

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN APPENDIX-B



GROVE STREET FIRE SAFE COUNCIL, INC.

FOR THE COMMUNITIES LOCATED ALONG THE GROVE STREET
CORRIDOR IN THE WEST SONOMA HILLS

Development

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was developed by the *Grove Street Fire Safe Council (GSFSC)* with guidance and support from Fire Safe Sonoma, the County of Sonoma, The California Fire Safe Council, and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. This CWPP supplements the Sonoma County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. JULY, 2020

Grove Street Fire Safe Council Inc.
<http://grovestreetfsc.org/>

DISCLAIMER

Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view(s) of any governmental agency, organization, corporation or individual with which the authors may be affiliated.

This publication is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information in regard to the subject matter covered. This Community Wildfire Prevention Plan (CWPP) is a work in progress. Various changes are anticipated throughout the Plan over the next several years.

Readers are urged to consult with their own agencies having jurisdiction regarding the use or implementation of this Plan, as well as their own legal counsel on matters of concern.

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This CWPP is intended for use as a planning and assessment tool only, utilizing a compilation of community issues/goals and projected fire mitigation strategies and is not to be construed as indicative of project "activity" as defined under the "Community Guide to the California Environmental Quality Act, Chapter Three, Projects Subject to CEQA." Per the Community Guide, Section 3.1.1, "CEQA only applies to public agency decisions to approve, or actions to carry out, a discretionary project." Any actual project activities meeting this definition of project activity and undertaken by the CWPP participants or agencies listed shall meet with local, state and federal environmental compliance requirements.

AMMENDMENTS (as applicable)

**Community Wildfire Protection Plan Amendment
For
The Grove Street Fire Safe Council**

Date amendment submitted: _____

Section(s) amended _____

Amended by _____

1. Provide text of amendment and place in document here using the following format: Use ~~red text and strikeout~~ for text omitted and red text with underline for new text.
2. Then remove original pages and replace with amended pages.

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INTRODUCTION

In collaboration with community members, local, county, state and federal government agencies, and local and state fire officials, this CWPP establishes and prioritizes wildfire risk reduction projects that have been developed to address the most significant risks identified in the Grove Street Community Risk Assessment. This project list is a living document and will be periodically updated in the future to reflect progress and changing priorities.

PRIORITY RATINGS

- H = High Priority
- M = Medium Priority
- L = Low Priority

PROJECT CATEGORIES

Projects have been categorized as follows:

- Vegetation Management
- Education and Outreach
- Evacuation

Project: Develop and Publish a Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan

Priority: HIGH

Category: Education and Evacuation

Goal: Produce a high-quality booklet available to all residents in the Grove Street Fire Safe Council, Inc. (GSFSCI) area to further their awareness of:

- Preparation and planning
- Evacuation preparedness and procedures
- Preparing to return after a wildfire and have it available on the Grove Street Fire Safe Council website

Participants: CAL FIRE, Sonoma Valley Fire Protection District, Department of Emergency Management, Sonoma County Sheriff's Offices, and Fire_Safe Sonoma

Timing: Publish before the 2021 wildfire season and maintained on the GSFSCI website

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: George Ranch Community Association, Diamond 'A' Neighborhood Association, Diamond 'A' Recreation Center, Westerbeke Ranch

Potential Funding Sources: Donations for the booklet and possible grants.

Project: Grove Street Vegetation Management

Priority: H

Category: Fuels Reduction, Ignition Reduction, Access & Evacuation

Goal: Reduce/remove hazardous vegetation along primary and secondary roads to support ingress and egress of residents evacuating, emergency vehicles, and reduce wildfire intensity.

- Grove Street is a County maintained road and the only primary access road that serves the communities within the Grove Street Fire Safe Council area.
- Identify critical areas and prioritize. Including:
 - Trimming overhanging branches, chipping all cut and dead material, removing (cut, pull and/or spray) understory shrubs and pruning
 - Removal of trees and/or tree branches:
 - Reduce overall fuel levels, particularly lower level fuels (dead and alive) that dramatically increase wildfire intensity (Fuel Reduction)
 - Pose a risk of falling on powerlines (Ignition Reduction)
 - May fall on the road and block access (Access & Evacuation)
- Identify funding and potential resources to implement work
- Include execution plan
- Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works (TPW) has responsibility to keep the roadway clear of vegetation within their right of way. This distance should be a minimum of 10 feet from the edge of either side of Grove Street. Environmental review will be required in the likely case if government funding will be used for this project.

