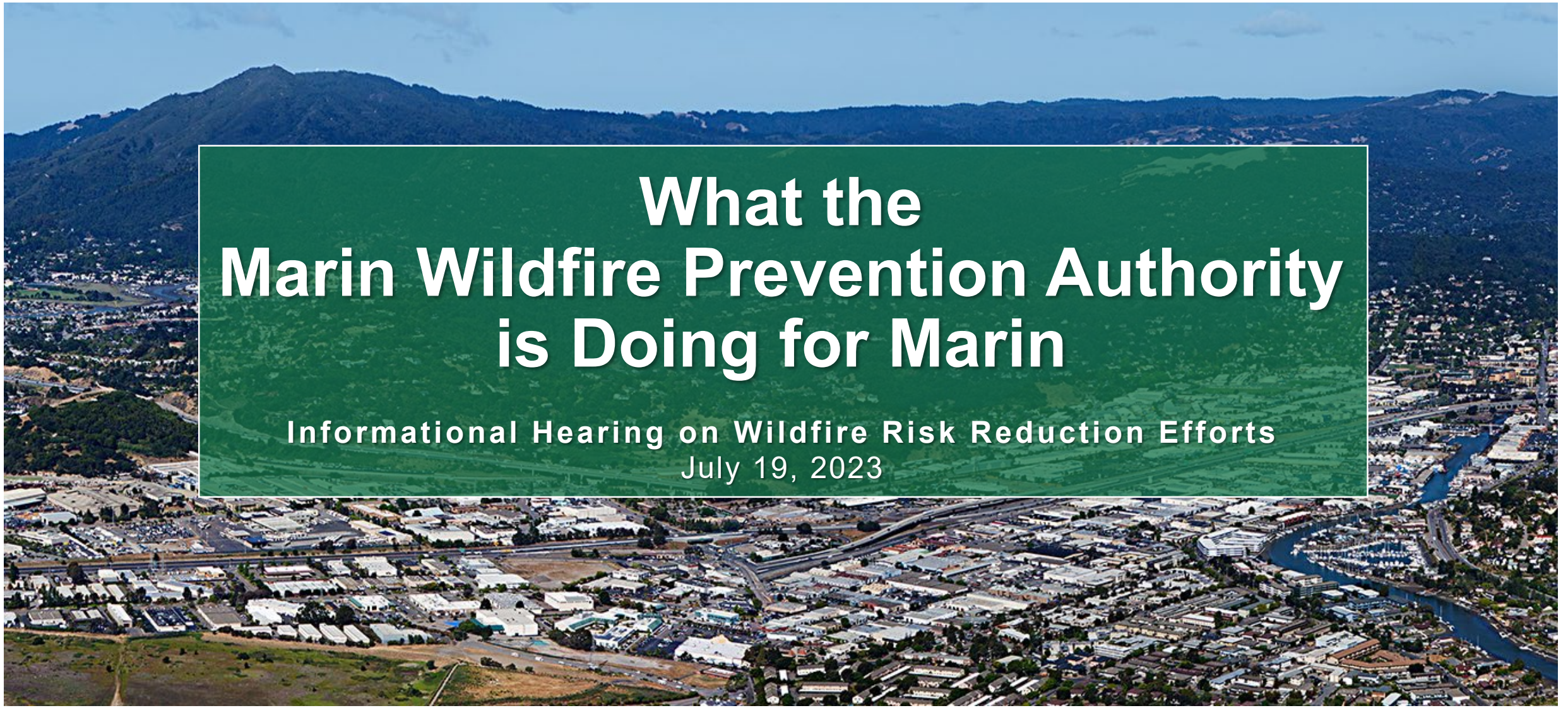
MARIN WILDFIRE PREVENTION AUTHORITY

Investing in a Fire Adapted Marin County



What the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority is Doing for Marin

