



**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
FIRE SAFETY AND FUELS REDUCTION PROGRAM**



July 16, 2004

Dear Property Owner,

Years of drought in Southern California have stricken forest health and provided a ready home to the opportunistic bark beetle. Infestation has reached epidemic levels throughout San Diego County. As a result of the high rates of tree mortality, the Governor of the State of California has declared a State of Emergency in San Diego County due to the threat of catastrophic wildfire.

In response to this emergency, the County has secured \$7.8 million in grant money to remove dead, dying and diseased trees from forested areas, primarily in the Julian and Mt. Palomar areas. These afflicted trees will be removed, within two hundred feet of the centerline of the roadway, to protect evacuation corridors in the event of wildfire

If you have received this letter, you own property adjacent to an evacuation corridor (Canfield Road). There are two options available to you:

- #1. Enter into the County's voluntary Fire Safety and Fuels Reduction Program, which will allow the County to remove dead, dying and diseased trees from your property within 200 feet from the centerline of Canfield Road. This program will be provided at no cost to you.
- #2. Make your own arrangements to remove the dead, dying and diseased trees within 200 feet of the roadway in the next 14 days at your expense and submit verification to the County.

It is imperative we remove these trees to protect evacuation corridors during future wildfires or other disasters. If, after 14 days from the date of this letter, you have not enrolled in the voluntary tree removal program or otherwise made verifiable arrangements to removed all dead, dying and diseased trees as described above, the County will initiate a Summary Abatement process to remove these trees. The property owner will not be charged for the cost to remove trees, however he/she will be billed for the administrative costs associated with performing the abatement.

If you choose Option #1, the County will need permission from you, in the form of a signed right-of-entry (included with this letter), to enter your property to perform the following tasks:

- Have a qualified forester evaluate all trees on your property within 200 feet of the centerline of the roadway and mark those trees that are dead, dying or diseased.



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- Fell and remove the marked trees from your property. The County will use only licensed, insured and qualified tree removal contractors. If there is a fence between the trees to be removed and the roadway, the fence will be taken down and replaced once the work is complete.
- The cut branches and dead, dying and diseased trees less than 8 inches in diameter will either be removed from the site or processed through a wood chipper, which will distribute the wood chips in a thin layer throughout the immediate area.
- Install any necessary stormwater protection devices to prevent sediment from tree removal activities from being washed into creeks and streams.

If you desire to participate in this free voluntary program, please sign the enclosed Right-of-Entry form and return it in the enclosed stamped, self addressed envelope. If you own multiple parcels, you will need to send a separate Right-of-Entry form for each parcel.

If you have questions or need additional information concerning the program please call me at 858-495-5445. I am looking forward to working with you on this project to protect evacuation corridors and thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation and participation.

Sincerely

Jon Rollin
LUEG Program Manager

attachments: Right of Entry form, brochure, return envelope