107 Selden Street, Berlin, CT 0603

Sean D. Redding
Director – Vegetation Managements

November 16, 2026

To: **Board of Directors, The Connecticut Light and Power Company**

From: **Sean Redding, Director**

Subject: **CL&P Vegetation Management Services Contracts**

Management requests approval from the Board of Directors for authority to enter into vegetation management services contracts and related arrangements supporting the Company's Vegetation Management Program (VMP) for the electric distribution system for the period January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2030. The requested authorization totals approximately $556 million and includes funding for the scheduled maintenance trim and tree-removal activities through the VMP, tree work associated with construction projects, storm restoration support, and program contingencies.

Vegetation management is a critical component of the Company's electric system reliability and resiliency strategy. Effective management of vegetation in proximity to distribution facilities reduces the risk of customer outages, improves public and employee safety, enhances storm preparedness and restoration capabilities, and supports the Company's ability to provide safe and reliable electric service. CL&P's VMP is designed to enable completion of a four-year trim cycle across all overhead primary distribution miles in Connecticut and to address reliability risks associated with hazard trees and vegetation encroachment.

To support the program, management conducted a competitive sourcing process for the 2027-2030 CT Distribution VMP. The Procurement Group solicited bids from eleven contractors and all eleven contractors participated in the Request for Pricing process, with awards recommended based on a comprehensive evaluation of commercial pricing, operational capabilities, workforce availability, safety performance, storm response capabilities, and overall ability to support the Company's long-term reliability objectives. The competitive process included multiple rounds of negotiations and resulted in significant cost savings through best and final pricing submissions while maintaining operational capability and service quality.

The recommended sourcing strategy utilizes multiple contractors across the Company's service territory, providing geographic coverage, operational diversity to maintain competitive incentives and reduce risks associated with non-performance, as well as enhanced storm-response capabilities. The strategy is intended to support cost predictability, contractor accountability and continuity of service, while enabling the Company's continued access to local and regional resources during major weather events and emergency restoration activities.

Notably, the Vegetation Management Services Contracts are aligned with the Company's request for approval of the VMP in the rate case pending before the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA). The CT Distribution VMP is designed as the optimal solution to provide safe and reliable service to customers with operational flexibility and cost efficiency. To address regulatory

uncertainty, management has developed the program in a manner that will allow for a reduced scope and scale should PURA approve a VMP funding level that differs from the Company's VMP proposal. In the event that PURA authorizes funding below the requested level, management will adjust the VMP to the approved rate framework, by decreasing the program scope and prioritizing work based on reliability impacts and risk considerations. The terms of the Vegetation Management Services Contracts allow for a reduced scale and scope, subject to PURA's final decision on the VMP.

Management has evaluated the principal risks associated with the proposed program, including contractor safety performance, labor availability, storm activity, service quality and regulatory uncertainty. Mitigating measures, including contractor oversight, performance monitoring, competitive sourcing, geographic diversification of contractors, and ongoing field inspections, have been incorporated into the program design.

For all of the foregoing reasons, management recommends that the Board approve the requested funding authority and authorize the Company to enter into the proposed Vegetation Management Services Contracts and related arrangements necessary to implement the 2027-2030 Connecticut Distribution Vegetation Management Program.

Vegetation Management Connecticut Distribution 2027-2030

The Connecticut Light and Power Company

Board of Directors

November 16, 2026

This information is intended for the use of internal management only and should not be discussed with or distributed to external parties

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Executive Summary

- The sourcing strategy for vegetation management (VM) services requires the execution of multi-year contracts to support annual program activities for:
  - The CT Distribution Vegetation Management Plan (VMP)
  - Vegetation work tied to capital construction
  - Vegetation management work necessitated by Storm Restoration
- This request seeks approval by the CL&P Subsidiary Board to enter into a total of five Vegetation Management Services Contracts with an aggregate amount of up to $556.6M, covering a four-year period, including the base term of January 1, 2027, to December 31, 2030

Scope: Connecticut Distribution Vegetation Management

Funding Request Details:

