



Sonoma Valley Fire District

Serving the communities of
Sonoma, Valley of the Moon, Glen Ellen, Mayacamas, and Kenwood

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 15, 2026

SVFD ISSUES STATEMENT ON ONGOING VEGETATION HAZARD ENFORCEMENT AT 15000 ARNOLD DRIVE, GLEN ELLEN

*State of California Finalizing Contract for Ongoing Maintenance and Violation
Corrections*

GLEN ELLEN, Calif. The Sonoma Valley Fire District (SVFD) is issuing this statement to inform the public about ongoing vegetation management enforcement actions at 15000 Arnold Drive. The property remains out of compliance with Sonoma County Fire Code Chapter 13A, which establishes minimum defensible space and hazardous vegetation clearance requirements intended to reduce wildfire risk to surrounding residents and the broader Glen Ellen community.

SVFD has maintained direct communication with Chair Hermosillo, Chair of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, and her staff throughout this enforcement action. Chair Hermosillo's office has also been in communication with the California Department of General Services (DGS) regarding conditions at the property. The Fire District has been actively engaged at every level available and wants the public to know this matter has not been ignored.

State of California to Abate the Hazard

The California Department of General Services (DGS), as the state agency that owns and manages the property at 15000 Arnold Drive, has acknowledged the hazardous vegetation conditions present on the site and is in the final stages of finalizing a contract with a vendor to perform regular ongoing maintenance and correct the existing violations. DGS is expected to begin work soon, and SVFD will continue to monitor compliance as that work gets underway.

SVFD will continue to ensure that required vegetation clearance work is completed fully and in a timely manner. We are committed to keeping the public informed as this work moves forward.

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Background and Context

Glen Ellen sits within one of Sonoma County's most significant wildland-urban interface (WUI) zones. The area experienced devastating fire losses during the 2017 Nuns Fire and remains at elevated wildfire risk annually. Ensuring that properties within this community meet defensible space and vegetation management standards is among the top public safety priorities for SVFD.

Sonoma County Fire Code Chapter 13A requires property owners maintain adequate vegetation clearance around structures and along access routes. These requirements are in place to slow fire spread, improve the survivability of structures, and provide safe operating conditions for firefighting personnel.

Enforcement Efforts and Challenges

SVFD personnel have conducted multiple inspections and compliance contacts at this property. The Fire District has documented the hazardous conditions and has communicated with the property owner. SVFD has maintained direct communication with Chair Hermosillo, Chair of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, and her staff throughout this process, and the Fire District appreciates the Chair's engagement and advocacy in pursuing timely resolution.

Enforcement actions of this nature can involve extended timelines. Regulatory due process protections, mandatory notice and cure periods, coordination between local and state agencies, and the legal steps required before an abatement can proceed all contribute to the length of the process. SVFD wants the community to know that this timeline reflects legal obligations, not a lack of urgency or effort on the part of the agencies involved.

Statement from the Fire District

"The safety of the Glen Ellen community is our top priority. The Sonoma Valley Fire District has been actively working this enforcement action and we are encouraged by the State's commitment to move forward with abatement. We will continue to apply every tool available to us until these conditions are fully resolved."

-- Steve Akre, Fire Chief, Sonoma Valley Fire District

Message to the Community

SVFD recognizes the concern and frustration that neighboring residents and the broader Glen Ellen community have experienced as this enforcement action has progressed. We share those concerns and want to be clear: the work to resolve this hazard has been ongoing, and DGS finalizing a contract to address these conditions represents a meaningful step toward the outcome our community deserves.

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Property owners throughout the SVFD service area are reminded that defensible space clearance is required under Sonoma County Fire Code Chapter 13A. The ongoing situation at 15000 Arnold Drive is a reminder that wildfire hazards in our community are real and require action from all property owners. Residents are encouraged to take steps now to prepare their homes and families for wildfire by maintaining defensible space, creating a family evacuation plan, and signing up for emergency alerts through SoCoAlert. Residents with questions or concerns about vegetation management compliance are encouraged to contact the Sonoma Valley Fire District and visit our website at sonomavalleyfire.org

Contact: Steve Akre, Fire Chief – 707-996-2102

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