



COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN APPENDIX-B

For the Community of Occidental, California

Development

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was developed by Fire Safe Occidental with guidance and support from Fire Safe Sonoma, the County of Sonoma, and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. This CWPP shall supplement the Sonoma County Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Fire Safe Occidental
<http://firesafeoccidental.org>

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This publication is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information in regard to the subject matter covered. This Community Wildfire Prevention Plan (the Plan) 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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Because the Sonoma County CWPP does not legally commit any public agency to a specific course of action or conduct and thus, is not a project subject to CEQA or NEPA. However, if and once grant funding is received from state or federal agencies and prior to work performed pursuant to the Sonoma County CWPP or a local CWPP, or prior to issuance of discretionary permits or other entitlements by any public agencies to which CEQA or NEPA may apply, the lead agency must consider whether the proposed activity is a project under CEQA or NEPA. If the lead agency makes a determination that the proposed activity is a project subject to CEQA or NEPA, the lead agency must perform environmental review pursuant to CEQA or NEPA.

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APPENDIX B: Occidental CWPP Risk Reduction Projects

Created 15 September 2020

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 Occidental 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 – Projects have been categorized as follows:

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

PROJECT CATEGORIES – Projects have been categorized as follows:

- Access & Evacuation
- Fuels Reduction
- Ignitions Reduction
- Emergency Notification and Communication

A) PROJECT: EARLY WARNING COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS

Priority: High

Category/s: Emergency Notification and Communication

Goal: Ensure earliest possible and most complete alert/warning systems during emergencies

- Continue to work with Sonoma County on harmonizing communications
- Conduct and coordinate ongoing testing of the communication system
- Identify and eliminate dead zones in the electronic emergency alert systems
- Develop and communicate community and neighborhood wide notification procedures and plans during emergencies.
- Include investigating and/or distributing: phone trees, car horns, text, email, automated call systems, NOAA Radios, other technologies.
- Develop informal neighbor notifying neighbor recommendations.

Participants: Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management, Sheriff and residents

Timing: Immediate and ongoing

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: Sonoma County 5th District Supervisor, Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management, Sonoma County Sheriff

Potential Funding Sources: Individual neighborhoods, Sonoma County funds, matching grants

B) PROJECT: FIRE & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AWARENESS

Priority: H

Category/s: Emergency Notification and Communication, Access and Evacuation

Goal: Improve community awareness of evacuation plans, increase preparedness, and minimize confusion to ensure efficient response during an emergency

- Provide community safety training on communication, evacuation, and emergency planning. Include topics:
 - Benefits of early evacuation
 - Emergency "To-do" lists
 - Go-Bags
 - Shelter-in-Place Tips
 - CERT training
 - Special Evacuation Needs
 - Animals
 - Knox box and gate protocols
- Improve evacuation signage
- Perform annual evacuation drills
- Identify and provide evacuation planning information to special needs groups and provide support if appropriate, and educate on early evacuation planning:
- Elderly or other persons with higher needs, especially medical needs, during evacuations
- Properties with large animals -- Advocate for the County to increase large animal shelter capacity and quality
- Airbnb/vacation rentals -- Educate owners of short-term rental properties how best to communicate with renters, provide supporting documentation (maps, brochures etc.)

Participants: Fire Safe Occidental, Community Health Services, property owners, Sonoma County

Timing: To be determined

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: To be determined

Potential Funding Sources: To be determined

C) PROJECT: EVACUATION ROUTE PREPARATION

Priority: H

Category/s: Access & Evacuation, Fuels Reduction, Ignition

Goal: Reduce/remove hazardous vegetation along primary and secondary roads to support ingress and egress of residents evacuating, emergency vehicle access, and reduce wildfire intensity by providing multiple shaded fuel breaks throughout the area.

Improve roadways according to the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection SRA Fire Safe Regulations to increase their safety and to allow for evacuation by the residents and visitors while simultaneously allowing access to the firefighters.

