



Santa Clara County FireSafe Council

# 2012 Annual Report



## Wildfire prevention for Santa Clara County

Originally a CAL FIRE public outreach effort, the FireSafe Council concept started in 2001 when local fire officials from CAL FIRE and Santa Clara County Fire Department came together with a small group of community members to discuss wildfire risks and protection for communities in Santa Clara County.

Key volunteers and dedicated participants stepped forward and over the next year, the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council became a recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit - the only organization in the area whose mission is *"mobilizing the people of Santa Clara County to protect their homes, communities and environment from wildfires."*



# Mobilizing the people of Santa Clara County to protect their homes, communities, and environment from wildfires



“Maintaining focus on our wildfire prevention and protection programs.”

## Fulfilling our mission amid change

Despite changes in 2012 with a significant decrease in federal funding, the FireSafe Council exceeded program goals and continued to provide the only Wildfire Protection and Prevention programs in the county.

We were pleased to have received two federal grants for 2012 to continue our Hazardous Fuel Reduction Programs in the Santa Cruz Mountains and South Santa Clara County.

Federal grants are a challenge for us to secure because we don't have any federal parks or forests. However, our year-over-year program achievements and continued financial and in-kind support from our stakeholders and partner

agencies reflects positively on our ability to fulfill our mission and goals.

We expect similar challenges in 2013 but we are diversifying our funding and looking at longer term strategies while maintaining focus on our wildfire prevention and protection programs – homeowner and community chipping, evacuation routes/fuel breaks and outreach and education.

Our ability to serve our communities is due to our hardworking staff, committed volunteers, and concerned homeowners who share in our mission to protect our people, communities and environment from wildfires.

Thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry Serpa". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jerry Serpa, President  
Santa Clara County  
FireSafe Council

Assistant Chief, Spring Valley  
Volunteer Fire Department

Help us keep our community green  
It's our mission

Education is power

In 2012, we focused our Community Outreach and Education around our dedication to environmental health and protection with our green initiatives:

1. Be careful with equipment that can start wildfires and observe Red Flag Days
2. Help protect migratory birds
3. Use fire resistant, native plants and trees and remove invasive fire prone species
4. Educate your children - Smokey Bear teaches kids to prevent wildfires and protect the environment
5. Educate your neighbors - Defensible Space can mitigate losses from wildfire and positively impact forest life

We participated in a number of wildlife events and spoke with homeowners and residents about our role in public and environmental health.

We continue to be the only organization in the county providing Defensible Space, wildfire prevention and protection, and fire ecology programs to the community at no-cost.

Thanks to our education programs, teachers and parents have the tools to talk with children about wildfire prevention and its effect on the environment. Residents are aware of and taking responsibility for their role in prevention and protection efforts.

-Eugenia Rendler  
Education Coordinator

We provided direct outreach and education to

5,849 kids, 11,112 adults

68 volunteers provided

197 hours of service at events



**Lexington Hills**, with terrain rising sharply from the Santa Clara Valley floor to the higher elevations of the Santa Cruz Mountains, is designated a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) area by CAL FIRE and Santa Clara County Fire Department (SCCFD) and is identified as one of the most severe fire problems in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The Hwy 35/Summit Road Route Roadside Thinning Project is addressed in the Lexington Hills Community Wildfire Protection Plan as a Priority 3 project 1.3 miles in length. This work thins the fuel load up to 30' on either side of the road to allow for safer evacuation in the case of fire. We began working on the project in February 2012.

In partnership with CALFIRE Forester Andy Hubbs, we identified 3.4 miles of Hwy. 35, a Priority 3 project in the Lexington Hills CWPP.

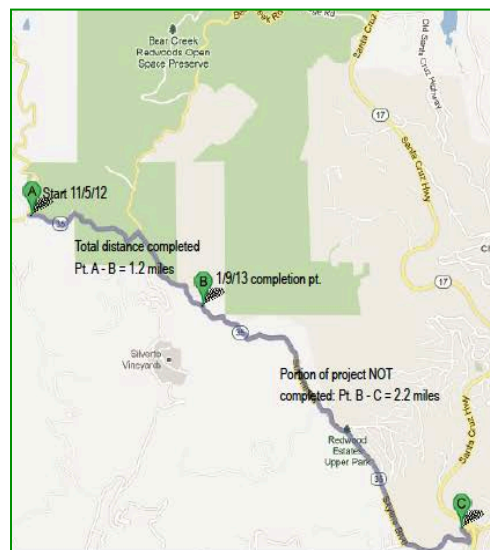
Of the 80 parcels identified in both Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties, the team determined 12 parcels needed roadside thinning, including five of the parcels belonging to Midpeninsula Regional Open Space. Because the scope of this project is a State of California highway, Caltrans has responsibility for 10' on either side of the roadway.

