



FIREWISE USA[®]
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Date: August 2, 2021

To: LACC Board of Directors

Cc: Scott Devereaux, LACC General Manager

From: LACC Firewise Committee, Penny Leinwander, Chair 

SUBJECT: LACC CONTROLLED PROPERTY CLEANUP

The LACC Firewise Committee thanks you for your dedicated support of improving the level of fire safety in our community.

Considering the current fire conditions in the State of California, it is requested that the Board adopt the 'Recommended Fuel Reduction Goals for LACC Property' detailed below as soon as possible. Additionally, we request that the General Manager provide answers to the listed questions at the August 7, 2021 meeting.

In the LACC Community Wildfire Protection Program (2020 Appendix), the Number 1 priority item is:

- 1) Hazardous fuel removal along evacuation routes throughout the community, "to provide for safe access for emergency wildland fire equipment and civilian evacuation" as required by Title 14, Code of California Regulations, and maintenance of the common area.

On January 18, 2021, Ed Organ (BOD President) sent an email to the GM listing lots that needed hazardous fuels reduction in the right of ways of Clifford, Lynx, and Golf Club. I haven't found any follow-up correspondence on the subject. I talked with Scott and it seems Ed's email may have gotten sidetracked. I believe Scott was going to check with his staff, but possibly it was not clear as what was being asked in the email. Therefore, the following specific standards should be adopted by the board:

Recommended Fuel Reduction Goals for LACC Property, Excluding Private Property (LE-100 & BOF Guidelines attached):

1. Per LE-100, Zone 2, perform the following:
 - a. Item H. "Cut annual grasses..."
 - b. Item I. "Remove fuels i.a.w..... BOF General Guidelines item 4."
 - c. Item J. Exposed wood piles guidance.
 - d. Item K. "Dead and dying wood surface fuels and aerial fuels shall be removed."

2. Perform this cleanup in the right of ways (ROWs) that are under LACC responsibility, from the property line to the paved road. IGNORE tree and shrub spacing with trees and shrubs on private lots AT THIS TIME. Treat the ROWs as a completely independent area.
3. Remove any vegetative growth on roadways.
4. Perform fuels reduction in other common areas and areas along the golf course but not on private property.
5. Prepare a standard letter to send to property owners prior to work on the ROWs, especially when it appears the property owner has encroached on the ROWs with lawns, shrubs, etc.

Additionally, the Firewise Committee believes that the following questions need to be sent to the General Manager and answers provided at the next board meeting scheduled for August 7, 2021:

- A. What has the Maintenance Department completed as to fuels reduction on the lots listed in the January 18, 2021 email?
- B. Was there a lack of clear guidance? Lack of available staff? Lack of equipment? Lack of funding? What can the Firewise committee do to help reduce hazardous fuels that could prevent LACC members from safely evacuating?
- C. What is the maximum size tree that the maintenance crew can safely take down?
- D. What funding is needed for big tree removal? Can you apply the above fuels reduction criteria for a 300 ft. ROWs section along Clifford Drive to get an idea of number of trees that require a contractor to remove and get a cost estimate? Or can a qualified forester make a list of trees along a 300 ft ROWs section that can be submitted to you to get an estimate from your contractors?
- E. Do you need a contractor/forester/Cal Fire Representative to help the maintenance staff interpret the LE-100 criteria?
- F. Can you provide a timeline of when roadway sections will be worked on by the maintenance staff?

Please feel free to call me at (916)835-1549 if you have any questions.

Attachments:

- LE-100 (3/17)
- 2006 Board of Forestry Guidelines
- January 18, 2021 Listing of Lots requiring Cleanup