- CT Distribution VMP – scheduled cycle trim, maintenance and tree work: $330M (expense)
- Vegetation clearing supporting capital-construction - $54M (capital)
- Storm restoration - $100M (expense)
- Contingency - $72.6M
- These amounts include all regulatory programs, as well as anticipated capital construction and storm response
- Does not reflect internal costs or capital loaders

Background

- **Funding Request:** Totals $556.6M over the four-year contract term including CT Distribution VMP tree work ($330M); tree work in support of construction ($54M); storm restoration ($100M); and a contingency margin ($72.6M). The amounts are included in the annual budget and the 5-Year Capital Plan.

- **Rate Case Alignment:** Amount for CT Distribution VMP ($330 million) aligns with rate-case proposal and is subject to adjustment based on the outcome of the Connecticut Rate Case.

- **Competitive Solicitation**: Eversource Procurement conducted a Request for Pricing (RFP) process for the 2027-2030 CT Distribution VMP. A total 16,650 overhead distribution miles were included in the 4-year cycle bid scope. Circuit maps were provided for the 2027 and 2028 scheduled maintenance plan for contractor review, and pricing was requested for all four years.

  - 11 vendors solicited, 11 vendors bid, 10 vendors received awards, with 5 contractors receiving full-service Area Work Center (AWC) awards. Second round pricing negotiations lowered roadside maintenance costs by 5.3% ($9.9M).

- **Cost Controls and Predictability**: Bids include unit cost per mile for scheduled maintenance miles, as well as rates for time, equipment and materials (T&E) for emergent work and unit tree removal costs based on diameters of trees.

- **Storm Readiness**: An effort was made to have multiple vendors providing VM service to allow sufficient VM coverage during weather events. Each contractor's ability to obtain significant outsource storm crew resources was considered in the RFP evaluation.

Contract / Program Benefits

- **Lower costs through scale:** Awarding contracts by regional Area Work Center (AWC) gives us bulk pricing and economies of scale, while keeping enough competition to hold contractors accountable.
- **Robust storm support:** The 4-year contract term provides contractors with a firm basis for investment in the hiring, training and retention of local, in-state crews. This enables the Company to meet the ERP Level 5 crew requirements with local resources.
- **Consistent performance:** Longer-term AWC awards provides a stable platform for crew development, reducing turnover. This improves work quality and improves consistency of performance over time.
- **Backstops the proposed VMP for the CL&P rate case:** The contracts support prudent procurement and management of VMP work resources, for cost-effective program delivery.
- **Four-Year Vegetation Management Cycle:** Funding request improves performance and efficiency of cycle trim, allowing trimming of full circuit segments in place of risk-based prioritization of trimming work, consistent with the 2027-2030 VMP proposed in the CL&P rate case. Funding will close the gap by enabling trimming of 100% of overhead primary distribution miles on a four-year cycle. See Appendix 1 for a summary of primary miles by Area Work Center.

Flexibility to Adjust to PURA's Decision on VMP Funding

- In the rate case, CL&P is seeking PURA's approval of a revised and improved Vegetation Management Program (VMP), aligning funding to accomplish maintenance targets for Scheduled Maintenance Trim (4-year cycle) (SMT), Reliability Tree Work (RTW) and Risk Tree Removals (RTR). Also transitions certain program components from capital funding to O&M. *See Appendix 2 for VMP descriptions by program.*
- Transition to O&M reflects nature of program work and complies with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Uniform System of Accounts. More consistent with VMP industry practices across the country and aligns with other state jurisdictions.
- The Company's proposed VMP is designed to support execution of a complete and efficient VM strategy, including achievement of 4-year maintenance cycles, improved system reliability and reduced vegetation-related risk.
- Recognizing regulatory uncertainty, all VM work was planned and bid under two scenarios: (1) the VMP funding level requested from PURA; and (2) a reduced level of VMP funding through distribution rates.
- If PURA approves less than the requested funding, CL&P will adjust the VMP to align with the approved rate framework, by decreasing the program scope and prioritizing work based on risk and reliability impacts.

