



SRCA Newsletter Article April 2008



Great News!

The city of San Diego was awarded a \$2.4 million FEMA grant for brush abatement. They will match these funds to raise the project to \$4.8 million. The objective is to reduce the volatile vegetation from all the city open space that is within 100 feet of inhabited structures. It will be a two-year project, and the goal is to begin work on July 1. The city will utilize maps from the state that show fire hazard factors. They will use this scientifically derived information to prioritize the work. They will not use the "squeaky wheel" method. Please do not call these busy people.

Several areas in Scripps Ranch will be treated the first year. We will work with the project managers to obtain schedules and provide the information to you. This will be a huge step toward making our community more fire safe. Two notes:

(1) This does not include neighborhoods where the fire fuel is on private property, including areas owned by homeowners associations. More than half of the Scripps Ranch firebreak areas are on private property. The Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council (SRFSC) is ready to assist these neighborhoods in removing hazardous vegetation from their Wildland-Urban Interface areas.

(2) This project is a one-time event. To retain the defensible space it will provide us, the areas will have to be maintained every year or two. The good news is that once an area is treated, maintenance is relatively inexpensive--say, the cost of an additional month of gardener. The Scripps Ranch Maintenance Assessment District (MAD) Committee is exploring avenues for managing a communitywide firebreak maintenance program that would take advantage of economy-of-scale to keep prices low.

The "Play to Protect Golf Tournament": The second annual SRFSC golf tournament was finally played on Feb. 29--after being rescheduled twice. We had 64 golfers gather at the beautiful Rancho Bernardo Inn for a fun-filled day of golf, lunch, and prizes. Two of our major sponsors, Alliant International University and MedImpact, sponsored six firefighters from Stations 37 and 44, and three police officers from our area. The master of ceremony duties were handled by Dave Mason from SignOnSanDiego news radio. Thank you to our 34 sponsors and 12 committee volunteers who made the day a success.

To contact the SRFSC, please email us at [srfiresafecouncil@mac.com] or call 945-6303.