LAKE COUNTY
Resource Conservation District

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Hazardous Tree Removal Component – Greater Cobb Area
RFP #2026-05
Release Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2026
Submission Deadline: Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 3:00 PM

CONTACT PERSON:
John Vandervort
Senior Program Manager, Forest Health
Lake County Resource Conservation District
(707) 354-3045
john.vandervort@lakercd.org

ANTICIPATED PROJECT MILESTONES:

Release RFP for Tree Removal Contractor:	Tuesday, September 22, 2026
Non-Mandatory Pre-Proposal Meeting:	Monday, September 28, 2026, at 10:00 AM LCRCD office, 889 Lakeport Blvd., Lakeport, CA 95453
Deadline to Submit Questions:	Friday, October 2, 2026
Release Responses to Questions:	Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 10:00AM
Deadline to Submit Proposal:	Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 3:00 PM
Proposal Review and Selection:	Friday, October 16, 2026
Execute Agreement:	Friday, October 23, 2026
Notice to Proceed:	Upon execution of agreement
Project Completion:	No later than January 31, 2027

Documents Contained in this RFP:

APPENDIX A:	Arborist Summary Report
APPENDIX B:	Final Tree Inventory
APPENDIX C:	Sample Task Order
APPENDIX D:	Sample Master Agreement
ATTACHMENT 1:	Proposer Information Form
ATTACHMENT 2:	Proposal Form (Cost and Timeline)

Please submit final proposals by 3:00 PM on Thursday, October 8, 2026, via email to John Vandervort at john.vandervort@lakercd.org.
Subject line: RFP-Hazard Tree Removal, Greater Cobb Area.

OVERVIEW:

The County of Lake has contracted with the Lake County Resource Conservation District ("District") to deploy California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) grant funds originally awarded to the County of Lake. These funds were awarded to the County of Lake following its 2022 proclamation of a Local State of Emergency due to pervasive and widespread tree mortality in southern Lake County. These funds support the identification, assessment, and removal of dead and dying trees, particularly those impacted by bark beetles, within the County right-of-way along critical evacuation routes and roads that provide direct access to evacuation routes in southern Lake County.

In early September 2026, the District completed the first phase of this effort consisting of a professional arborist assessment and inventory of hazardous trees and trees impacted by bark beetle infestation within the greater Cobb area. Based on the findings of that assessment, the District is now soliciting proposals from qualified contractors ("Proposers") to perform the tree removal work and/or limbing of identified trees in accordance with the arborist's recommendations and this RFP.

PROJECT AREA AND ARBORIST FINDINGS:

The arborist assessment covered specified County roadways in the greater Cobb area and included twenty-one (21) road segments totaling approximately 30 miles. A total of 151 trees were inventoried, 140 of which were identified for removal and eight (8) of which were identified for limbing. The findings in the arborist's assessment including final tree inventory, recommendations, and maps were used to inform the work under this RFP.

Road Name	Total to be Removed	Total to be Limbed	DBH Range (in)
Adam Springs Drive	4		6-18
Black Oak Drive	2	1	18-30
Bottle Rock Road	17	2	3-30+
Creek View Drive	2		12-24
Diamond Dust Trail	3		12-30+
Diener Road	1		18-24
Foothill Road	1		24-30
Gifford Springs Road	3		12-30
Harrington Flat Road	31	1	6-30+
High Road	1		18-24
Loch Lomond Road	7	1	6-30+
Pine Point Road	4		24-30+
Saddle Road	3		3-18
Salmina Road	9		18-30+
Siegler Canyon Road	1		6-12
Siegler Springs Road	28	3	3-30+
Siegler Springs Road North	4		12-30
Sulphur Creek Road	3		6-24
Tee Road	3		6-18
Wildcat Road	13		6-30+

SCOPE OF WORK:

The District is soliciting proposals from qualified contractors to safely conduct tree removal and/or limbing work as identified in the final arborist inventory and authorized by the District. The awarded contractor ("Contractor") shall provide all labor, materials, tools, equipment, supervision, traffic control, equipment, hauling/disposal, and incidentals necessary to complete the work. This project is funded by the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and is subject to prevailing wage requirements. The Contractor shall comply with all labor standards and public works requirements. Please refer to the DIR Public Works website for more information. https://www.dir.ca.gov/public-works/publicworks.html

The District is unable to provide an equipment staging location. If necessary, the Contractor shall be responsible for identifying and securing an equipment staging area, and any costs associated with equipment staging should be included in the cost proposal.

The proposed scope of work shall consist of:

- Pre-Work Coordination
  - Review the arborist report, final inventory, maps, tree IDs, field markings, and removal/limbing recommendations before mobilization.
  - Participate in a pre-construction meeting with the District and other agencies/partners, if requested.
  - Verify identified trees and work locations in the field before commencing work. Notify the District promptly of discrepancies, missing markings, or circumstances that could materially change the work.
  - Do not remove, limb, or otherwise alter any tree that is not identified in the final inventory or separately authorized in writing in advance by the District.
  - Coordinate work sequencing, access, traffic control, and any necessary road restrictions with the District and relevant County of Lake representatives.