Funding Request Recommendation

- Contractor recommendations are aligned with procurement discussions around the commercial and technical aspects of the RFP evaluation. The forecasted expense aligns with the proposed VMP.

Vendor	Total Spend (2027-2030)*	Anticipated Spend ($M)		
		Expense	Capital-Construction	Storm Restoration
Lewis Tree	$225.0	$160.0	$25.0	$40.0
Lucas Tree	$81.0	$55.0	$10.0	$16.0
Asplundh Tree	$66.0	$42.0	$8.0	$16.0
Xylem	$45.5	$32.0	$5.5	$8.0
Distinctive	$44.5	$31.0	$5.5	$8.0
Stanley Tree	$9.0	$5.0	$0.0	$4.0
Enviro Arbor Solution	$5.0	$1.0	$0.0	$4.0
Tennett Tree	$4.0	$2.0	$0.0	$2.0
Green Velvet	$2.0	$1.0	$0.0	$1.0
N.G. Gilbert	$2.0	$1.0	$0.0	$1.0
Total Spend	**$484.0**	**$330.0**	**$54.0**	**$100.0**
Contingency	**$72.6**	**$49.5**	**$8.1**	**$15.0**

* Includes CT tax (3.335%); Anticipated spends include Scheduled Maintenance Trimming (SMT), Risk Tree Removals, and Time and Equipment (T&E) programs as well as storm restoration. Annual cost forecasts for Capital-Construction and Storm are assumed at $13.5 million and $25 million, respectively, and a 15% contingency for each expenditure category over the four-year contract.

Financial Evaluation

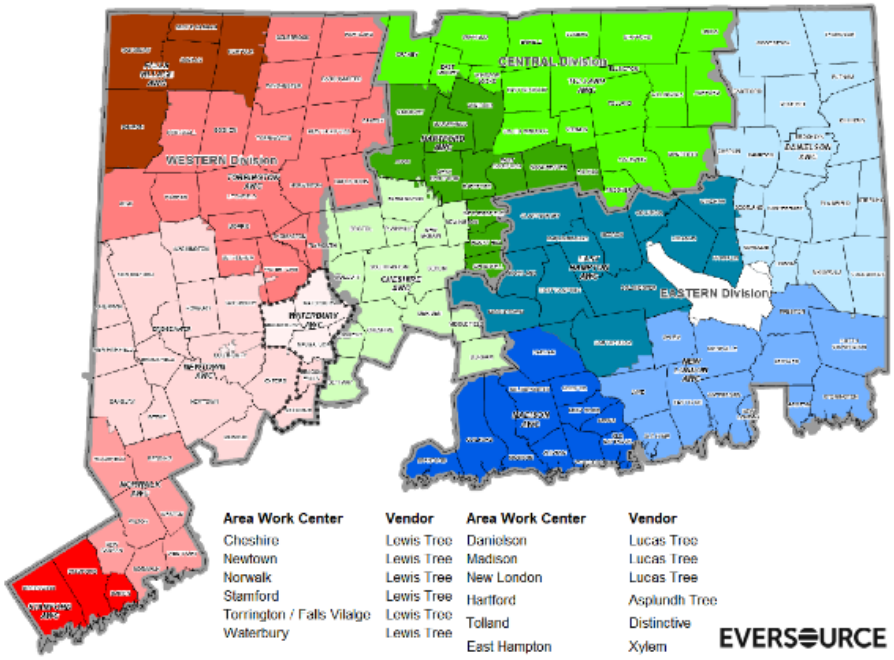
- The unit price cost per year by AWC for Scheduled Maintenance Trim, on a 4-year cycle, drove the financial evaluation. It was the most heavily weighted part of the cost evaluation. The table below shows each contractor's 4-year total cost for the Scheduled Maintenance miles by AWC.
- ~$10M saved through Best and Final Offers (BAFO): The first round 4-year scheduled maintenance program cost was $185.9M. Through requests for BAFO pricing by Procurement, the bundled BAFO total for the 4-year scheduled maintenance contract was reduced to $176.0M.
- Hartford award protects storm response: Asplundh Tree was awarded Hartford to keep resources in state and maintain critical storm support relationships as the largest supplier of utility tree crews in the country.
- *Legend: dark green = first-choice contractor, light blue = second choice contractor*