Participants: Licensed tree removal contractors, PG&E, Sonoma County TPW and Department of Emergency Management, Fire Safe Sonoma, and property owners.

Timing: Year-round; avoiding bird nesting season and red flag days

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: Cal Fire, Sonoma Valley Fire Protection District

Potential Funding Sources: See the following for potential funding choices and cooperating agencies

Project: Evacuation Education

Priority: H

Category: Education

Goal: To educate and inform residents and property owners regarding approved and authorized evacuation procedures and protocols. To provide residents the knowledge required to make informed decisions, and to evacuate safely, efficiently, and effectively.

- Conduct an ongoing, year-round education/awareness campaign via community workshops and presentations (live and virtual), website information, and newsletters to inform residents of evacuation-related topics.
- Educate residents about the evacuation procedures, protocols, and guidelines developed in conjunction with, and approved by, the Sheriff's Department, Department of Emergency Management, CalFire, and Sonoma Valley Fire District.
- Organize evacuation exercises in collaboration with the Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management.
- Provide educational brochures, checklists, booklets, and other materials for residents to learn about sources of official emergency notifications and wildfire incident updates, evacuation preparedness, procedures, and protocols.

Participants: Grove Street Fire Safe Council Board Members, Fire Safe Sonoma, Cal Fire, Sonoma Valley Fire District, Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management, PG&E, owners of adjoining properties.

Timing: Year-round educational workshops, presentations, newsletters, and website maintenance. Evacuation exercises scheduled for spring through fall.

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: California Office of Emergency Management, American Red Cross

Potential Funding Sources: Individual donations, CalFire grants.

Project: Community Chipping Program

Priority: H

Category/s: Fuels Reduction

Goal: Reduce/remove hazardous vegetation on residential properties to minimize wildfire intensity.

- Removal of fallen branches, overgrown brush and other vegetation around residential properties that comply with County regulations (13A) and create strong defensible spaces around structures.
- The chipper program will offer service to residents who are working on their wildfire safety clearance and creating their defensible space around their homes.
- The program provides an alternative to burning or hauling fire hazardous brush.
- Ease of vegetation disposal will increase the likelihood of residents removing hazardous vegetation.
- Include execution plan

Participants: Licensed tree contractors, Cal Fire, property owners

Timing: Year-round; avoiding bird nesting season and red flag days

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:

Potential Funding Sources: National Fire Plan grant from the Cooperative Fire Program of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Pacific Southwest Region, through the California Fire Safe Council.

Project: Power Line Ignition Tree Removal

Priority: H

Category: Ignition Reduction, Fuels Reduction

Goal: Reduce/remove hazardous vegetation adjacent to any power lines within the entire Grove Street community area.

- Remove any trees, branches, or vegetation (alive, dead, or dying) that pose a risk of falling on powerlines.
- PG&E has the responsibility to keep the power lines clear of vegetation that poses risk of wildfire ignition. In many cases, there have been trees marked for removal (over the last 3 years) but PG&E has either lost track of this management or has yet to complete the project.
- Include execution plan

Participants: PG&E, licensed contractors, Fire Safe Sonoma, property owners

Timing: Year-round; avoiding nesting season and red flag days

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:

Potential Funding Sources: See the following for potential funding choices and cooperating agencies

Project: Home Assessment Program

Priority: H

Category: Education

Goal: To conduct wildfire vulnerability assessments of residents' homes throughout the Council's geographic area. The first objective of the assessments is to inform residents of the features and characteristics of their home that may make it more vulnerable to ignition and damage from wildfire. The second objective is to provide residents with a checklist of specific recommendations, action items, and resources that can reduce their home's vulnerability to wildfire. The overall goal of the assessment program is to teach and encourage residents to take action to control and mitigate wildfire risks to their property.