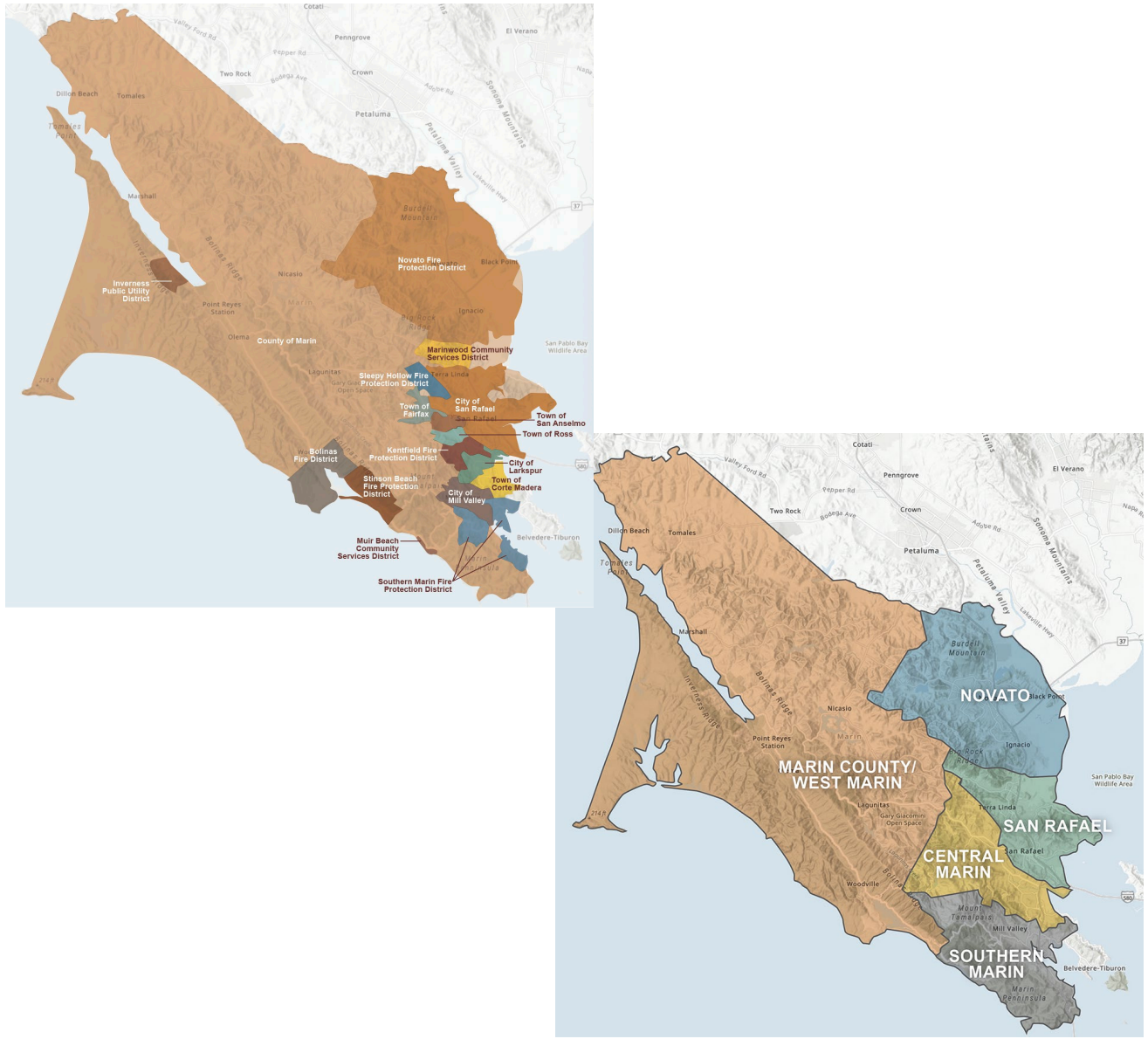
Informational Hearing on Wildfire Risk Reduction Efforts

July 19, 2023

- **Mark Brown – Executive Officer**

Marin County – Leading the Way in Fire Prevention

- Coordination of effort across 17 jurisdictions
- Full community support
- Recognizes climate change as an accelerant and environmental resilience as a solution
- Everyone has a role to play
- Comprehensive, long-term plan



MWPA Vision

The Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority communities are informed, prepared, fire adapted, resilient and capable of withstanding a major fire limiting loss of life and major property damage while protecting our rich environmental diversity.

