



# Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Third Annual Report

City Council Meeting  
January 30, 2024

Paul Lowenthal  
Fire Marshal, Fire Department

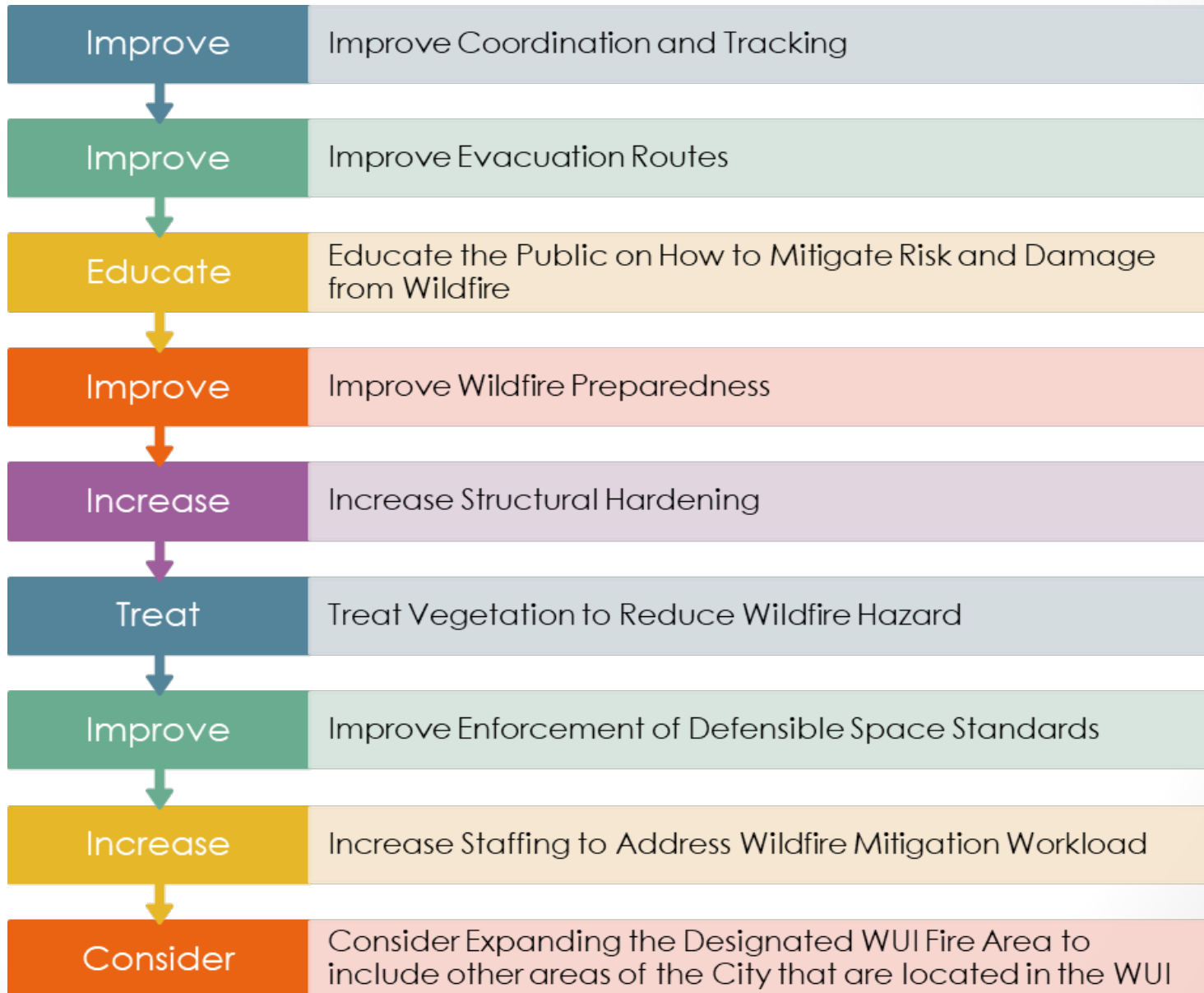
# CWPP Purpose

- The purpose of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is to enhance protection of human life safety and reduce the wildfire threat to community assets such as homes, commercial structures, critical infrastructure, businesses, and natural and historic resources within the City of Santa Rosa.

