

Audubon Hills  
Property Owner Assoc.

# Audubon Hills Spring Newsletter 2005

Volume 6, Issue 1

March 2005



## Street Signs

The new street signs are finally in, and they look terrific! Currently we are getting the posts ready. We are painting them a forest green, so they will blend with our natural atmosphere, yet still be fire resistant. Soon, you will start seeing the signs pop up throughout the community.

These signs have a long burn time, before they

are not legible. This coupled with the reflective lettering, will help emergency personal locate our streets easier when time is crucial, such as wild fires or medical emergencies. It will be better for the whole community when these signs are put in place.

If you can help install these signs, have a gas powered post hole digger we can borrow, or have any questions, please give us a call or e-mail. Thank you.



## Iowa Hill Project

S.M.U.D. (Sacramento Municipal Utilities District) has an "Upper American River Project", that they are trying to attach to the application to renew their lease, for the use of the American River. Leases are now granted for 30 years, but if they can get this project attached, they could get a lease for 50 years. There is a 137 page document describing the project at: [http://hydrorelicensing.smud.org/docs/iowa/iowa\\_PD.pdf](http://hydrorelicensing.smud.org/docs/iowa/iowa_PD.pdf) if you wish to have some light reading, to know what's going on!

For lighter reading, we can give you a quick synopsis of what's going on, and if you have any questions, never hesitate to contact us.

Basically, SMUD wants to build a reservoir that will produce more energy for Sacramento. This project will greatly reduce access to the American River. Why is this important to you? Well, some of us grew up here, while others moved up here, to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city. To enjoy nature at it's core. This project, takes a little more of that away, without any benefits to El Dorado County, or the people of Camino.

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## Wood Chipping - Clear for summer

At our community meeting on June 11, we will have a guest speaker, Vicki Yorty, from the El Dorado County Fire Safe program. This is an excellent program, to help residents get rid of brush on their property, helping to avoid a quick spreading forest fire. There is a lot of terrific information on their website, [www.edcfiresafe.org](http://www.edcfiresafe.org)



Vicki will explain to us how the program works. They encourage cutting a defensible space of 30 – 100 feet from buildings and 20 feet from roads. We will have them come out in June to chip the vegetation you have cleared and stacked. You do not need to be home, on the date of the chipping. They will also provide a green

dumpster for you to throw away your needles, grasses and such, that can't be chipped in the chipper.

They are specific on how the

branches must be stacked, and where. See picture below

1. Place brush piles so the chipping machine and crew can have access.
2. The piles must be adjacent to a driveway or street.
3. Cut ends must all face the same

direction and facing the driveway/street.

4. Make piles wider and more spread out, rather than tall.

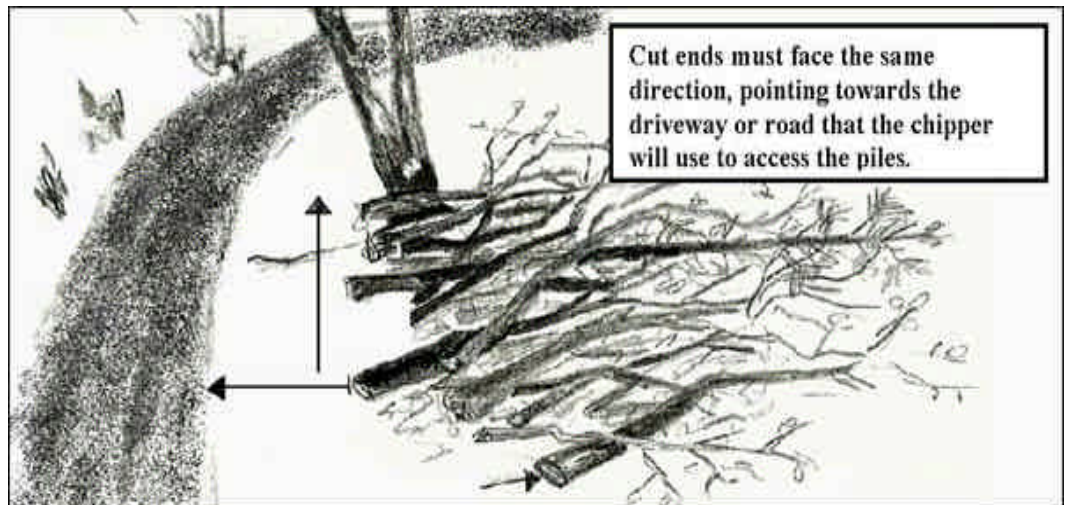
5. Freshly cut vegetation chips easier than old branches.

