



2026 San Elijo Hills Fire Safe Council Grant Program: Safer Homes Start at Zone 0

The San Elijo Hills Fire Safe Council (SEH FSC) is proud to launch a new reimbursement-based grant program, funded by the San Diego Regional Fire Foundation, to strengthen wildfire safety across our community. This program will award a total of \$7,500 in grant funding to qualifying homeowners to establish Zone 0 defensible space (0–5 feet from the home) by removing trees and combustible vegetation.



Grant awards will range from \$750 to \$2,250 and will be allocated based on wildfire risk, project scope, and homeowner need. Participating homeowners are required to provide a minimum dollar-for-dollar match toward eligible project costs, leveraging the Fire Foundation's investment to create meaningful, community-wide wildfire mitigation improvements. By prioritizing projects that provide the greatest wildfire risk reduction, the program is designed to maximize homeowner participation, strengthen community resilience, and support long-term wildfire preparedness.

Program Details

- **Eligibility & Prioritization:** Owner-Occupied homes who:
 - Live within the SEH Fire Safe Council boundaries (Click [here](#) for boundary map)
 - Demonstrate one or more of the following:
 - Financial need or fixed income
 - Senior or disabled homeowner status
 - Veteran status
 - Located on a canyon rim or within a CAL FIRE Strategic Project Area
 - Have high-risk vegetation within Zone 0 (0-5 feet from the structure)
 - Homeowners pursuing or planning to pursue Wildfire Prepared Home designation are encouraged to apply
 - Priority consideration will be given to homeowners whose projects provide the greatest wildfire risk reduction and align with the program's wildfire mitigation goals.
- **Purpose:** Grant funds are exclusively for creating Zone 0 compliance, the highest-risk area immediately surrounding the home. Eligible projects include the removal of trees and combustible vegetation located within 0-5 feet of the structure. The program is designed to help homeowners proactively prepare for California's evolving wildfire safety standards, improve community resilience, and reduce wildfire risk at the neighborhood level.
- **Program Leverage:** The San Diego Regional Fire Foundation's \$7,500 investment is expected to leverage a minimum of \$7,500 in homeowner contributions through the program's required dollar-for-dollar match, resulting in at least \$15,000 of community-wide investment in

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310 South Twin Oaks Valley Road #107-238
San Marcos, CA 92078



wildfire mitigation and Zone 0 compliance. Additional homeowner investment beyond the required match is encouraged and anticipated.

- **Grant Awards & Homeowner Match:**

- Grant awards will range from \$750 to \$2,250 based on project scope, wildfire risk, and homeowner need.
- Participating homeowners are required to contribute a minimum dollar-for-dollar match toward eligible project costs.
- The Selection Committee may award varying reimbursement amounts to maximize wildfire risk reduction across the community.
- Homeowners are responsible for all costs exceeding their grant award amount.

- **Project Estimates Required:** To ensure grant awards are allocated fairly and maximize wildfire risk reduction throughout the community, applicants are required to obtain a proposal or estimate from a tree or vegetation management vendor prior to submitting their application. Vendor estimates will be used by the Selection Committee to evaluate project scope, anticipated wildfire risk reduction, and determine appropriate grant award amounts. Homeowners may use any licensed contractor of their choosing. A list of vetted vendors is provided below for convenience.

- **Reimbursement Requirements:** This is a **reimbursement-only** grant program. Homeowners will need to complete their project first and then submit the following for reimbursement:
 - Receipts for the work completed.
 - **Important:** No grant funds will be awarded for invoices reflecting payment made before the award announcement on November 15, 2026.
 - Before-and-after photos of the project

Outreach Plan: The grant program will be launched at our Annual Forum, September 17th.

- Quarterly newsletter will feature the grant program
- Newsletter and additional/follow-up communications will be distributed through HOA communication mediums, FSC Social Media forums, and established local social media
- Additionally, homeowners on canyon rims with trees in Zone 0 will be canvassed directly

Program Timeline

- **Launch Date:** September 17, 2026
 - Applications open for homeowners to apply for the grant.
- **Closing Date:** October 31, 2026
 - Final deadline for all applications to be submitted.
- **Award Announcement:** November 15, 2026
 - Successful applicants will be notified, and funds will be distributed after work completion and verification.
- **Work Completion and Submission Deadline:** March 30, 2027
 - Homeowners must complete their project and submit all required receipts and photos by this date. Failure to do so will result in the forfeiture of the grant award.

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How to Apply

1. Obtain a proposal or estimate from a tree or vegetation management vendor
2. Complete and submit the grant application form beginning September 17, 2026 (Click [HERE](#) for the application form)
3. If selected, complete your project and submit all required documentation for reimbursement

Selection Committee

Applications will be reviewed by the San Elijo Hills Fire Safe Council Selection Committee and will not be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Grant awards will be determined using the program's prioritization criteria, including wildfire risk, homeowner need, anticipated wildfire risk reduction, and community wildfire resilience. The Selection Committee reserves the right to award varying reimbursement amounts to maximize wildfire risk reduction throughout the community.

*Directors, Officers, Selection Committee members, and volunteers of the San Elijo Hills Fire Safe Council, and members of their immediate households, are not eligible to participate in this reimbursement grant program.

Vetted Vendors

The SEH FSC has requested participating vendors provide discounted or bulk pricing opportunities, when possible, for homeowners participating in the grant program. Homeowners are not required to use the vetted vendor list.

- Forestry Group
 - <https://theforestrygroup.com/about/>
 - 619-823-8414
- Vista del Rey
 - <https://vistadelreytreeservices.com/>
 - 760-415-5417
- ProTrees
 - <https://protrees.com/>
 - 760-753-4800

Grant Application QR Code



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