

March 27, 2007

Riviera Homeowners Association

Wildland Fire Suppression Benefit Assessment District Update

In July 2006 establishment of the Wildland Fire Suppression Benefit Assessment District was approved by voters within the Foothill and extreme Foothill high fire hazard areas. Approval of the "WFSBAD" provided funding for services in three general categories. These three categories included: expansion of the vegetation road clearance program, implementation of a defensible space fire inspection and assistance program and implementation of a vegetation management program.

In November 2006 the City hired Phil Faulding as a Fire Services Specialist to work specifically on projects within the WFSBAD areas. Phil has been overseeing the contractors who have been working on the road clearance program as well as providing assistance to property owners in the assessment area.

The vegetation road clearance program has been making significant progress. This program has provided much improved emergency response and evacuation routes by clearing vegetation from the edge of roadways out to ten feet, when possible and to a vertical height of 13 feet, 6 inches. As of March 27, 2007, 21 of 21.37 miles of roadways have been cleared with a total of over 726 cubic yards of material removed.

On March 23, 2007 the Fire Department will be sending out information to all residents within the WFSBAD. Information included will be the brochure "Living with Wildfire" produced by the Santa Barbara Firesafe Council; a copy of the City's defensible space standards; current projects within the WFSBAD and a new home defensible space evaluation and inspection program. In addition, we are announcing three seminars for homeowners where they can learn more about defensible space and schedule a home defensible space evaluation if interested.

On April 14, 2007 from 9:00am to 12:00pm we will be holding an open house at City Fire Station 7. Information regarding defensible space, fire prevention, emergency preparedness, along with fire station and apparatus tours will be provided.

Beginning mid-March we will be offering chipping services to specific areas as a method to encourage the removal of flammable vegetation to meet defensible space requirements. The chipping program will first be offered to ten neighborhoods in the WFSBAD through June, 2007. In 2008, we will expand this program to additional areas of the WFSBAD.

The remaining part of the proposed services to be provided to by the WFSBAD is that of vegetation management. Vegetation management is the reduction of fuels in large areas utilizing a variety of methods. No vegetation management projects are proposed for this year. We are, however, committed to completing the plans for two projects next year.

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| Annual budget | \$215,203.00 |
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Expenditures, July 1, 2006 – March 25, 2006

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| Staffing, Fire Services Specialist | \$20,413.00 |
| Equipment | \$1,122.00 |
| Information Services | \$5,211.00 |
| Computer Hardware | \$1,900.00 |
| Vehicle Costs | \$4,511.00 |
| Furniture | \$1,522.00 |
| Road Clearance | \$47,400.00 |
| Chipping services | (Encumbered) \$40,000.00 |

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| Total Expenditures through March 25, 2007 | <u>\$122,079.00</u> |
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| Remaining Balance for fiscal year ending June 30, 2007 | \$93,124.00 |
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We are looking forward to continuing our efforts in working with the community to reduce the impacts of wildland fire. If you have any questions regarding the defensible space programs we encourage you to contact Phil Faulding, Fire Services Specialist at 564-5702 or Russ Cole, Fire Marshal at 564-5701