



Tree Mortality Aid Program (TMAP)

The Sonora Lions Club, Sunrise Rotary, Sonora Kiwanis, Sierra Non-Profit, Highway 108 and Yosemite Foothills Fire Safe Councils and Area 12 Agency on Aging have taken on a monumental project impacting Tuolumne County. The goal of the project is the removal of dead and dying trees on private property of qualified homeowners (seniors over 60 years old and disabled adults) not able to finance or remove them themselves. Although PG&E, Tuolumne County, Caltrans and other public utilities are removing tree mortality affecting their facilities, there is NO aid available at this time for private property owners. They are on their own.

11 counties have applied for California Disaster Assistance Act funding to mitigate the bark beetle epidemic. Tuolumne County has begun removing hazard trees that are within the distance of falling on or over a County maintained road or County maintained structure. Many trees will fall under PG&E, Cal-Trans, or TUD jurisdiction, but many more will not. It is those trees that do not, that are our target. To accomplish, this we need to raise money.... LOTS of money. At an average of \$1,000 per tree and an estimate of 2000 trees (at this time), we are looking at approximately \$2 million for Tuolumne County.

Falling trees are not only a safety problem for people and property, but with fire season upon us, CAL FIRE is greatly concerned with all the added fuel in the forests. Many of these dead trees are within the 100 foot defensible space and have to be removed to facilitate good fire prevention and/or fire fighting if the need arises.

Area 12 Agency on Aging will qualify applicants and Sonora Area Foundation is serving as our fiduciary agent. Experienced forestry and arborist personnel will be qualifying trees and marking them on private property with signed agreements by the landowners. Licensed Timber Operators will be utilized to safely remove trees.

Our goal is to encourage all service clubs and non-profit organizations in Tuolumne County to join TMAP. Representatives from a number of these groups would make up a committee help lead the community toward the goal of a safer Tuolumne County. This group will encourage club, multi-club and county wide fund raising efforts.

Above all, this project serves those in need in Tuolumne County. We hope you will join us in this crucial effort.

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