- Create model to simulate evacuation impact during various scenarios to provide real data on traffic impact of tourist, schools, camps and large events in the area (e.g., beginning of the week school night in October vs. Friday night during Farmers Market or Saturday during a biking event when camps are in session.)
- Identify critical areas of concern on both primary and secondary routes and prioritize remediation. Includes:
 - Reduction of roadside tree and vegetation intrusion including the trimming of overhanging branches
 - Removing (cut, pull and/or spray) understory shrubs
 - Pruning and/or selective removal of trees or tree branches that;
 - pose a risk of falling on powerlines (Ignition)
 - trees that may fall on the road and block access (Access & Evac)
 - lower level fuels (dead and alive) that are fuel for fire close to roadway (Fuel Reduction)
 - Removing and/or chipping all cut and dead material
 - Create roadway pullouts where needed to ensure access on narrow roadways
- Clear roadsides to create shaded fuel breaks along all major roadways and appropriate safe egress on smaller roadways
 - Define and execute a plan to capitalize on existing county chipper programs and mobilize other effective programs to chip the brush accumulated while creating fuel breaks
 - Seek funding for contract work to create shaded fuel breaks and clear roadsides where needed
- Develop plan for periodic parcel inspections
 - Establish criteria to provide assistance to residents needing help and unable to do defensible space work along roadways themselves
 - Identify funding and potential resources to implement work
- Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works (TPW) has responsibility to keep the roadway clear of vegetation within their right of way. This distance is usually 5-10 feet from the edge of the road. Beyond the right of way, the responsibility becomes that of

the individual property owner. Environmental review will be required outside of the TPW right of way if government funding will be used for this project.

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

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

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: Sonoma County Fire Mitigation Office, North Bay Civilian Conservation Corp, CAL FIRE.

Potential Funding Sources: To be determined

D) PROJECT: REDUCE IMPACT OF CONSOLIDATED POPULATION LOCATIONS ON EVACUATION

Priority: H

Category/s: Access & Evacuation

Goal: Work in concert with Fire Safe Camp Meeker and business owners to develop a collective evacuation protocol/plan that lowers the impact of the evacuation of consolidated population locations along the Bohemian Corridor (e.g., the education campuses, camps, conference and event centers, and downtown merchants) on the flow of traffic along Bohemian Highway.

- Identify all appropriate contributors
- Educate and ensure commitment
- Identify working group
- Review modeling
- Create preparedness plans and protocols
- Practice

Participants: CYO Camp, Bohemian Corridor Business Alliance, Camp Dorothy's Rest, Alliance Redwoods Camp, Westminster Woods Conference Center, Harmony Elementary, and Salmon Creek Middle School

Timing: To be determined

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: To be determined

Potential Funding Sources: To be determined

E) PROJECT: IMPROVING ROADWAY NAVIGATION DURING PERIODS OF EXTREMELY LOW VISIBILITY

Priority: H

Category/s: Access and Evacuation

Goal: Install reflectors or other highly visible markings on roadways to ensure that both evacuees and firefighters and other first responders can easily navigate the high ridges, steep curves and sharp drop-offs along the narrow roads in the Occidental area.

- Identify best practices and work with the Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works Roads Division to ensure the selected product is appropriate for the region
- Secure funding for installation and, if necessary, maintenance
- Secure agreement from the owners along private roadways to install along those roads
- Install and maintain

Participants: Fire Safe Occidental, Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works Roads Division, property owners

Timing: Year-round

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works Roads Division

Potential Funding Sources: To be determined

F) PROJECT: ALTERNATE EVACUATION ROUTE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Priority: M

Category/s: Access & Evacuation

Goal: Create essential secondary egress routes currently lacking on approximately 57% of the roadways in the Services District.

- In collaboration with neighborhood groups, identify potential secondary evacuation routes and the associated property owners of those routes
- Ensure property owner cooperation/collaboration
- Create or improve additional evacuation routes
- Install signage where appropriate
- Maintain alternative evacuation routes
- Develop usage protocols and best practices
- Communicate with residents of the area and conduct annual drills

Participants: Residents and property owners

Timing: Ongoing towards the accomplishment of as many secondary routes as practical.

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: To be determined

Potential Funding Sources: To be determined

G) PROJECT: IF TRAPPED - EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

Priority: M

Category/s: Access and Evacuation

Goal: Identify and provide information on what to do when fire is imminent and evacuation by road is impossible in order to provide the best possible option for survival, communication, and eventual evacuation/rescue.

