



Calaveras County *Butte Fire Recovery*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Sharon Torrence

(209) 754-6824

(209) 768-0871

Hazzard Tree Hot Line

(209)754-6767

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Butte Fire Hazard Tree Removal? When will the Trees Come Down?

On August 2, 2016 the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors approved a contract between Phillips and Jordan Inc. and Calaveras County for removing approximately 8300 dead and dying trees within the Butte Fire area. The trees to be removed are adjacent to and pose a hazard to the traveling public on the County's public roads. Since the contract was approved several issues have delayed the start of removing the trees.

Funding for the tree removal program is provided by the Federal Emergency Managements Public Assistance (FEMA) program and the California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA). These programs have many requirements that must be followed. As a condition of funding, Calaveras County is required to take measures to preserve and protect 3 identified items determined to need monitoring under the National Environmental Policy Act.

One area of concern is Cultural and Historic Preservation of Native American and mining activity. Both require measures to preserve evidence of these activities

Another item is the California Red-legged Frog whose habitat exists through much of the Sierra Mountains and is listed under the Endangered Species Act as a threatened species. Calaveras County is specifically listed in the Register that describes the red legged designation.

Presently the County has been working with FEMA's environmental staff to understand and prepare a plan to meet these requirements. Work is expected to resume and tree removal to begin in late September.

For more information, visit the Butte Fire Recovery website at www.butte.calaverasgov.us

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