



April 20, 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. 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 May 18th Chapman Drive

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

***** SPECIAL NOTE ON COVID-19**

The Central Marin Fire Department has been in continuous contact with the Marin County Health and Human Services Department regarding the current state of the COVID-19 health crisis, and more importantly on what are the best practices during the Shelter at Home Order. As you are aware certain activities have been allowed to continue, as long as social distances of 6 feet or greater are maintained.

*The County urges non-essential outdoor services to be deferred to minimize risk of transmission. However, there are some outdoor services that would be considered essential and are permitted under this Order, **including fire reduction work, maintaining growth along curbs and medians in order to ensure visibility along roadways**, minimum basic operations necessary to maintain the value of a business, and other tasks that are essential to the health and safety of the public.*

*The Central Marin Fire Department and Town of Corte Madera will continue the vegetation management and hazardous fuels reduction projects along our **PRIMARY** and **SECONDARY** evacuation routes while maintaining social distances. For questions regarding COVID-19, please contact the Fire Marshal at (628)600-9988.*

Sincerely,



Todd Cusimano
Town Manager

&



Ruben Martin
Fire Marshal

Roadside Vegetation Management Opt Out Form

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:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

If you are choosing to opt out of this program, please send back this opt out form to:

*Central Marin Fire Authority
Attn: Fire Marshal Ruben Martin
342 Tamalpais Drive
Corte Madera, CA 94925*

You may also email a copy of this opt out form to rmartin@centralmarinfire.org