

To: San Mateo County Board of Supervisors - Quarry Park Threat Petition

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We, the undersigned, believe that our community is at serious risk of being destroyed, due to the threat of a eucalyptus canopy fire originating in, or near Quarry Park. While CalFire can stop brushfires and building fires, canopy fires are above the range of ground equipment. Because canopy fires are not controllable from ground operations and aerial operations are only viable during daylight hours with low smoke conditions, the only safe solution is to remove the canopy of the mature trees, a strategy that is being pursued vigorously in the East Bay Hills.

San Mateo County is the owner of the eucalyptus trees creating this threat to our community. Quarry Park contains mature eucalyptus that are an increasing threat as the fire seasons get longer, hotter, windier and drier. While individual landowners are greatly reducing the threat to their properties by removing mature trees, San Mateo County has not followed suit. Fire insurance rate hikes and cancellations are increasing.

CalFire priorities for fighting fires are based first on saving lives, secondly on saving structures where reasonable. **SMC Parks** criteria for fuel reduction ignores human lives and spreads funds throughout the park systems without regard to fire hazards or insurance cancellations. We are therefore faced with the continuing prospect of a huge destructive firestorm with virtually no local medical facilities and few evacuation routes.

It is time for San Mateo County to make El Granada safe by removing the mature eucalyptus trees at Quarry Park.