



## **FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT**

250 Cypress Street  
Fort Bragg, CA 95437-5437

**FABIAN E. LIZARRAGA**  
Chief of Police

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September 9, 2019

To Whom It May Concern;

This correspondence is prepared in support of Spring Pond Properties, the new owners of the property on the "Mill Site" directly across from the Starbucks. The owners intend to clean up the fire fuel which is a hazard when people camp there illegally and out of sight. Using this location for warming or cooking fires constitutes a fire hazard for the whole area. Cleaning this property of overgrowth and kindling brush would alleviate the hazard and allow officers to more readily see the property and observe any illegal activity taking place.

We understand the affected area would be the property fronting Main Street (Highway 1), from Cypress Street to Hazel Street, and the cleanup will take place between Cypress Street and the area directly across from 544 S. Main Street. We hope you consider this input in your deliberations.

  
Fabian E. Lizarraga  
Chief of Police

# FORT BRAGG FIRE PROTECTION AUTHORITY

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STEVE ORSI  
Fire Chief

To: Whom it may concern  
From: Fort Bragg Fire Chief Steve Orsi  
Date: 09/09/2019  
Re: Honer Property/West Cypress Street

On September 09, 2019 I was requested to do a walk through on the newly purchased Honer property that sits inside the old Georgia Pacific lot in Fort Bragg. The property runs along the east border of the GP site, just north of the Cypress Street gate. The purpose for my presence was to come up with ideas to better protect the property from potential fire.

There were several items that were immediately noticeable. The areas of very tall, dry grass that if ignited with strong wind gusts could pose a problem for firefighters. Next was the trees themselves. Cal Fire suggests limbing the trees up a minimum of 6 feet from the ground, thereby deterring the fire from "climbing the ladder" to the upper tree limbs.

The other item noticed was the density of the brush that filled the underside of these trees. This is all considered fuel to a fire. If thinned out, the fire threat to these trees would diminish.

The last item noted was dead/dying trees. These trees posed threats from fire to the possible devastation should they fall and either destroy other trees on the way down or interfere with traffic flow on Main Street.

In today's world, members of the fire service must look at all sides when recommending fire safety ideas. We must consider environmental impact, community needs/desires and the owners wishes. Then try to come up with common sense solutions that will hopefully be fair to all involved.

By thinning out the dead/dying trees, limbing up the larger trees and clearing some of the under-laying vegetation the fire threat would be minimalized. The other predicted outcome would be allowing the remaining trees to flourish. Mowing some of the dry grassy areas would also greatly minimize the threat of uncontrolled fire.

As the old mill site begins to be developed to enhance our community, it is the Fire Departments hope that fire safety will be a priority in the planning. After watching other areas suffer from devastating fires, we will continue to do our part to make sure Fort Bragg will never be added to the list of communities struck by fire.