6. The chipper can handle material up to 7" in diameter, but NO root balls.

7. Keep piles free of rocks, dirt, wire, lumber, spiny plants (blackberries), pine needle piles, leaves, and NO POISON OAK!!

More information will be provided at the meeting, or you can schedule your own chipping day, by going to their website, at: [www.edcfiresafe.org](http://www.edcfiresafe.org) and clicking on

"grants and programs".



## Free Vegetation Removal for Seniors! - Clear for Summer!

### Free Vegetation Removal for Seniors and Disabled in El Dorado County

This program may be temporarily on hold, until funding comes through, but you may fill out a request form in the meantime!

**Requirements:** You need to be 60 years of age or older and/or disabled and need assistance with clearing around your home in order to meet the required 30 feet of fire safe clearance. The residence that needs the clearing work must be your primary residence. There are no financial qualifications required to be eligible for this program, however this program has limited funds so please use this service only if you are financially unable to pay yourself.



**How the program works:** Once the form is submitted you will be contacted by the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council and arrangements will be made to have vegetation removed 30 feet from your home. This service is a pilot program funded thru grant money received from El Dorado County, Title III funds. Due to limited funds, this program is on a first-come, first-served basis. This program is extremely popular, so it may be a few weeks before you can be scheduled to receive assistance.

The clearing work will be done by a landscaping crew from Mother Lode Rehabilitation Enterprises (M.O.R.E.), or another contractor. The crew will rake, weed-eat grass, remove accessible brush and other woody debris, from around your home and the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council will pay the bill. Large trees that need to be removed will be the homeowner's responsibility.

**Cost:** The clearing work is FREE.

**If you have questions about this program prior to submitting the needed forms please call:**  
**(530) 626-2526**

Or go to website [www.edcfiresafe.org](http://www.edcfiresafe.org)

Forms will be sent to: EDCFSC Senior and Disabled Assistance  
P.O. Box 1237 Pollock Pines, CA 95726 or Fax to (530) 644-3305.



2004 Community Meeting

## Iowa Hill-Continued from page 1

Anybody that has lived in the city knows that the city doesn't become city, all at once. Piece by piece, parts of the country were eaten up. That's what's happening here, not to mention possible "issues" with us getting more water for El Dorado County, in the future.

The good part? It's all good for the Sacramento Valley, they'll have more energy to burn. Everyone is in favor of cleaner energy, there is no argument there. The good for us? None.

The problem? Per SMUD's "Socioeconomic Assessment", problem number 1.)SMUD will no longer allow access to this area because of "Potential risk of injury to the public." 2.)they will be permanently changing the scenery, by clearing 150 acres of timberland and topsoil near Slab Creek/Iowa Hill. 3.) The construction will last over five years, adding more than 830 construction personal over the 5 year construction period. Most of this traffic, per SMUD, will be on North Canyon going to Slab Creek from 5:30am to 4:30pm. They say it won't impact us, but that's 1/3 of the population of Camino! This traffic will include various construction vehicles, including large equipment. Think of Apple Hill traffic with that mess. The worst part about it? 4.) El Dorado County doesn't get to have any say, as to whether or not they want this happening, because it's Federal Land. The county can only give permission or not, to utilize the roads during this construction. And all this is for what?

What do we do now? Is it completely hopeless? Well, that's up to each and every one of you. We can't expect just a handful of people, like the Camino Action Committee, to fight the battle for us. The question is "what is worth to you?" Do you think our quality of life or home values could change with this project? A letter writing campaign can at least let our voices be heard. You can state your feelings. Would you like there to be access to the river? Do you not want the area cleared out for this project? Or, should there should be some benefits to El Dorado County residents?

F.E.R.C. (the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) is the group that will be approving the re-licensing of SMUDS use of the river, with this project attached, for the next 50 years. Acres of land owned by SMUD are 109, NFS (National Forest Service) is 190 and SPI (Sierra Pacific Industries) owns part of the land that will be used for transmission lines and additional access.

