Robleda - Burke Road Wildfire Safety & Evacuation Route Project

A vegetation management and community wildfire safety project near you

Dear Property Owner in the Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD or District),

A Wildfire Safety & Evacuation Route Project is coming to your area and is scheduled to begin on **Monday, November 3rd, 2025**. Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC) is the project manager and is leading this cooperative wildfire public safety effort with support from LAHCFD.

The project "Details and Goals" are below. The project removes hazardous brush, grasses, tree limbs, and vegetation from the roadside easement, making the roadway safer for evacuation in the event of a wildfire and reducing the potential for roadside ignitions by vehicles. As the owner of property on or near the project route, you can participate in the project by granting us access to your property so we can remove or trim additional hazardous vegetation on your property that abuts the roadside.

This project provides a significant community benefit and is a service to residents and property owners to reduce wildfire risk for life and property safety.

How you can participate in the project (select an option):

1. **Voluntarily grant SCCFSC access to your property for removal of hazardous vegetation.** You can provide directions to SCCFSC on what portion of your property may be accessed for vegetation removal that is beyond the right-of-way but not more than 50-ft from the road's centerline. For example, if you have specific trees or vegetation you wish to omit from the vegetation removal, we can flag them and avoid the area.
   If you choose to grant access, please complete, sign, and submit the enclosed Right of Entry Permit (ROE) by October 17, 2025, using one of the methods below.
   a. Mail the ROE using the self-addressed, stamped envelope to:
      Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC)
      14380 Saratoga Rd
      Saratoga, CA 95070
      OR
   b. Scan and email the ROE to Barbara Gonzalez at: bgonzalez@sccfiresafe.org
      OR
   c. Visit https://sccfiresafe.org/projects/, select "Robleda - Burke Road Evacuation Route Project", and download an electronic copy of the ROE; complete and sign via certified electronic signature, which includes time and date stamp, and email to

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bgonzalez@sccfiresafe.org

2. **As a property owner, cut, trim, and remove your own hazardous vegetation** to create defensible space on your property. If you stack the cut brush along the roadside, it can be chipped and removed if you register for the LAHCFD Defensible Space Brush Chipping and Debris Removal Program. Register at www.LAHCFD.org/dsbcregistration.
3. **Take no action.** Vegetation will be treated and removed only from the roadside public right-of-way. Width and area of the right-of-way may vary based on applicable agency permits.

If you choose option 1 to participate in the project, a representative can meet with you, at your request, to discuss the specific work to be conducted on your property.

To learn more, attend a virtual Project Community Meeting and visit: **www.lahcfd.org**

To review project details specific to your property, please contact:

Barbara Gonzalez
SCCFSC Project Manager
bgonzalez@sccfiresafe.org
(408)444-0711

Ryan Cronin
Technical Analyst / Project Manager
Los Altos Hills County Fire District
rcronin@lahcfd.org
650-823-6844

Project Details and Goals:

Roadside work will be performed in the public right of way to reduce the amount of hazardous or flammable vegetation. Depending on property owner participation as outlined above, up to 50-feet from the centerline of the road will be cleaned up and trimmed, but not cleared. This refers to removal of leaf litter, brush, and lower limbs of trees ("ladder fuels"). Dead or down trees may be removed. The result will be a roadside buffer with reduced flammable types of vegetation. Tall shade trees known as "overstory trees" will remain to provide shade and keep the area cool, which helps prevent fire from spreading quickly. Hazardous trees that are leaning or could fall into the roadway will be assessed for removal.

The immediate goal of this project is to make the roadway a safer evacuation route in an emergency or wildfire. The broader goals are to enhance fire resiliency by reducing ladder fuels and invasive plant species, and to improve roadside hardening along evacuation routes, which are significant benefits to the community and make District residents safer. This project enhances regional efforts to improve Santa Clara County's evacuation route and shaded fuel break system. It also provides opportunities to protect or manage watersheds from future wildfires. Additionally, by reducing competition for light and water in the understory plants, shrubs, and young trees, and by treating hazardous trees when feasible, this creates a healthier forest and woodland for the benefit of the environment.

We look forward to working with you to improve community emergency and wildfire safety.

Sincerely,

This project is brought to you by Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC) with cooperation and support of the Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD) and various agencies.

Your SCC FireSafe Council Project Planning Team