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Lamorinda wildfire preparedness advanced by state grants

By Sora O'Doherty



Workers in February remove juniper in Campolindo neighborhood. Photo Sora O'Doherty

which are extremely flammable, and dead trees are required to be removed under the fire code. Campolindo residents who wish to apply for a grant must submit their names and project descriptions to their block captains by 8 p.m. Aug. 12. A copy should also be sent to Steve Hoyt at stevehoyt02@gmail.com. Later that day, a random drawing will be held to select the 10 homeowners who will get the grants.

Those selected will be required to get a bid from one of the two vendors selected by the Homeowners Association. For juniper or brush removal, Campolindo will use Wildland Corporation, and those selected may contact Will Thorn at (510) 306-6285. A number of vendors for tree removal are being finalized, and applicants will be given that information when available. The bid details must then be sent to DFSC and the work must be performed within 30 days of the bid. There is no flexibility in the deadlines.

DFSC is a nonprofit 501(3)C group that receives grants from a variety of sources. Right now, according to Cheryl Miller, DFSC executive director, the group's big funder is the California Climate Investment Program, a state program administered through Cal Fire. DFSC serves both Contra Costa and Alameda counties. For the Cost Share Assistance Program, there is currently a list of 48 projects awaiting funding.

To be eligible to receive a grant, the application must represent a group of at least five homeowners, but may contain more. DFSC also just completed a grant program in Sleepy Hollow on St. James Way. Eligible projects should not be for code compliance work that needs to be done immediately, but should be for more long-haul projects. Chipping, hauling, mowing or weed wacking can be included in projects, but may not be the sole work being funded.

Tree thinning and limbing up are acceptable activities, as are brush cutting, grazing, or use of hired mechanical equipment for fuel reduction.

Residents who wish to learn more about the DFSC grant program can find more information on their website, <http://www.diablofiresafe.org/index.html> or may contact Cheryl Miller, Executive Director at dfscmiller@comcast.net.

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