MWPA Goals Areas

Reduce Wildfire Fuels

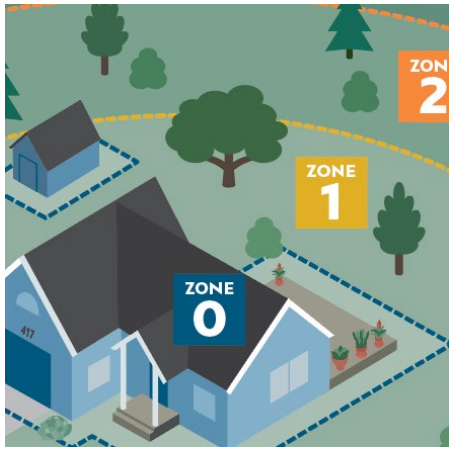
Vegetation Management and Local Wildfire Prevention Mitigation

Improve Evacuation Systems

Wildfire Detection, Alert, and Evacuation Program Improvements

Reduce Risks to Homes

Defensible Space Evaluations (1/3 annually) and Home Hardening



Educate the Public

Public outreach and education about fire prevention, preparedness, and risk reduction

Provide Grants to Residents

Grants to modify homes and partnerships to collaborate and augment funds

MWPA: Funding Allocations

Program Area	% of funds
JPA Core: Cross-Jurisdictional Projects Wildfire Detection & Evacuation Program Improvements, Veg Management/Fire Hazard Reduction, Grants Management, Public Education (Fire Safe Marin)	**60%**
Defensible Space Evaluations and Home Hardening (agencies can administer)	**20%**
Community-Level Wildfire Prevention Mitigation Local jurisdiction fire prevention issues with no funding. Enhanced fire patrols for problem areas, additional fire hazard reduction work, evac route parking issues	**20%**

2020-2030: **10-year term**

~$20 MM revenue per year

Everyone Has a Role to Play

The Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority leads the development of fire adapted communities using sound scientific, financial, programmatic, ecological practices, vegetation management, community education, evacuation and warning systems with the support of its member and partner agencies.

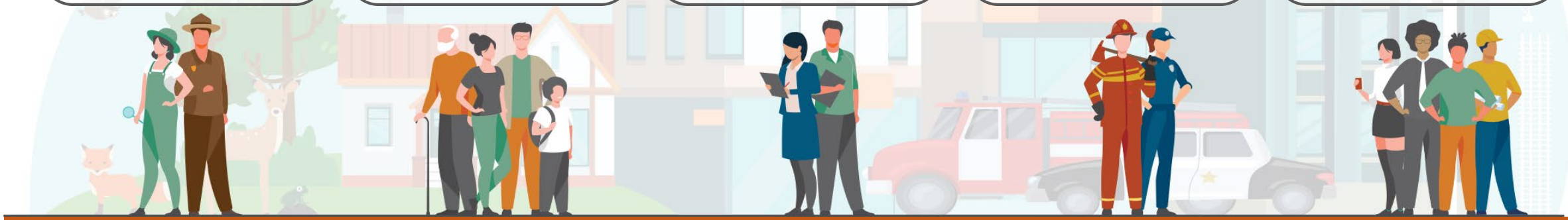
Land Managers
Manage landscapes for lowered fuel loads, lower fire intensity and ecological resiliency to fire.

Marin Residents
Modify homes to be more fire resistant. Be prepared and subscribe to alerts.

Civic Leaders
Develop laws and policies in support of fire prevention, preparedness and risk reduction.

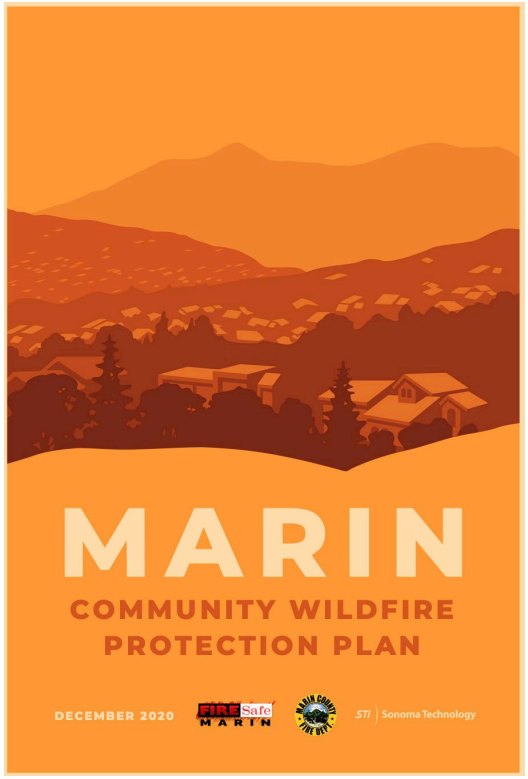
First Responders
Craft fire prevention, preparedness, and emergency response plans. Educate community.

