



California Code Adoption and Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update

Jesse Oswald, Chief Building Official
Ian Hardage, Assistant Fire Marshal
Paul Lowenthal, Assistant Fire Marshal

BACKGROUND

California's building codes are published in their entirety every three years. The California Fire Code is included in this series of codes.



The 2019 California Building Standards Code (CA Code Regs., Title 24) was published as of July 1, 2019, and the effective date of the 2019 Code will be January 1, 2020, upon successful adoption.

BACKGROUND

In February of this year a committee was formed through the Sonoma County Fire Prevention Officers' Association to review and prepare updates for the 2019 California Fire and Building Codes.



The focus of the committee is to be as consistent as possible with the proposed code amendments and to focus on a more harmonious alignment with the model code as well as incorporate scientific based language at the local level for our WUI areas.

New Regulations

Collaborative effort to evaluate our local conditions and make informed decisions with a scientific backing that will address home hardening and defensible space concerns in our WUI areas.



New Regulations

- Examples of more restrictive amendments:
 - Two points of access for developments
 - Limitations on type of plan materials in WUI areas
 - Prohibited specific ground cover materials
 - Vegetation restrictions within 3-5 feet from structures
 - 7A upgrade for significant remodels/additions
 - Non-combustible gates and/or attachments to structures
 - Various clean-up associated with fire protection system design and installation requirements
 - Clean-up language for life safety measures in hazardous processing rooms

California Building & Residential Codes – Emergency Housing Requirements

- In 2017 the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) provided optional and temporary Emergency Housing measures.
- In 2018 HCD proposed the measures be permanently included in the upcoming (2019) Code adoptions as appendices.
- As appendices the measures must be specifically adopted by local jurisdictions.
- The adoption will provide minimum standards and requirements for implementation.

California Energy Code adoption with All-Electric Reach Code

- Climate Action Subcommittee provided direction to pursue an all-electric reach code adoption.
- Partnerships with the Regional Climate Protection Agency, Sonoma Clean Power, Bay Area Regional Energy Network and others continue to provide outreach, public engagement and development of necessary ordinances.
- The California Energy Commission Requires a Cost-Effectiveness Study for any ordinance more stringent than base-energy code minimum requirements. The study is anticipated to be complete/accepted in mid-July.
- The cost-effectiveness study will likely allow adoption of the FULL Tier-1 California Green Code measures. All previous Tier-1 adoptions did not include the energy-efficiency measures.

Code Conclusion

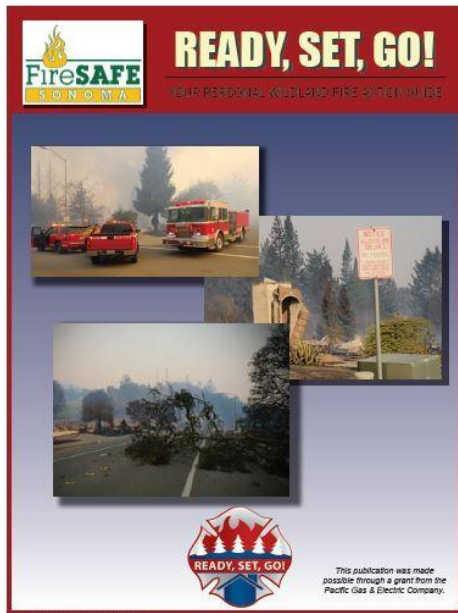
We are in the process of peer reviewing with all County fire agencies as well as other industry professionals, private industry representatives, Redwood Empire Association of Code Officials representatives and fire operations personnel.

This presentation is an opportunity to provide the City Council with an update of the language that is intended to be scheduled for an October Council meeting when we present the triennial code adoption package.

