

Spring 2019

Mission Canyon Chipping Starts June 1

by Laurie Guitteau

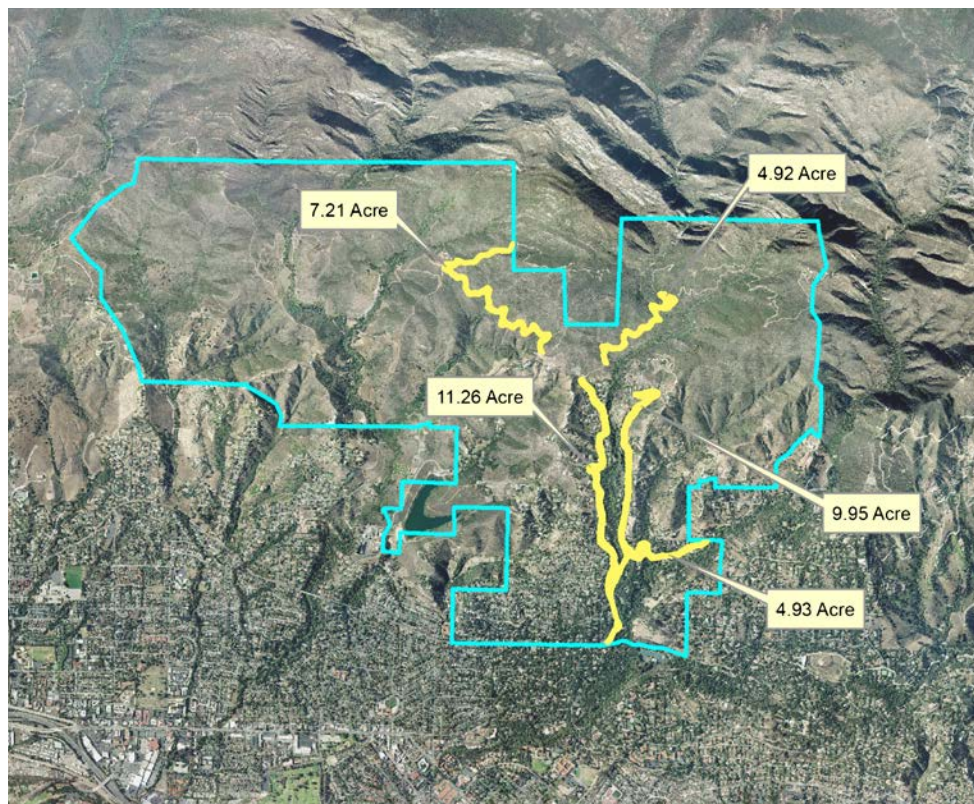
Along with Santa Barbara County Fire, your Mission Canyon Association is sponsoring a brush chipping to prepare our neighborhoods for high-fire season, thanks to a state grant obtained by County Fire. Now is the time to trim grasses, bushes, and low tree branches on our properties and any ladder fuels near homes. (For defensible space guidelines, see sbcfire.com/vegetation-management).

The chipping crew will make only one pass along Mission Canyon, Tunnel, and Las Canoas roads beginning June 1, as long as the crew isn't called to a fire. Material to be chipped must be prepared no later than May 31.



We regret the inability to provide a general location for brush beyond those described below because in years past, unscrupulous people have used the common space to place junk like toilets and non-chippable palm trees.

Mandatory Chipping Instructions

- Stack all cut vegetation by the first day of scheduled chipping. Chippers will only make one pass. Material stacked after the start date will not be chipped. Homeowners will be responsible to remove late material.
- Cut material should not be placed along the roadway until two weeks prior to chipping.
- Lay cut vegetation in a pile along the street area (in a turnout or shoulder, for instance) and outside the drivable roadway.
- Set brush three to five feet from fences, power poles, landscaping, trees, structures, etc. so crews can quickly distinguish what is to be chipped — and what is not.
- Give five feet of vertical clearance from tree limbs overhead.
- The cut end of all vegetation must face the street so the chipping crew can grab it.



Legend

-  Santa Barbara Foothill CDS Roadside Clearance: 5.34 miles, 28.25 acres
-  Santa Barbara Foothill CDS Roadside Clearance Project Boundary

Program area: Fire Plan
 Project Status Complete in Maintenance
 CEQU type: Categorical Exemption

This map shows the areas County Fire will work on to clear roadsides of vegetation and take brush from property owners for chipping along Tunnel and Mission Canyon roads, and the part of Las Canoas Road that is in the county.