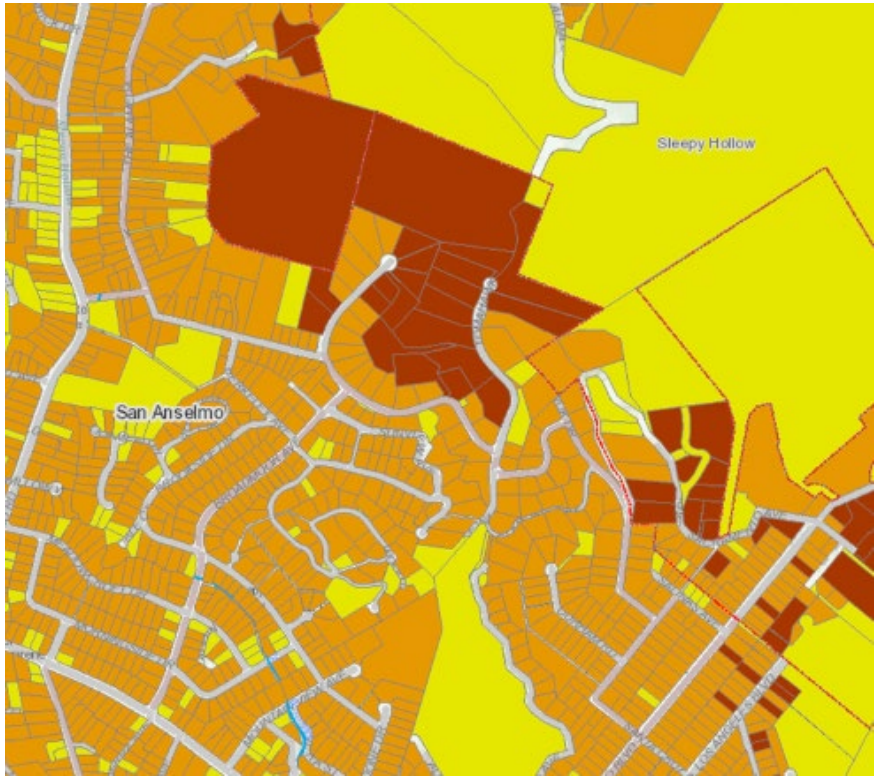
Developers & Business Owners
Don't build in high-risk areas. Build with fire-resistant materials.



Leading the Development of a Fire Adapted Marin

Guided by Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)



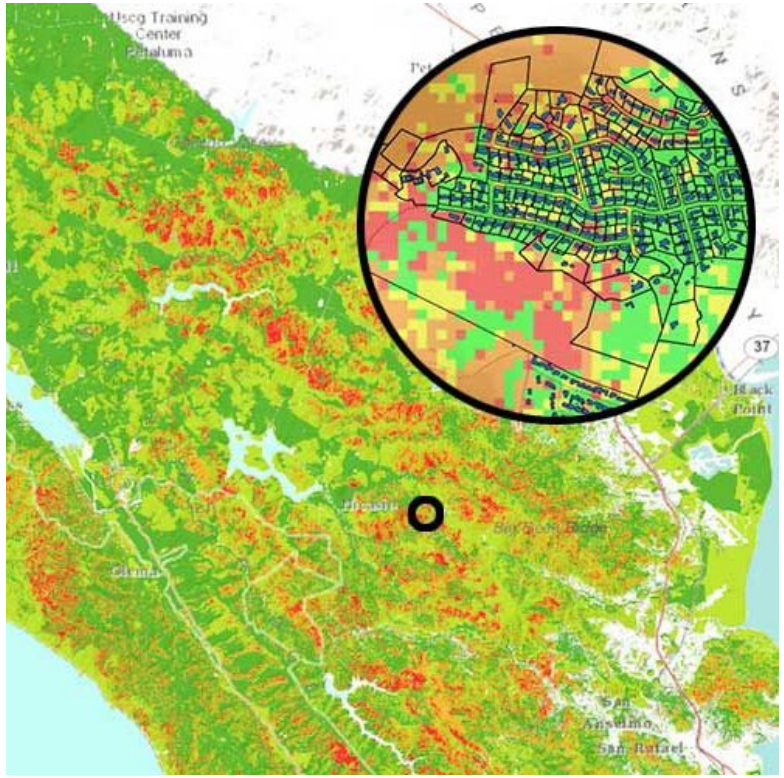


Marin County CWPP: Provides county-wide framework for MWPA's annual work plans and investments—updated annually.

