

# Evaluation of sewer laterals and suspension of sewer flow from properties destroyed in Tubbs Fire

City Council Meeting  
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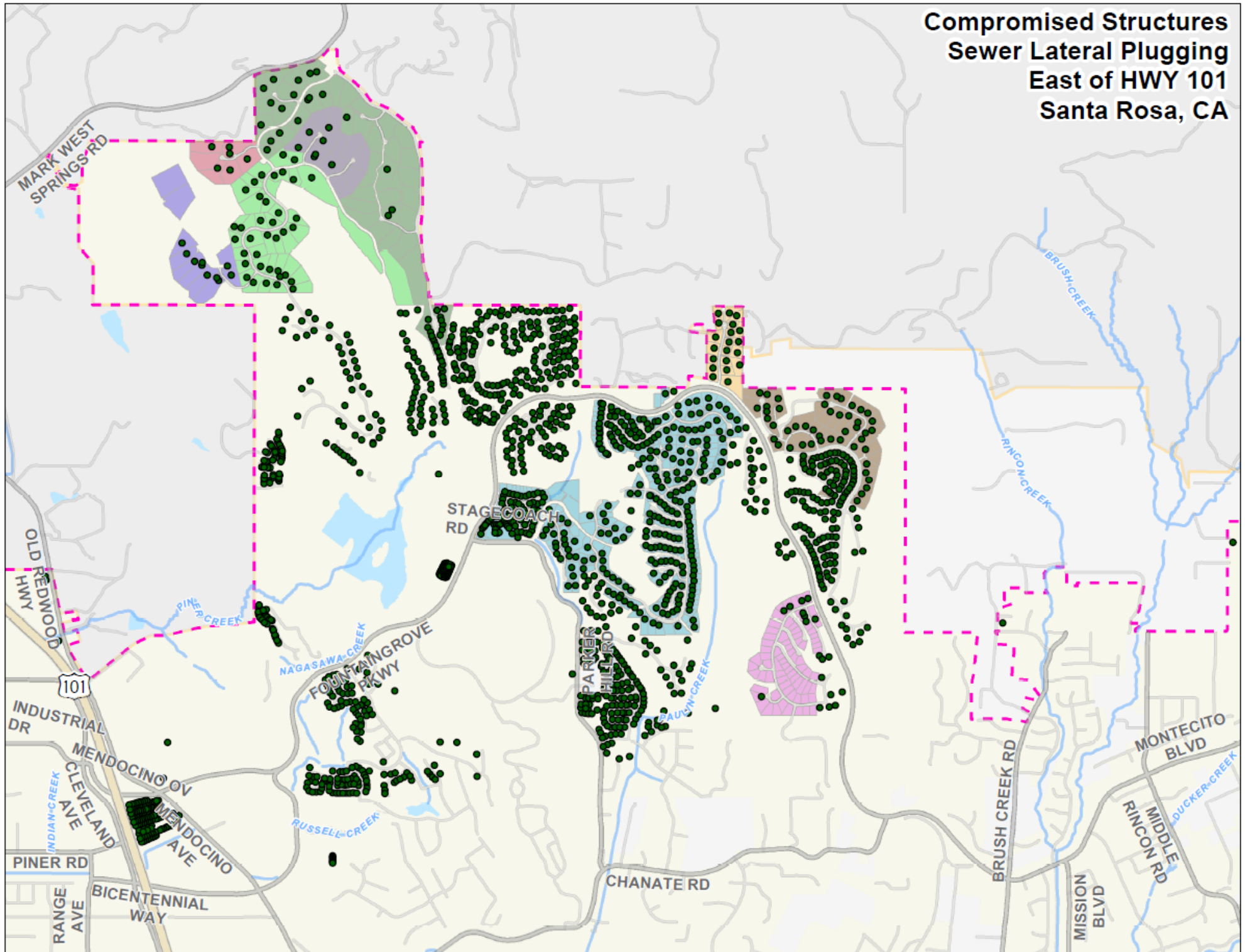
Santa Rosa Water | Our Future in Every Drop

