



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

For Immediate Release

Media Advisory

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Bay trees to be removed July 11th-28th in fight against Sudden Oak Death

Los Altos, California [July 8th 2011] – As part of an ongoing effort to understand and eventually eradicate the spread of the plant pathogen *Phytophthora Ramorum*, which causes certain oak tree species to die from the disease “Sudden Oak Death,” the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) will begin removing approximately 250 bay trees growing within 15 feet of 49 large, healthy oak trees in Los Trancos, Long Ridge, Saratoga Gap, Skyline Ridge and Monte Bello Open Space Preserves with the help of a talented, young California Conservation Corps (CCC) work crew. Oak trees play an important role in a thriving ecosystem. Research has shown that removing bay trees within 15 feet of oak trees substantially reduces their chances of becoming infected and dying from Sudden Oak Death as bay trees are a host species that transmit the pathogen to nearby oaks.

Funded by a proposition 84 grant, this project will occur from **July 11th-28th 2011**. **Media is welcome to come out and visit the sites where work is taking place.** District staff identified the oak trees designated for protection and will guide the CCC crew each work day, providing workers with valuable job training skills on chainsaw and tree felling techniques in dense forest environments and sanitation protocols in Sudden Oak Death infested areas. The project will help prevent the buildup of dead trees and protect the scenic and recreational benefits of these public open space lands.

Created by voters in 1972, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has successfully protected nearly 60,000 acres of open space. The public enjoys the District’s diverse and beautiful preserves 365 days a year. The District is an independent, non-enterprise, California special district whose mission is to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education. www.openspace.org.

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