



**Los Altos Hills County Fire District
FY2018/19 Residential Program
Dead or Dying Trees and Eucalyptus Tree Removal Program
Issued on March 7, 2019**

The following General Comments and FAQ provide information regarding the FY2018/19 Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD) Residential Program established for removal of dead or dying and Eucalyptus trees. Information in the FAQ applies to developments in the FY2018/19 Program and is not indicative of future Tree Removal Programs.

General Comments

Tree removal by LAHCFD is subject to funds available during the fiscal year and in accordance with the program developed for each year. The current Tree Removal Program is a fire prevention measure to benefit the Fire District and its residents. However, the Program does not constitute a guarantee of tree removal per each request or the same program from year to year. Tree Removal Programs can change and adapt as fire prevention measures change and new strategies and priorities for fuel reduction are developed in light of evolving best practices.

Due to the on-going drought and environmental conditions that negatively affects trees, there is a growing number of residents' requests for trees needing to be removed. In FY2018/19, requests from residents for dead tree removals have outstripped the Fire District's budget. Hence, for the current year, the District cannot respond to dead tree removal requests that are received after all funds are allocated.

Property owners are responsible for the care, safety and removal of trees on their property. The District's current Tree Removal Program is designed as a measure to augment fire prevention. It is not a guarantee for individual property owner's dead tree removal. The Program does not replace property owners' obligations for maintenance, safety and removal of dead or dying trees on their property.

FAQ

1. Who has the current contract with LAHCFD for tree removal; when does the contract end?
Answer - McClenahan Tree Service. Contract for services ends June 30, 2019.

2. Are the funding and measures for a new tree service contract in place for FY2019/20?
Answer - Funding of \$2M was approved by the LAHCFD Board of Commissioners for the Dead or Dying Tree and Eucalyptus Tree Removal Program (Tree Removal Program) from July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019. All funds have been allocated and trees have been scheduled for removal through June 30, 2019. Work on the scheduled trees is currently in progress. Funds for the Tree Removal Program for July 1, FY2019/20 are in

the pending budget and are contingent on approval of a program that may or may not be similar to the current Tree Removal Program.

3. What is the wait list of sites wherein residents have requested trees to be removed but funds are not available for this current year?

Answer – As of 1/17/2019, 144 sites were on the wait list for tree removals pending budget approval and program design for FY 2019/20. The number of sites on the wait list increases as requests are received. As of 2/15/2019, thirteen additional site requests for tree removals were received to total 157 sites on the wait list. It is anticipated approximately 220 sites will be on the wait list at the end of June 2019. The number of trees for removal per site has not been determined nor has the process of addressing the wait list been decided.

4. What plans are in place to reduce the wait list in FY2019/20?

Answer - FY 2018/19 funds have been fully allocated for removal of trees. Contractor is removing dead trees in accordance with the budget through June 30, 2019. Removal plans for dead, dying or Eucalyptus trees on the wait list are contingent on the FY2019/20 budget and on approval program as determined by the Board of Commissioners.

This FAQ will be updated in accordance with budget, program and operational considerations and reissued as updates in the program are determined by the Los Altos Hills County Fire District Board of Commissioners.