

Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County Chipping Program

The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County (RCD) receives various grants to support chipping and clearing services for fuel load reduction in Santa Cruz County. We also work closely with Fire Safe Santa Cruz County, other local Fire Safe Councils, Fire Departments, and CAL FIRE. When available, this program is meant to help prepare local communities identified as susceptible to wildfire in the 2018 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for Santa Cruz and San Mateo Counties. Visit the following website to determine if you're within the designated area: www.firesafesantacruz.org/community-wildfire-protection-plan

Chipping services are available on a competitive and first come-first serve basis. Preference will be given to applications with multiple landowners participating and/or those whose fire safe clearing is benefiting multiple properties. Landowners that are selected for the chipping program will be responsible for clearing vegetation in preparation for chipping. The chipping program only covers vegetation that originates within the **defensible space recommendations: 100-feet around structures and 10 feet one each side of and 15 feet high along private roads**. Visit the Fire Safe Santa Cruz County website for more detailed information on defensible space requirements. www.firesafesantacruz.org/defensible-space. **Chipping services must be pre-approved by the RCD. To request chipping services, please complete and return the attached application.**

What services are currently available?

1. No-cost chipping service for neighborhoods:

For neighborhoods who have **at least three households participating**, the RCD can arrange to have a contractor come to your neighborhood and provide chipping services at no charge. The material to be chipped must originate from vegetation removed within the defensible space recommendations of **100 feet around structures and 10 feet on private roads listed above**. **Please refer to the link above for detailed information on creating defensible space. The RCD must collect data on match services**The RCD will work with one neighborhood representative to confirm the day(s) for the chipping to take place. The representative will confirm with the RCD the number of households participating and submit all necessary paperwork on behalf of the neighborhood or homeowner's association from all participants prior to the chipping being scheduled.

2. Reimbursement for chipping services for individuals or small groups:

For individual properties (up to two properties in a neighborhood) the RCD will reimburse landowners (maximum per day of \$1500) who hire a licensed and insured contractor to chip material that originated from vegetation removal that meets the defensible space requirements listed above. **Clearing services are not reimbursable but count toward match**. Landowners will arrange for chipping services from a licensed and insured contractor and once chipping is complete, will submit:

- 1) A signed reimbursement form and any required in-kind or cash match (provided by the RCD);
- 2) A copy of the contractor's invoice with a specific line item for chipping that includes **the volume and/or number of piles chipped** (the RCD will verify that the contract has a valid California contractor's license);

To check that your contractor is licensed:

www.cslb.ca.gov/OnlineServices/CheckLicense/CheckLicense.aspx

- 3) Before and after photos of the prepared piles pre and post chipping using the RCD-provided form;
- 4) Estimated volume chipped. Measure the length, width and height of each pile to the nearest foot
- 5) A completed W-9 for the person requesting reimbursement with the address where payment will be mailed.
- 6) Proof of payment to the contractor.

The RCD will submit reimbursement requests to the grant provider once each quarter and will reimburse landowners once the RCD has received payment. **PLEASE NOTE: REIMBURSEMENT CAN TAKE UP TO 120 DAYS OR MORE** depending on when the reimbursement forms are submitted to the RCD. There is a maximum reimbursement of \$1500 per full day of chipping and \$800 per half-day. Actual reimbursement will be determined based on the volume of material chipped. Please contact the RCD for more information at **831-464-2950 or info@rcdsantacruz.org**

Neighborhood (Three or more households) Application for Chipping Services

Please fill out and/or circle all corresponding answers below and submit to the RCD to be considered for chipping services or a chipping rebate. Please submit a completed copy via email to agruys@rcdsantacruz.org or postal mail to 820 Bay Ave, Ste 136, Capitola, CA 95010. Call 831-464-2950 x22 for more information.

How many households is this application requesting assistance for? _____

Who will be the representative/contact for the group/neighborhood/HOA/road association? (one only)

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Are you clearing defensible space around a structure? YES NO Around a private road? YES NO

Are you working in conjunction with your local fire department of CAL FIRE? YES NO

If so, which one? _____

Has your neighborhood already completed clearing? YES NO SOME

If YES or SOME, approximately how many piles need to be chipped? _____ Please estimate the **total** combined volume of those piles in cubic feet (L x W x H to get cubic feet of each) _____

I am the legal owner/occupier(s) and/or representative(s) of the property(ies) where services will be performed, and hereby agree and consent to terms outlined below by the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County (RCD) for the purposes of this rebate program. If selected to participate in this program:

1. I agree to provide before and after photos of the prepared piles pre and post chipping using the RCD-provided photo documentation form;
2. I agree to provide documentation
2. I agree that:
 - ✓ RCD is not obligated to provide services under this program.
 - ✓ RCD funds are limited, and chipping services will be provided to landowners within the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that demonstrate the implementation of effective fuel load management.
 - ✓ I am responsible for any environmental compliance concerns or permits.
 - ✓ I understand that these services are solely for chipping. No clearing work will be performed.
 - ✓ I understand the chips will be left on-site and have placed the material to be chipped in an area where the contractor can blow the chips.
 - ✓ I have prepared my piles and completed clearing work in accordance with the provided checklist and confirm that the vegetation cleared was for the purpose of meeting defensible space recommendations of 100 feet from structures and 10 feet from private roads and that **all clearing took place on the properties listed below.**
 - ✓ I understand that the contractor may not be able to provide services due to the condition of my road or access to my property. It is my responsibility to request a pre-inspection if access to my property may be limited.
3. I agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the RCD and the funding agency, and their officers, agents, employees and volunteers from and against all damages, liability, losses, claims, suits, or actions of any kind and nature whatsoever, including attorneys' fees (collectively, "Claims") arising from or relating to the project, except for Claims caused by the negligence, errors, omissions or willful misconduct of the RCD.
4. I have read this application, understand its terms, and have voluntarily applied for this chipping service or rebate program.

List all addresses where chipping will occur. Legal owner or representative must sign for each location.

Print Name(#1): _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Address(#1): _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Print Name(#2): _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Address(#2): _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Print Name(#3): _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Address(#3): _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

.....Continued on next page if more than three households

Continued from previous page...By signing, I agree to the terms of the application on page 1&2.

Print Name(#4): _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Address(#4): _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Print Name(#5): _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Address(#5): _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Print Name(#6): _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Address(#6): _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Print Name(#7): _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Address(#7): _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Print Name(#8): _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Address(#8): _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Print Name(#9): _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Address(#9): _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Print Name(#10): _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Address(#10): _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Print Name(#11): _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Address(#11): _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Print Name(#12): _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Address(#12): _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Print Name(#13): _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Address(#13): _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Print Name(#14): _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Address(#14): _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Print Name(#15): _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Address(#15): _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____