

**Jeanne Evilsizer**

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**From:** Michelle Wu <totequeenmichelle@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 15, 2018 8:23 AM  
**To:** gktyson@gmail.com  
**Cc:** jeannefire@cruzers.net  
**Subject:** A proactive way to our dead tree removal program?

Hi George,

I would like to add an agenda item for the next fire commission meeting in Sept. The agenda item would be to allow me to present a more proactive approach for our current tree removal program and seeking for input from the team.

**Problem:** Many dead trees lying around the town, waiting for the home owners or renters to spot them and report them. But they don't. Their properties are very large and they are traveling out of town or simply don't care. The currently tree remove program is -

High cost of tree removal program

Inefficient and long time length of removing tree Neglected dead trees hanging dry for years (home owners and/ renters) Lacking of visual display of tree condition during the approval process.

**Solution:** a more efficient, cost effective proactive approach to prevent fire

1. Currently our tree removal program rely on the residents (either be the home owners, or the renters) to respond to a paper mailing cards, or call in for tree removal on their own properties. We should allow anyone to report a spotted fire hazard, mainly dead trees, brushes or dry woods on any property that is visible to public, either on public road, or from a specific view point that can be seen. Such reporting process should also be expanded to online form and phone apps like Los Altos Hills Connects.

2. Our tree removal company, SP McClanahan should drive around the town periodically, like once a month during high fire season, checking for dead trees and report them.

3. The mechanisms of reporting dead trees should be an online, either by phone or by any electronic device which includes description, location and photos. For example, apps like Los Altos Hills Connect is used to report any hazard situation to the town and the crew monitors the report in real time. So we can visually see every dead tree in pictures, or the tree conditions.

4. The tree removal approval should also be online and in real time. Currently, S.P. McClanahan inspect each tree and write an evaluation of the tree condition, such as 100% dead, 80% dead 55% dead. Then they recommend whether the tree should be removed or not. With photos submitted, we can visually see the tree condition, it would be much more accurate for us to assess the tree.

5. If the dead tree removal is requested by the residents, we can proceed the removal as is. If the dead tree removal is requested by anyone other than neighbors, SP McClanahan should find a way to contact the responsible party and notify them about the dead tree and offer free removal to reduce fire hazard. I would think 99% of the resident would cooperate and allow the dead trees to be removed from their property, especially when there is no cost to them.

6, the situation when the residents refused to remove dead trees on their property, perhaps the fire commissioners could act as a mediator and find out why their don't want to remove dead tree. And hope to get them agree to remove.

This is just a draft of my thoughts. If you allow me to discuss it in our next meeting, I can prepare better before the meeting. Just let me know how you want to to proceed.

Best regards,

-Michelle Wu  
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