



Honesty ♦ Respect ♦ Integrity

Major Fuel Reduction Project Was Completed in Larkfield to Protect Homes and Critical Water Infrastructure

A critical wildfire community risk reduction project was completed in the Carriage Ln./Montebello community of Larkfield, marking a significant milestone in regional efforts to protect residents, infrastructure, and natural resources through coordinated local action.

Led by the Sonoma County Fire District (SCFD), this project brought together key partners including California American Water Company, Permit Sonoma, Sonoma County Vegetation Management Grant Program, CALFIRE, and Montebello property owners, demonstrating strong collaboration across local government, utilities, and the community.

A Coordinated Effort for Community Safety

“This project reflects what can be accomplished when local agencies, partners, and the community come together with a shared mission of protecting lives, property, and critical infrastructure from wildfire.” *Division Chief/Fire Marshal Cyndi Foreman, Sonoma County Fire District*

“Investing in projects like this is exactly how we build safer, more resilient communities while restoring our natural landscapes. This partnership demonstrates the power of strategic funding and local collaboration to reduce wildfire risk and protect critical resources.” *Kim Batchelder, Vegetation Management Coordinator, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District*

Project Focus: Reducing High-Risk Fuels and Regeneration Native Oak Woodlands

The project removed approximately 75% of a 4-acre grove of highly flammable eucalyptus trees within a historic oak woodland. These trees posed a significant wildfire hazard due to their volatile oils and heavy ember production, threatening critical infrastructure, including two 400,000-gallon municipal water storage tanks and a backup generator system essential for water delivery, as well as thousands of homes in the area.

These systems are vital for fire suppression during emergencies and for maintaining uninterrupted water service for the community at large. Reducing wildfire risk around these assets significantly strengthens community resilience.

Crews from Frontier Resource Management LLC, overseen by Registered Professional Forester Jacob Harrower, removed the eucalyptus trees and treated them to reduce re-growth. This process adhered to strict environmental guidelines which prepared the area for regeneration of the natural oak woodland and protected the native oak trees already in the area.

Grant Funded and Community-Supported

This project was made possible through grant funding from Sonoma County Vegetation Management Grant Program managed by Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District. Sonoma County Fire District, Permit Sonoma and CALFIRE played a significant role in completing the necessary environmental compliance analysis to approve this project. Financial contributions and coordination from California American Water Company and local landowners critical to the success of this project.

It represents an important first phase in a broader, long-term strategy to:

- Reduce wildfire risk
- Improve defensible space
- Restore native ecosystems

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