This project began in November 2012, with the participation of CAL FIRE, CAL FIRE Ben Lomond Conservation Camp crews, Santa Cruz Caltrans and the FireSafe Council.

The Ben Lomond CC crews supplied between 8 and 15 men per day, along with a captain and the necessary saws and equipment to clear brush. Caltrans supplied a bucket truck, a port-a-potty, a dump truck, and necessary flagging/road safety equipment, in addition to personnel to operate the equipment for 15 days of work.

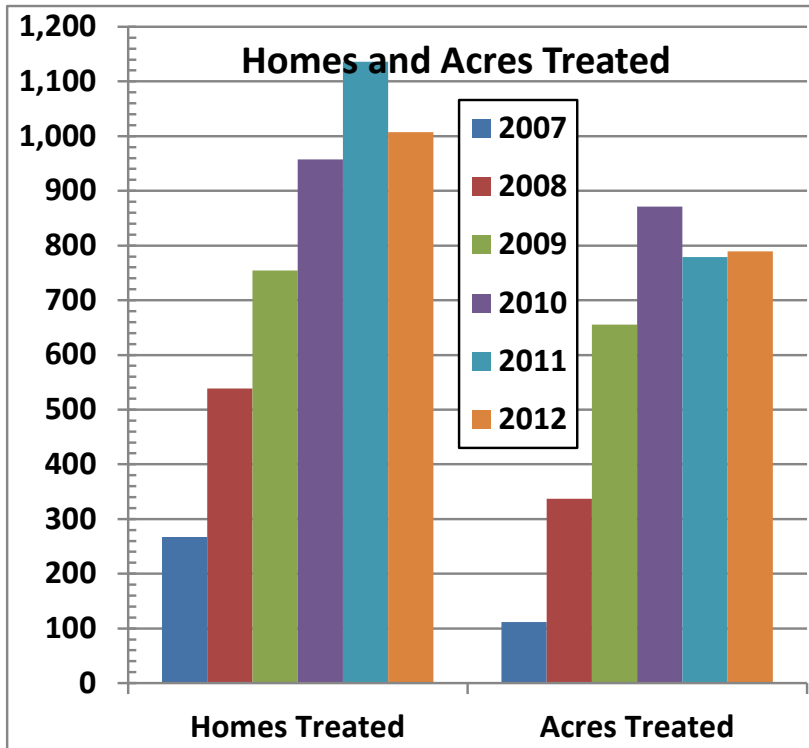
A total of 1.2 miles of roadway was thinned starting at the intersection of Skyline Blvd/Bear Creek Rd/Hwy 35, eastward, clearing approximately 30' on either side of the roadway.

Total project cost was \$68,313 with CAL FIRE, Caltrans and sponsors providing \$61,309 worth of in-kind work.



# Accomplishments

3,625 Homes, 10,850 People  
 \$3.6 Billion in Property Values protected



Declining Federal Grants led to fewer Homes, People and Properties protected in 2012



