

For Immediate Release

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Santa Clara County FireSafe Council Announces Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) 2023 Draft Update Public Comment Period June 19 Through July 2, 2023

June 5, 2023, Saratoga, CA—Santa Clara County FireSafe Council announced today that the public comment period for the draft update to Santa Clara County’s Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) opens on June 19th and will run through July 2nd, 2023. All Santa Clara County residents are encouraged to read and review the draft CWPP, and to submit their input and feedback to ensure their voice is heard and their input considered in what will become the final CWPP later this summer.

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. In December of 2022, SCCFSC held a series of five community meetings (one in each County Supervisor’s district), to review the CWPP process and solicit initial public input.

Santa Clara County FireSafe Council assembled a management team comprised of key county agencies and a management advisory committee with over 70 representatives from across the county, with expertise in fuels management, technology, utilities, staff of elected officials, previous CWPP planning, and various other key stakeholder groups to help guide the process and provide input into the development of the plan and recommendations. The management team met monthly, and the advisory team held a

series of four meetings to work as a group on plan content and recommendations, culminating in this public draft.

According to Seth Schalet, Chief Executive Officer for Santa Clara County FireSafe Council. “CWPPs are a critical element for county wildfire preparedness. We want the public’s engagement and input to ensure as many voices are heard when the final version is released later this summer. Wildfire frequency and severity is on the rise, increasing risk here in Santa Clara County. We worked closely with our community partners, with the support of the Board of Supervisors, to bring forward the current plan so that the CWPP will further wildfire preparedness initiatives throughout the county and provide support for residents seeking resources to be better prepared for wildfire.”

Residents can visit the FireSafe Council CWPP webpage to learn more about the process and find the link to the new CWPP website to review the draft document and provide their input once available on June 19. www.sccfiresafe.org/cwpp/

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

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