

DATE: April 29, 2016
TO: Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Council
FROM: James Raives, Senior Open Space Planner
SUBJECT: Eucalyptus Trees at the Northwest Area of Bolinas Lagoon

At its special meeting on September 30, 2015, the Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Council discussed issues and concerns around the removal of eucalyptus trees between the Olema Bolinas Road and the lagoon. During that meeting and at previous meetings, the Marin County Parks (Parks) staff presented information on environmental impacts of eliminating the trees that have already fallen into the lagoon. Because the impacts from removal are more significant than the impacts of leaving the fallen trees in place, staff has determined that it will not remove the two trees that have recently fallen into the lagoon. However, in order to avoid future impacts to the lagoon from new trees that may fall, staff is moving forward with a plan to cut down the eucalyptus trees that have the potential to drop in the next couple of years.

Parks consulted with an arborist approximately a year ago to provide recommendations of cutting down eucalyptus trees that could fall into the lagoon in the near future. The arborist identified 11 trees that have a short-term potential to fall into the lagoon. The removal of all of these trees would cost between \$70,000 and \$95,000, including traffic control and disposal. The report divides the eucalyptus grove into three areas based on mile markers (see Exhibit A) and recommends the following.

| Group | Number of Trees | Size and Condition Range | Recommendations |
|-------|-----------------|--|--|
| 1271 | 34 | Mixed age stand of young to mature eucalyptus, dead wood and broken/dead tops, size: 60 to 110', trunk diameter (dbh) 5 to 40. | Remove two fire-damaged trees in the north end of this group and four other trees within 20 feet that will then have altered wind tolerance. |
| 1319 | 16 | Mixed age stand of young to mature eucalyptus, dead wood, and detached hangers, size: 50 to 100', trunk diameter (dbh) 18 to 36. | Remove four trees with suppressed canopy and lean adjacent to existing failures into the lagoon. |
| 1400 | 16 | Mixed age stand of young to mature eucalyptus, dead wood, and detached hangers, size: 50 to 100', trunk diameter (dbh) 8 to 36. | Remove one tree with suppressed canopy, lean, and structural trunk defect. |

It is not feasible to remove all 11 trees at this time and staff is proposing a multi-year process to cut down the potentially harmful trees. For 2016, Marin County Parks Operations staff will initiate the removal of the trees with the highest potential to drop into the lagoon. As part of the process, Operations staff will meet on site with representatives of the advisory council and interested members of the public to describe the work proposed for 2016.

Exhibit A