SOURCE: Santa Barbara County Fire Department

- Branches and limbs should be no greater than 6 inches in diameter.
- Piles must be stacked no more than 4 feet in height. Long piles are okay as long as they are not over 4 feet in height.
- Brush should be left in long lengths (4-7 feet). Cut vegetation is much easier to chip when it is longer.
- Do not tie cut vegetation in bundles.
- Old dead vegetation that has been lying around for years cannot be chipped (this type of vegetation damages chipper blades).
- Piles or materials such as root balls that have rocks, dirt, or other debris cannot be chipped.
- Piles pushed or moved by mechanical equipment, i.e. tractor, will not be chipped.
- Do not place material in plastic bags; they will not be picked up or chipped.
- Plants that cannot be chipped: pine needles, leaf litter, agave and succulents, palm fronds, exotic pests such as castor bean, arundo, thistle, pampas grass, Scotch/French/Spanish broom, bamboo, Cape/German ivy.

If you have questions, please contact Captain Fred Tan, Fire Prevention, Santa Barbara County Fire: **(805) 896-6350** or Fred.Tan@sbcfire.com.

Thank you for keeping our canyon more fire safe.

Early Fire Detection System Installed on the Mesa

by Ray Smith

Recently, in a collaboration with UC Santa Barbara and coordination with S.B. County Fire, the Mission Canyon Association purchased and had cameras mounted on the Mesa with a view of the front country. The cameras are part of a system developed by UC San Diego to provide remote areas, typically mountaintops, with internet capability for early detection of fire, smoke, severe weather, or other anomalies.

Once Santa Barbara County Fire dispatch takes control of the system, firefighters will be able to pan and zoom the cameras to view smoke or fire in the hills, and for incident and crisis management should an emergency develop. The public can also view static, long-distance images at the HPWREN website: hpwren.ucsd.edu/cameras/victrace.html.

"HPWREN" stands for High Performance Wireless Research and Education Network, an interdisciplinary and multi-institutional UC San Diego research and education project, created in 2000 with National Science Foundation funding. This program is led by the San Diego Supercomputer Center and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics.



The HPWREN camera setup on the Mesa enables County Fire to have spotting facility for smoke, fire, and other emergencies. PHOTO: Frank Vernon/HPWREN

Further information can be found on the HPWREN website: hpwren.ucsd.edu.

HPWREN participation includes research institutions and government agencies, such as the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF/CalFire, state and county firefighters) with an emphasis on incident/crisis management and

public safety applications that might benefit from high performance wireless data networking. This effort has included mounting cameras mounted at multiple locations on topographic heights around Southern California. Views from these cameras can be viewed through the ALERTWildfire website: alertwildfire.org/orangecoca/.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mission Canyon Bridge Project

The first community meeting to kick off the Mission Canyon Bridge Studies was held April 22 at Rocky Nook Park with about 30-40 people in attendance. Representatives of the City of Santa Barbara presented the situation with regard to the condition of the bridge and the role of Caltrans in determining a so-



Broken stegosaurus wall PHOTO: Courtesy

lution. They were adamant about keeping an open mind until all of the information was in from various consultants. Studies in progress include a bridge inspection report, cultural records search, geotechnical studies, and surveys. They predict a minimum of three years before any decision will be made.

Meanwhile, necessary maintenance projects are underway. These are totally separate from the bridge studies.

The city requested input from all citizens. Keep informed at the city website: MissionCanyonBridge.com. You can also call (805) 618-5331 or email at info@missioncanyonbridge.com. — Laurie Guitteau

About That Bridge ...

Few reports have been made about accidents on the Mission Canyon Creek bridge, according to law enforcement authorities. But anyone who travels it daily knows the stonework gets hit every year or two. In March, it was the neighboring stegosaurus wall that was struck when a truck said to have bald tires pulling a trailer failed to complete the turn on a wet morning as it came down Mission Canyon Road. The electricity pole was also

knocked loose, causing a power outage, and then a big morning traffic snarl when Edison crews replaced the pole. — Jean Yamamura

Mountain Lion Spotted

A Palomino Road resident saw a mountain lion on his back patio one Sunday morning in April. Bruce Worster thought at first it was a bobcat, until he realized it was four times larger than any cat. It headed for the hills, he said, and hasn't returned. — Jean Yamamura



PHOTO: Bruce Worster

Friends Don't Let Friends Park Like This

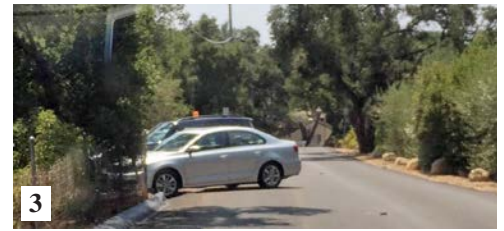
by Alex Feldwinn and Jean Yamamura

Of the hundreds of people who hike the front country every weekend, only a handful mistake the middle of the road or a fireplug for a parking spot. The minor parking violation becomes a major one when an emergency requires residents (and hikers) to get out and a fire engine or ambulance to come in. When called, California Highway Patrol officers respond to parking violations with either a ticket or a tow.