- Locate resources such as CAL FIRE's Ready for Wildfire "What To Do If You become Trapped", UCCE Fire in California's "What To Do When Trapped" and other reliable sources and create local materials with information on what to do if trapped by wildfire.
- As part of the outreach, include a list of essential equipment to include alternate communication, survival and first aid equipment
- Train neighborhood leaders to train the members of their community on on what to do if trapped by wildfire.
- Provide Wilderness Rescue and First Responder training for at least one person per neighborhood and include as part of any CERT training throughout community

Participants: Fire Safe Occidental, property owners

Timing: Year-round

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: To be determined

Potential Funding Sources: To be determined

H) PROJECT: FIRE SERVICES ACCESS TO WILLOW CREEK NORTH THROUGH WILLOW CREEK NATURE PRESERVE

Priority: L

Category/s: Access & Evacuation

Goal: Restore the county owned roadway from Willow Creek through the Nature Preserve enough to allow fire truck access.

- Assess remains of existing road
- Obtain bids for rehabilitation of road
- Solicit assistance from Sonoma county, State Parks, and other stakeholders to fund project
- Select contractor and manage project

Participants: Sonoma County, State Parks, and other residents

Timing: To be determined

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: Sonoma County, State Parks

Potential Funding Sources: Sonoma County, State Parks

I) PROJECT: IMPACT OF SHORT-TERM VACATION RENTAL OCCUPANCY ON IGNITION REDUCTION AND EVACUATION

Priority: L

Category/s: Access and Evacuation, Ignition Reduction

Goal: Evaluate and mitigate the impact of short-term vacation rentals on ignition reduction and evacuation

Understand the impact of short-term vacation rentals on ignition reduction and evacuation plans and create recommendations and support material for property owners to decrease risks associated with this population.

- Identify the number of short-term vacation rental properties and occupancy rates in the OCSD area
- Figure out what if any education/preparation is done for the renters
- Model evacuation during periods of high occupancy
- Prepare materials and educate owners on the risks and liabilities associated
- Investigate the regulations for short-term rental properties and lobby for improvement if appropriate

Participants: Fire Safe Occidental, the County Supervisor's Office

Timing: Year-round

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: To be determined

Potential Funding Sources: To be determined

J) PROJECT: FUELS REDUCTION ON LARGE CONNECTED PROPERTIES

Priority: H

Category/s: Fuels Reduction

Goal: Mitigate the fuel risk on large areas deemed to be highest risk to major conflagration, particularly along primary egress routes such as Harrison Grade Road, Joy Road and Willow Creek Road.

- Collaborate with State and local agencies to identify specific risk mitigation needs on governmental properties
- Collaborate to encourage and support private landowners to reduce the fuel load on their property
- Monitor progress

Participants: Sonoma County and public and private landowners

Timing: Year-round

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: State of California Department of Fish and Wildlife, CAL FIRE, Occidental Community Services District, Occidental Volunteer Fire Department

Potential Funding Sources: To be determined

K) PROJECT: CREATE COLLABORATION TO ADDRESS WATERSHED-WIDE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Priority: H

Category/s: Fuels Reduction

Goal: Coordinate local workshops on developing Forest Management Plans and THPs

- Engage with existing fuels and timber management programs to reduce potential fuel
- Educate local landowners about CVTP Vegetation Thinning Grant
- Educate local landowners on Forest management best practices to reduce fuels and improve forest health
- Explore opportunities to restore old-growth characteristics of forests to benefit fish, water quality and birds, and reduce erosion by fuel/veg removal. Fuel thinning may also improve or maintain the quality of in-stream aquatic habitat for endangered Coho and steelhead. Managing redwood forests to restore fire-resilient old-growth characteristics can also enhance water quality, streambed rehabilitation, and sensitive species in the riparian/redwood ecosystem.
- Bring together officials and groups of residents who may be interested in engaging in these projects
- Identify funding opportunities and collaborative relationships with Civilian Conservation Core (CCC)
- Investigate using an Air curtain burner in appropriate areas

Participants: CAL FIRE, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, Fire Safe Occidental, property owners

Timing: To be determined

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: Bohemian Highway Corridor forest property owners, retreat centers and religious camps

Potential Funding Sources: To be determined

L) PROJECT: ADDRESS THE ONGOING NEED FOR CHIPPER RESOURCES

Priority: M

Category/s: Fuels Reduction

Goal: Decrease area fuel through increased access to chipper resources to minimize air quality impact of controlled burns and to expand the fuel reduction activity throughout the area beyond the months of allowable controlled burns.

