Date/Time/Session: **WEDNESDAY, 5.01.2019, 1:05:00 PM, in the UTILITY FORESTRY session**

Presentation Length: **45 minutes**

Presented by: **Vince Mikulanis**

Co-Presenter (if scheduled): **Don Akau**

Overview of Presentation:

San Diego Gas and Electric manages over 7,000 miles of electrical distribution line in Southern California. San Diego's varied, yet, mild climate creates a hospitable environment for a wide range of plant community types. Much of this is non-desirable vegetation in terms of growing in proximity to overhead power lines. Through their long term partnership, SDG&E and Davey Resource Group have developed innovative solutions for managing this vegetation. This presentation will focus on two key programs:

Agave (Century Plants) - Agave plants are widely planted, and due to their growth potential require additional off cycle, spring time inspections. With over 4,000 locations to inspect this is an expensive task. DRG and SDG&E have partnered to develop mechanical and chemical treatments to reduce the population of Agave and lower long-term inspection costs. Agave plants secrete a toxic sap that cause pain and blisters on bare skin, making removal by hand a difficult prospect.

Tree Growth Regulators - While removal of fast growing trees and replacement with an appropriate species is ideal, providing for the needs and wishes of customers sometimes requires an alternative solution. SDG&E and DRG have partnered to build a robust Tree Growth Regulator program as an attractive option for SDG&E customers. The TGR program extends the cycle length for trees, reducing maintenance cost and intrusions on private property. The TGR program also provides for another customer touch point to discuss right-tree right-place programs and opportunities for the home owner

Presenter Bio:



Vince Mikulanis is a Market Manager with Davey Resource Group, providing solutions to clients and operational oversight across the Western United States. While his primary focus is utility vegetation management, Vince has extensive experience managing municipal projects including tree inventories, canopy studies, and UF Master Plans - bringing a unique perspective on both markets. Vince holds a BS in Forestry from Humboldt State University and is heavily involved in industry organizations including, California Urban Forest Advisory Council, San Diego Regional Urban Forest Council, City of San Diego Forestry Advisory Board, and is the chair of WCISA Utility Committee.

Don Akau was born in Hawaii at Kapiolani Hospital, raised in nānā kuli in his early childhood. Came to San Diego early 1964 a military brat graduating from Oceanside High School and completing course at MiraCosta College. Don started his career in Motorcycles working for Yamaha, then worked for Hobie Catamaran 11 years, and then took interest in the tree industry. Don began his tree career working on SDG&E Contract in Utility Line Clearance and the private sector for 13 years. He accepted a Forester position with SDG&E in 1999 to help implement and manage the Tree Pre-Inspection Program. Don moved upward in the department to an Area Forester, then Systems Forester, and currently serve as the Vegetation & Wood Pole Integrity Manager for the past 13 of his 20 years with SDG&E. Don continues his ISA and UAA Certification since 1994.

