

Susan Grant

From: Zach McQuead [Zach.McQuead@escondido.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2025 12:46 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Vegetation Management at Woodridge POA Escondido, Ca
Attachments: Prevention 30.0 - Vegetation Management Standards.pdf

Hello,

Attached are the City's Vegetation Management Standards. Per the meeting we had on site a little bit of time ago, I did not see any violations through the neighborhood that would constitute any enforcement.

As we discussed about your communities budget and desire to do necessary work, it appeared that you had options to choose from what I remember. If you wished to clear more vegetation along the roads and hillsides surrounding the rain drainages, you could certainly do so. Maintaining the mature trees (ideally if they are 12ft or taller, we deem them mature) to have their branches/limbs trimmed up to at least 6ft off the ground. As well as maintaining the areas where any dead vegetation is. We do not want dead vegetation, and it should be removed where ever it exists. This may include the leaves and droppings off plant life, but with specific regard to that, it is allowed to collect periodically never exceeding 4 inches in collected depth.

These are basically the only recommendations that I could assess based off your desires for the neighborhood. The area was well maintained already but anything further would be discretionary to your choice to do so.

Let me know if you have questions. I hope this information is what you were looking for.

Thank you.



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ESCONDIDO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Hazard Reduction and Vegetation Clearance Standard

1. Weeds, dry grass, brush, dead vegetation, trash, rubbish, debris, and other combustible materials that create a fire hazard must be removed from the property and properly disposed. Weeds and annual grasses shall be maintained at a height not to exceed 4 inches.
2. Properties of one (1) acre or less shall be cleared of hazards in their entirety. Properties of more than one (1) acre shall have a minimum of one hundred (100') feet clearance from structures and thirty (30') feet clearance around the perimeter. Distance shall be measured in a horizontal plane.
3. Roadways and/or driveways shall be cleared of vegetation to at least the width of the roadway plus twenty (20') feet on each side, and to a height of thirteen and one-half (13 1/2') feet above the road surface.
4. Clearance of properties shall be accomplished by methods that will not disturb native soil or rootstock. Grading shall not be used to clear properties without a valid City/County Grading Permit.
5. Native chaparral may be thinned as approved by the Fire Department.
6. Property owners shall clear any combustible material, weeds, brush, trees or other vegetation (including mulch) that is, or could become, dry and could be capable of transmitting fire, from within fifty (50') feet of raw green-waste and mulch piles. Clearance shall be to bare earth or approved pavement. Individual growing trees within that distance may remain with approval of the Chief. Piles shall be separated from adjacent piles and property lines by a distance not less than twenty (20') feet.

Please note that aesthetics is not a consideration in determining the presence of a fire hazard. In addition, if the location on the property, topography, waterways, nonnegotiable grades or other similar conditions make completion of the fuel and vegetation management requirements unattainable, an approved alternative means of fire protection may be considered by the Fire Marshal.

Acceptable Methods for Clearing and Removal

1. Mature trees must be trimmed to six (6') feet above the ground or as approved by the Fire Department and must be cut back at least ten (10') feet from chimneys. All leaves, bark, and other debris must be removed from the ground and roof, and rain gutters.
2. All cuttings must be removed from property and hauled to an approved County landfill site or they may be mulched and left on top of the soil to a maximum depth of three (3") inches.
3. Firewood shall not be stored in unenclosed spaces beneath buildings or structures, or on decks or under eaves, canopies or other projections or overhangs. Storage of firewood material shall be located a minimum of thirty (30') feet from structures and separated from the crown of trees by a minimum of fifteen (15') feet, measured horizontally. Firewood and combustible materials not for consumption on the premises shall be stored so as to not pose a hazard.
4. All dead palm fronds including older leaves that persist on the palm tree, forming a "skirt" of brown thatch shall not exceed five (5') feet in depth. This requirement applies to palm trees within one hundred (100') feet of any structure or within twenty (20') feet of a driveway or roadway.
5. Orchards, groves or vineyards. All orchards, groves, and vineyards shall be kept in a healthy state and maintained as described below. A 10-foot firebreak shall be cleared between the perimeter, orchard trees or row of grape vines and native vegetation or ornamental landscaping. Orchards shall be kept cleaned of dead and or downed trees. Orchards and vineyards shall be free of combustible debris, dead branches and dead foliage. All dead grasses between rows of trees or vines shall be mowed or disked to bare soil. Mulch shall not be placed over bare soil without approval from the Fire Department.

(California Fire Code, as Adopted; Escondido Municipal Code; California Public Resource Code California Codes Government Code)