- This project will use the Wildland Fire Assessment Program (WFAP) created by the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) and the U.S. Forest Service. The WFAP applies an 82-point checklist of factors that can determine a home's vulnerability to wildfire.
- Assessors will complete the training course provided by the NVFC. As practicable, supplemental training will be obtained from NFPA courses and certifications, and the study of professional research, including publications of the Office of the State Fire Marshall (OSFM) and the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IIBHS).
- Upon completion of the home assessment, the resident will receive a written report of recommendations applicable to their property. All assessments are completely voluntary and free of charge, although residents will be invited to make donations to the GSFSC if they find the assessment to be of value.

Participants: Grove Street Fire Safe Council Board Members, property owners.

Timing: Year-round home assessments.

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: Fire Safe Sonoma, Cal Fire, Sonoma Valley Fire District, Permit Sonoma, PG&E.

Potential Funding Sources: Individual donations, Cal Fire Grants, IIBHS.

Project: Defensible Space Education

Priority: H

Category: Education and Outreach

Goal: To educate and inform residents and property owners regarding the principles of defensible space to minimize structural ignition and damage from wildfire. To create a culture of year-round implementation of defensible space strategies. To provide the knowledge property owners can use to control and mitigate wildfire risks from vegetation adjacent to structures.

- Conduct an ongoing, year-round education/awareness campaign via community workshops and presentations (live and/or virtual), website information, and newsletters to educate residents and property owners about defensible space fuel reduction.
- Conduct educational sessions to show specific examples of defensible space implementation using before-and-after case studies.
- Provide educational brochures, checklists, research articles, and other materials for residents to use as references while implementing defensible space strategies.

Participants: Grove Street Fire Safe Council Board Members, Fire Safe Sonoma, Cal Fire, Sonoma Valley Fire District, Permit Sonoma, PG&E, property owners, licensed arborists, landscape designers, and landscape contractors.

Timing: Year-round educational workshops, presentations, newsletters, and website maintenance. On-site educational sessions scheduled for spring through early fall.
Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: Sonoma Ecology Center, Sonoma Master Gardeners.

Potential Funding Sources: Individual donations, CalFire grants, PG&E grants.

Project: Development of Evacuation Procedures and Protocols

Priority: H

Category: Evacuation

Goal: To develop a comprehensive set of procedures, protocols, and guidelines (the “Evacuation Plan”) for the safe, efficient, and orderly evacuation of the Council area in the event of a wildland fire incident. Grove Street Fire Safe Council, Inc. will collaborate with the following agencies and stakeholders to develop the Evacuation Plan:

- Sonoma County Sheriff’s Office
- Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management
- Sonoma County Department of Public Works
- Cal Fire
- Sonoma Valley Fire District
- Pacific Gas & Electric
- Adjoining landowners

The objective of the Evacuation Plan is to provide residents with practical evacuation guidelines they should follow before and during a wildfire incident. The Evacuation Plan must be developed in collaboration with the above-listed agencies and stakeholders to obtain their approval and authorization.

It is anticipated that the Evacuation Plan will include, but not be limited to, consideration of the following topics:

- Sources of situational awareness.
- Evacuation alerts and notifications.
- Agency roles and functions regarding evacuations.
- Voluntary evacuation procedures and guidelines.
- Shelter in place guidelines.
- Evacuation routes and protocols for their use.
- Evacuation alternatives (Temporary Refuge Areas, Safety Zones).

Participants: Grove Street Fire Safe Council Board Members, Fire Safe Sonoma, Cal Fire, Sonoma Valley Fire District, Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management, Sonoma County Sheriff’s Office, Sonoma County Department of Public Works, PG&E, adjoining property owners.

Timing: It is anticipated that development of the Evacuation Plan will begin in August 2020, with completion as soon as possible, but no later than October 31, 2020.

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: American Red Cross

Potential Funding Sources: Individual donations, CalFire grants, PG&E grants.

Project: Structural Resilience Education

Priority: M

Category: Education

Goal: To educate and inform residents and property owners regarding the principles of fire-wise design and construction to minimize structural ignition and damage from wildfire. To create a culture of year-round implementation of fire-wise design, retrofitting, and construction. To provide residents the knowledge they need to control and mitigate wildfire risks to structures from radiant heat, embers, and direct flame impingement.