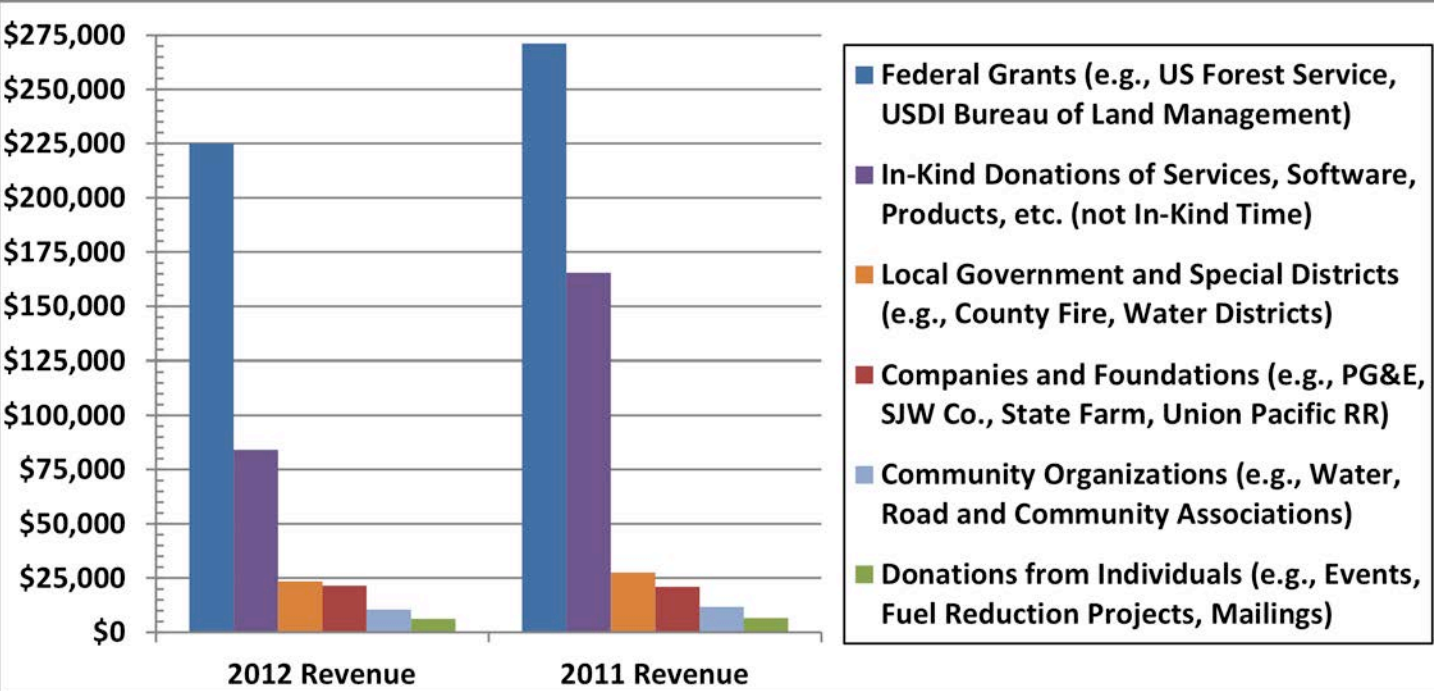
9 Special Needs Assistance Projects for qualified seniors, low income and disabled  
7 fuel break and evacuation route projects



Sources of Revenue in 2012

The FireSafe Council currently has three federal grants totaling \$287,694 from the USDA Forest Service. Two of these grants end in 2013 and one extends through 2014. This is a very significant reduction in federal grants. We are in the process of raising \$113,852 in matching funds for these grants.

Revenues before interest decreased 26% from \$503,232 in 2011 to \$371,066 in 2012