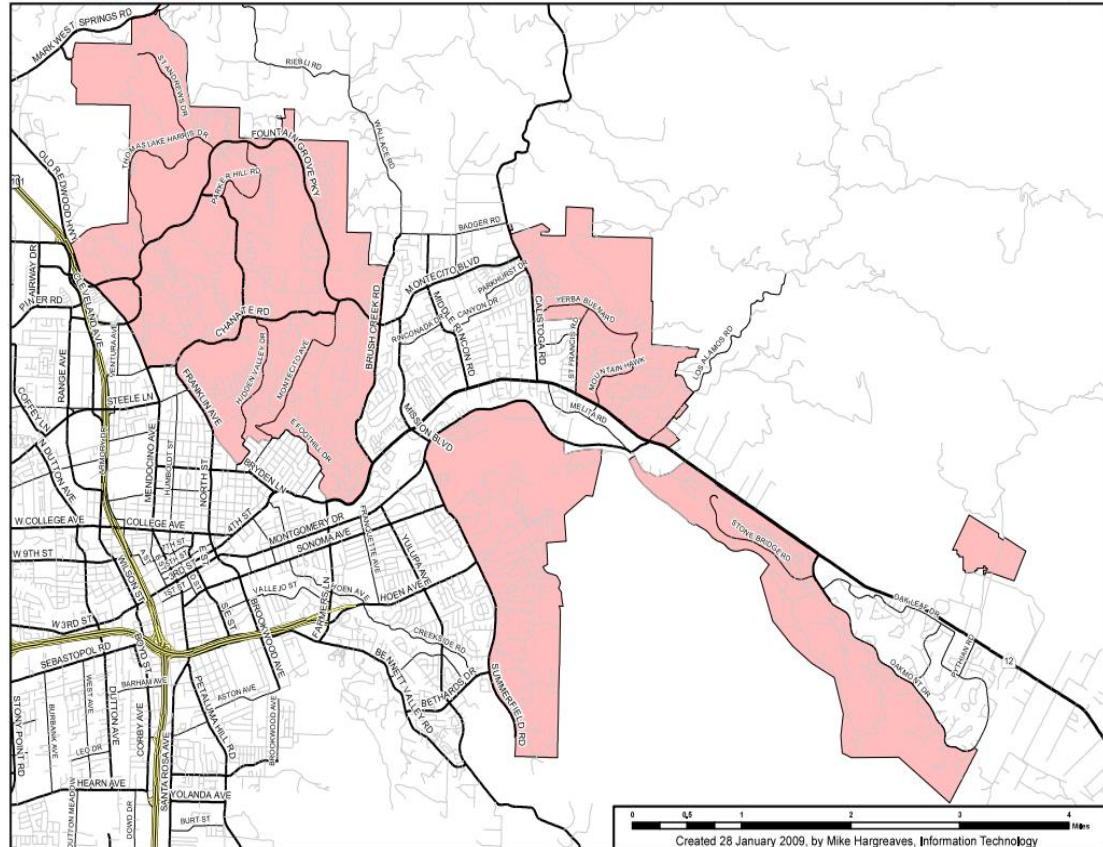
Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

- In December 2017 a grant was written with a focus to develop an annex to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (specific to the Wildfire section) and to craft a CWPP.
- In June 2018 we were awarded funding through FEMA to move forward with this project.
- In December 2018 and January 2019 the Fire Department put out an RFP for firms to assist with the development of this plan.
- In April of 2019 Council approved the Fire Departments recommendation to award the contract to Geo Elements, LLC.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)



Wildland - Urban Interface Fire Area Map



Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

- After approval by Council of the Geo Elements, LLC contract, the Fire Department established a Steering Committee and meetings have been initiated.
- The focus was to define our plan area, components of the plan and determine a path forward to meet our community needs.
- Three public meetings are scheduled for July 22, July 25 and August 14, 2019.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

- Focus is to provide adequate public outreach and meeting opportunities to enable public participation in the crafting of the plan.
- Work with the Steering Committee to ensure we stay on task based on the established goals and objectives.
- Develop a plan that identifies and addresses local hazards and provides a road map to address them for our community.
- Final outcome is to bring a plan before Council by June 2020 for approval and implementation within our community.

Questions?

