

To: All Riviera West Property Owners

August 2014

Re: Summary of Riviera West's Fire Prevention Efforts for 2014

Hi Everyone,

We have had a very successful Fire Prevention effort; our community is much safer from fires and it looks great!

I can't put into words how much I thank every property owner who took this issue seriously and cleared their lots of a massive amount of fire fuel; I was very pleasantly surprised at how so many owners stepped up. We only sent out 56 fine letters; that is a 89% success rate for the clearing of our lots. Once Riviera West's owned lots are cleared (they are scheduled to be cleared), the **success rate will be 90%. That is Amazing!**

I also want to enthusiastically thank the members of our Fire Safe Committee who worked long and hard inspecting all our properties in the heat of this summer and attending our bi-weekly meetings. Phil Hartley, Norma Simmons, Jan Wilson, Doug Moore, Clelia Baur, Jay Richard, Cal and Susan Morgan. And a thank you to John Norin for helping with the inspections.

To those of you who will receive fine letters, please know that we would rather see you clear your lots than have to levy a fine. You have until August 31st to clear your lots and 80% of your fine will be removed from your account. If you clear your lot of its issues before August 31st, you will have to proactively contact us, as there are no more planned inspections this fire season.

The next Fire Safe Committee major tasks are: evacuation routes, becoming a Firewise Community (you can visit <http://firewise.org/> for more information), getting the fire fuel along Soda Bay Road cleared, finding a way to clear the really bad lots whose owners are ignoring our requests, and making some minor modifications to our policy and procedures based on what we learned this year.

Keeping our community clean not only helps with fire safety, but our community presents itself to visitors and potential buyers of lots and homes in a much better light. It should help our property values and keep our insurance companies happier. And Cal Fire and Kelseyville Fire are **very** appreciative of our efforts.

Some final thoughts:

- We realize some of you spent quite a sum of money clearing your lots to comply with this program. It is highly recommended that you have your lot maintained every year; it will cost much less over time to do a yearly maintenance than to wait years and then have to do a major cleanup.
- We all know we are in a major drought, but if you water your large trees once in awhile, it might help keep them alive. The tree experts say beetles will not attack a healthy, watered tree. For more information on how to maintain healthy trees, visit this Cal Fire web page and pdf document: http://calfire.ca.gov/downloads/CaUFC_Trees_and_Drought.pdf.
- Trees and all vegetation are healthier when they are not crowded together. Thinning out trees and bushes allows the remaining vegetation to stay healthier.

Thanks Again,
Henry Wernecke, Fire Safe Committee Chair