The photos below were taken along Tunnel Road this year:

1. Some spaces are wider than others, but parking beyond the white painted fog line means the road is blocked to two-way traffic.
2. Bad parking on a curve means that passing cars must swing wide.
3. These cars are illegally parked, over the yet-to-be-painted fogline, in the middle of the lane.

4. This driver simply walked away after hitting a homeowner's young planting.
5. In California, cars must park 15 feet from a fire hydrant, which this one obviously is not.
6. The white vehicle at the head of this line has paused to let children out of their car seats. We're glad their parents are conscientious, but the middle of the road is the wrong place to do this.



PHOTOS: Alex Feldwinn and Jean Yamamura

Time to Get Fire Ready

Yes, it's rained a lot for May in Santa Barbara. It even rained on May 5, the 10th anniversary of the Jesusita Fire. It's not normal to have rain in May, but no one is complaining because we have had so many years of drought. Now we can relax about fire danger, right? Wrong!

One thing old timers will tell you is that you can always count on it being a "bad year for fire." If we have no rain, the moisture level is too low. If we have a lot of rain, the grasses are a menace. Grasses catch fire faster and spread faster. Not what you wanted to hear.

Thus, as summer and fall loom, we must remind ourselves of the things we each need to do to prepare our home and our family for the possibility of fire. And your friendly Mission Canyon Association is here to prod gently that we must all accept this reality of living in the WUI — Wildland Urban Interface: Fire is part of the ecosystem in Mission Canyon. We, our homes, our families, our neighbors, we all need to be ready.

Once again we offer you a short checklist:

1. The men and women who staff County Fire Station 15 are the best resource for specific mitigations for your home and

garden. Call (805) 681-5515 to schedule an appointment to assess your vulnerabilities.

2. Register at awareandprepare.org. Alerts are not foolproof, but everyone should be registered.
3. Verify that your insurance is up to date.
4. Make a plan so that you can evacuate in minutes. If we do have a fire, leave early. You cannot outrun a fire. Not only do you risk your life, you risk the lives of others by impeding the work of firefighters and law enforcement.
5. Cover all vents, chimneys and stovepipe outlets, and fire pits with metal screens.
6. Keep roofs and gutters free of debris.
7. Reevaluate your defensible space. Take advantage of the partnership of MCA and County Fire that offers free chipping. Details on page 1.
8. Refer to County Fire's website, sbcfire.com, for detailed safety preparedness programs. Study it with your family so that you are all prepared.

Remember that the best protection is preparation. Work with your family and your neighbors to ensure the safety of all of us. — Laurie Guitteau

MCA Officers & Directors

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- Jean Yamamura: Fire, Land Use, Newsletter chair, T&P; 845-3051, jean.yamamura@gmail.com

The MCA Newsletter was prepared with the help of Lee Anne Dollison, graphics, production, and photography.

MCA's Board of Directors meets the first Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 p.m., at the S.B. Natural History Museum's MacVeagh House. All residents are welcome to attend.



Mission Canyon Association
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Your MCA Newsletter Spring 2019

Chipping Days Are Here!
Get Your Greenery Properly Ready

New Mesa Camera to Scan Front Country for Fire • Bad Parking at Trailhead ... So Sad

Mission Canyon Association 2019 Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 30
social half-hour: 6:30 p.m.
meeting: 7–8:30 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE

Santa Barbara Woman's Club
670 Mission Canyon Road

Come with your neighbors! Carpooling is encouraged!

Please join the Mission Canyon Association for an annual canyon-wide get-together to discuss topics of interest to us all and elect new MCA directors.

This year, because of the refurbishment of Fleischmann Auditorium at the Museum of Natural History, we will meet at the Santa Barbara Woman's Club at Rockwood.

Division Chief/Fire Marshal Rob Hazard will explain the Countywide Vegetation Management Program recently approved by the County Supervisors and how it will better protect all residents in the county. He will also review the procedure for MCA's chipping program that County Fire and MCA started last year.

Abe Powell, community and environmental leader who founded the Bucket Brigade after the Montecito debris flow disaster, will speak to us about community resilience as we face climate change and disasters, *Building Resilience in Hardening Your Property*.