Where to write? Here are the addresses. We encourage you to take an active part in your community. Many people say, "well, we'll just move if it gets bad." But...this is happening everywhere. At some point we all have to speak up, because together we can make a difference. Please browse the information at SMUD's website:

[http://hydrolicensing.smud.org/docs/iowa/iowa\\_PD.pdf](http://hydrolicensing.smud.org/docs/iowa/iowa_PD.pdf). Make up your own mind, e-mail us with questions, if you have any. The addresses you can mail your concerns to are as follows:

<p><u>F.E.R.C.</u> Attn: Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary 888 First Street, N.E.Washington, DC 20426 (make sure to include the complaint is about the Iowa Hill Project, in El Dorado County, California )</p>	<p><u>El Dorado National Forest</u> Supervisor's Office and Forest Planner 100 Forni Road, Placerville, CA 95667 530-621-5061 <a href="mailto:srodman@fs.fed.us">srodman@fs.fed.us</a></p>	<p><u>S.M.U.D.</u> Attn.: Bill Slaton, President P.O. Box 15830 Sacramento, CA 95852-1830 <a href="mailto:bslaton@smud.org">bslaton@smud.org</a></p>	<p><u>Mt. Democrat</u>  Letter to the Editor  P.O. Box 1088  Placerville, CA 95667  <a href="mailto:mtdemo@mtdemocrat.net">mtdemo@mtdemocrat.net</a></p>
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## Protection against Mosquito's

- Mosquitoes are scientifically classified as "True Flies", they have two wings. Mosquitoes use carbon dioxide, moisture, color, and movement to help locate their prey. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is studying hundreds of naturally occurring chemical compounds on human skin to try to isolate which ones appeal to mosquitoes. Until they do, here are practical and not so practical ways to deal with the little buggers.
- When possible, wear long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors, even if it's 100°!
- Consider staying indoors at dawn, dusk, and in the early evening, which are peak mosquito biting times. Basically, never go outside when it finally cools down!
- Spray clothes only, not skin, with repellent containing permethrin or DEET, to help ward off mosquitoes. Pray you don't grow a third arm from the DEET.
- Place mosquito netting over infant carriers when you are outdoors.
- Install or repair window and door screens so that mosquitoes cannot get indoors.
- At least once or twice a week, empty water from



flower pots, pet food and water dishes, birdbaths, swimming pool covers, buckets, barrels, and cans.

- Check for clogged rain gutters and clean them out.
  - Be sure to check for containers or trash in places that may be hard to see, such as under bushes or under your home.
- Because of the danger of the West Nile Virus, which is transmitted from mosquito's to birds, please report to the number below.

**Dead Birds & Info:**  
**1-877-WNV-BIRD**  
 (1-877-968-2473) or  
[www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov)

## Rash of bird deaths-West Nile?

### What is West Nile Virus?

West Nile virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne disease that is common in Africa, west Asia and the Middle East. WNV is a potentially serious illness. Experts believe WNV is established as a seasonal epidemic in North America that flares up in the summer and continues into the fall.

We have had some reports of bird deaths, discovered again here in Audubon. This causes us great concern for our wildlife, but also for ourselves and our pets as well. Some homeowners have found up to 7 dead birds on the property! If you do come across one, contact the West Nile Information Group at the number provided above. It is best not to handle the dead bird with your bare hands. Call them to see if they wish to come pick it up. If not, use gloves, a shovel, and a plastic bag to dispose of the bird.

Due to the high volume of reports to the hotline, the California Department of Health Services is unable to respond to each report. However, all of the information received about dead birds is used by public agencies to track where birds are dying. Dead birds are an indicator of West Nile virus activity. This allows the local mosquito and vector control agencies to concentrate mosquito control efforts in those areas. Thank you for each and every report. Those reports will help them protect us from the West Nile, especially if it seems there are a high number of dead birds found in our area.

## CSD News and Updates

### Ditches & Culverts

Soon, we will have all the ditches and culverts on Audubon Drive and the side roads retrenched and cleared. If you know of a problem flooding area, please let the CSD know, so they can have that area taken care of. You are our eyes, and we can't know if there is a problem, unless you tell us. Contact CSD President, Mike Fennessy at: [csd@audubonhills.org](mailto:csd@audubonhills.org) Or 644-3855

### Crossing the Line

Additionally, as soon as the weather dries out, the center line on Audubon Drive will be re-painted.

### Paving Audubon Dr.

At the March 17th CSD meeting, the board approved having the front portion of Audubon Drive paved with Petromat. This will occur once weather improves.



