

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-182

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF ROCKLIN
APPROVING AND ADOPTING
CITYWIDE FUEL LOAD REDUCTION GUIDELINES

The City Council of the City of Rocklin does resolve as follows:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Rocklin hereby approves and adopts the City of Rocklin Citywide Fuel Load Reduction Guidelines, attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and by this reference incorporated herein.

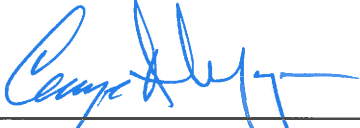
PASSED AND ADOPTED this 14th day of July, 2015, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers: Yuill, Ruslin, Janda, Magnuson

NOES: Councilmembers: None


ABSENT: Councilmembers: Butler

ABSTAIN: Councilmembers: None



George Magnuson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Barbara Ivanusich, City Clerk

EXHIBIT 1

CITYWIDE FUEL LOAD REDUCTION GUIDELINES

Purpose and Need:

To establish fire fuel load reduction guidelines that would pertain to the entire City of Rocklin. The guidelines would be utilized by the City when conducting fire fuel load reduction activities on any property (primarily City-owned, but in some instances private) within the City. While it is recognized that any specific site being considered for fuel load reduction activities will have its own unique characteristics that will require varying approaches (such as in sensitive open space areas), the guidelines are intended to provide the City with a basic and consistent approach for fuel load reduction activities.

The City's primary purpose in conducting fuel load reduction activities is to reduce ladder fuels (small trees, brush and low limbs) by thinning and removing trees and brush so as to decrease the vertical continuity between surface and crown fuels. These actions are intended to limit the ability of a fire to transition from surface to crown by separating surface fuels from crown fuels.

Guidelines Provisions:

1. Areas designated as Open Space, Wetland, or Preserve areas could be considered sensitive and could have restricted maintenance activities. Staff shall refer to guidance documents that control these types of areas prior to performing any work related to fuel reduction and adhere to those restrictions.
2. Tree species less than 6 inches dbh (diameter at breast height) will be selectively identified for removal.
3. Tree species larger than 6 inches dbh will have their limbs trimmed and/or removed up to 10 feet in height.
4. Diseased, dying or dead trees will be selectively identified for removal if they are deemed to represent a hazard (e.g., the tree is in danger of falling and damaging public or private property and/or blocking natural drainage ways, and/or the tree represents a significant source of fire fuel load in the opinion of the City Fire Department.)

5. Where feasible, waterway avoidance areas will be established at 30-50 feet from the waterways to preserve habitats and water quality.
6. The City of Rocklin has a Streambed Alteration Agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife that limits the time and manner of maintenance work in stream areas that could have substantial adverse effects on fish and wildlife resources. The proposed project will comply with all aspects of this agreement.
7. To address potential impacts to nesting raptors and migratory birds, the following steps shall be implemented:
 - a) Fuel load reduction activities shall attempt to time the removal of potential nesting habitat for raptors and migratory birds to avoid the nesting season (February - August).
 - b) If vegetation removal needs to occur during the nesting season for raptors and migratory birds (February-August), a qualified biologist shall be hired by the City to conduct pre-work surveys no more than 30 days prior to initiation of fuel load reduction activities. The survey shall cover all areas of suitable nesting habitat within 500 feet of project activity and shall be valid for one construction season. Documentation of the survey shall be provided to and maintained by the City and if the survey results are negative, no further mitigation is required and necessary vegetation trimming and/or removal may proceed.
 - c) If the survey results are positive (active nests are found), impacts shall be avoided by the establishment of appropriate buffers. The biologist shall consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the City to determine the size of an appropriate buffer area (CDFW guidelines recommend implementation of 500-foot buffers). Monitoring of the nest by a qualified biologist may be required if the activity has the potential to adversely affect an active nest.
 - d) If construction activities are scheduled to occur during the non-breeding season (September- January), a survey is not required and no further studies are necessary.
8. To address potential impacts to the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle, the following steps shall be implemented:
 - a) Prior to the start of any fuel load reduction activities, project sites shall be surveyed for the presence of elderberry shrubs. Any elderberry shrubs identified during the survey shall be marked with flagging in the field to ensure avoidance

and their locations shall be identified on a project site map. A copy of the project site map with identified elderberry shrubs shall be provided to the contractor conducting the fuel load reduction activities and the contractor shall be briefed on the locations of the identified elderberry shrubs and the need to avoid any trimming or removal of elderberry shrubs.