

## For Immediate Release

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## Santa Clara County FireSafe Council leads collaboration with County wildfire officials to update important wildfire preparedness document

**November 10, 2022, Saratoga, CA**—Santa Clara County FireSafe Council announced today it is leading a project to update the county’s Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) with support from partners including CAL FIRE, Santa Clara County Fire, County of Santa Clara Office of Emergency Management, County of Santa Clara Department of Planning and Development and others. Five public information meetings have been scheduled.

CAL FIRE awarded a \$250,000 grant to the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC) to lead the 2022/2023 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) update. With this grant, SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) has been selected to update the current CWPP (drafted in 2016) in coordination with regional stakeholders. SWCA also worked on the 2016 CWPP led by the Santa Clara County Fire Department (SCCFD). The CWPP update will build on the current CWPP and will cover the entire county. The planning process is expected to go through August 2023.

CWPPs are a critical element for county wildfire preparedness. According to Seth Schalet, Chief Executive Officer for Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, “Wildfire frequency and severity is on the rise, causing further risk to our local communities. Public safety, property, air quality from toxic wildfire smoke, critical infrastructure such as cell towers, the electrical grid, reservoirs, and water systems along with vital industries such as the county’s agriculture producers can all be compromised by a large wildfire. Updating the CWPP will strengthen the ability of Santa Clara County to be more resilient and prepared for wildfires.”

By having this strategic plan for all the local agencies, it allows them to prioritize forest health projects, shaded fuel breaks, escape routes, and public education campaigns. The CWPP will

further wildfire preparedness initiatives throughout the county, and provide support for residents seeking resources to be better prepared for wildfire.

According to George Huang, Unit Chief for CAL FIRE's Santa Clara Unit, "We have faced many destructive Wildfires throughout California in the last few years, including the locally significant SCU Lightning Complex which destroyed 225 homes and burned through multiple Counties within the Bay Area. That fire complex remains the fourth largest wildfire in State history. CWPPs continue to be a critical element for Wildfire Preparedness, and I look forward to our collaboration with Santa Clara County FireSafe Council to accomplish this critical update."

The project scope includes all of Santa Clara County with its primary focus on the WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) areas throughout the county. It will include the western boundary with Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and Santa Clara County Open Space Authority lands, the eastern section and boundary with many cities, counties, and state parks, and the southern areas where open spaces and large landowners are common. The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) project grant is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment — particularly in disadvantaged communities.

Five public meetings have been scheduled for community members to learn more about the CWPP, meet with local wildfire experts, ask questions, and provide their input.

**Upcoming Public Information Meetings:**

- District 5, Supervisor Simitian  
December 1, 2022, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm  
Saratoga Community Center,  
19655 Allendale Ave, Saratoga, CA 95070
- District 4, Supervisor Ellenberg  
December 6, 2022, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm  
Roosevelt Redwood Room  
Campbell Community Center  
1 W Campbell Ave, Campbell, CA 95008
- District 2, Supervisor Chavez  
December 7, 2022, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm  
Santa Clara County District Office  
70 West Hedding Street, 1st Floor, San Jose, CA 95110

- District 3 – Supervisor Lee  
December 13, 2022 6:00pm – 7:30pm  
Milpitas Senior Center Auditorium  
40 N Milpitas Blvd, Milpitas, CA 95035
- District 1 – Supervisor Wasserman  
December 15, 2022 6:00pm – 7:30pm  
City Council Chamber Building  
17555 Peak Ave, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

**For more information and to sign up to receive updates visit our website at <https://sccfiresafe.org/cwpp>**

**For questions, please contact the CWPP team:**

**Email - [CWPPteam@sccfiresafe.org](mailto:CWPPteam@sccfiresafe.org)**

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**About Santa Clara County FireSafe Council:** As a 501 (c)3 nonprofit with a 20-year history, Santa Clara County FireSafe Council's core mission is to mobilize the people of Santa Clara County to protect their homes, communities, and environment from wildfires. As a trusted partner across the government, fire service, corporate and WUI residential communities, SCCFSC has led some of the most complex hazardous fuel reduction projects in the region. With a board of directors and advisory board that has a deep expertise across the wildfire ecosystem including wildfire and environmental research, academia, emergency management, regional planning, technology products and wildland firefighting leadership, Santa Clara County FireSafe Council is uniquely positioned to lead cross-sector collaborations, government-private partnership in Silicon Valley, Santa Clara County and beyond. For more information, visit [www.sccfiresafe.org](http://www.sccfiresafe.org)

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