- Conduct an ongoing, year-round education/awareness campaign via community workshops and presentations (live and virtual), website information, and newsletters to educate residents and property owners about the sources of structural ignition and the design and construction strategies to mitigate such sources.
- Conduct educational sessions to show specific examples of fire-wise design and construction using before-and-after case studies.
- Provide educational brochures, checklists, research articles, and other materials for residents to use as references while implementing fire-wise design, retrofitting, and construction principles.

Participants: Grove Street Fire Safe Council Board Members, Fire Safe Sonoma, Cal Fire, Sonoma Valley Fire District, Permit Sonoma, PG&E, property owners, licensed contractors, architects, and engineers.

Timing: Year-round educational workshops, presentations, newsletters, and website maintenance. On-site case studies scheduled for spring through early fall.

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety

Potential Funding Sources: Individual donations, CalFire grants, PG&E grants.

Project: Install and Maintain Fire Danger Sign

Priority: MEDIUM

Category/s: Emergency Notification and Communication

Goal: Enhance community awareness of wildfire danger.

- Identify location and install already developed Community Sign as additional form of communication for Red Flag days and other community emergency information
- Develop a protocol for managing sign messaging and maintaining

Participants: Sonoma Valley Fire District, Selected Community Representatives

Timing: April-November, ongoing

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: Sonoma Valley Volunteer Firefighters Association, GSFSC Volunteers

Potential Funding Sources: Individual donations, CalFire grants

Project: Wildland Fire Behavior Education

Priority: L

Category: Education

Goal: To educate and inform residents and property owners about the commonly-accepted fundamental scientific principles of wildland fire behavior. The educational topics will provide residents with knowledge they can use to evaluate wildland fire risks based on fire science research, and to dispel commonly-held misconceptions. The purpose is to encourage better understanding of the sources and nature of wildfire risks in the Wildland Urban Intermix and Interface. The objective is to provide knowledge that residents can use to manage and mitigate wildfire risks and to understand evacuation strategies.

- Conduct an ongoing, year-round education/awareness campaign via community workshops and presentations (live and virtual), website information, and newsletters to inform residents and property owners of the fundamentals of wildland fire behavior.
- General topics will include fundamental aspects of fuels, topography, and weather.
- The general principles will be applied to the specific conditions in the Council area.
- Provide educational brochures, research articles, and other materials for residents to use as references to understand and evaluate risks and the most effective means of mitigating them.

Participants: Grove Street Fire Safe Council Board Members, Fire Safe Sonoma, Cal Fire, Sonoma Valley Fire District, Permit Sonoma, PG&E, property owners, licensed contractors, architects, and engineers.

Timing: Year-round educational workshops, presentations, newsletters, and website maintenance. On-site educational sessions scheduled for spring through early fall.

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IIBHS)

Potential Funding Sources: Individual donations, CalFire grants, PG&E grants.

Project: Fire Meteorology Education

Priority: L

Category: Education

Goal: To educate and inform residents regarding basic meteorological principles relevant to wildfires and how they apply to the Council area. To provide a basic understanding of the large-scale climatological systems that produce Red Flag Warnings so residents may better anticipate them. To provide an understanding of how local meteorological conditions are affected by the large-scale systems and how local fire behavior is affected by local conditions.

- Conduct an ongoing, year-round education/awareness campaign via community workshops and presentations (live and virtual), website information, and newsletters to educate residents and property owners about fundamental meteorological principles applicable to wildfire conditions, prediction, and local effects.
- Provide educational resources, research articles, and other materials to allow residents to understand the causes and nature of fire weather incidents.
- Inform residents of online sources of fire weather conditions, predictions, and data.

Participants: Grove Street Fire Safe Council Board Members, Fire Safe Sonoma, CalFire, PG&E.

Timing: Year-round educational workshops and presentations, newsletters, and website features.

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: National Weather Service, San Jose State Fire Weather Research Laboratory.

Potential Funding Sources: Individual donations, CalFire grants, PG&E grants.