- Tree Removal
  - Remove trees designated for removal in Appendix B using methods appropriate to tree size, condition, terrain, traffic exposure, utilities, structures, and other site constraints.
  - Cut stumps to a maximum height of six (6) inches.
  - Take reasonable measures to avoid damage to roadways, drainage facilities, signs, fences, utilities, structures, retained vegetation (including retained trees), and other improvements.
  - Off-haul and dispose of all slash and debris at the designated green waste facility:

    Quackenbush Resource Recovery
    16520 Davis St.
    Clearlake, CA 95422

- Tree Limbing
  - Complete limbing on trees specifically identified in the arborist inventory or if subsequently authorized by the District.
  - Conduct all limbing work in a manner consistent with the arborist recommendation and applicable industry safety practices.
  - Process and dispose of material generated by limbing in accordance with the same debris requirements applicable to tree removal unless otherwise directed.
  - Off-haul and dispose of all slash and debris at the designated green waste facility:

Quackenbush Resource Recovery
16520 Davis St.
Clearlake, CA 95422

- Traffic Control
  - Provide traffic control appropriate for the work performed including flaggers, signage, cones, or other safety measures as appropriate.
  - Coordinate planned lane restrictions or closures with the District in advance.
  - Maintain a work zone that is safe for tree removal crew, motorists, residents, and pedestrians.
  - Maintain emergency access at all times.

- Site Cleanup
  - Ensure roadways, shoulders, and work areas are left in a clean and orderly condition at the end of each workday.
  - Remove temporary traffic-control signage and cones from the roadway at the end of each workday.

ADDITIONAL DELIVERABLES:

1. Tree Completion Log
   - Maintain and submit a final log in coordination with the arborist's unique Tree ID to show whether each authorized tree was removed, limbed, not completed, or otherwise addressed, with explanatory notes for exceptions.
2. Photographs
   - Provide representative before/during/after photographs sufficient for project documentation and grant reporting. The awarded Contractor will provide no fewer than 30 before, during, and after photos.
3. Invoicing
   - The awarded contractor shall submit invoices compliant with prevailing wage requirements, on a bi-weekly basis.

OPTIONAL PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING:

The District will hold a non-mandatory pre-proposal project meeting on Monday, September 28, 2026, from 10:00 - 11:00 AM at the Lake County Resource Conservation District office located at:

889 Lakeport Blvd.
Lakeport, CA 95453

The purpose is to provide prospective Proposers with the project background and goals, review project maps, and provide an opportunity for in-person introductions to District staff managing the project. All questions asked at the meeting will be documented, and responses to the questions will be posted on the District website (https://www.lakercd.org/get-involved/current-solicitations-rfqs/) on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, in accordance with the stated schedule in this RFP.

Attendance is encouraged but is not required. The meeting will be held at the District's office; Proposers remain responsible for independently evaluating the project area in Cobb and conditions affecting their proposed cost, schedule, and ability to complete the work.

PROJECT TIMELINE:
This District anticipates awarding a contract in the form of a Master Agreement, preparing a Task Order with a detailed scope of work, and issuing a notice to proceed by Friday, October 23, 2026, but reserves the right to adjust the schedule as needed.

The awarded Contractor shall mobilize within one week following issuance of the Notice to Proceed and complete all authorized work no later than January 31, 2027.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:
The submittal package consists of two forms and one narrative document:

1) ATTACHMENT 1: Proposer Information Form
2) ATTACHMENT 2: Proposal Form (includes cost and timeline)
3) Technical Approach and Work Plan: Brief 1-2-page narrative describing mobilization and sequencing, proposed removal/limbing methods; crew and equipment; traffic control and safety; debris and slash management; Tree ID tracking; quality control; and ability to meet the proposed schedule.
4) Copies of Certificates of Insurance naming the Lake County Resource Conservation District as additional insured as outlined in the *Insurance Requirements* section below.

Proposers must complete both forms and the narrative and submit via email no later than 3:00 PM on Thursday, October 8, 2026.

Submit via email to:
John Vandervort
john.vandervort@lakercd.org
Subject line: RFP-Hazard Tree Removal, Greater Cobb Area

EVALUATION PROCESS

The District will evaluate all proposals received for completeness and the Proposer's ability to meet all specifications as outlined in this RFP.

