

Tewksbury Heights Residents Expand Their Projects

After a successful first chipping day residents in the Tewksbury Heights neighborhood of East Richmond Heights (an unincorporated community in Contra Costa County) began two new projects on Dimm Way and Bernhard Avenue. The final 0.37-miles of Dimm Way is unpaved, and while dedicated for public use, is not a part of the maintained County Road System. The adjacent property owners focused on clearing the undergrowth and fire ladders. They cut brush and limbed up tree branches around their homes and where the road backed onto 20 properties. Funding provided by a National Fire Plan grant from the USDA Forest Service through the California Fire Safe Council were used to chip brush, remove green waste generated by the neighbors, as well as to trim trees along the roadway to maintain this potential escape route.

Uphill of Dimm Way, a group of Bernhard Avenue residents were concerned about overgrown trees located between their homes on the narrow lots. Five neighbors arranged for tree specialists to thin and prune up mature oak, acacia, cypress, incense cedar, redwood and bay trees. A chipping service further encouraged neighbors to remove brush on their properties. Property owners supplemented the project funded tree work with their own funds and removal of brush. While they could not achieve all the work they had hoped to accomplish, the areas around their homes are a positive example for the neighbors of what it looks like to reduce the threat of wildfire.

Project statistics

Address: south end Dimm Way and 6109-6119 Bernhard Avenue, Richmond CA

Acres treated: 5 acres

Project Funding: \$10,000

Project Match: \$13,200+ coordination and fuel removal

Contractors: Bay Area Tree Care, El Sobrante (Dimm Way);
Brende & Lamb, Berkeley (Bernhard Ave);
Traverso Tree Service, Walnut Creek (Bernhard Ave)

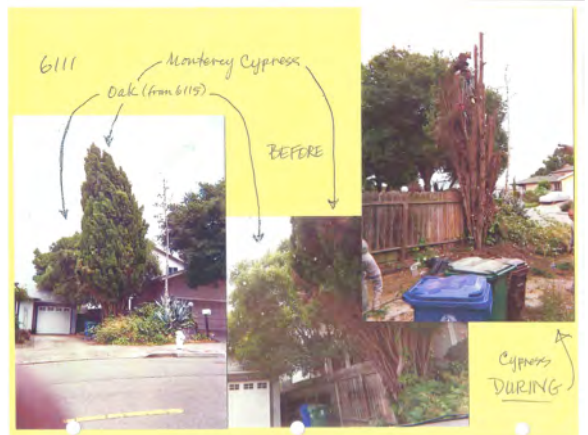
Fire Department: Contra Costa Fire Protection District

Homes directly protected: 31

Community members protected: 227



Dimm Way After



Bernhard Ave Before, During + After

