We're an independent, student-run newsroom.

As an independent student newspaper and the paper of record for the city of Berkeley, the Daily Cal has been communicating important updates during this pandemic. Your support is essential to maintaining this coverage.

DONATE HERE

THE DAILY CALIFORNIAN
Thursday, October 21, 2021

NEWS

CAMPUS

UC Berkeley students clean eucalyptus debris to prepare for fire season

Campus students teamed up with Berkeley residents in clearing the debris of eucalyptus tree, which pose a fire hazard to the greater community.

BY LANCE ROBERTS | STAFF

A group of UC Berkeley students and Berkeley community members helped clear eucalyptus tree debris that has been posing a threat to the community Sunday.

About 90 students volunteered for the environmental cleanup in Hidden Canyon. Home to a line of eucalyptus trees local residents call the “Line of Fire,” the area has been considered a threat for
many years, according to local resident and volunteer Marcus Von Engel.

“It is a row of very flammable trees that has a lot of ground-level fuel,” Von Engel said. “So many bark branches have been collecting over the many years that if the winds come, they will funnel through that canyon directly onto all the homes in Berkeley.”

As the leader of the Hillside Fire Safety Leadership Committee’s communication committee, Von Engel relays information to the community to keep everyone informed about Berkeley’s fire danger. Von Engel also decided to tap the campus’s student population to assist in clearing the hillside.

The group has conducted several clearing sessions, with Sunday being the most recent. The first session was slow: only Von Engel, his wife and four students participated in cleaning the hill. After the second session showed a greater turnout, news for Sunday’s cleanup spread like “wildfire,” according to Von Engel.

Campus’s Kappa Alpha Order was one such student group to participate in cleaning Hidden Canyon. According to chapter president Pablo Rayon, students are an enthusiastic source of environmental action.

"We cleaned the hillside for a total of 3 hours," Rayon said in an email. "It was very rewarding because it made a lot of us feel like..."

UC Berkeley to close sections of Jordan Fire Trail for wildfire mitigation

PG&E announces initiative to underground 10K miles of power lines

Campus raises concerns for wildfire season, COVID-19

Berkeley Hillside Fire Safety Group, Hidden Canyon, Kappa Alpha Order, Marcus von Engel, Matteo Garbelotto, Oakland Hills Fire, Pablo Rayon