



**Los Altos Hills County Fire District  
FY2018/19 Residential Program  
Dead or Dying Trees and Eucalyptus Tree Removal Program  
Issued on April 16, 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 lingering effects of the 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. The current 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 will likely feature modification from the current Tree Removal Program (see #3 below).

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 3/19/2019, 170 sites are on the wait list for tree removals pending budget approval and program design for FY 2019/20. To extend limited District funds and to focus District efforts on the highest fire risk, the planned program for those sites on the wait list as of 3/19/2019 is to limit tree removal to dead and dying conifers or eucalyptus trees regardless of their health, and to limit each site to a maximum of three trees or total cost to the District of \$8,000, whichever comes first. More detailed specifics will be implemented in a new contract bid process to be implemented by approximately July/August 2019.**

4. If I am on the wait list (prior to 3/19/2019), when can I expect to have my trees removed?  
**Answer – The District will begin site evaluations in the April/May timeframe, with an expected start of tree removal after acceptance of a successful bid by a qualified tree contractor. The goal will be to begin as soon as possible and complete the work by June 2020. Specific schedules cannot be developed prior to site evaluations and contract approval.**

5. What if I submitted my tree request after 3/19/2019?

**Answer – The District makes no guarantee that the Tree Removal Program will continue beyond those scheduled in #3 above**

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