



BEAR VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

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BEAR VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA

DATE OF MEETING: June 25, 2015
PLACE OPEN & CLOSED SESSION MEETINGS: 28999 South Lower Valley Road
TIME OF OPEN SESSION MEETING: 1:00 pm

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call Attendance

President Charlene LaClaire
Vice President Rick Zanutto
Director Jane Baron
Director Gil Grace
Director Walt Ritchie

3. Approval of Agenda – Roll Call

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Members of the public may address the Board on matters not listed on this Agenda. The Board cannot take action on any item that is not on the Agenda. The Board or staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed, or may ask questions for clarification. These items may also be referred to staff or scheduled on a future Agenda. There will be a separate opportunity for public comment for each item on the Agenda.

6. Disclosures by the Board of Directors

Board Members are asked to disclose any outside communications with individuals and organizations that have an action item on this agenda that pertains directly to them or their specific personal or private interests and which communication is not included or disclosed in the agenda package, so that all interested persons have an equal opportunity to express and represent their interests.

7. Action Items:

- A. APPROVE Publicizing Notice of Proposed Permit Application to CALFIRE by a Registered Professional Forester for Private Property Tree Removal (Jeffrey Pine Only) (Mr. Davis)

8. Information and Discussion Items:

A. Preliminary Budget Workshop

9. **Adjournment:** Meeting will be adjourned to 1:00 pm, Friday, June 26, 2015 and 1:00 pm, Monday, June 29, 2015 to allow for continued review and discussion of Item 8.A.

INFORMATION REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS: Copies of the staff reports and other disclosable public records related to each open session item of business referred to on the agenda are on file in the office of the District Secretary and are available for public information during regular business hours. Any person who has a question concerning any of the agenda items may call the District Secretary at 661.821.4428.

ADA Compliance Statement: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the District Secretary to the Board of Directors, Kristy McEwen, at 661.821.4428. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

Signed, June 22, 2015

Kristy McEwen, Clerk of the Board

STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #7A

MEETING DATE: June 25, 2015

PREPARED BY: Donald M. Davis, General Counsel



AGENDA TITLE: **APPROVE Publicizing Notice of Proposed Permit Application to CALFIRE by a Registered Professional Forester for Private Property Tree Removal (Jeffrey Pine Only)**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board APPROVE assistance in publicizing notice of a proposed permit application to CALFIRE by a Registered Professional Forester for Private Property Tree Removal (Jeffrey Pine Only).

BACKGROUND

As the District learned this year from its experience in cutting and removing dead and diseased trees from High Country Park, under California law, the removal of certain trees with commercial value such as the Jeffrey pine is regulated by the State under the Forest Practice Act (beginning at Section 4581 of the California Public Resources Code) and accompanying regulations. Unless the Jeffrey pine trees are to remain on the owner's property for their personal use, a permit issued by CALFIRE is required and a Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) must be used to do the work. In some cases, a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) will be needed to complete the permit application. (For more background information on this permit process, please see: http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_forestpractice_ltos.php.)

The RPF who helped the District secure its permit from CALFIRE for the work at High Country Park, Jeff Gletne, has requested assistance from the District in providing notice that he is preparing a permit application on behalf of private property owners within the Bear Valley Springs community who have or may have dead or diseased Jeffrey Pine trees that could be removed by an LTO. There would be no cost to property owners to be listed on the permit, and then each owner would enter into an agreement with an LTO with respect to the cutting and removal work if desired. By listing their property in the permit application, owners would not be under any obligation to remove any trees, but would simply have the option to do so. This type of permit is generally valid for up to one year from the date of issuance. Staff proposes to prepare a cover memo to accompany the attached notice from Mr. Gletne. The notice and cover memo could be sent out with utility bills or staff could work with Mr. Gletne to prepare a list of property owners at higher elevations that Mr. Gletne could send at his own cost. The notice and cover memo could also be posted on the District's website.

FISCAL IMPACT

Minimal staff time.

REQUESTED MOTION

I move that the Board of Directors APPROVE the Publicizing of Notice of a Proposed Permit Application to CALFIRE by a Registered Professional Forester for Private Property Tree Removal (Jeffrey Pine Only).



SIERRA FOREST PRODUCTS

To: **Bear Valley Springs Property Owners with Jeffrey Pine Trees**

Subject: **Removal of Dead, Dying or Diseased Jeffrey Pine Trees**

This notice applies to any Bear Valley Springs (BVS) property owners living at the higher elevations that may have Jeffrey pine trees on their property. The ongoing drought and associated infestations of pine bark beetles and other insects has resulted in an increase in tree mortality throughout the West, including BVS.

The purpose of this letter is to remind you that because the Jeffrey pine is designated a commercial species under California law, the removal of such trees from private property is regulated by the State under the Forest Practice Act (beginning at Section 4581 of the California Public Resources Code) and accompanying regulations. CAL FIRE is the agency charged with administering the Forest Practice Act. Unless the Jeffrey pine trees are to remain on the owner's property for their personal use, a permit issued by CAL FIRE is required and a Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) must be used to do the work.

To avoid the need for multiple individual permits, I am in the process of applying for a "blanket" tree removal permit for the entire timbered portion of BVS. The LTO that did the work at the High Country Park for the Bear Valley Community Services District is still working in the area and Chriso's Tree Service has also applied for a LTO license.¹

The goal of this blanket permit is to reduce the costs of tree removal for property owners because the permit will allow the trees that are removed to be sold by the LTO as logs to a sawmill or to be processed into firewood or other valuable products. My hope is that the resulting income will be reflected in lower bids for tree removals from individual properties. Having your name on this permit and using a LTO contractor to remove your trees will ensure that you are in compliance with State law.

To have your property included in the permit, I will need your name, mailing address (not the property address if different), and phone number as soon as possible. I encourage anyone that has Jeffrey pine on their property, even if they appear to be healthy, to add your name to the list. One of the keys to reducing attacks by bark beetles and other damaging insects is to have infested trees removed promptly. Of course, if your trees remain healthy, you would not be obligated to remove any trees.

Please send me the requested information, preferably by e-mail, as soon as possible. After processing by the State, the permit will be good for one year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. My contact information is:

Jeff Gletne, Registered Professional Forester
Sierra Forest Products
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jgletne@sierraforest.net

¹ For a current list of LTOs, please check the CAL FIRE website at:
http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_forestpractice_ltos.php.