

Subject: **Removal of Dead and Dying Trees**

Dear Resident,

El Dorado County will soon begin removing dead and dying trees resulting from the current drought and subsequent bark beetle attack. The Governor and the County Board of Supervisors have declared a state of emergency caused by the hazard of falling trees and the increased risk of wild fires. Due to this emergency, the County will be removing trees that could potentially fall on or over a public road or public structure. Some of these trees may be on your property or near your home. We are sending this letter to you because we have determined that your property may have dead and dying tree(s) that need to be removed for public safety.

The County will be starting a Tree Mortality Emergency Project in your neighborhood soon. Removal of these trees will be provided as a service, free of charge to you. To begin our work, the County needs your permission to enter your property. Enclosed is a Right of Entry Permit that the County is asking you to sign. This Permit says that you are granting permission for contractors who are tree specialists and foresters hired by the County to come onto your property with their crew to inspect trees that are within 200 feet of a public road or public structure and to mark any tree that is dead or dying due to drought and/or bark beetle infestation. Please note, some trees may not look dead but may be marked for removal because the tree is showing signs of beetle infestation and will die in the near future.

The inspection and marking of dead or dying trees on your property is the first phase. During the second phase, contractors who are Licensed Timber Operators will return to your property to remove and clear the trees that have been marked. This Permit gives all contractors, Licensed Timber Operators, and crews hired by the County permission to return and remove the trees on your property without any additional permission from you.

In addition to contractors hired by the County, this Permit also gives State agencies such as CAL FIRE and Cal OES permission to come onto your property during all phases of this emergency project. The County will also be coordinating with Caltrans and PG&E in the removal of trees and clearing of debris.

In exchange for the work performed on your property free of charge, if you sign this Permit, you are agreeing that the County, the State and their contractors are not responsible for any kind of loss or damage to you, your property, or anyone else, in connection with their work on your property. Please read the terms of the Permit carefully and make sure you understand them.

All contractors working on or near your property will be fully licensed and insured. You may obtain a copy of their professional services contract that includes copies of their licensure and insurance upon written request.

While we are working on tree removal as quickly as possible, the problem is vast, and we cannot predict when this project will begin, or be completed. Every effort will be made to cut and remove dead trees in your area as soon as possible.

THE COUNTY EXPECTS THAT CONTRACTORS WILL BE IN YOUR AREA ON OR ABOUT _____. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR ADDRESS OR ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER (APN), SIGN, AND RETURN THE RIGHT OF ENTRY PERMIT BY _____

TO:

XXXXXXX
XXXXXXX
XXXXXXX
XXXXXXX

IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT YOU PROVIDE A PHONE NUMBER OR EMAIL ADDRESS IN THE PLACE PROVIDED ON THE PERMIT WHERE YOU CAN BE REACHED DAILY FOR URGENT COMMUNICATIONS AND IMPORTANT UPDATES.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Community Information Lines at: (XXX) XXX-XXXX. Due to the high volume of calls, it may be necessary to leave a message with your contact information. Someone will return your call soon as possible. For project updates, please visit http://www.edcgov.us/Living/Tree_Mortality.aspx and click on Tree Mortality.

Sincerely,

John Kahling

Deputy Director, Engineering

El Dorado County Community Development Agency