



TREE MORTALITY AID PROGRAM

P.O. BOX 222
STANDARD, CA 95373
(209) 532-6272 EXT. 208

The Sonora Lions Club, Sunrise Rotary, Sonora Kiwanis, Sierra Non-Profit, Highway 108 and Yosemite Foothills Fire Safe Councils and Area 12 Agency on Aging have taken on a monumental project impacting Tuolumne County. The goal of the project is the removal of dead and dying trees on private property of qualified homeowners (seniors over 60 years old and disabled adults) not able to finance or remove them themselves. Although PG&E, Tuolumne County, Caltrans and other public utilities are removing tree mortality affecting their facilities, there is NO aid available at this time for private property owners. They are on their own.

11 counties have applied for California Disaster Assistance Act funding to mitigate the bark beetle epidemic. Tuolumne County has begun removing hazard trees that are within the distance of falling on or over a County maintained road or County maintained structure. Many trees will fall under PG&E, Caltrans, or TUD jurisdiction, but many more will not. It is those trees that do not, that are our target. To accomplish, this we need to raise money.... LOTS of money. At an average of \$1,000 per tree and an estimate of 2000 trees (at this time), we are looking at approximately \$2 million for Tuolumne County.

Falling trees are not only a safety problem for people and property, but with fire season upon us, CAL FIRE is greatly concerned with all the added fuel in the forests. Many of these dead trees are within the 100 foot defensible space and have to be removed to facilitate good fire prevention and/or fire fighting if the need arises.

Area 12 Agency on Aging will qualify applicants and Sonora Area Foundation is serving as our fiduciary agent. Experienced forestry and arborist personnel will be qualifying trees and marking them on private property with signed agreements by the landowners. Licensed Timber Operators will be utilized to safely remove trees.

Our goal is to encourage all service clubs and non-profit organizations in Tuolumne County to join TMAP. Representatives from a number of these groups would make up a committee help lead the community toward the goal of a safer Tuolumne County. This group will encourage club, multi-club and county wide fund raising efforts.

Above all, this project serves those in need in Tuolumne County. We hope you will join us in this crucial effort.



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Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why is this needed?

A: To-date, no assistance is available for homeowners who do not have the means to cover the high cost of removing large trees threatening their homes and lives that are not within PG&E or Public infrastructure tree removal programs. Eventually, dead trees will begin to break down, shed limbs, tree tops and the weakened root systems will no longer hold up the main stem of the tree, especially if winds are present. The potential outcome of many homes being destroyed or abandoned due to tree mortality will have a long term economic impact on this County as well as the effects on the affected homeowners and neighborhoods.

Q. I'm a renter, do I qualify for the Program?

A: No. This program is for homeowners only.

Q. How do I qualify?

A: Applicants must be 60 years of age or older, or a disabled adult, meet income eligibility requirements and their primary residence must be in Tuolumne County.

Q. A tree on my property affects my neighbor's house, do I qualify?

A: This will depend on the assessment of the property to gauge the scope of the work needed.

Q. Who does the work?

A: Only qualified Forestry Technicians or Licensed Foresters will designate trees. Licensed Timber Operators (LTO) will be contracted to do the tree felling, removal of logs and slash disposal. may be land owner responsibility.

Q. When will this begin?

A: The project will be officially kicking off on September 15th. Tree removal will be dependent on funding to assure we can reasonably cover needs.

Q. Where will the funding come from?

A: We will first seek contributions from local non-profit organizations, businesses and people living in Tuolumne County. Addition funding may be available through grants, charitable organizations, corporations and other sources outside of the County.

Q. Who is running the Program?

A: The Sonora Lions Club has committed sponsorship of the program as a 501(C-4). The Program will have its' own organization and operate as a function of the Sonora Lions Club and responsible to their Board of Directors. This program is a collaboration between private and public partners. Area 12 Agency on Aging will assist with screening potential applicants, Sonora Area Foundation provides funds management and volunteers and in-kind contributions will be utilized to stretch the funds to meet the needs of as many people as possible.

Q. If I sign the Right of Entry Permit, is work guaranteed?

A: No. The Programs' ability to cover qualified applicants will be dependent on the availability of adequate funding.

Q. Where do I get more information?

A: You can call Area 12 Agency on Aging at 532-6272. Their Information & Assistance staff will provide additional information and pre-screening for the program. If you are not eligibility for this program they will provide information on other possible options. A web site will be functional soon and media information is being developed.

Q. How can I help?

A: If you would like to make a donation to the program, please contact Sonora Area Foundation at (209) 533-2596. If you would like to volunteer for one of our TMAP committees please contact Cathy Peacock at (209) 532-6272 Ext. 208.