



SAN RAFAEL FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE CHIEF DARIN WHITE

PHONE: (415) 485-3304

FAX: (415) 453-1627

1375 FIFTH AVENUE - SAN RAFAEL, CA 94901

[Date]

Re: Roadside Vegetation Management Project in Your Neighborhood

Dear Resident,

Over the past five years, California and the North Bay have experienced a dramatic increase in the number and frequency of catastrophic wildfires. Marin County has a long history of significant wildfires, including many in San Rafael and nearby communities. This letter serves to notify you of important work the City is undertaking in your neighborhood to improve evacuation routes. This work will also help create defensible space, slow fire spread, and improve routine and emergency traffic flow.

The California Fire Code, International Wildland Urban Interface Code, and City of San Rafael Municipal Code (SRMC 4.12) requires that any person who owns, controls or leases property located within the City maintain one hundred feet (100') of defensible space around structures, thirteen feet six inches (13'6") of vertical clearance over roadways, and ten (10') feet of horizontal clearance along roadsides and driveways.

The planned work includes, but is not limited to, the following where access is available and removal is appropriate:

- Pruning or removing vegetation that encroaches into the roadway or shoulder.
- Removal of tree limbs that extend over the roadway to create at least thirteen feet, 6 inches (13'6") of vertical clearance above the width of the roadway.
- Removal of combustible vegetation located along the roadway and up to ten feet (10') horizontally. Combustible vegetation includes but is not limited to bamboo, juniper, acacia, Italian cypress, and pampas or fountain grasses located on the public right-of-way side of any fence.
- Removal of tree limbs within 5 feet (5') of the ground, not to exceed 1/3 of the tree's total height, along the edge of roadways and up to ten (10') feet horizontally.
- Removal of vegetation to create adequate vertical and horizontal spacing to reduce the potential of fire bridges or ladders.

Property owners may request to "opt out" or not participate in this Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA) funded program. However, residents are still required, **at their own expense**, to maintain vegetation to the standards outlined in SRMC 4.12 and summarized herein. Diagrams, specifications, and schedules are available online at:

www.cityofsanrafael.org/roadway-clearances/

If you choose not to participate, please sign and return the "opt-out" form included with this letter on or before [Date]. You may visit our administrative office at 1375 Fifth Ave during business hours to complete or return an opt out letter.

For more information on defensible space, please visit www.cityofsanrafael.org/vegetation-management/ or contact us at 415-485-3054 or email srfd.dspace@cityofsanrafael.org.

Respectfully,

Darin White
Fire Chief

If you have received a door hanger, your property has upcoming work.

Please complete this form to opt out -

Visit www.cityofsanrafael.org/departments/fire/ for more information

Roadside Evacuation Route Clearance: Resident Opt-out Notice

I (Name) _____, as the owner of the property located at (Address) _____, voluntarily choose not to participate in the 2022 City of San Rafael Roadside Evacuation Route Clearance Program. I understand that I am still responsible for maintaining vegetation on my property per the regulations outlined in the California Fire Code 4907.3 and San Rafael Municipal Code 4.12. This includes vegetation within 10 feet of roadways.

Please explain your reason for opting-out, and your plan and timeline for completing required vegetation removal on your property:

Signature

Date

To opt-out, complete and return to:
San Rafael Fire Administrative Office
Re: Roadside Vegetation Opt-out
1375 Fifth Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901