



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET - 4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
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KATHLEEN MOLLOY PREVISICH, PLANNING DIRECTOR

2008 MARTIN ROAD FIRE SIGNIFICANT TREE REMOVAL PERMIT

APPLICATION #: 111036

APN: 063-061-38, and surrounding parcels

APPLICANT: County of Santa Cruz

PROJECT LOCATION: The California Department of Fish and Game Martin Road Reserve and surrounding areas in Bonny Doon

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Proposal to remove ponderosa pine tree(s) and certain other trees within the coastal zone that have died or are dying as a direct result of the June 2008 Martin Road Fire and subsequent pine bark beetle infestation.


BACKGROUND: On June 12, 2008, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declared the fire on Martin Road in Santa Cruz County a State Emergency. The fire burned 520 acres, primarily in the rare Sand Hills habitat. As a direct result of the fire, stressed ponderosa pine trees that survived have become infested with western pine beetle, further killing off the remaining ponderosas in the fire area, and have spread beyond the limits of the burn into the rural neighborhoods around the Martin Road Reserve. Dead and dying trees currently pose a threat to fall on roads and structures in the rural neighborhoods, and on passersby on the nature paths within the Martin Road Reserve. The Bonny Doon area supports Sand Hills habitat, a unique community of plants and animals found only on outcrops of Zayante sand soil.

XX APPROVED

_____ DENIED - REASON:

This permit authorizes the removal of the tree(s) described above. Prior to exercising any rights granted by this permit, including without limitation, any construction or site disturbance, a property owner or agent with the signed approval of the property owner shall sign, date, and return to the Planning Department one copy of the approval form to indicate acceptance and agreement with the conditions as listed below.

In the event that future County inspection of the subject property disclose non-compliance with any conditions of this Approval, or any violation of the County Code, the respective property owner shall pay to the County the full cost of such County inspections, including any follow-up inspections and/or necessary enforcement actions, up to and including permit revocation.



Matthew Johnston
Resource Planner
(831) 454-3201

Date 3/15/11

REQUIRED CONDITIONS

This permit is a blanket significant trees removal permit that allows the legal removal of trees that meet the following conditions:

1. Trees within falling distance of a private structure, path or roadway, and;
2. Trees that were burned or stressed to the point of dying as a direct result of the 2008 Martin Fire, or;
3. Ponderosa pine trees that have been colonized by the western pine beetle and show signs of stress or are dead as a result.
4. This permit shall also cover stand thinning or sanitizing for the sole purpose of improving the health of the ponderosa forest, only if conducted under the supervision of the Forest Pathologist for the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Trees that meet the parameters above may only be removed under the following conditions:

1. The property owner must register his or her intent to remove trees under this permit by submitting to the Environmental Coordinator in writing the following information:
 - A. Name
 - B. APN #
 - C. Address
 - D. Tree(s) to be removed
 - i. Size (diameter at breast height)
 - ii. Number of trees
 - iii. Species
 - E. How the tree fits under this permit
 - F. Who will remove the tree (owner, tree service – identify)
 - G. Signature of property owner or agent (with property owner's signed approval) indicating that the conditions of this permit have been read and are agreed to.
*** A suggested form is available on the County website ***
2. Regarding ponderosa pines infested by the western bark beetle:
 - A. To prevent the spread of root fungus, fresh cuts stumps on green trees shall be treated with Sporax¹ within 24 hours, preferably immediately, after cutting.
 - B. Pine trees that still have green needles may still host beetles should be treated with **one** of the following measures:
 - i. All bark shall be removed from the tree;
 - ii. Branches of the tree must be removed and disposed of outside of Sand Hills habitat, and the tree covered in black plastic for at least 3 sunny days to heat the tree and kill off any beetles that may be present;
 - iii. Felled trees may be burned in Sand Hills under the supervision or approval of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Ponderosa pines are typically

¹Sporax is a non-restricted pesticide (it is exempt from pesticide license requirements because it is "incidental to wood removal"). Therefore, a homeowner does not need a license, and can apply to their land. Commercial applicators need a license. Sporax is borax in powder form; a cleaning, herbicidal and antifungal agent used as a home remedy as well as by forestry groups to control invasive species and treat sick trees. While borax is a natural product, mined from the ground, it is still dangerous to use in concentrated form and care must be taken.

associated with the Sand Hills habitat. Care must be taken to minimize impacts to the vegetative understory around ponderosa pines to be removed.

