

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 on 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**