## Website, Dues, & E-mail

Remember, it's that time of year again! Dues are due, June 15. It's only \$25, and it helps us provide so many benefits to you and the community. Examples of the \$25 due benefits are the community dumpsters, these newsletters, the website, neighborhood watch supplies, business supplies to keep you informed, such as fliers when they are needed, and of course special things like our new street signs and all the beautiful flowers that are in bloom right now. We have yet to find another homeowner association, that can provide what we do with such a small amount of money! Please help us keep your community beautiful and safe.

If you haven't taken a look lately, go to our website at [www.audubonhills.org](http://www.audubonhills.org) We've updated our forms page, as well as updated all the links. If you would like to see something else on our site, please let us know. We would love to hear your ideas.

Your e-mail can help us save a tremendous amount of money each year, which can go to other things. We use your e-mail to only mail emergency alerts, newsletters, and to send immediate Audubon Hills correspondence. Please e-mail or send us your address today, so you can be included in electronic mailers. If you prefer using snail-mail, send all correspondence and payments to:

P.O. Box 631  
Camino, CA 95709

## Dumpster Dates

The dates for the dumpster this spring will be April 1 to April 10. We failed you miserably as your board this last fall, by not providing the fall dumpster. Sorry about that! But...that means you had more time to accumulate and decide which things need to get tossed!

We will have the same scheduling as we have had in the past. Which means *PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE*, don't just "show up" without an appointment. As always, we want to insure that everyone gets a chance to use the dumpster. That means one trip,

one truck load, with an appointment.

If you have more than a truck load, let us know. During the last few days, if there is room, we'll give you a call. O.K?!!

You can schedule your time by calling 647-8878 or e-mailing at [theboard@audubonhills.org](mailto:theboard@audubonhills.org)

Thank You!

Fall dumpster will be September 23 to Oct. 2

### Picnic

**Please return this form and your payment by June 30th for the July 9th picnic to P.O. Box 631, Camino, CA 95709. Thank You.**

Our old fashioned family picnic and BBQ will include hamburgers or a boneless chicken breast, salads, soda's, and homemade ice cream! Pay now and show up on Saturday, July 9 for a meal that will be cooked just for you! To help us help you, please let us know if you are coming, so we know how many fixins to purchase. Thank you.

**Picnic: Saturday, July 9th, 3pm—6pm (see below)**

We will attend the picnic and we will need	<u>Totals</u>
_____ # of Hamburger dinners at <b>\$5 each</b> .....	\$ _____
_____ # of Chicken dinners at <b>\$5 each</b> .....	\$ _____
We will attend the picnic, but well bring our own dinner.....	\$ <u>0</u>
_____ # attending	

**Property Owners Information Update**

**TOTAL ENCLOSED...\$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

A.H. Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### AHPOA Community Meeting

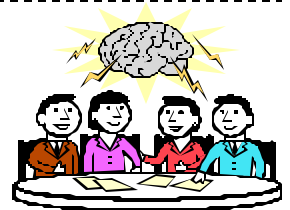
Saturday, June 11th, from 9:00—10:30, we will have our annual community meeting. Again, it will take place at the end of Kingfisher Lane, on the left, on the grass, under the trees.

We will provide a comfortable forum for conversations and questions, bug repellent if necessary, and once again juice, coffee, muffins and pastries, since we're getting you up so early on a weekend!

All we ask is that you bring a chair, a cup for the beverages, and your questions or answers to something going on in or around Audubon Hills.

We will play host to a guest speaker this

year, from the El Dorado County Fire Safe Counsel. She will explain the FREE wood chipping program they offer. Audubon Hills will be partaking in a community wide brush clearing and wood chipping program, that will help us all get rid of that brush without having to do *another* burn pile!



This should be an interesting meeting, we look forward to seeing all the familiar faces, and we truly hope to see some new faces. This is your community, take part!

As an added incentive, all in attendance will receive a ticket for a drawing to refund your \$25 dues for 2005!

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Audubon Hills  
Property Owner Assoc.

P.O. Box 631  
Camino, CA 95709



## Dates to Remember

### April

**1st - 10th** Free Community Dumpster-For currently paid members (pg. 6)

**3rd** Daylight Savings starts- "Spring forward" on hour.

### June

**11th** Community Meeting 9-10:30 (pg. 7)

**16th-19th** El Dorado County Fair

**\*\* 15th \$25 Dues are due \*\***

**Mid June**-Chipper Program (see page 2)

**30th** Community Picnic Order Form Due

### July

**9th** Community Picnic (pg. 7)

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