3. Replacement trees or care of natural sprouts are required:
 - A. For ponderosa pines:
 - i. Monitor sprouts.
 - a. Seed germination has been stimulated as a result of the Martin Fire, and in many cases there is an abundance of ponderosa sprouts around burned trees. If ten or more seedlings are present within falling distance of a tree to be removed, the sprouts shall be monitored and no replacement trees are required.
 - b. If fewer than ten sprouts are present, the property owner shall be responsible for obtaining ponderosa pine sprouts from the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, enough to equal at least ten sprouts per tree, to be planted within a distance roughly equal to the height of the tree removed.
 - ii. Treat fresh-cut conifer trees with Sporax².
 - B. For any other trees
 - i. Replace with native sprouts at a ratio of at least 1 tree per 6" DBH, rounding up (e.g. a 20-inch tree should have 4 replacement sprouts planted).
 - ii. Treat fresh-cut conifer trees with Sporax².
 - C. Maintain replacement tree areas free of understory vegetation for 3 years
4. Regarding downed wood and slash
 - A. Convert whatever timber can be to firewood or milled lumber.
 - B. Slash and woody debris may be chipped in Sand Hills; however, all chipped material must be removed from the Sand Hills habitat.
 - i. Chipping and spreading outside of Sand Hills is acceptable.
 - C. Minimize disturbance of native Sand Hills vegetation when felling or moving logs.
 - i. Work with local botanists to identify areas appropriate for burning or transporting materials.

By signing this permit below, the owner agrees to accept the terms and conditions of this permit. The permit is null and void in the absence of the owner's signature below.



Signature of Owner/Agent

Date 3/15/2011

In accordance with Chapter 18.10 of the County Code, minor variations to this permit, which do not affect the overall concept or density, may be approved by the Planning Director of his or her designee at the request of the applicant or staff

² ibid

16.34.060 REQUIRED FINDINGS

One or more of the following findings shall be made prior to granting approval pursuant to this Chapter in addition to the findings required for the issuance of a development permit in accordance with Chapter 18.10:

- 1. That the significant tree is dead or is likely to promote the spread of insects or disease.
- 2. That removal is necessary to protect health, safety, and welfare.
- 3. That removal of a non-native tree is part of a plan approved by the County to restore native vegetation and landscaping to an area.
- 4. That removal will not involve a risk of adverse environmental impacts such as degrading scenic resources.
- 5. That removal is necessary in conjunction with another permit to allow the property owner an economic use of the property consistent with the land use designation of the Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan.
- 6. That removal is part of a project involving selective harvesting for the purposes of enhancing the visual qualities of the landscape or for opening up the display of important view from public places.
- 7. That removal is necessary for new or existing agricultural purposes consistent with other County policies and that mitigation of visual impacts will be provided. Also, see Section 16.34.090(d), exemption of the tree crops.
- 8. That the removal is necessary for operation of active or passive solar facilities and that mitigation of visual impacts will be provided.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

The Santa Cruz County Planning Department has reviewed the project described below and has determined that it is exempt from the provisions of CEQA as specified in Sections 15061 - 15332 of CEQA for the reason(s) which have been specified in this document.

Assessor Parcel Number: **063-061-38, and surrounding parcels**

Project Location: **The Martin Road Reserve and surrounding areas in Bonny Doon**

Project Description: Remove hazardous trees dead or dying as a result of the 2008 Martin Road fire

Person or Agency Proposing Project: County of Santa Cruz

Contact Phone Number: (831) 454-3201

- A. The proposed activity is not a project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378.
B. The proposed activity is not subject to CEQA as specified under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060 (c).
C. **Ministerial Project** involving only the use of fixed standards or objective measurements without personal judgment.
D. **Statutory Exemption** other than a Ministerial Project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15260 to 15285).

Specify type: 15269(a) Emergency Projects

- E. **Categorical Exemption**

Specify type:

- F. **Reasons why the project is exempt:**

On June 12, 2008, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declared the fire on Martin Road in Santa Cruz County a State Emergency. The fire burned 520 acres, primarily in the rare Sand Hills habitat. As a direct result of the fire, stressed ponderosa pine trees that survived have become infested with western pine beetle, further killing off the remaining ponderosas in the fire area, and have spread beyond the limits of the burn into the rural neighborhoods around the Martin Road Reserve. Dead and dying trees currently pose a threat to fall on roads and structures in the rural neighborhoods, and on passersby on the nature paths within the Martin Road Reserve.

In addition, none of the conditions described in Section 15300.2 apply to this project.


Matthew Johnston, Project Planner

3/15/2011
Date

Tree Removal Permit for the Martin Road Reserve and surrounding areas in Bonny Doon, 2008 Martin Fire

By providing the required information and signing below, I hereby agree to abide by the conditions of the Tree Removal Permit for the Martin Road Reserve and surrounding areas in Bonny Doon.

Name _____

APN # _____

Address _____

| Tree(s) to be removed | number | species |
|---|---------|---------|
| Size (approximate diameter at breast height) 6" - 12" | _____ | _____ |
| 12" - 18" | _____ | _____ |
| 18" - 24" | _____ | _____ |
| 24" - 30" | _____ | _____ |
| Over 36" | Specify | _____ |
| | | _____ |

Describe how the tree(s) fit under this permit

Sand Hills? Yes _____ No _____ I don't know _____

Signature

date

A copy of this signature page must be submitted to the Planning Department, care of the Environmental Coordinator, in order to be covered under the Tree Removal Permit

Mail to:

Planning Department, Room 400
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Email for more information:
Pln458@co.santa-cruz.ca.us