



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO FIRE SAFETY AND FUELS REDUCTION PROGRAM



July 6, 2004

JOHN SMITH
1234 FIRST STREET
SAN DIEGO CA 92120

Dear Property Owner,

SUBJECT: ASSESSOR PARCEL NO.: 999999999
PROPERTY ADDRESS: NATE HARRISON GRADE

In the County of San Diego, hundreds of thousands of trees, weakened by years of drought, are dead, dying or diseased due to widespread infestation by an insect called the bark beetle. These trees present a significant wildfire threat for the county. The County of San Diego will remove the dead, dying and diseased trees in areas that are identified as most hazardous: Palomar Mountain, the Greater Julian area, and the Lost Valley area.

In May of 2004, the County was awarded three federal grants totaling nearly \$40 million. These grants allow the County to start removing the hazardous trees in the high-risk areas, especially around dwellings and along evacuation corridors at no cost to the property owner.

The County of San Diego has established the Fire Safety and Fuels Reduction Program (FSFR) to focus use of \$30 million of this federal funding on identification of and removal of dead, dying and diseased trees from private property to safeguard county residents and their houses from the dangers of falling trees and for protection from wildfires. **The program is free to residents, if you are in a targeted priority area for tree removal.** Your property located at the address listed at the top of this letter has been selected to be included in the FSFR priority area in your community.

Important Facts for You to Know:

- The County will coordinate all arrangements for removal of dead, dying and diseased trees through their Fire Safety and Fuels Reduction Program for targeted priority areas.
- The County will use only licensed, insured and qualified tree removal specialists.
- The County's contractor(s) will install erosion and runoff control measures after the tree specialists remove trees and conduct clean up operations according to standard forest practice rules.
- All wood cut by the County or its contractor(s) becomes the property of the County. Free firewood (in the form of rounds, biscuits or limbs) for homeowners may be stacked or stored at specific locations in your community to meet your personal



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needs. Firewood taken from these designated locations may not be sold. Storage must be in accordance with the Consolidated Fire Code for San Diego County. Any firewood (rounds, biscuits or limbs) cutting must be conducted on your property or parcel.

- The California Department of Forestry (CDF) or the United States Forest Service (USFS) may have visited (or is likely to visit) your property and requested or recommended that you remove dead, dying and diseased trees near structures and other fire hazards. If this has occurred and you received this letter, your property is in one of the County's priority areas and you may be eligible to enroll in the County FSFR Program for tree removal. NOTE: This program does not include removal of brush, garbage, etc.

To participate in the FSFR Program you must sign and return the enclosed "Right to Enter" form no later than:

JULY 19, 2004

By mailing it to: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Fire Safety and Fuels Reduction Program
Attn: Kenneth J. Miller, Fire Marshal
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B. (MS O650)
San Diego, CA 92123-1666

Or faxing it to: (858) 694-3787.

Once the County receives this signed document, a forester will mark the trees on your property to be removed. You will be notified approximately 3 days before the County begins the tree removal.

If you have any questions or need additional information about the FSFR Program please call the **County Hotline at (858) 495-5494** or **Toll Free at (866) 402-6044** or visit our website at <http://www.sdcdpw.org/tree/>.

The County of San Diego looks forward to working with you on this project. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation and participation.