

Attachment A

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COUNTY OF MONTEREY

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



HOUSING, PLANNING, BUILDING, ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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Salinas, California 93901-4527

(831) 755-5025
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Guidelines for Wildfire Prevention and Eucalyptus Tree Removal Pilot Project

Objective: Create a pilot project to demonstrate/test the effectiveness of a public/private partnership to reduce the impacts of wildfire in Supervisorial District 2 (North County) by thinning, trimming, or removing eucalyptus trees within the defensible space of structures and near roadways.

Need: According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), North Monterey County has large areas designated as High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Within these areas, there are many acres of vegetation and a concentration of rural residences. Vegetation in this area generally includes oak woodlands, chaparral plant communities, agriculture, and eucalyptus stands. Eucalyptus represent a unique fire hazard due to natural oils in the trees, bark shedding, and flammable leaf canopies. Conditions in the area create the potential for catastrophic wildfire events.

Applicability: This pilot program applies within the unincorporated areas of Supervisorial District 2 in Monterey County. Within this area, the costs of thinning, trimming, or removing eucalyptus trees that are located within the defensible space of structures and roadways may be partially covered by grant funding. This pilot program is funded through a \$1 million grant from the California Office of Emergency Services. Terms of this pilot program are limited by that grant and by the general requirements described in these guidelines. If your application is approved, up to 50% of the costs of the tree services will be paid by the County under this program. The remaining cost will be the responsibility of the property owner.

Eligibility: Owners of land in unincorporated Supervisorial District 2 that have eucalyptus trees located within the defensible space of structures and roadways are eligible for this pilot program. Applications will be considered on a first come first served basis while funding remains.

Defensible Space: See attached Guidelines for Creating Defensible Space Adopted by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF) or contact your local Fire Department for more information. Generally, defensible space includes the areas within 100 feet of a structure (or up to the property line if the property line is less than 100 feet from structures), or within 30 feet of a road. This distance may be increased based on topography and other considerations in consultation with the appropriate Fire Department representative.

North County Fire
<https://www.ncfpd.org/contact-us>

Aromas Tri-County Fire
<https://www.atcfire.org/contact-us>

Exclusions: The following activities are excluded from this project and will not be eligible:

- Clearing of eucalyptus trees for development.

- Removal of Eucalyptus trees within Monarch overwintering sites including the area near the old Moss Landing Middle School along Highway 1 between Springfield Road and Struve Road and the area north of the Moss Landing Power Plant. At both sites, trimming of limbs up to 10 feet from the ground within the defensible space of a structure or road may be allowed provided the limbs are removed between March 1 and October 1 of each year and no chemicals are used.
- Removal of Eucalyptus trees within a wetland or riparian corridors.
- Removal of eucalyptus trees that have active bird nests.

Slash, Trunks, and Debris Removal: Tree limbs, trunks, and other slash and debris created from trimming, thinning, and removal of eucalyptus under this program shall be managed in one of the following ways:

- Chipped and spread as mulch onsite;
- Piled and burned with proper permits from the fire department;
- Split for firewood and piled at a safe distance from structures and roads;
- Collected and hauled to an appropriate site to receive the slash and debris; or
- Cleaned from the site and disposed of in a manner acceptable to Monterey County Housing & Community Development (HCD).

Stumps and Limbs: Stumps and limbs should be treated to prevent regrowth. Treatment generally includes:

- Stump grinding in areas that are not susceptible to erosion (on slopes or with erodible soils) or environmental damage;
- Treatment with herbicides in accordance with the associated product label;
- Tarping to provide light deprivation to the stumps;
- Sealing the stumps or tree trunks where limbs were removed; or
- Other treatment acceptable to HCD.

