

The HOA Board Packet: Proposing Goat Grazing to Your Association

Everything a board needs to evaluate, budget, and approve targeted grazing — from Rent A Goat®

The one-paragraph pitch (read this aloud at the meeting)

"Our association is responsible for vegetation on our slopes, greenbelts, and open space. Mowing is unsafe on our steep areas, spraying draws resident complaints, and fire inspections and insurers are getting stricter every year. Targeted goat grazing handles all three: it clears terrain machines can't, uses no chemicals, carries no spark risk in fire season — and residents genuinely love watching it work. Fire agencies including LA County Fire and the City of Laguna Beach run their own goat programs. I propose we get a scoped estimate for our common areas."

Why boards choose grazing

- **Safety & liability:** no crews with power tools on steep slopes; no herbicide-drift complaints; no mower sparks during red-flag season.
- **Compliance:** keeps Zone 2 defensible space (PRC 4291) maintained across common areas — what fire inspectors and, increasingly, insurers check.
- **Resident relations:** the rare line item that improves the newsletter. Goat arrivals are community events; mowing contracts are noise complaints.
- **Terrain fit:** HOA fuel problems concentrate on exactly the slopes and greenbelts machines handle worst.

Budgeting honestly

Grazing is priced per project from acreage, vegetation density, terrain, and access — not a flat per-acre rate. For budgeting purposes, request a scoped estimate for your specific common areas (free), and plan for an annual recurring pass: vegetation regrows, and recurring contracts price better than one-offs. Grant funding may apply — CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grants explicitly fund prescribed grazing, and California's SB 675 (2024) created a grant pathway for prescribed-grazing projects; your local Fire Safe Council is the place to ask.

Anticipating board questions

- **"Is it safe for residents and pets?"** Herds work inside temporary electric netting with professional herders checking daily and guardian dogs where predators are a factor. Residents observe from outside the fence.
- **"What about noise, smell, waste?"** Goats are quieter than any mower. Droppings are dry pellets that fertilize the slope — this is how the vegetation gets recycled instead of hauled.
- **"Insurance and licensing?"** Reputable operators carry general liability and provide certificates naming the association. Rent A Goat is licensed, registered, and insured, and provides documentation with every proposal.
- **"What if it doesn't work on our land?"** Ask for a site assessment first. An honest operator will tell you which areas fit grazing and which need crews — many projects combine both.

The motion, ready to paste into minutes

"Motion to authorize the [landscape/firewise] committee to obtain a scoped proposal for targeted grazing services covering the association's common-area slopes and open space, including insurance documentation and references, for board review at the next regular meeting."

Ready for a scoped proposal? Free estimates with herd size, timeline, and pricing. www.rentagoat.com · 1-858-751-GOAT · info@rentagoat.com

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