

BOLINAS COMMUNITY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT



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MEMORANDUM

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| TO: | Board of BCPUD Directors |
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| FROM: | Georgia Woods, General Manager |
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| RE: | <i>Item #14: MWPA Roadside Tree Removal Project – Project Completion Update and Community Discussion Regarding Herbicide Use</i> |
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| DATE: | June 17, 2026 |
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Purpose

1. Provide a final summary of the completed MWPA/BFPD/BCPUD hazardous roadside tree removal project
2. Clarify when and how decisions regarding herbicide-use were agendized and made public
3. Support informed Board and community understanding of the project
4. Establish a framework for ongoing discussion, future decision-making, and community input regarding herbicide use and alternative methods for preventing eucalyptus resprouting, including consideration of efficacy, upfront costs, and long-term management requirements

Background

BCPUD has coordinated with the Bolinas Fire Protection District (BFPD) and Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA) to address hazardous eucalyptus trees along key roadways under the Governor’s Emergency Executive Order allowing expedited removal.

The Board directed that this work proceed as a phased, safety-focused effort, separate from the broader Bolinas Eucalyptus Project.

Board Direction and Project Development

- May 21, 2025 (Regular Meeting):
Board pauses the broader eucalyptus project and prioritizes hazardous roadside tree removal
- November 19, 2025 (Regular Meeting):
Staff presents identification of approximately 80–120 hazard trees and outlines scope, funding, and approach

Herbicide Use – Agendizing and Board Action

March 13, 2026 (Pre-Meeting Notification)

- Agenda was posted in accordance with Brown Act requirements
- Public notice was expanded through Nextdoor, Bolinas Hearsay News, and other community channels

The agenda item was explicitly described as:

“Update from General Manager regarding the BCPUD/BFPD Hazardous Trees Project with MWPA; Consider approval of a one-time exception to Resolution 538 for targeted cut-stump application of triclopyr (Garlon 4), based on findings that non-chemical alternatives are ineffective for eucalyptus regeneration control and that the selected herbicide is classified as a low-toxicity herbicide when used in targeted cut-stump applications.”

March 18, 2026 (Regular Board Meeting – Agenda Item)

At this meeting:

- Staff presented project details and technical considerations
- Findings included that eucalyptus species are highly prone to vigorous resprouting, which can result in ongoing and costly long-term management if not effectively treated
- Findings also indicated that a single, targeted herbicide application is a highly effective method for preventing regrowth
- Information regarding environmental and health considerations associated with herbicide use was also presented, along with supporting technical materials and primary source references
- Public comment was invited and received prior to Board action
- The Board approved a one-time, project-specific exception to Resolution 538

This meeting constituted the formal decision point for allowance for herbicide application

Post-Approval Communications and Notification (April 2026)

Following Board action, additional notifications were provided to inform the public of implementation timing, including:

- Nextdoor postings (April 14)
- On-site signage
- Door hangers

These notifications were implementation notices, not additional decision points, consistent with notification procedures outlined in Resolution 538 and MWPA policies.

Project Implementation (April-May 2026)

April–May 2026

MWPA contractor completed:

- Removal of hazardous roadside trees along Mesa Road and Olema-Bolinas Road
 - Targeted cut-stump herbicide application only
 - No broadcast, foliar, or aerial herbicide use
 - No repeated application—only a single treatment to the cut-stumps
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Project Completion Summary

The project achieved its primary public safety objectives.

Final results:

- 28 large tree removals (primarily Blue Gum eucalyptus, with some Monterey cypress)
- 3 small tree removals
- 6 large tree prunings

The total is lower than initially identified because:

- PG&E completed or scheduled work on trees within striking distance of electrical infrastructure
 - Some trees had already fallen or been removed prior to implementation
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Herbicide Use – Scope and Basis

- Herbicide use was limited, targeted, and one-time
- Applied only to freshly cut stumps to prevent regrowth
- No ongoing or programmatic use is proposed

Consistent with Resolution 538:

- Non-chemical methods were evaluated and found ineffective
 - Triclopyr (Garlon 4) identified as the least-toxic effective option
 - Required noticing and public process were completed
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Key Clarifications

Herbicide Application

- Product used: triclopyr (Garlon 4) (not glyphosate aka “roundup”)
- Method: targeted cut-stump only
- No broadcast or spray application occurred

Project Roles

- Project was led and funded by MWPA in collaboration with BFPD and BCPUD
- BCPUD did not fund the project or oversee permitting but did have policy oversight as related to Resolution 538

Decision Timeline

- Herbicide use was clearly described in the posted agenda item

- The decision occurred at a public Board meeting with opportunity for comment prior to approval
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Future Phases and Additional Tree Removal Efforts

Interior Grove (Bike Path Area)

- BCPUD is pursuing permitting for ~40 additional trees under the CEQA emergency exemption (this is an independent project, not being pursued in collaboration with MWPA/BFPD)
- Trees are located within the interior grove along the bike path
- Each tree will require site-specific evaluation, including potential impacts on monarch butterflies

Status:

- Permitting is progressing
- Funding not yet secured (this project is not eligible for funding through MWPA)
- Work is not guaranteed

Related and Ongoing Work

- PG&E has removed or scheduled removal of hazard trees near electrical infrastructure
- These efforts reduced the number of trees addressed through the MWPA project

Potential Future Roadside Work

- Additional work may occur through MWPA in coordination with BFPD
- Dependent on future MWPA funding, prioritization, and available resources
- Continued work is not guaranteed

If future phases proceed:

- Items will be brought back to the Board for discussion and action as needed
 - Treatment methods will be evaluated, including non-chemical and herbicide options
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Next Steps

- Continue evaluating herbicide vs. non-chemical methods, including cost and long-term effectiveness
- Assess maintenance implications (labor, cost, feasibility)
- Use findings to guide future vegetation management decisions

Community feedback indicates strong interest in minimizing herbicide use. For future actions, the District will continue to:

- Clearly communicate proposed materials and methods in agenda descriptions
 - Maintain transparency in when decisions are being considered and made
 - Distinguish project-specific actions from broader policy discussions
 - Reinforce opportunities for public participation at Board meetings
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Action Requested

No formal action is required. This item is for discussion.

Roadside Hazard Tree Removal Project— completed through joint effort of MWPA-BFPD-BCPUD



Tree removal ~101 Mesa Rd

Tree removal ~ 32 Olema-Bolinas Rd



New shoots emerging from both the cut stump and laterally spreading roots, ~ 250 Mesa Rd. This project was not conducted by MWPA/BFPD/BCPUD. Images are provided as an example of eucalyptus' aggressive resprouting behavior after cutting.