# Background

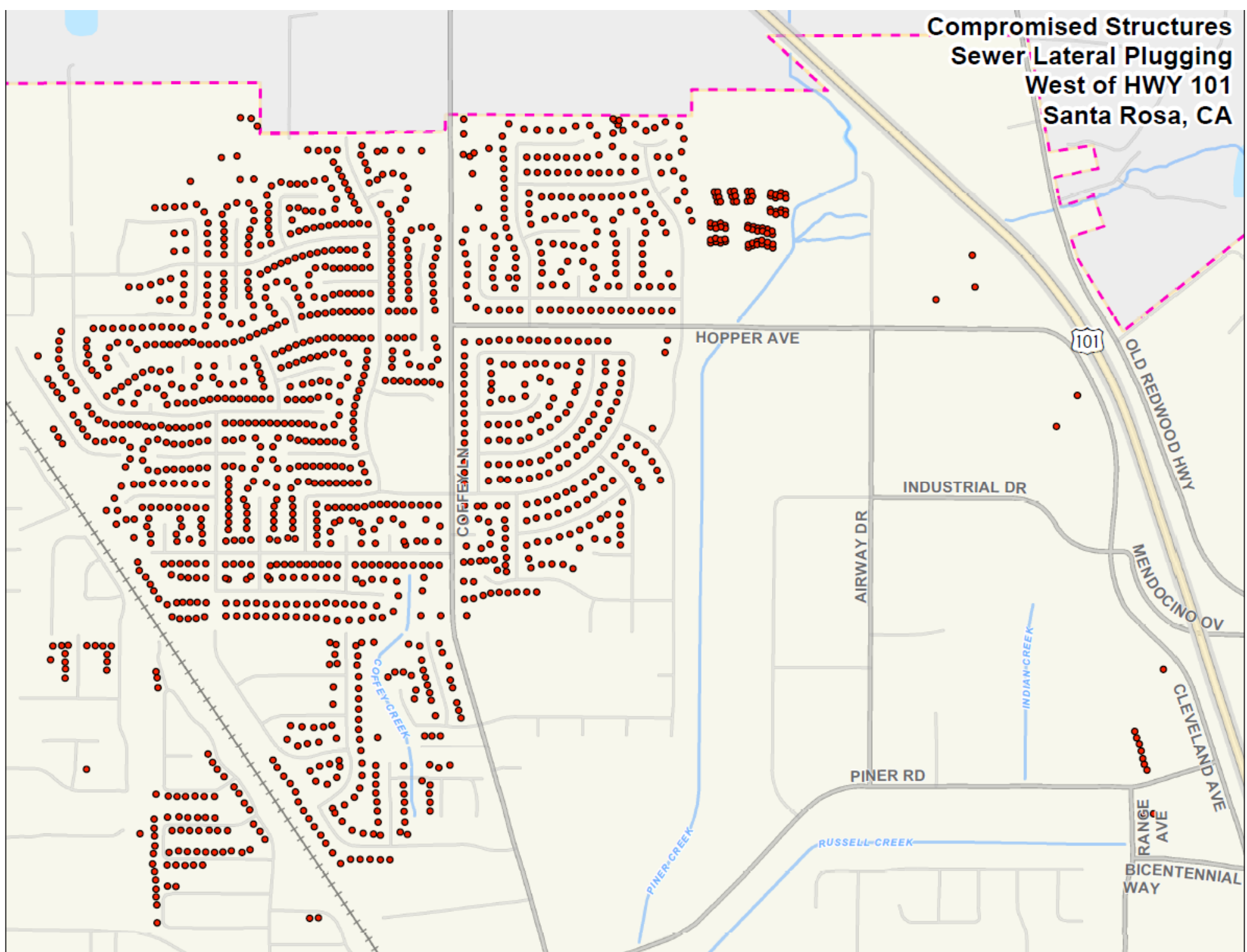
- Approximately 3,000 residential and commercial properties destroyed in Tubbs Fire
- Sewer laterals likely damaged, broken and/or leaking
- As part of debris clean-up, sewer laterals will be plugged



Compromised Structures  
Sewer Lateral Plugging  
East of HWY 101  
Santa Rosa, CA



**Compromised Structures  
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# City Code - Sewer

- City Code Section 15-04.035 – Sewer customers responsible for maintaining sewer laterals free of breaks, leaks and obstructions
- City Code Section 15-06.140 – Water Director right to immediately suspend discharge, after notice and opportunity to respond, that interferes with operation of Treatment Plant





# Debris Clean Up

- Army Corps implementing debris clean-up which includes sewer lateral plugging
- City coordinating closely with Army Corps
- 300 sites cleared by Army Corps as of 12/5
- Clean-up to continue throughout winter



# Threat to Sewer System

- Storms to date have been minor with limited rainfall and duration
- Additional staff time and resources have been needed to address sewer flow in Fountaingrove during storms
- Staff concerned about potential for extended periods of rain with higher intensity storms



# Sewer Lateral Plugging

- City efforts will augment Army Corps and private efforts to plug as many laterals as quickly as possible
- City efforts will be done as cost-effectively and expeditiously as possible with minimal impact to the private properties
- City will send letters to all property owners providing two weeks to respond with alternate sewer lateral plugging plan





# Sewer Lateral Plugging

- Contracts out to bid for Fountaingrove and Upper Hidden Valley areas
- Bids will be opened December 14<sup>th</sup>
- Contract to be considered by Council on December 19<sup>th</sup>
- Funds available in Wastewater CIP contingency



# Recommendation

It is recommended by the Water Department that Council, by resolution, authorize the Director of Santa Rosa Water, his staff and his delegates limited access to enter upon damaged or destroyed properties within the City located in the Tubbs fire area in order to evaluate and determine whether it is necessary, and where determined it is necessary, to immediately suspend the user's discharge into the City's Public Owned Treatment Works by the temporary plugging of the sewer lateral to prevent discharge to the Public Owned Treatment Works (POTW).

