

2003 CLAREMONT CANYON FIRE FUEL MITIGATION PROJECT

In September 2003, the Campus will perform a major clearance of roughly 850,000 square feet (almost 20 acres) of eucalyptus in a particularly high-ignition prone grove at the headslope of Claremont Canyon. The grove sits on a low saddle between higher East Bay hills topography and acts as a natural funnel to direct hot easterly Diablo winds westward and down through the dense chaparral of Claremont Canyon.

The eucalyptus grove re-sprouted after the 1972 freeze and features a very dense growth of eucalyptus with an understory of mature poison oak. Within the grove, however, are scattered 30-year-old redwoods and bays. With removal and inhibition of the eucalyptus, the considerably less fire-prone redwood/bay community will dominate – with the added enhancement of bay views previously blocked by the eucalyptus. The approximate stem count of the work is +/- 1800 stems.

The grove is sited along the North side of Grizzly Peak Boulevard in the City of Oakland on University property. The approximate cut area is 850,000 square feet (c. 850' x 1000'), with some flexibility in determining the exact width and length of the cut zone. Under contract to Physical Plant - Campus Services, a contractor will fell all eucalyptus trees on the work sites.

Following standard procedure of local and state public agencies, trunks will be immediately treated after cutting with an inhibitor to prevent re-sprouting. Branches will be cut into smaller sections and scattered. Those branches that fall within 100 feet of the roadway will be chipped. Trunks will be left where felled, section-sawn and left, or removed, depending upon the site conditions. Redwood and bay trees in the site will not be cut, and care will be taken to protect these specimens during the project.

For further information, please contact Tom Klatt, Director of Emergency Planning, UC Police Dept. 642-1258 or tklatt@uclink.berkeley.edu.