		Area Work Center											
		Cheshire	Danielson	E. Hampton	Hartford	Madison	New London	Newtown	Norwalk	Stamford	Tolland	Torrington	Waterbury
Miles	2027	334	109	426	398	281	402	527	383	243	295	566	237
	2028	384	181	558	349	129	258	678	243	246	346	513	248
	2029	162	460	267	298	298	203	482	178	104	306	427	140
	2030	496	613	419	255	240	212	319	189	257	704	426	141
Vendor	Asplundh Tree	$17.0	$21.4	$24.5	**$15.5**	$16.5	$16.1	$50.3	$24.7	$22.0	$19.1	$32.0	$10.8
	Distinctive				$13.5						**$14.0**		
	EAS	$16.4	$18.6	$22.2	$15.0	$11.7	$14.6	$26.0	$12.5	$10.9	$20.2	$24.4	$9.2
	Green Velvet	$32.8	$24.2	$37.4	$29.5	$24.4	$27.2	$49.6	$24.4	$21.2	$32.5	$48.0	$18.9
	Lewis Tree	**$14.6**	$16.5			$13.7	$14.8	**$24.0**	**$12.3**	**$10.6**	$17.8	**$20.6**	**$8.8**
	Lucas Tree		**$14.1**			**$9.4**	**$10.7**						
	NGGilbert							$27.1					
	Stanley	$19.9	$22.2										$10.6
	Tennett Tree		$27.8				$24.8						
	Davey Tree		-										
	Xylem	$27.3		**$21.4**	$16.3	$11.7	$16.4	$30.1		$16.2	$18.0	$23.3	

Total Cost ($M)

Total Cost ($M): $176.0

Contractor Award Recommendations



- Fluctuations in AWC total costs are driven by regional differences in total scheduled mileage, tree density, traffic control, and geographic variables.

Total 4-year scheduled maintenance cost by Area Work Center

Area Work Center	Vendor	Maintenance Cost ($M)
Cheshire	Lewis Tree	$ 14.6
Danielson	Lucas Tree	$ 14.1
East Hampton	Xylem	$ 21.4
Hartford	Asplundh Tree	$ 15.5
Madison	Lucas Tree	$ 9.4
New London	Lucas Tree	$ 10.7
Newtown	Lewis Tree	$ 24.0
Norwalk	Lewis Tree	$ 12.3
Stamford	Lewis Tree	$ 10.6
Tolland	Distinctive	$ 14.0
Torrington / Falls Vilalge	Lewis Tree	$ 20.6
Waterbury	Lewis Tree	$ 8.8
Total		**$ 176.0**

Contract / 2026 RFP Timeline

- Prebid: June 16th
- Bids Due: August 28th
- Best and Final Offer (BAFO) Due: September 23rd
- Awards: October 15th
- Acceptance: October 19th
  - Eversource Procurement notified vendors of the proposed awards and all contractors have accepted
- Kick offs: Meetings will be scheduled with all contractors in early December 2026
- New contracts will take effect January 1st, 2027
- Final contract execution will be submitted to CL&P rate case to support VMP proposal

Risk Assessment

- **Safety:** Risks include safety incidents and contractor caused outages. Eversource VM establishes clearly defined safety expectations and enforces through crew safety reviews.
- **New Vendors:** Distinctive Tree and Xylem Tree are new to our system under the full-service contract. Each unproven vendor is limited to a single AWC to limit risk.
- **Storms:** Major storm events could disrupt annual Vegetation Management Program (VMP) plans. With multiple vendors, we can add crews when needed to keep annual plans on track.
- **Labor Shortages:** If one vendor experiences a labor shortage or large-scale equipment failure, other in-state contractors can backfill resources.
- **Quality:** With these being long-term contract awards, contractor quality will be continuously evaluated in the field by Eversource Arborists to ensure proper quality assurance.
- **Regulatory:** The scope of work described in this presentation is recommended by CL&P to provide safe and reliable service to our customers, but because the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) reserves the right to determine what portion of CL&P's proposal is recoverable in rates, all contract pricing and scope is contingent on regulatory rate case approvals. The amounts are incorporated in the annual Budget and the 5-Year Capital Plan, pending PURA's approval.

