



## PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE, PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC AND CALIFORNIA RELEAF PARTNER ON CALIFORNIA ARBOR WEEK CELEBRATION PROGRAM *\$50,000 IN PASS-THROUGH FUNDING FOR TREE PLANTING & TREE CARE EDUCATIONAL EVENTS*

**Sacramento, California** – The U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Gas & Electric and California ReLeaf have partnered to launch the 2017 California Arbor Week Celebration Program with \$50,000 in honor of California’s upcoming Arbor Week, March 7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017. In 2011 by Assembly Resolution, California extended Arbor Day to a full week to emphasize how essential trees are to the health and well-being of California’s communities.

PG&E and the U.S. Forest Service are each providing \$25,000 to support community events to raise awareness and celebrate the value of our urban and community forests. Community groups and nonprofits are invited to apply for small stipends of \$1,000 to \$3,000 for their California Arbor Week events. Arbor Week events traditionally include school children, parents, and local elected officials as with tree planting ceremonies, tree care stewardship and educational activities.

This year the U.S. Forest Service and PG&E are supporting complementary educational activities in conjunction with California Arbor Week. With the support of the U.S. Forest Service, these Arbor Week events will also highlight the popular ***Every Kid in a Park*** program, which has provided so many free passes to fourth graders to visit national parks, lands, and waters. Research shows that kids ages nine to 11 are beginning to learn about the world around them, and they are likely to connect to nature. PG&E will be sharing information about the important ***Call Before You Dig*** and ***Right Tree/Right Place Plan Before You Plant*** programs to ensure that Californians remain safe when digging in the dirt to plant trees.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of [PG&E Corporation](http://www.pge.com) (NYSE:PCG), is one of the largest combined natural gas and electric utilities in the United States. Based in San Francisco, with more than 20,000 employees, the company delivers some of the nation’s cleanest energy

to nearly 16 million people in Northern and Central California. For more information, visit [www.pge.com/](http://www.pge.com/) and [www.pge.com/en/about/newsroom/index.page](http://www.pge.com/en/about/newsroom/index.page).

California ReLeaf's mission is to empower grassroots efforts and build strategic partnerships that preserve, protect, and enhance California's urban and community forests. California Arbor Week runs March 7 - 14 each year. For more on the California Arbor Week Celebration Program, visit [www.arborweek.org](http://www.arborweek.org)

The Forest Service manages 18 National Forests in the Pacific Southwest Region, which encompasses over 20 million acres across California, and assists State and Private forest landowners in California, Hawaii and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands. National forests supply 50 percent of the water in California and form the watershed of most major aqueducts and more than 2,400 reservoirs throughout the state. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

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