Licensed Tree Service Contractors: All activities shall be performed by a licensed tree service contractor. Property owners shall submit at least two proposals from licensed tree services contractors to perform the work. Licensed tree service contractors can be found and verified on the Contractors State Licensing Board website at

<https://www.cslb.ca.gov/OnlineServices/CheckLicenseII/ZipCodeSearch.aspx>

Follow-up Documentation: Property owners and/or the licensed tree contractor shall provide records of receipts, photographs and/or other evidence of compliance with the terms of this program. Evidence shall be sufficient to show:

- Number of trees removed/trimmed
- Method of slash and stump removal;
- Treatment of stumps and limbs;
- Date of work;
- Other relevant information

APPLICATION PROCESS

Step 1 – Review Guidelines and Verify Eligibility

Before submitting an application, please review the Guidelines for Eucalyptus Tree Pilot Project in North Monterey County to be sure you are eligible for the program and are aware of the requirements and limitations. Also, please review the Guidelines for Creating Defensible Space to familiarize yourself with vegetation management policies. For additional information or questions please contact the offices of the District 2 Supervisor.

Website: <https://www.countyofmonterey.gov/government/board-of-supervisors/district-2-glenn-church>

Phone: (831) 755-5022

Email: district2@countyofmonterey.gov

Step 2 – Gather Information

Information required with your statement of interest will include:

- Property owners name, address, and Assessor's Parcel Number for the property where the work will occur;
- A diagram of the property showing the general location of roads and structures, the location and number of trees proposed to be trimmed or removed, and the distance of those trees from the roads or structures;
- At least two quotes from Licensed Tree Service Contractors;
 - The proposed method of slash and debris removal;
 - Stump and limb treatments; and
 - The need for follow-up documentation
- Contact your local Fire Department if unique circumstances apply and get their opinion in writing.

Step 3 - Submit your Application

Please submit an application by mail, or in person before August 1, 2024. Applications should be mailed or hand delivered to the District 2 Supervisors office. The offices are open between 9 am and 4 pm Monday thru Friday, at the District 2 Supervisors office located at:

11140 Speegle Street
Castroville, CA 95012

Be sure to attach the information gathered in Step 2.

Additional application deadlines will be provided if funding remains after the initial (August 1) round.

Step 4 – Application Decision

Applications will be reviewed on a first come, first served basis. A representative of RCDMC or the County will contact you to arrange a survey of your property prior to authorizing the work. You will be provided a written determination on your application following the survey. Please do not remove or trim any trees until after you receive written authorization. You may still get a permit to remove dead or hazardous trees from Monterey County Housing & Community Development during the review period, however, without prior authorization, work would be at the owner's sole expense.

Step 5 – Proceed with Work (Authorized Permits)

If your application is approved, you may authorize the selected Tree Service Contractor to proceed with the work. Be sure you or your contractor document steps taken to comply with the pilot project guidelines.

Step 6 – Billing and Payment

Submit the bill for the tree services to RCDMC by email at jtlewis@rcdmonterey.org and accounting@rcdmonterey.org

RCDMC will pay 50% of the bill up to a maximum of \$25,000. It is the property owner's responsibility to pay the remaining amount.

Step 7 – Submit Final Documentation

Upon completion of the work, the property owner or Tree Service Contractor on behalf of the property owner, shall provide records of receipts, photographs, and other evidence of compliance with the pilot project including but not limited to the following:

- Number of trees removed/trimmed
- Method of slash and stump removal;
- Treatment of stumps and limbs;
- Date of work; and
- Other relevant information as may be requested

If your application is not approved under this pilot project, you may still be able to trim or remove eucalyptus trees within defensible space. Such work will be not be reimbursed by the County through this project. Please contact Monterey County Housing & Community Development to obtain any necessary permits or waivers of permits prior to preforming the work.

Monterey County Housing & Community Development

1441 Shilling Place, 2nd Floor

Salinas, CA 93901

<https://www.countyofmonterey.gov/government/departments-a-h/housing-community-development/about-us>

Phone: (831) 755-5233

Other Important Contact Information:

North County Fire

<https://www.ncfpd.org/contact-us>

Phone: (831) 633-2578

Aromas Tri-County Fire

<https://www.atcfire.org/contact-us>

Phone: (831) 333-4600

Resource Conservation District of
Monterey County

<https://www.rcdmonterey.org/>

Email: jtlewis@rcdmonterey.org

District 2 Supervisor's Office

<https://www.countyofmonterey.gov/government/board-of-supervisors/district-2-glenn-church>

Phone: (831) 755-5022

Email: district2@countyofmonterey.gov