- Support the purchase of a dedicated chipper for Occidental and advocate for personnel to execute chipping throughout area
- Research and apply for grants to increase access to chipper equipment and crews
- Investigate and fund biochar facility to remove chipped matter and transform into energy
- In conjunction with North Bay Conservation Corp, apply for crews to mitigate highest risk areas of fuel loads

Participants:

Timing: Year-round

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: North Bay Civilian Conservation Corp

Potential Funding Sources: To be determined

M) PROJECT: IDENTIFY FUELS REDUCTION AREAS OF HIGHEST RISK

Priority: M

Category/s: Fuels Reduction

Goal: Identify the strategic priorities for fuel reduction in the locations deemed to be strategically important to block the movement of fires.

Secure High-Resolution Fuel Mapping Models for Western Sonoma County to clearly identify areas at highest risk in order to effectively target large fuel reduction efforts

- Evaluate available mapping programs and select
- Coordinate with local fire department, Fire Safe Sonoma and other agencies to ensure work is additive to other programs and capitalizes on applications already in use
- Do analysis of Occidental area and make community-wide recommendations for needed fuel reduction priorities

Participate in:

- Sonoma County planning processes including the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan (Wildland Fire Hazards Element)
- The update to the Sonoma County CWPP and General Plan

Participants: Fire Safe Occidental, Sonoma County

Timing: Year-round

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: Fire Safe Sonoma, Sonoma County CWPP and FEMA Hazard Mitigation and General Plan update planning efforts

Potential Funding Sources: To be determined

N) PROJECT: HOME AND PROPERTY HARDENING

Priority: H

Category/s: Ignition Reduction, Fuels Reduction

Goal: Minimize structural ignition and damage from wildfire (from radiant heat, embers, and direct flame impingement) by retrofitting existing structures, especially in the concentrated areas of historic buildings in downtown Occidental and Camp Meeker.

- Conduct an education/awareness campaign via community presentations, site visits, and inspections/assessments
- Seek funding for contractors to create defensible space and funding for residents and/or property owners who may need financial assistance
- Establish criteria for providing funding
- Work closely with the property owners and the Historic Preservation Society to develop strategies and funding to appropriately harden the downtown timber-built structures and closely built older housing in Camp Meeker
- Assign a designated liaison between the Fire Safe Occidental Steering Committee and the Fire Safe Camp Meeker Board

Goal: Minimize structural ignition and damage from wildfire and reduce adjacent fuel load for residents that are elderly or low-income and unable to complete the work themselves

- Conduct an education/awareness campaign on structural hardening via community presentations, site visits, newsletters, website, social media, and bringing in experts and other resources to motivate action on the part of property owners
- Identify the 5 least expensive home hardening projects and educate on those
- Resource inspections/assessments for property owners
- Seek funding for contractors and volunteers to provide home hardening for residents and/or property owners who may need financial assistance
- Establish criteria for providing funding

Goal: Increase the percentage of structures in the area that meet home hardening and defensible space best practices

- Conduct an education/awareness campaign on structural hardening via community presentations, site visits, newsletters, website, social media, and bringing in experts and other resources to motivate action on the part of property owners
- Resource inspections/assessments for property owners
- Provide resource lists for property owners for efficient purchase and installation of home hardening elements

Participants: Licensed contractors, Fire Safe Occidental, Fire Safe Camp Meeker, property owners, Permit Sonoma

Timing: Year-round

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: To be determined

Potential Funding Sources: To be determined

R) PROJECT: UTILITY COMPANY

Priority: M

Category/s: Ignition Reduction

Goal: Take advantage of new opportunities being presented by PG&E to engage with the utility and other stakeholders to assist in, unifying the utility's infrastructure protection and the community's forest health interests, while, at the same time, reducing the risk of fire ignition due to the ageing infrastructure.

- Meet with relevant stakeholders, officials from PG&E and the Wildfire Safety Division of the CPUC as part of the mandate within the current 2020 PGE Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) and 2021 plan as it is developed to meet with local fire safe councils.

Participants: Fire Safe Occidental, the County Supervisor's Office, CPUC Wildfire Safety Division, PG&E

Timing: Year-round

Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs: Public Utilities Commission

Potential Funding Sources: To be determined

