



# News Release

**PARTICIPANTS**

Natural Resources Conservation Service

County of San Diego

United States Forest Service

California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection

Forest Area Safety Task Force of San Diego

Bureau of Land Management

Caltrans

San Diego Gas & Electric

Community Organizations

Interested Stakeholders

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Paul Laustsen

Phone: (951) 684-3722 x. 104

Cell: (951) 961-3366

## **NRCS Completes First Contract**

**Dead and Dying Trees removed under the Watershed Recovery Project**



**San Diego County, CA, October 15, 2004** The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has successfully completed the first hazardous tree removal contract in San Diego County under their Southern California Watershed Recovery Program. Hazardous trees recently killed by fires, drought, or bark beetles are being removed free of cost in an effort to help make San Diego County residents safer.

This first contract, located at the Palomar Christian Conference Center, has removed 355 hazardous trees, providing a safer place for residents and visitors. These trees were removed to protect life and property and to reduce fuel loads that contribute to dangerous wildfire conditions. Removed trees were used for firewood, lumber, or mulch. Mulch is dispersed as an erosion control measure to protect watershed resources.

The Fire Safety and Fuels Reduction Program is a cooperative effort between federal, state, and local agencies, as well as community organizations and other interested stakeholders. The \$45 million program is funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service, County of San Diego and others. More information is available on the internet at [www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov) or <http://www.sdcdpw.org/tree> or by calling Bryan Petit a 760-745-2061.

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**USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Hotline: (866) 402-6044**

**Web Site: <http://www.sdcdpw.org/tree>**