



March 4, 2020

**Re: Town of Corte Madera Evacuation Route Fuels Reduction Program: *Building Community Resilience a Neighborhood at a Time***

Dear Resident:

The Town of Corte Madera has embarked on another phase of its comprehensive vegetation management program to further increase defensible space, improve ingress & egress for first responders, improve primary and secondary evacuation routes, improve vehicular sightlines, and enhance pedestrian and biker safety. This is a town-wide initiative.

**Landscape on Private vs. Public Property**

Any tree or vegetation planted on private property is the property owner's responsibility, including if it is encroaching into the public right-of-way. The California Fire Code (Section 4907.2) and ordinances adopted by the Town require that vegetation be cleared 15 feet overhead to allow for safe and unimpeded passage by emergency vehicles. The code also requires 10 feet of clearance from the sides of roads and driveways. This is achieved by cutting all dead grasses to a minimum of 4 inches, removing all tree limbs that are within 10 feet of the ground, providing horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees, and cutting and removing all fire prone plants.

**One-time Town Abatement Offer**

The Town recognizes that street and public right-of-way abatement can be daunting and expensive for a homeowner. Using Measure F funds, the Town is offering a one-time abatement at no cost to the homeowner to bring our streets into compliance. Abatement will be conducted in the public right-of-way and not on private property. This is an evacuation route fuels reduction program only). Participation is voluntary. A homeowner can choose to opt out by contacting the Town Resilience Coordinator at (415) 924-6362 and requesting an opt out form.

If the homeowner chooses **NOT** to participate, the homeowner is still responsible for meeting the compliance requirements detailed above. Failure to comply with abatement requirements will result in a Wildfire Hazard Warning Notice requiring the hazard be abated within 15 days. Residents who fail to comply will be noticed. The Town will hire subcontractors to abate the property to conform with the code. The bill for these services will be sent to the homeowner for payment. Failure to pay may result in a special assessment or lien against the property.

**Prioritization of Streets**

In collaboration with Central Marin Fire Department, the Town prioritized streets to be abated and started the work on November 2019. The streets identified have been determined as having excessive roadway encroachments creating fire and safety hazards that place residents and first responders at considerable risk in the event of an emergency. Mitigation of these encroachments will also enhance vehicular, pedestrian and bicyclist passage.

***Please note that the following streets have been scheduled for abatement to begin as noted below and as time and weather permits.***

***Week of March 23 and March 30***

- ***South Way, Madrono Avenue, Pleasant Avenue, Woodhue Lane, and Encina Lane***

***Week of March 30 and April 6***

- ***Manzanita Avenue, Eastman Avenue, Oakdale Avenue, Rocklyn Court, Willow Avenue (South of Tamalpais Drive), and Buena Vista Avenue***

If you have any questions regarding this program, please do not hesitate to contact our Resilience Coordinator, Marla Orth, at (415) 924-6362.

Sincerely,



Todd Cusimano  
Town Manager

&



Ruben Martin  
Fire Marshal

**Roadside Vegetation Management Opt Out Form**

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**Roadside Hazardous Vegetation Management Program “Opt Out”**

I (Name) \_\_\_\_\_, as the owner of the property located at (Address)\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, voluntarily choose not to participate in the 2019 Town  
of Corte Madera Roadside Vegetation Management Program. I understand that I am still  
responsible for maintaining vegetation in the frontage of my property per the regulations outlined  
in the California Fire Code, Corte Madera Municipal Code, and State Law.

Please explain your reason for opting-out, and any plans and timelines for completing required  
vegetation removal on your property:

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_