

## Kensington Fire Protection District Hazardous Vegetation Removal Grant Program

### Objective:

The primary objective of this grant is to reduce wildfire risks by funding the removal of highly flammable vegetation from residential properties in Kensington. This program is intended to replace the Kensington Fire Protection District's Replanting Grant to improve the effectiveness and speed of hazardous vegetation removal and reduce fire loads near residences and roadways. Creating defensible space around residences is critical to save lives and protect property.

### Definitions:

- Neighborhood Lead: Person submitting the application and responsible for completion of work on behalf of the participating parcels.
- Program Coordinator: Person designated by the KFPD to manage the program.

### Eligibility Criteria:

- Open to Kensington parcels.
- Focus on removal projects targeting highly flammable plant species such as juniper, bamboo, and eucalyptus.
- Vegetation to be removed must be within 25 feet of a residence or 10" from the street.
- To be cost-effective and efficient, this program gives preference to applications with three or more parcels.
- Completed application with designated "Neighborhood Lead"
- Grant funds are only eligible for hazardous vegetation that has been removed after grant award and approval from the Kensington Fire Protection District.
- Hazardous vegetation does not include grasses targeted in the Annual Vegetation Management Standards Inspections performed by El Cerrito Kensington Fire Department.

### Potential Funding Details:

- Grant awards up to \$2,000 per parcel.
- Funds are to be used solely for the cost of hazardous vegetation removal as approved in the application submittal.
- Reimbursement of grant upon verified completion of the project. Please allow up to 6 weeks to receive reimbursement via USPS upon submitting final project documentation.

### Simplified Application Process:

- Application for Neighborhood Leads to submit on behalf of participating properties will be available online.
- Each application shall include: Neighborhood Lead, participating properties, photos, description of the vegetation to be removed by parcel, cost estimates from removal contractor and timeline for completion.
- Upon project completion, Neighborhood Lead will provide photo(s) showing completed work.

**Implementation and Oversight:**

- Each application will be validated by the Program Coordinator designated by the General Manager of the Kensington Fire Protection District.
- Program Coordinator shall manage the grant program including public information, application schedule, the distribution and collection of applications, notification of grant award, and confirmation of completed work.
- A subcommittee of the KFPD Emergency Preparedness Committee will review and rank applications submitted based on criteria above. Upon award of grant, the subcommittee shall review final project completion and notify the Program Coordinator.
- Program Coordinator will then make a recommendation to the District Manager for reimbursement.
- Upon approval of the application, the Neighborhood Lead coordinates the removal activities for compliance with the submittal and provides final documentation including photos and paid receipts for reimbursement, parcel by parcel.

**Timeline:**

- Applications will be accepted twice a year during the open application periods.
- Projects to be completed within 6 months of the grant approval date.