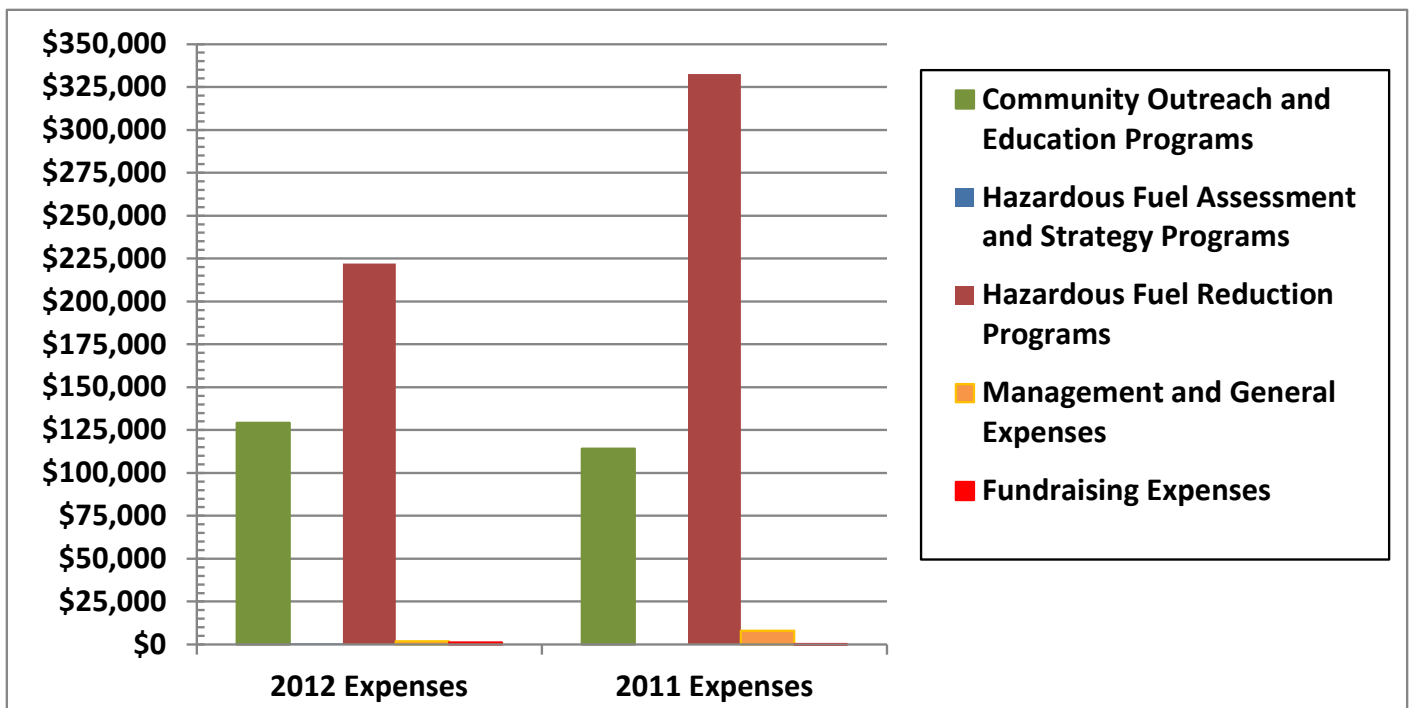


## Distribution of Expenses in 2012

Community Outreach and Education Programs include events, outreach and youth programs. Hazardous Fuel Reduction Programs include our Defensible Space Chipping Programs. Our most recent Hazardous Assessment and Strategy Program was the Lexington Hills Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) which was completed in mid-2009. We completed our Sudden Oak Death Tree Removal programs in 2011.

Our Surplus is matching funds for federal grants which will be used in future years and other donations which can be used to build our cash reserves. We intend to reduce our dependence on Federal grants.

Expenses decreased 22% from \$455,176 in 2011 to \$354,945 in 2012. Net Change in Net Assets (Surplus) decreased from \$50,102 in 2011 to \$17,387 in 2012.



## Major Grants and Donors

(revenues of \$5,000 and above)

USDA Forest Service

Caltrans

City of San Jose

CAL FIRE

Santa Clara County Fire  
Department

Santa Clara Valley Water District

County of Santa Clara

Pacific Gas and Electric Company

State Farm Insurance

Union Pacific Railroad

The County of Santa Clara also contributed \$25,000 for an Early Warning System Camera which will become revenue in future years as it is used.

## Major Grants and Donors

(revenues of \$1,000-\$4,999)

Aldercroft Heights County  
Water District

Redwood Estates Services  
Association

North Aldercroft Association

San Jose Water Company

Union Bank Foundation

Las Cumbres Conservation  
Corporation

Chemeketa Park Mutual  
Water Company

Loma Prieta Resource  
Conservation District

South Skyline Firesafe Council

Individual donors





**Santa Clara County FireSafe Council  
For Year Ended 12/31/12**

I certify that the following statements were prepared from the unaudited books and records of the Santa Clara Fire Safe Council, Inc. Copies of IRS Form 990s signed by our CPA are available on request. Allan Thompson, Treasurer

<b>Statement of Financial Position</b>	<u><b>2011</b></u>	<u><b>2012</b></u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$301,003	\$320,081
Accounts Receivable	0	9,274
Other Current Assets	0	0
Fixed Assets	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>301,003</b>	<b>329,355</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	10,108	9,655
Deferred Federal Grant Revenue (Notes 1, 3)	113,763	100,181
Other Deferred Revenue (Notes 1, 3)	<u>3,932</u>	<u>28,932</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>127,803</b>	<b>138,768</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	76,595	78,359
Temporarily Restricted (Notes 2, 3)	<u>96,605</u>	<u>112,228</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b><u>173,200</u></b>	<b><u>190,587</u></b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$301,003</b>	<b>\$329,355</b>

