



Calaveras County *Butte Fire Recovery*

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

December 9, 2016

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Tree Mortality

What Funding Resources Are Available for Tree Removal?

The Calaveras County Tree Mortality Task Force was formed in March of this year to leverage all federal, state, local and private resources available, to protect the infrastructure of our community by working to eliminate the danger of falling trees impacted by the drought and bark beetle infestation. Dollars available through State and Federal Grant programs so far only address state and federal lands, local roads and infrastructure.

Funding resources that may be available to private property owners are limited. For most property owners, taking down the dead and dying trees on their property that are next to and pose a threat to them is a daunting task both physically and financially. The following resources may be available and worth the time to research:

- Groups such as local Fire Safe Counsels and other non- profits have applied for SRA Grants each totaling up to \$200,000. If they receive those grant dollars, the funds can then be used to help private property owners remove their trees. How those dollars would be dispersed is yet to be determined.
- The National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has grants available for those who have private forest lands. Applications for Environmental Quality Incentives Program(EQIP)grants can be found by going to : <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/>
- The USDA Rural Housing Service has a program with low interest loans and grants up to \$27,500. This program is income based and is focused on low income homeowners and the elderly to remove health and safety hazards from their property. **To learn more: www.rd.usda.gov**
- Financial institutions are another option. There are home equity loans and lines of credit with fairly low interest rates available to qualifying applicants through their current lender or other financial institutions.
- Service groups like Lions, Kiwanis's, and Area 12 Agency on Aging have developed a program called "Tree Mortality Assistance Program" or" TMAP". They are raising money through several events and plan to use those dollars to help those that are not able to afford the cost of removing the trees.

For more information on Tree Mortality go to: Calaverasgov.us and then click on Tree Mortality