Appendix 1

- 16,653 roadside and rights-of-way backbone and lateral mileage is planned for scheduled maintenance from 2027-2030, representing all overhead distribution primary miles in support of completion of a 4-year cycle.

Area Work Center	Total Mileage	Backbone Mileage	Lateral Mileage	ROW Backbone Mileage	ROW Lateral Mileage
Cheshire	1,476	556	855	59	6
Danielson	1,458	264	1,098	88	8
East Hampton	1,756	419	1,252	76	9
Hartford	1,420	418	847	141	13
Madison	994	260	687	41	6
New London	1,115	328	747	32	7
Newtown	2,160	659	1,484	15	2
Norwalk	886	274	583	28	2
Stamford	855	324	527	4	0
Tolland	1,724	497	1,154	71	2
Torrington / Falls Vilalge	2,015	512	1,420	76	7
Waterbury	794	264	502	28	1
Total Mileage	**16,653**	**4,774**	**11,156**	**658**	**64**

Appendix 2

CL&P's Proposed VMP in Docket No. 26-05-10	
Expenditure	**Projection ($M)**
Scheduled Maintenance Trim (4-yr cycle)	$48.0
Risk Tree Removals (RTR)	$18.5
Reliability Tree Work (RTW)	$14.5
Distribution Rights of Way (ROW)	$1.9
Emergency	$2.0
Vines	$0.4
Emergent Work	$0.9
Mid-Cycle	$1.0
CT DOT Collaboration	$1.2
LiDAR	$1.0
Other	$0.3
Annual VMP Expenditure	**$89.6**

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THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY
(Directors Written Consent)
(November 16, 2026)

The undersigned, being all of the Directors of The Connecticut Light and Power Company (the "Company"), hereby consent to the following action, which consent shall have the same effect as permitted by the Connecticut General Statutes as a vote in favor of such action taken at a meeting of the Company's Directors:

APPROVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT CONTRACT STRATEGY

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Accounting Policy Statement No. 1 and the Delegation of Authority Policy, management has presented to the Board of Directors of the Company a proposal requesting approval of a strategy to execute contracts with a number of suppliers to perform vegetation management work during the four-year period of January 1, 2027 to December 31, 2030, subject to the aggregate authorized limit of $556.6 million (the "Vegetation Management Contract Strategy"); and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed said proposal;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Vegetation Management Contract Strategy, substantially as described in the material presented to this meeting and ordered filed with the records hereof, is hereby approved, subject to the aggregate authorized maximum limit of $556.6 million for all contracts executed pursuant to such strategy during four-year period of January 1, 2027 to December 31, 2030, such approval to expressly include authority to adjust the suppliers and contract values from time to time to optimize execution of the strategy herein approved.

RESOLVED, that each of the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, and the Vice President-Supply Chain and Property Management of the Company, acting singly, is hereby authorized to execute and deliver, on behalf of the Company, any and all contracts, agreements, and other documents as the officer or officers so acting may deem necessary or desirable in connection with the Vegetation Management Contract Strategy, subject to the maximum aggregate limit of $556.6 million, the taking of such actions and the execution and delivery of such documents to be sufficient and conclusive evidence that the same are within the authority conferred by these resolutions.

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THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY
(Directors Written Consent)
(November 16, 2026)

Signed by the Directors as follows:

Signed by:
Gregory B. Butler
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Gregory B. Butler

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Patrick J. McGrath

Signed by:
Paul Chodak III
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Paul Chodak III

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John M. Moreira
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John M. Moreira

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Penelope M. Conner
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