- **LIDAR data:** funded by a 2019 federal grant
- Conducted a **Fire Risk Assessment for every parcel and home** in Marin
- Identifies **critical hazards & investments needed to reduce risks**

House Out Approach

Emphasizing importance of individual homes in preventing disaster



Parcel-level data

Harden Homes

Defensible Space

Grants to help low-income residents and those with access and functional needs to get it done

Defensible Space Evaluations

- Nearly 34,000 inspections performed in 2022 (approximately 80,000 residential properties)
- 60% took action
- Direct Connect to IBHS Wildfire Prepared Home Designation
- Safer from Wildfire

Resident Grant Programs

- Defensible Space Grants:
  - Up to $1,000 per property – no match required.
- Home Hardening Grants:
  - Up to $5,000 per property – some items require 50% match.
- $800,000 allocated for FY 23/24 & $800K for prior, FY 22/23
- Statistics – for every dollar spent by the MWPA, two dollars are spent by residents.

MWPA Grants may be available to help (learn more)

Click here to start your application

Chipper Days

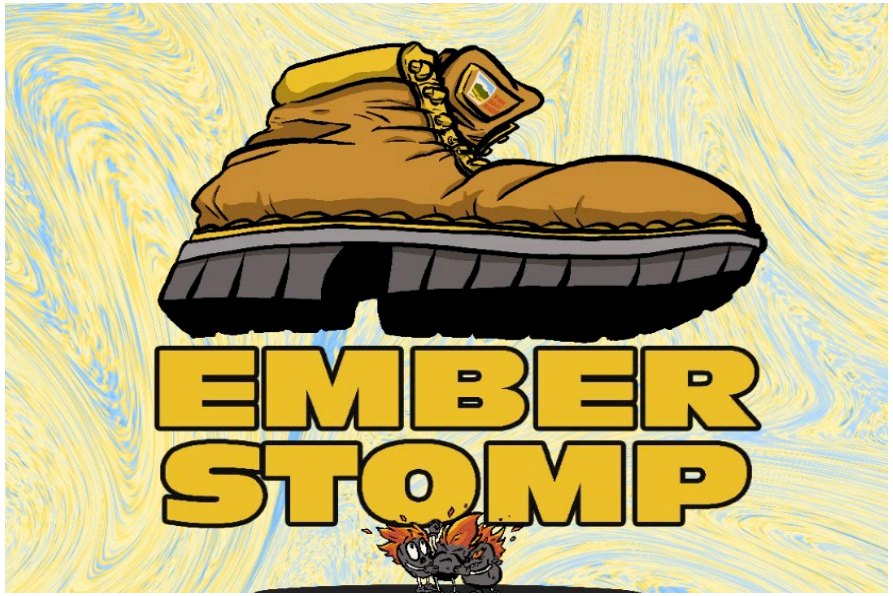
- Direct link from our Defensible Space Evaluation Program
- 2022 Season:
  - 3,307 pick-ups and removal
  - 10,507 yards removed (1,051 dump trucks)
- 2023 Season – pickups started May 15:
  - All residents get 5 pick-up days
  - Online pre-registration required: https://reserve.chipperday.com/marin

Upcoming Chipper Events

Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority provides free "**chipper days**" for residents living in Marin's Wildland Urban Interface areas.

