

Mark West Citizens Advisory Council

Press Release

For Immediate Release

December 18, 2020

Contact: Brad Sherwood, 707-570-7448

Mark West Council Approves Funding for Vegetation Management, Landscaping Project

(Mark West Area, CA) The Mark West Citizens Advisory Council approved \$31,026.12 from its Neighborhood Improvement Funding Program to support vegetation management and landscaping along the Mark West Spring Road and Old Redwood Highway corridor. The vegetation management and landscaping project was submitted by the Larkfield Resilience Fund, a local non-profit (501-c3) created by 2017 Tubbs fire survivors, to better manage vegetation along the heavily travelled intersection and reduce the risk of future fires.

The Mark West intersection, referenced by County officials as one of the busiest unincorporated intersections, is considered the gateway of the greater Mark West Area. The Project will install weed barriers, rocks, and native plants along the back of Larkfield Estates homes between Chelsea Drive and Brighton Drive along Mark West Springs Road and Old Redwood Highway. The project will start later this month and be completed by the end of January.

“This project will ensure vegetation remains controlled along this busy section of roadway and reduce the potential of fire to the community,” said Mark West Citizens Advisory Council Chairman Brian Molsberry. “The Council fully supports these types of community driven projects to improve our quality of life and we can’t say thank you enough to all of the volunteers and neighbors for making this happen.” The Council’s Neighborhood Improvement Funding Program, funded by Cal Am Water franchise fees, supports neighborhood improvement projects in the communities serviced by Cal Am Water—Mark West, Larkfeld, Wikiup and parts of Fulton.

“We are so appreciative of the Mark West Citizens Advisory Council for considering and funding our Mark West corridor roadside landscape project. Our neighborhood and community will all benefit from the fire safety protection and beauty this project provides. This busy intersection is a gateway to our community so we are excited to bring this project to life and continue our work of rebuilding a stronger, safer community.”

The Mark West Area was devastated by the 2017 Tubbs fire and the whole neighborhood of Larkfield Estates, 166 homes, were completely leveled. During the rebuild of the neighborhood, the Rebuild NorthBay Foundation funded the construction of a perimeter fence around the neighborhood. The vegetation around the new fence was never managed and weeds grew uncontrolled causing concern by neighbors of fire hazards. In 2018, the County’s Department of Transportation and Public Works (TPW) started performing vegetation treatment based on neighbor concerns. The new vegetation management and landscape project will provide a permanent solution for controlling the growth of weeds and eliminate the need for TPW to provide annual treatment at that site, a cost savings TPW.

The Council was established to advise the Board of Supervisors and other County decision makers on local planning and management decisions relating to the Mark West Area, to provide a regular forum for

citizen participation in the formation of advisory recommendations on those decisions, and to provide a bridge for communication between the County and local residents and businesses, and the general public on local government decisions affecting the Mark West Area.

Learn more about the Council: <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Mark-West-Citizens-Advisory-Council/>

Learn more about the Larkfield Resilience Fund: <https://www.larkfieldfund.com/>