

BOLINAS COMMUNITY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT



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Item 16. MEMORANDUM

TO:	Board of BCPUD Directors	
FROM:	BEP/Bike Path Ad-Hoc Committee	
RE:	<i>Update on Project to Address Hazardous Roadside Trees in partnership with Bolinas Fire Protection District and Marin Wildfire Protection Authority</i>	
TO:	September 17, 2025	

MEMO TO THE BCPUD BOARD from Bike Path/BEP Ad-Hoc Committee

History

At its August meeting, the BCPUD Board approved two key actions to initiate a roadside hazard tree assessment in Bolinas:

- Acceptance of a proposal from Urban Forestry Associates (UFA), led by Ray Moritz, to assess hazardous trees along critical evacuation and emergency access routes
- Approval of a cost-sharing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County of Marin to support the assessment effort

This work was to be conducted in coordination with the Bolinas Fire Protection District and the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA) and was designed to utilize the Governor's post-LA fire Executive Order to address roadside vegetation hazards in the Coastal Zone without triggering CEQA or Coastal Development Permit (CDP) requirements.

Current Status

Urban Forestry Associates has formally rescinded their proposal. The decision was based on a combination of contractual and organizational concerns raised by Mr. Moritz and his associates. Mr. Moritz noted that he has sold his company and now operates as an employee of Urban Forestry Associates, which complicates contractual representation. His legal counsel raised concerns about specific contract provisions, including the need to clarify that the assessment would involve an ISA Level 1 Tree Risk Assessment and that such assessments do not guarantee against future tree failures. Additional concerns were raised regarding the payment structure, the termination clause, and the timeline for completion. Mr. Moritz's associate, who had worked on the roadside tree assessments, also expressed reservations about the project scope. Given these factors, UFA elected not to proceed.

Next Steps

This morning, Georgia met with Registered Professional Forester Tom Gaman to continue discussions regarding the development of a revised Request for Proposals (RFP) for hazard tree assessment services. These discussions are ongoing.

The new RFP will incorporate Mr. Gaman's prior inventory of the Zone 5 eucalyptus stand to uniquely identify individual trees requiring assessment. This approach will provide RFP respondents with clear guidance on the scope of work. Additionally, the roadside tree hazard assessment will build upon the data and findings presented in Mr. Gaman's 2023 report, ensuring that existing inventory are effectively utilized as a foundation for further evaluation.

The new RFP will:

- Focus on roadside trees along Olema-Bolinas Road and Mesa Road (these Roadside Trees make-up a subset of the trees which Tom Gaman identified in his 2023 A REPORT ON THE INVENTORY OF BOLINAS PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT AND ADJOINING TREES IN ZONE 5)
- Exclude interior trees and seven PG&E-identified trees already slated for removal or partial removal due to transmission line hazards
- Request identification of hazardous roadside trees (dead, dying, or structurally compromised) and provide mitigation recommendations, including removal or partial removal
- Align with the Governor's Executive Order to expedite vegetation management in evacuation corridors without CEQA or CDP triggers

This revised scope reflects a streamlined, roadside hazard mitigation, developed in full coordination with Bolinas Fire and MWPA.