Sources of Funding and Reference for Potential Projects

Below are available programs for potential funding and reference for planning and/or implementing wildfire prevention and community protection in the Grove Street Fire Safe Council CWPP area:

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

This entity provides cost-share funding assistance for forest practice and road related projects through the following program:

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers and forest landowners in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation or improved or created wildlife habitat.

CAL FIRE

CAL FIRE provides cost-share funding assistance for forest stand improvement projects and other vegetation treatments through the following programs:

California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP): The purpose of the CFIP program is to encourage private and public investment in, and improved management of, California forest lands and resources. This focus is to ensure adequate high-quality timber supplies, related employment and other economic benefits, and the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of a productive and stable forest resource system for the benefit of present and future generations.

Vegetation Management Program (VMP): CAL FIRE's VMP is a cost-sharing program that focuses on the use of prescribed fire, and some mechanical means, for addressing wildland fire fuel hazards and other resource management issues on State Responsibility Area (SRA) lands. VMP allows private landowners to enter into a contract with CAL FIRE to use prescribed fire and/or mechanical treatments to accomplish a combination of fire protection and resource management goals. Implementation of VMP projects is by CAL FIRE Units. The projects which fit within a unit's priority areas (e.g., those identified through the Fire Plan) and are considered to be of most value to the unit are those that will be completed. Landowners who choose to apply for participation in the Vegetation Management Program should contact their local Battalion Unit for more details.

CAL FIRE also provides several competitive grant funding programs for vegetation treatments:

California Climate Investments (CCI) grants – Fuels Reduction: CAL FIRE will solicit and competitively award grants that reduce hazardous fuels and are designed to meet greenhouse gas emission objectives. Payments will be made to grantees via

reimbursements. All projects shall be designed to meet greenhouse gas emission objectives. These objectives include increased carbon sequestration in trees retained on the project site, reduction of wildfire hazards to reduce wildfire emissions, utilization of biomass to offset use of fossil fuels, and utilization of solid wood materials to offset emissions resulting from removal of vegetation. Vegetation treatment forestry prescriptions will focus on treating understory trees and brush with a goal of reducing fire hazards, improving tree growth, stabilizing carbon in retained trees, and increasing forest resilience. All projects will include a scientific methodology to calculate and quantify the GHG emission reductions resulting from the project. Priority shall be given to projects which utilize biomass and other solid wood products; provide assurance of achieving and retaining GHG benefits, and projects which are included in a local fire plan or conservation plan; and projects that have a documented assessment of need for providing wildfire protection of human infrastructure and watershed values, while providing other co-benefits (reduced forest pest damage, air-shed improvements in non-attainment air basins, invasive weed control, improvement to wildlife habitat, etc.)

Forest Health (CCI) Grants: The Forest Health GGRF Grant Program is a new program and will use funds provided by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for California Climate Investments administered by CAL FIRE. Through the Forest Health CCI Grant Program, CAL FIRE funds and implements projects to proactively restore forest health in order to reduce greenhouse gases, to protect upper watersheds where the state's water supply originates, to promote the long-term storage of carbon in forest trees and soils, minimize the loss of forest carbon from large, intense wildfires, and to further the goals of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill 32, Health and Safety Code Section 38500 et seq.) (AB 32). Forest Health CCI Grant projects must focus on large, landscape-scale forestlands composed of one or more landowners, which may cover multiple jurisdictions. Projects must be comprised of logical management units and greater consideration will be given to organizations with a proven record of success in achieving consensus-based solutions between stakeholder groups with different priorities and perspectives. Forest Health CCI Grant projects may include reforestation, fuel reduction, pest management, conservation, and biomass utilization intended to increase forest health, increase carbon storage in forests, reduce wildfire emissions and protect upper watersheds, where much of the State's water supply originates. Projects that implement a mix of these activities, with multiple partners will be given priority.

The California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) wildfire prevention grants.

Funding from the California Fire Safe Council is provided through master grants to CFSC by the U. S. Forest Service to administer the Grants Clearinghouse program, with CFSC issuing subawards to successful applicants for the following areas of hazard mitigation competitive grants:

- Hazardous fuels reduction and maintenance projects on non-federal land

- Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) and other planning or assessment documents
- Prevention and mitigation education and outreach opportunities for landowners and residents in at-risk communities