



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING

Promoting the wise use of land – Helping to build great communities

December 30, 2015

Dear Cambria Resident:

Due to drought conditions and the prevalence of dead or dying trees, which are much more susceptible to burning, the fire risk in Cambria is considered extreme. On September 10, 2015, the County Department of Planning and Building issued a letter to Cambria landowners authorizing them to remove hazardous trees on their property using a streamlined process. This authorization was set to expire on December 31, 2015 based on anticipated rain fall by that date. However, even though the rainy season has begun, the fire threat remains. As of the current date, drought conditions persist, the rate of tree removal is less than expected, and winter storm events pose a threat to public health and safety due to falling hazards. In recognition of these hazards, the Department of Planning and Building hereby extends the streamlined permitting procedure until December 31, 2016.

Under the streamlined process authorized on September 10, 2015 (and extended pursuant to this letter), Cambria landowners may remove any dead tree on their property that is deemed hazardous by Cal Fire provided they replant at a 1:1 ratio. See reverse side of this letter for further instructions. This streamlined process applies only to the removal of dead trees that are deemed hazardous by Cal Fire.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Airlin Singewald, Senior Planner, at (805) 781-5198.

Sincerely,

James A. Bergman
Planning and Building Director
County of San Luis Obispo

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
STREAMLINED PROCESS FOR HAZARDOUS TREE REMOVAL IN CAMBRIA**

Q: How do I get County approval for removing a hazardous tree on my Cambria property?

A: Call Cal Fire at 927-6240 or 927-4262 and request that they send a representative to your property to tag the hazardous tree. You are then free to remove the hazardous tree. No further County approval is required.

Q: What are my responsibilities after I remove a hazardous tree on my Cambria property?

A: You are required to replant at a 1:1 ratio and, within 45 days of tree removal, submit evidence of removal and replacement (photographs, receipts, etc.) to the Department of Planning and Building at the address below:

Department of Planning and Building
976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Q: What type of trees do I replant and where do I get them?

A: Your replacement seedlings must be one gallon size and the same species that you removed. Removed pines shall be replaced with native Monterey pine trees (*pinus radiata* var. *macrocarpa*). These seedlings are available through Greenspace (The Cambria Land Trust): www.greenspacecambria.org / (805) 927-2866 / info@greenspacecambria.org.

No out of the area Monterey pine stock shall be used.

Q: Will the County assist with the removal of hazardous trees on my parcel?

A: This streamlined process makes it easier for Cambria landowners to get approval to remove hazardous trees, but it does not assist with the actual removal of the trees. You are responsible for removing the hazardous trees yourself (at your own risk) or hiring a licensed contractor to remove the trees.

Q: Can I remove a healthy tree?

A: Only hazardous trees tagged by Cal Fire are eligible for removal under this streamlined process. Healthy trees that are not posing a risk to life or property cannot be removed unless they are associated with an approved coastal development permit.

Q: What was the process for removing hazardous trees prior to this authorization?

A: The usual process (prior to this authorization) for getting County approval to remove a hazardous tree involves paying a fee of \$126 (for the first three trees) and \$23 for each additional tree, scheduling an appointment with the County arborist to verify that each tree meets the County's removal criteria, and replanting at a 4:1 ratio.