



Reminder – Australian Pine Removal Program Continues Through June

Dear Captiva Property Owners and Residents,

The Captiva Erosion Prevention District (CEPD) would like to remind the community that our free Australian Pine Removal Program remains active through the end of June, and substantial funding is still available to assist property owners.

Australian pine trees are an invasive species that weaken dune systems, crowd out native vegetation, and reduce the overall resilience of our shoreline. Their shallow root systems make them particularly vulnerable during storm events, often leading to blowdowns that damage property and infrastructure. Removing these trees and reestablishing native vegetation strengthens our dunes, enhances storm protection, and improves habitat for wildlife, including shorebirds and sea turtles.

We are pleased to share that the contractor performing this work, Joshua Tree Inc., has received many positive reviews from property owners across the island. Residents have consistently expressed appreciation for the professionalism of the crews, the quality of the work, the care taken to protect surrounding vegetation and property, and the thorough site cleanup following removal. The feedback to date has been overwhelmingly favorable.

If you have Australian pines on your property — particularly within or adjacent to dune areas — we strongly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity while funding remains available.

Additionally, we ask that you consider reaching out to neighbors who may have Australian pines on their property but may not be aware of this program. Word-of-mouth outreach is incredibly helpful in ensuring that as many properties as possible benefit from available funding before the program concludes.

For more information regarding eligibility and participation, please contact the CEPD office at (239) 472-2472 at your earliest convenience.

Together, through proactive removal of invasive species, we can continue strengthening Captiva and protecting the long-term health and resilience of our island.

Thank you for your continued partnership and stewardship.

Sincerely,
Captiva Erosion Prevention District

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