REGISTER FOR FREE PICK-UP

Public Education



Evacuation Route Clearing

Evacuation Risk Assessment

Photo: Alan Dep, Marin Independent Journal
Lassen Fire, September 2021, San Rafael, California

- Ingress/egress risk assessment
- App development: Fire risk analysis to help prioritize projects
- Roadway terrain and condition
- Traffic patterns
- Number of cars
- Pinch points
- Sync traffic preemption devices (i.e., green lights in a certain direction)
- Demographics of community (such as access and functional needs)

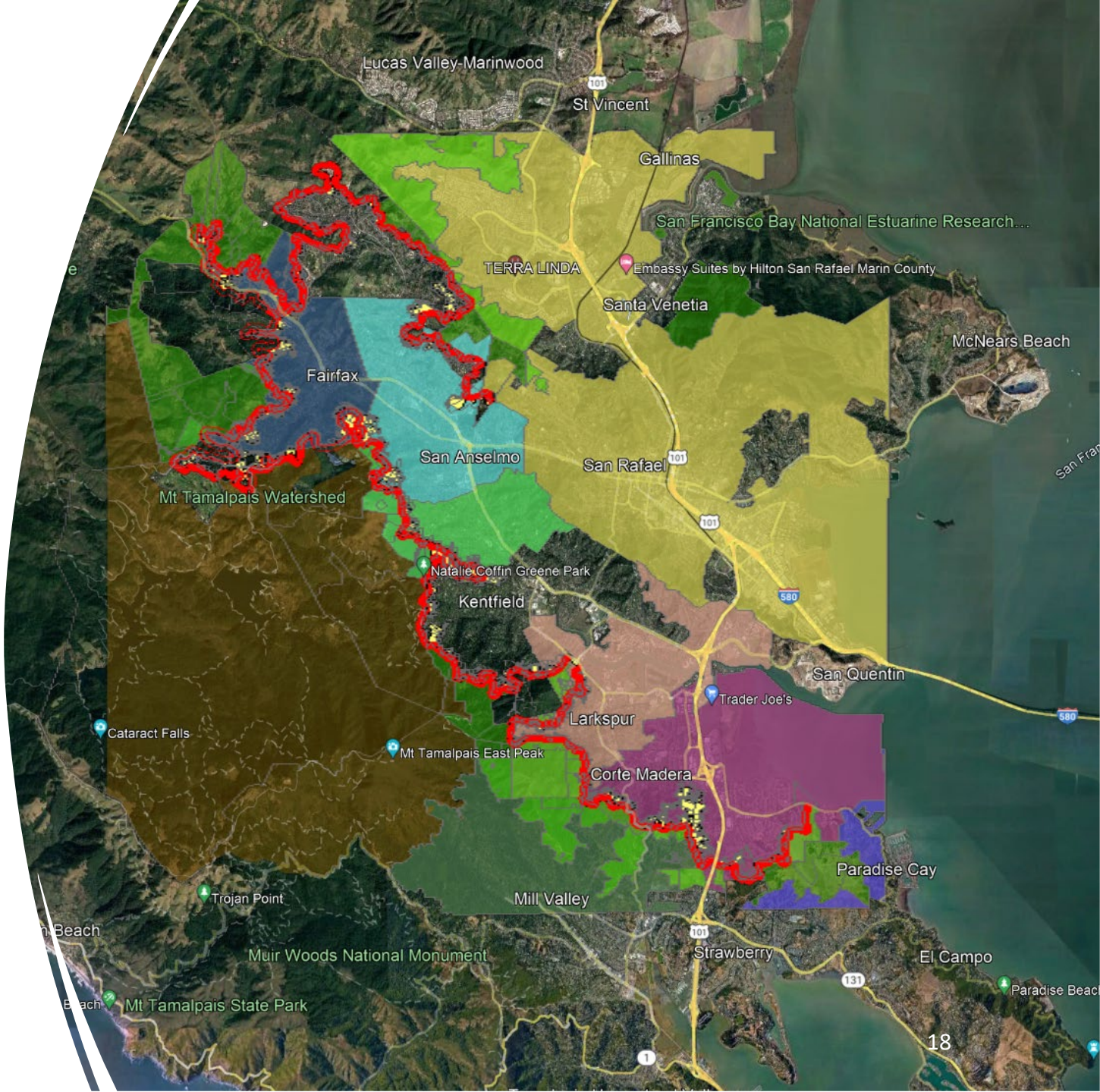
Prescribed Herbivory

Shaded Fuel Breaks

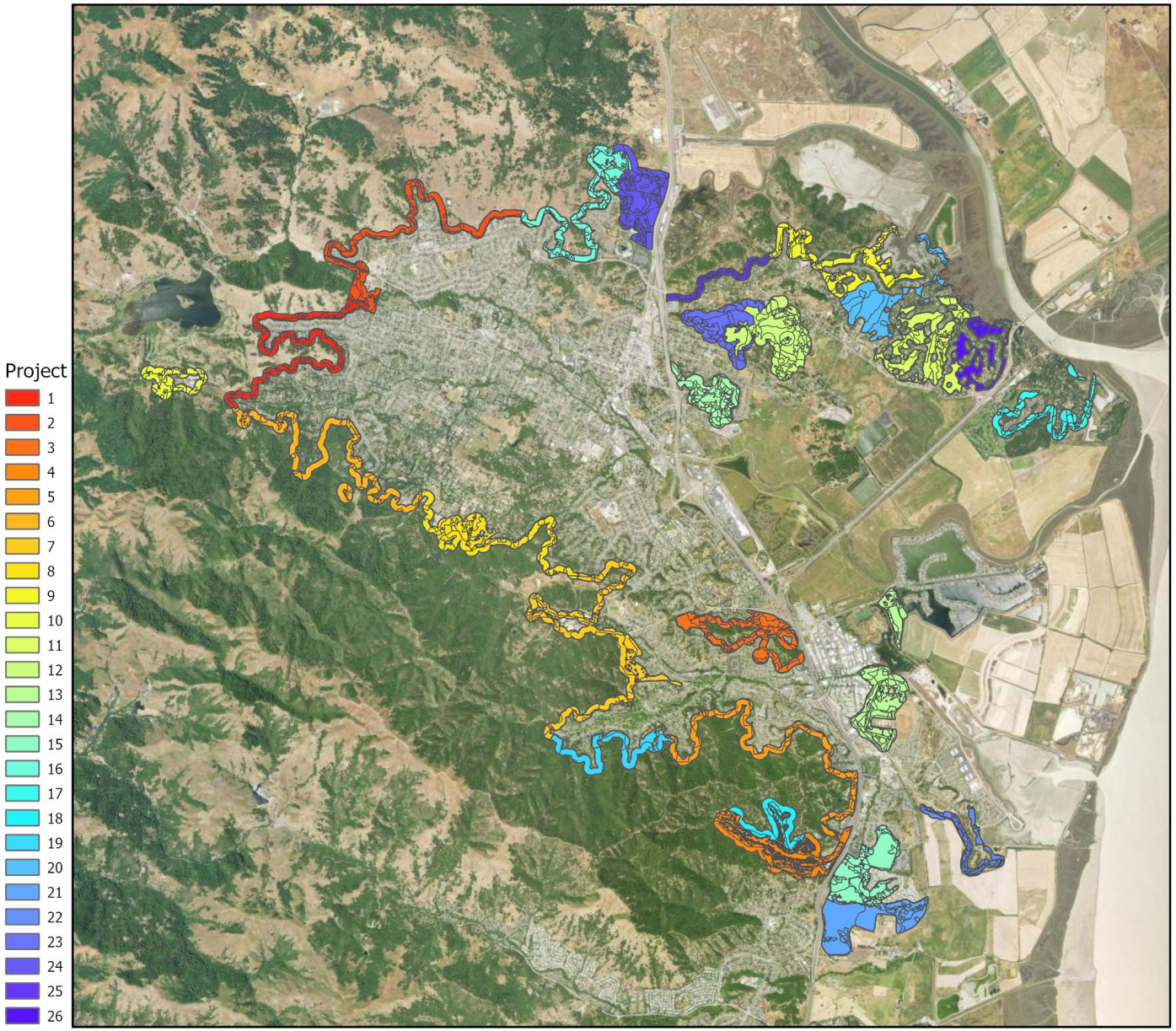
- Shaded Fuel Breaks along the Wildland Urban Interface.
- 100’-300’ Defensible Space.
- Several levels of community engagement.
- What does success look like?
- Where are we building them?
- How do we design these fuel breaks?
- How do we construct them?
- How do we maintain them?

Greater Ross Valley Shaded Fuel Break

- 38 miles in the Ross Valley
- Phase 1 is completed (16 miles)



Prioritization Based on Modeling Outcome



Prioritization Results

- Based on fire threat risk and community exposure
- Modeling results were reviewed for water features and vegetation types
- Still undergoing final QA/QC
- Prioritization is one tool to support Novato Fire District in determining where to work first. Other considerations also help determine where to begin vegetation management work.

Questions?