




Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program:
Public Right-of-Way
Policy Direction

May 12, 2026



Program Purpose

Broad Vision

- Complement and align public right-of-way vegetation management practices with the wildfire resiliency standards expected of private property owners to reduce hazardous fuels, improve community safety, and support long-term resilience and insurability.

Program Objectives

- Wildfire resiliency and fuel reduction
- Emergency access and evacuation reliability
- Drainage and infrastructure maintenance
- Sight distance and roadway safety



Hazard Mitigation Grant Program: Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

- Town of Paradise contracted with ArborPros to compliment existing efforts by Public Works crews by:
 - Mechanical removal brush reduction
 - Small diameter tree removal
 - Targeted herbicide treatment



Private Landscaping in the ROW Challenges

- Drainage obstructions
- Leaves/Debris
- Roadway damage from roots, water
- Sight distance issues
- Maintenance access
- Utility conflicts
- Liability exposure from acceptance
- Difficulty distinguishing ornamental vs. hazardous (ie today vs. 8 years from now)

2011



2019



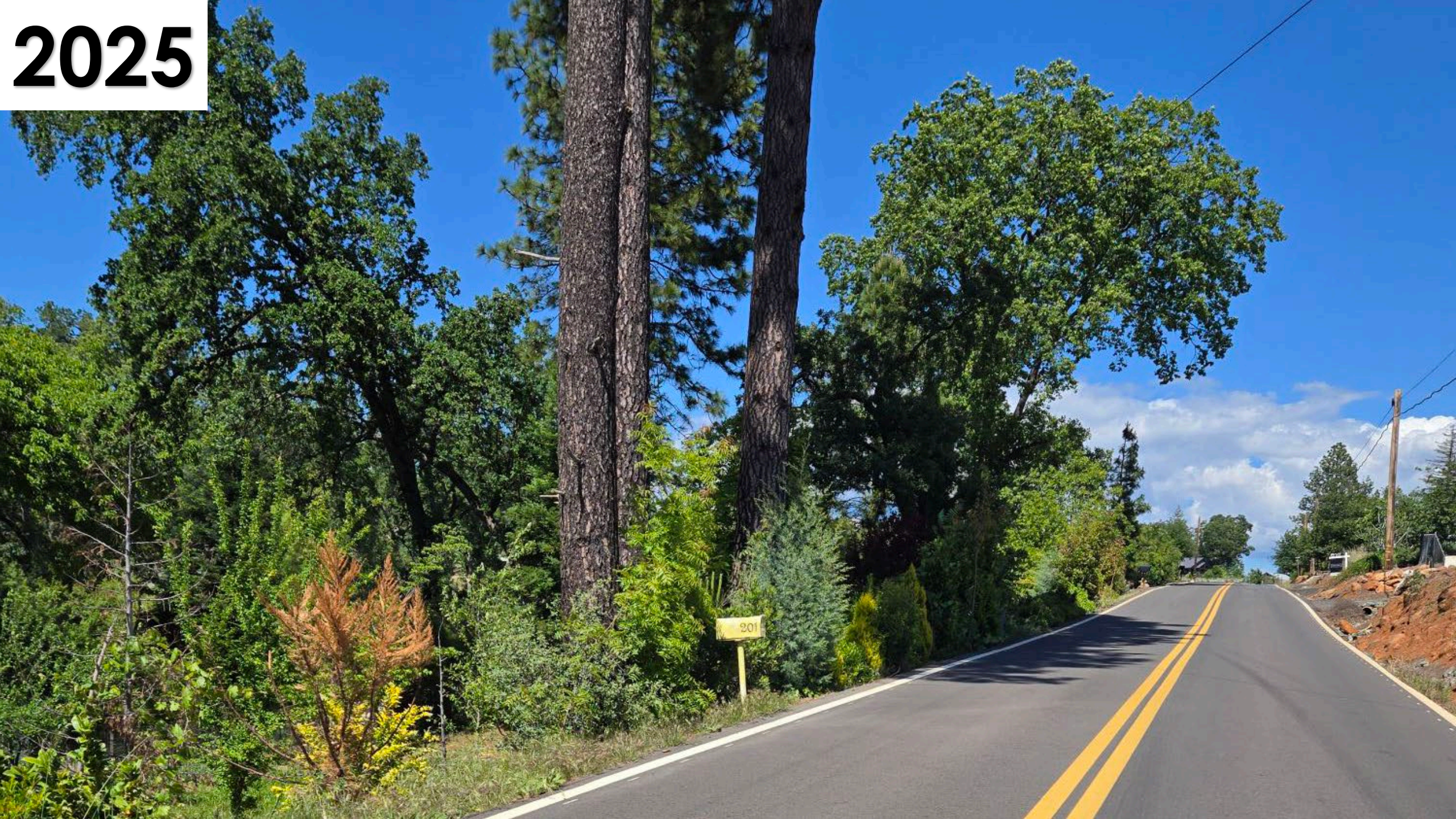
ROE Rd

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2024



2025

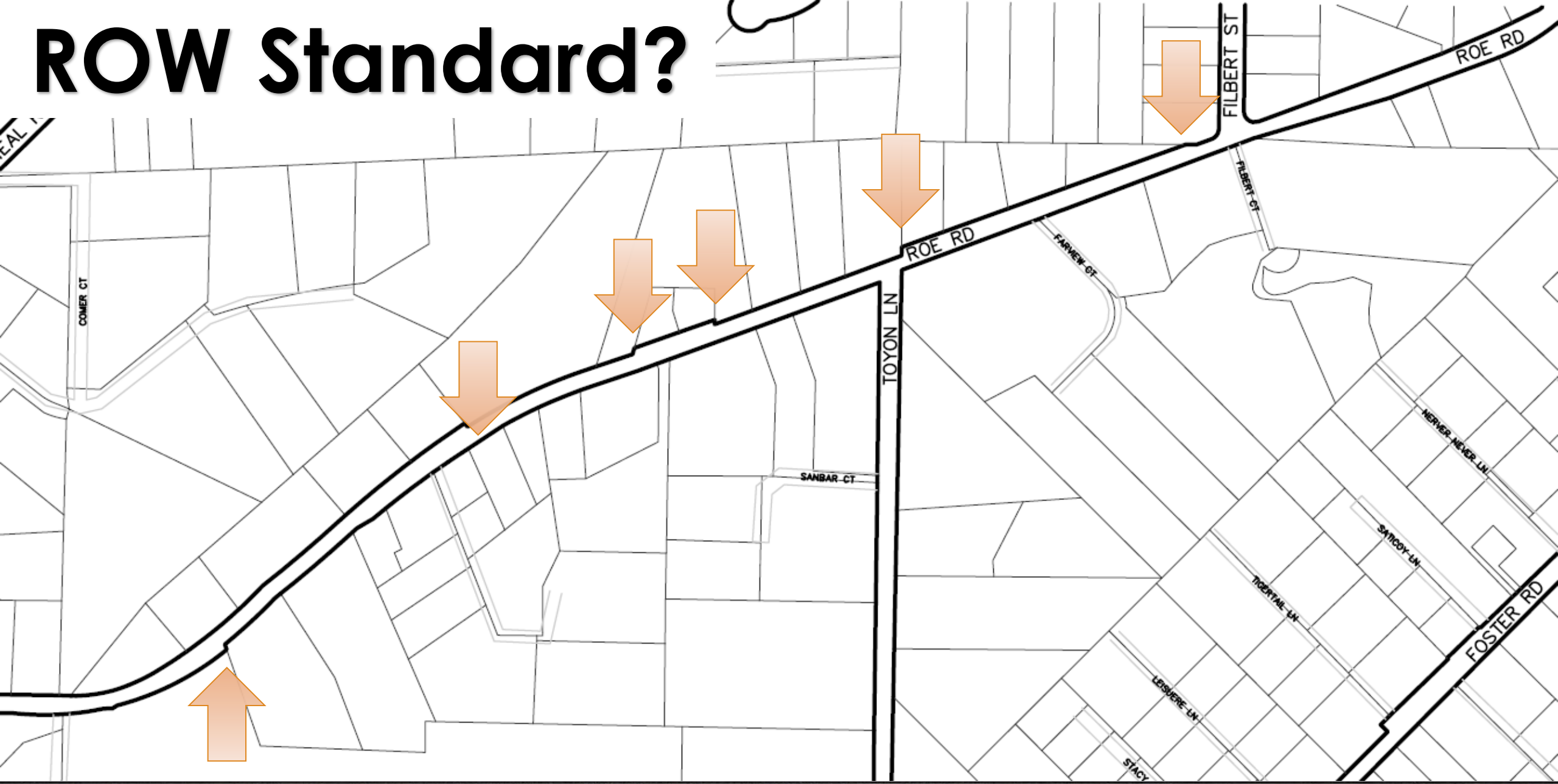




ROW Guidance

- Town Standard for ROW aims for 30' or 40' from centerline, generally
- Real world condition, especially for roads with no sidewalks or formalized infrastructure, varies from parcel to parcel
- Program has launched with requirement to ensure no vegetation is removed or treated outside of 11.5' from the roadway edge to ensure no private property is impacted

ROW Standard?





Community Feedback and Concerns

- Ornamental vegetation impacted
- Uncertainty regarding ROW boundaries
- Notification expectations
- Perceived inconsistency
- Aesthetics/community character
- Questions regarding contractor discretion



Review Sample Photos



Key Policy Questions for Council: Hazardous Fuels Standards

- What vegetation types warrant removal in the ROW?
- Should ornamental vegetation be treated differently?



Key Policy Questions for Council: Communication Practices

- Considering the day-to-day nature of Public Works duties, how should staff approach communication of planned and unplanned work on Town property adjacent to homes?



Potential Policy Approach

- Standardized vegetation reduction
 - No allowances for anything that grows above knee height
 - Must not cause any secondary impacts other than “should be on private property”
- Minimal exceptions
- Maximum consistency and defensibility
- Increase public education on Public vs Private Property along roadways



Next Steps

- Arbor Pros with Town Staff will:
 - Review backlog of inventory (300+) with the lens of Council direction
 - Implementation work per Council direction