

# BOLINAS COMMUNITY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT



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## MEMORANDUM

TO:	Board of BCPUD Directors
FROM:	Georgia Woods, General Manager
RE:	<i>ITEM #02: Rescind BEP and BCPUD Application to the County of Marin for Tree-work on BCPUD Lands; Update from General Manager regarding the BCPUD/BFPD Hazardous Trees Project with MWPA.</i>
DATE:	February 18, 2026

### Purpose

This memo provides the Board with:

1. An update on the joint decision with the Bolinas Eucalyptus Project (BEP) to rescind the County CEQA application for the Bolinas Eucalyptus Project;
2. A status report on hazardous-tree removal activities underway with the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA) and Bolinas Fire Protection District (BFPD); and
3. New information regarding an alternative pathway—submission of a CEQA Suspension Request under the Governor’s Emergency Proclamation—to address hazardous trees along the pedestrian path that fall outside the MWPA project footprint, including a proposal from Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting (VNLC).

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### Background

In early 2025, the County of Marin completed its review of the BEP/BCPUD Coastal Development Permit application and determined that the project would require an Initial Study, with the potential for a Negative Declaration or full EIR. That CEQA pathway involved substantial consultant costs, additional biological and technical studies, and an extended processing timeline.

Based on a year of technical evaluation and the findings of the joint BCPUD–BFPD Hazard Tree Mitigation Report identifying 108 hazardous trees for removal and 16 for pruning, BEP

and BCPUD concluded that continuing down this CEQA path was neither cost-effective nor the most efficient way to address clear public-safety hazards. Together, the District and BEP agreed to formally rescind the application and not fund the required environmental review.

With this withdrawal, the District can now focus on addressing hazardous trees under (1) MWPA's already-approved project along key evacuation routes, and (2) the State's Emergency Proclamation authority for trees that fall outside MWPA's jurisdiction.

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## **Current Update**

### **1. Coordination with BEP**

BEP representatives and District staff met earlier this month to finalize the rescission letter to the County. All parties are aligned in transitioning to a phased, hazard-focused strategy relying on emergency authority where appropriate.

### **2. Site Coordination with BFPD**

BCPUD and BFPD conducted a field walkthrough to confirm the hazard list and prepare sequencing for upcoming work. The walkthrough affirmed the accuracy of the originally identified hazard trees.

### **3. Biological Coordination with Dr. Stuart Weiss**

Staff also met on site with Dr. Stuart Weiss, MWPA's monarch and habitat specialist. Dr. Weiss is preparing the biological memo needed for MWPA's internal review before its first tranche of work begins. His previous technical report (included in our hazard-tree documentation) found no monarch roosting on any of the trees identified for removal or pruning.

**Staff will continue to provide regular updates to the Board and BEP on MWPA's biological review, interagency coordination, and field preparation.**

### **4. MWPA Hazard-Tree Removal: First Phase**

MWPA has confirmed that the first phase of hazard-tree removal—estimated at roughly \$200,000 in work—will begin within the next one to two months. This phase focuses on trees that threaten evacuation routes along Mesa Road and Olema-Bolinas Road and includes removal of dead, dying, leaning, or structurally unsound trees.

### **5. Emergency Proclamation Pathway for Pedestrian Path Trees**

## **5A. VNLC Proposal**

For hazardous trees located along the pedestrian path—outside MWPA’s 25-foot road corridor—staff is pursuing a CEQA Suspension Request under the Governor’s Emergency Proclamation.

The District has received a proposal from Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting (VNLC) to prepare and submit this request. The scope includes CEQA guidance, preparation of both stages of the Suspension Request, coordination with reviewing agencies, and development of an Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) compliance pathway. The cost for this work is not to exceed **\$4,680**.

## **5B. Expected Additional EPP Compliance Costs**

While the VNLC proposal covers application preparation and planning for EPP compliance, it does not include the cost of technical studies that may be required once the suspension request is approved—such as biological surveys or supplemental habitat assessments.

Because the District already possesses significant technical documentation for this grove (including prior BSAs and Dr. Weiss’s earlier work), staff intends to leverage as much of that existing material as possible to reduce new expenditures. Dr. Weiss has been asked to prepare a proposal for a biological report that would support EPP compliance specifically for the pedestrian path work.

**Staff will continue to update the Board and BEP on the development of the Suspension Request, anticipated EPP compliance requirements, and the sequencing of the pedestrian-path hazard-tree removal.**

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## **Requested Board Action**

Staff recommends that the Board:

- 1. Direct staff to submit the formal letter to the County of Marin rescinding the BEP/BCPUD CEQA application.**
- 2. Approve the proposal from Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting (VNLC) to prepare and submit the CEQA Suspension Request under the Governor’s Emergency Proclamation.**