



Santa Clara County FireSafe Council

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

November 2, 2020 – Saratoga, CA

The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC), a nonprofit with a mission to mobilize the people of Santa Clara County to protect their homes, communities and environment from wildfire, announced today that Seth M. Schalet has been named as the new Chief Executive Officer, effective November 2, 2020.

“The SCCFSC Board is thrilled to have Seth join our team,” said Board President Dede Smullen. “In the midst of the most devastating fire season in California history, the demand for our services is dramatically increasing. Our organization is growing to meet the new challenges, modifying our programs to act on new information about wildfire risks, and leveraging relationships with our partners to address these risks. Seth has the experience and skills to help drive these initiatives.”

Schalet has extensive experience in nonprofit management, including previous CEO roles at Prevent Blindness Northern California, and most recently at Child, Family and Community Services, a nonprofit providing Head Start childcare services to low-income families. Additionally, Schalet has more than 30 years of executive leadership experience spanning for-profit and nonprofit sectors, including 13 years of nonprofit experience serving on numerous nonprofit and foundation Boards.

“Californians have become increasingly aware of our vulnerability to wildfire,” said Schalet. “In the last five years, SCCFSC has grown from five employees providing chipping and fire safety education to 14 employees, implementing large scale hazardous fuel reduction and escape route projects, home assessments for fire-safety, and a robust public education and outreach program. I am looking forward to helping SCCFSC expand its reach throughout the county and further engage residents, large landowners and our partners in wildfire preparation.”

Schalet will be replacing acting Executive Director Eugenia Rendler. Rendler led the organization through an additional year of growth amid a complete shift in how business is done during the world-wide pandemic. Rendler will remain on in her permanent role as Managing Director for the organization.

“SCCFSC is grateful for Eugenia’s skilled leadership during this challenging year and pleased that she will continue in her role as Managing Director leading our Hazardous Fuel Reduction, Planning and Education and Outreach Programs,” said Smullen.

For more information email Karol Gallucci at info@sccfiresafe.org or call Eugenia Rendler at 408-975-9591.