<b>Statement of Activities</b>	<u><b>2011</b></u>	Temporarily	<u><b>2011</b></u>	<u><b>2012</b></u>	Temporarily	<u><b>2012</b></u>
<b>Revenues, Gains and Other Support</b>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Contributions (Notes 2, 3)	\$11,499	\$220,614	<b>\$232,113</b>	\$3,434	\$142,468	<b>\$145,902</b>
Federal Grant Revenue (Notes 1, 3)		271,119	<b>271,119</b>		225,164	<b>225,164</b>
Other Deferred Revenue (Notes 1, 3)		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total Revenues Before Interest</b>	<b>\$11,499</b>	<b>\$491,733</b>	<b>\$503,232</b>	<b>\$3,434</b>	<b>\$367,632</b>	<b>\$371,066</b>
Interest Earned	2,046		<b>2,046</b>	1,266		<b>1,266</b>
Net Assets Released from Restrictions						
Satisfaction of Program Restrictions (Note 4)	176,102	(176,102)		126,845	(126,845)	
Deferred Federal Grant Revenue (Note 4)	271,119	(271,119)		225,164	(225,164)	
Other Deferred Revenue (Note 4)	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
<b>Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support</b>	<b>460,766</b>	<b>44,513</b>	<b>505,278</b>	<b>356,709</b>	<b>15,623</b>	<b>372,331</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Community Outreach and Education Programs	114,185		<b>114,185</b>	129,086		<b>129,086</b>
Hazardous Fuel Assessment and Strategy Programs	319		<b>319</b>	694		<b>694</b>
Hazardous Fuel Reduction Programs	332,650		<b>332,650</b>	222,115		<b>222,115</b>
Management and General (Note 5)	7,981		<b>7,981</b>	1,800		<b>1,800</b>
Fundraising (Note 5)	<u>42</u>		<u>42</u>	<u>1,250</u>		<u>1,250</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>455,176</u></b>		<b><u>455,176</u></b>	<b><u>354,945</u></b>		<b><u>354,945</u></b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>5,590</b>	<b>44,513</b>	<b>50,102</b>	<b>1,764</b>	<b>15,623</b>	<b>17,387</b>
<b>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</b>	<b><u>71,005</u></b>	<b><u>52,093</u></b>	<b><u>123,098</u></b>	<b><u>76,595</u></b>	<b><u>96,605</u></b>	<b><u>173,200</u></b>
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>\$76,595</b>	<b>\$96,605</b>	<b>\$173,200</b>	<b>\$78,359</b>	<b>\$112,228</b>	<b>\$190,587</b>

<b>Statement of Cash Flows</b>	<u><b>2011</b></u>	<u><b>2012</b></u>
<b>Change in Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$50,102</b>	<b>\$17,387</b>
<b>Adjustments to Reconcile Net Assets to Cash and Equivalents</b>		
Decrease in Accounts Receivable	0	(9,274)
Decrease in Other Current and Fixed Assets	75	0
Increase in Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	2,422	(453)
Increase in Deferred Revenues and Grant Returns	<u>(91,922)</u>	<u>11,417</u>
<b>Net Increase in Cash and Equivalents</b>	<b>(39,323)</b>	<b>19,077</b>
<b>Cash at Beginning of Year</b>	<b><u>340,326</u></b>	<b><u>301,003</u></b>
<b>Cash at End of Year</b>	<b>\$301,003</b>	<b>\$320,081</b>

**Santa Clara County FireSafe Council  
For Year Ended 12/31/12**

**Notes:**

**Note 1:** SCFSC reports federal grant payments and certain other contributions as deferred revenue and restricted support because they may have to be returned and are received with stipulations that limit their use. Deferred revenue includes grant funds or interest to be returned.

**Note 2:** SCFSC reports gifts of cash and other assets as restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets or if they are used as matching funds for a federal grant. In-Kind Donations of Products and Services are included in Revenues and Expenses above but not on our IRS Form 990. For 2012, the total In-Kind Donations of Products and Services was \$84,098 (in 2011 it was \$165,464).

**Note 3:** When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the Statement of Activities as net assets released from restrictions.

**Note 4:** Net assets were released from donor restrictions by incurring expenses satisfying the restricted purposes or by occurrence of other events specified by donors. SCFSC does not have any permanently restricted net assets. Our restricted net assets will be used to expand and sustain our programs in future periods.

**Note 5:** Management and General and Fundraising are also done by volunteers. SCFSC does not have any facilities or related expenses. Participants facilities are used for meetings.

Funding provided by National Fire Plan grants from the Cooperative Fire Program of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Pacific Southwest Region, through the California Fire Safe Council. Our programs and other council activities are also funded by grants and donations from local agencies, companies, foundations, organizations and individual donors.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this organization is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

The views and conclusions in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the California Fire Safe Council, Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, U.S Forest Service or the U.S. Government. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute an endorsement by the California Fire Safe Council, the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council or the U.S. Government.