

# BOLINAS COMMUNITY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

BCPUD

BOX 390 270 ELM ROAD BOLINAS CALIFORNIA 94924

415 868 1224



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Jennifer Blackman *JWB*

RE: Proposed Projects to Remove Cypress and/or Eucalyptus Trees and/or Limbs of Such Trees on BCPUD Properties per Urban Forestry Associates' Tree Failure Analysis and Risk Assessment Report

DATE: September 20, 2023

---

At its regular meeting on August 16, 2023, the Board received a Eucalyptus and Monterey Cypress Tree Failure Analysis and Risk Assessment report prepared by Ray Moritz of Urban Forestry Associates ("UFA"). This report details the results of UFA's inspection of several BCPUD properties that experienced tree/limb failure during the January 2023 winter storms, a declared disaster event. BCPUD asked UFA to inspect the sites for the cause(s) of the tree failures and conduct a risk assessment of associated trees. The three sites are 270 Elm Road (the BCPUD office building property), 290 Mesa Road (the BCPUD's water storage tank site) and the Mesa/Olema-Bolinas Road Grove. UFA conducted Level 2 inspections of trees at these three locations.

### Summary of UFA Recommendations:

*270 Elm Road:* With regard to the 270 Elm Road property, UFA assessed the 17 existing Monterey Cypress trees remaining from the original boundary planting, noting past failures and the fact that the trees have "far outlived their utility life expectancy". UFA referenced structural defects of the entire windrow and recommends as follows: "Directionally fell the entire windrow into the field. Remove and chip branches for fire prevention. If border planting is replaced consult a consulting arborist about species selection and spacing."

*290 Mesa Road:* As for 290 Mesa Road (the BCPUD water storage tank site), UFA assessed the entire windrow of Eucalyptus trees planted and concluded that "[t]he health and stability of the windrow can be improved by removing subordinate/suppressed trees and safety pruning the trees recommended for retention." An attached Appendix A includes specific recommendations for either tree removal or pruning of with respect to the entire windrow of 17 trees (with photographs marked for the recommended pruning).

*Lower Mesa/Olema-Bolinas Road Grove:* UFA conducted an ISA Tree Risk Assessment of selected trees in the grove. UFA "inspected trees and tree parts for structural defects . . . [and] rate the targets, tree defects, the likelihood of target impact, the severity of consequences and prioritized our recommendations for risk mitigation." UFA determined that the "priority for risk mitigation should be focused on Mesa and Olema-Bolinas roads." UFA includes a detailed spreadsheet and accompanying maps on which specific trees are identified, risks are described,

and recommendations are made (either whole tree removal or removal of limbs), and priority is assigned.

Proposed Projects/Next Steps:

Staff conferred with Ray Moritz about the recommendations in his report and Mr. Moritz advised that limb failure has the highest likelihood of occurrence (as compared to whole tree failure); he also prioritized the risks (from highest to lowest) as the limbs/trees adjacent to/targeting (1) Olema-Bolinas Road, (2) lower Mesa Road, (3) 270 Elm Road and (4) 290 Mesa Road. Mr. Moritz stated that he has photographs of all of the limbs/trees adjacent to/targeting Olema-Bolinas Road and lower Mesa Road (i.e., all trees identified on the spreadsheet and maps accompanying his report) marked with the recommended pruning/cuts (much like the photos in Appendix A concerning the 290 Mesa Road site) that he will provide to the district to supplement his report. As for the trees at the 270 Elm Road site, Mr. Moritz agreed to prioritize the trees in order of priority for removal.

Staff also conferred with George Krakauer, Fire Chief, about the possibility of collaborating with the Bolinas Fire Protection District, PG&E and the County of Marin (some of the trees identified for removal or pruning may be located in the County right-of-way) on a coordinated project or series of projects to address the hazards identified in the UFA report as targeting Olema-Bolinas and/or Mesa Roads. Chief Krakauer said he has alerted the Marin Wildfire Protection Authority (“MWPA”) about the identified trees along these roads so that they can be incorporated into the comprehensive permitting approach MWPA is taking to hazardous vegetation removal within the County. In addition, he said that PG&E has committed to removing seven (7) trees adjacent to Mesa Road per year and offered to reach out to his contact there to propose a site meeting and discuss opportunities for collaboration.<sup>1</sup> He also agreed that including Marin County DPW would be beneficial.

Efforts are now underway to schedule a site meeting among all entities next week (or as soon as otherwise possible) with Mr. Moritz to assess and further prioritize the recommended risk assessment work set out in the UFA report. Staff anticipates bringing a proposed project or series of projects for all three BCPUD property sites to the Board for consideration at the next regular meeting in October; the projects will be prioritized in terms of risk abatement per the UFA report and based on any additional recommendations provided during the upcoming site meeting. If and when some or all of the projects are approved by the Board, staff will then pursue cost estimates, determine the extent of any required permitting, and research potential sources of funding.

---

<sup>1</sup> PG&E biologists were on-site yesterday along Mesa Road to evaluate the environmental conditions at/near the seven trees selected for removal this year as part of a required permit process.