The following evaluation criteria and weight of importance will be used in the selection process:

CRITERIA	POINTS	DESCRIPTION
Cost	70	Proposed lump sum cost and reasonableness based on the stated scope of work
Experience & Qualifications	20	Relevant tree removal experience, references for up to three similar projects, and soundness of the Technical Approach Narrative, including work plan, safety, debris management, and tree ID tracking.
Locality	10	Primary business location in Lake County, consistent with District preference when feasible
Total Points	**100**	

Locality: Since the District is supported by Lake County Tax revenue and holds multiple contracts with the County of Lake, it is in the best interest of the District to hire local consultants, contractors, and make purchases from vendors in Lake County when feasible.

Proposals submitted without the required attachments will not be scored. The District retains the right to request clarification on proposals received, waive minor omissions or immaterial errors, or reject any or all proposals.

The Contractor shall comply with PRC 4431, 4427, and the following fire plan requirements:

1) No operations during high fire hazard or red flag warning days. Contractor shall check weather forecast each day and monitor weather conditions during operations.
2) The Contractor and their employees shall take immediate and independent action to prevent and suppress wildfires in the Project Area.
3) Contractor shall follow all applicable state fire regulations. Listed below are specific fire precautionary measures which shall be applicable and are included or in addition to state fire regulations. Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Lake County RCD or designee, Contractor shall:
    a) Maintain effective muffler systems or approved spark arresters on exhausts of all internal combustion engines used in Contractor's operations.
    b) Furnish and have available for emergency use on each piece of equipment used in conjunction with performance of the work as listed above, hand tools and/or equipment as follows (CPRC 4427 and 4431):
        i) One shovel or pulaski, and one fully charged serviceable fire extinguisher U.L. rated B:C on each truck, vehicle, tractor, and other heavy equipment. (2.5 pound or greater)
        ii) One shovel and one 5-gallon backpack pump water-type fire extinguisher located within 25-feet of all active work areas.
        iii) One shovel or one fully charged serviceable fire extinguisher U.L. rated B:C for each gasoline-powered tool.
4) The Contractor, in all phases of operations, shall protect insofar as practicable: all land survey corners, telephone lines, ditches, fences, and other improvements. If the Contractor's operations damage such improvements under the contract, the Contractor shall restore these improvements immediately to the condition existing immediately prior to operations at Contractor’s sole expense.
5) Should Project activities reveal cultural, tribal, or archaeological resources, work shall cease within 100 feet of the discovery and appropriate entities will be contacted.

Equipment Sterilization

Mediterranean Oak Borer (MOB) has been identified near the identified project area. In order to prevent the spread of MOB within and outside of the project area. The Contractor shall be required to sterilize equipment used for limbing trees at the end of each day using either 70% ethanol, a solution of 5% bleach, or hydrogen peroxide.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

The awarded Contractor shall not commence work, nor allow employees, subcontractor(s) or anyone else to commence work until all insurance required hereunder has been approved by the District. Such insurance shall meet at least the following minimum levels of coverage, with the District named as additional insured:

1. Automobile Liability: One million dollars ($1,000,000) for bodily injury and property damage for each accident limit.
2. The general liability policy shall cover bodily injury and property damage liability, owned and non-owned equipment, blanket contractual liability, and completed operations liability.
3. The automobile liability policy shall cover all owned, non-owned, and hired vehicles.
4. Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance: Provide proof of insurance verifying that it is insured (or be qualified self-insured) under the applicable laws relating to workers' compensation insurance, in accordance with the "Workers' Compensation and Insurance Act," Division IV of the Labor Code of the State of California and any Acts amendatory thereof.

Each insurance policy shall be endorsed to state that coverage shall not be suspended, voided, reduced or canceled except after thirty (30) days prior written notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, has been given to the District.

ADDITIONAL LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

This project requires the selected Contractor to have either a valid D-49 Tree Service License, or C-49 Tree and Palm Contractor License equivalent. The Proposer must indicate and provide evidence that they have obtained this license at the time of submitting their proposal.

SUBCONTRACTORS

Proposers shall identify any subcontractors anticipated to perform any portion of the work on Attachment 2 and include the work to be performed and applicable license information. The awarded Contractor remains fully responsible for the performance, safety, labor compliance, and contract compliance of all subcontractors.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

The awarded Contractor shall provide services without discrimination based on race, creed, color, ethnic or linguistic identification, gender or sexual preference, disability or handicap or any other basis prohibited by law.

PUBLIC RECORDS ACCESS

Proposers should be aware that submitted proposals are subject to the California Public Records Act and may be disclosed to members of the public upon request. It is the responsibility of the Proposer to clearly identify information in their proposal that they consider to be confidential under the California Public Records Act. To the extent that the District agrees with that designation, such information will be held in confidence whenever possible. All other information will be considered public.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

The District reserves the right to amend this RFP, request additional information, negotiate scope or price as permitted, reject any or all proposals, or cancel the procurement when determined to be in the District's best interest. Issuance of this RFP does not commit the District to award a contract or reimburse proposal preparation costs.