



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & BUILDING
TREVOR KEITH, *DIRECTOR*

March 22, 2019

Dear Cambria Resident:

In response to the significant hazards posed by dead and dying trees in Cambria, the Department of Planning and Building sent letters to Cambria residents in January 2018 authorizing them to remove hazardous trees on their property using a streamlined process. While we've received relief from the drought that contributed to tree mortality, dead and dying trees in Cambria pose a significant threat to life and property in the forested community. In recognition of these hazards, the Department of Planning and Building hereby extends the streamlined permitting procedure until December 31, 2019.

Under the streamlined process previously authorized (and extended pursuant to this letter), Cambria landowners may remove any dead tree on their property that is deemed hazardous by Cal Fire provided they replant at a 1:1 ratio. See reverse side of this letter for further instructions. This streamlined process applies only to the removal of dead trees that are deemed hazardous by Cal Fire.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Airlin Singewald, Supervising Planner, at (805) 781-5198.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trevor Keith". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Trevor Keith
Director of Planning and Building
County of San Luis Obispo

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
STREAMLINED PROCESS FOR HAZARDOUS TREE REMOVAL IN CAMBRIA**

Q: How do I get County approval for removing a hazardous tree on my Cambria property?

A: Call Cal Fire at 927-6240 or 927-4262 and request that they send a representative to your property to tag the hazardous tree. You are then free to remove the hazardous tree. No further County approval is required.

Q: What are my responsibilities after I remove a hazardous tree on my Cambria property?

A: You are required to replant at a 1:1 ratio and, within 45 days of tree removal, submit evidence of removal and replacement (photographs, receipts, etc.) to the Department of Planning and Building at the address below:

Department of Planning and Building
976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Q: What type of trees do I replant and where do I get them?

A: Your replacement seedlings must be one gallon size and the same species that you removed. Removed pines shall be replaced with native Monterey pine trees (*pinus radiata* var. *macrocarpa*). These seedlings are available through Greenspace (The Cambria Land Trust): www.greenspacecambria.org / (805) 927-2866 / info@greenspacecambria.org.

No out of the area Monterey pine stock shall be used.

Q: Will the County assist with the removal of hazardous trees on my parcel?

A: This streamlined process makes it easier for Cambria landowners to get approval to remove hazardous trees, but it does not assist with the actual removal of the trees. You are responsible for removing the hazardous trees yourself (at your own risk) or hiring a licensed contractor to remove the trees.

Q: Can I remove a healthy tree?

A: Only hazardous trees tagged by Cal Fire are eligible for removal under this streamlined process. Healthy trees that are not posing a risk to life or property cannot be removed unless they are associated with an approved coastal development permit.

Q: What was the process for removing hazardous trees prior to this authorization?

A: The usual process (prior to this authorization) for getting County approval to remove a hazardous tree involves paying a fee of \$126 (for the first three trees) and \$23 for each additional tree, scheduling an appointment with the County arborist to verify that each tree meets the County's removal criteria, and replanting at a 4:1 ratio.