# CWPP History

- First CWPP for Santa Rosa funded through HMGP awarded
- Development of CWPP initiated April 2019
- Final plan approved by Council August 25, 2020
  - Glass Fire September 27, 2020
- Council approved \$5.25 million in 2021
  - 5 years of funding + grants
  - \$250K for new CWPP in 2025
- First annual report end of 2021
- Delayed second annual report for new council
- 5-year plan - 2025

# Nine Objectives & Forty-Six Actionable Items



# Improve Coordination & Tracking

## 4 Action Items Identified

- Developed and maintained a GIS database to track vegetation management activities
- Coordinate with property owners, open space management associations and homeowner associations to track large scopes of work
  - Maps of grazing activities
- Provide support to property owners, open space management associations and homeowner associations to assist in treatment design, maintenance and funding sources
  - Alta Vista HOA, OSMA, OVA



Start Date:

End Date:

Has Records:

Type of Work: All

Work Area: All

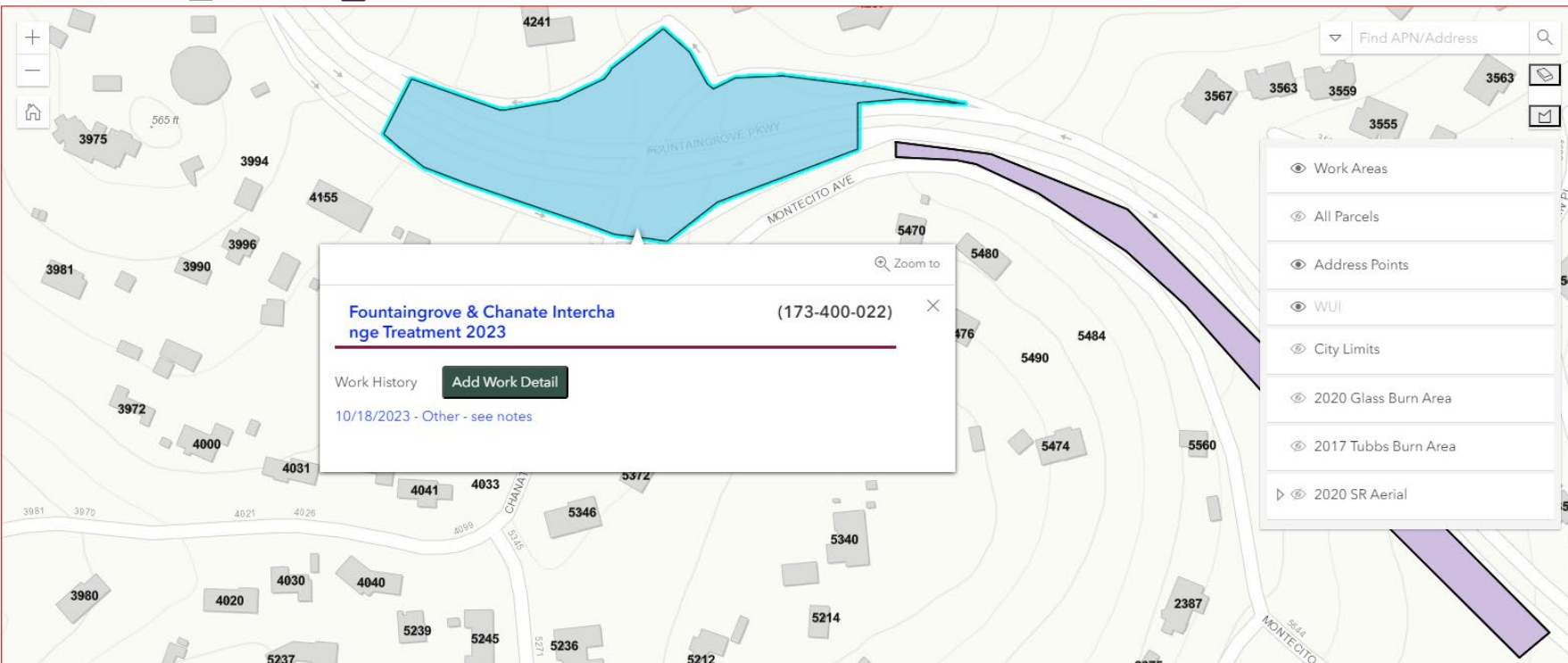
Search

Refresh

61 Work Areas match the criteria above.

Create Work Area

Legend ■ City Property ■ City Parcels Abated ■ Private Property



Zoom to

**Fountaingrove & Chanate Interchange Treatment 2023** (173-400-022) ✕

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Work History Add Work Detail

10/18/2023 - Other - see notes

- Work Areas
- All Parcels
- Address Points
- WUI
- City Limits
- 2020 Glass Burn Area
- 2017 Tubbs Burn Area
- 2020 SR Aerial

# Improve Evacuation Routes

## 6 Action Items Identified

- Supported proposed changes to IPM Policy for use of naturally based herbicides
  - Invasive growth & seasonal grasses
- New Vegetation Management Ordinance to address impacts of:
  - Fire damaged trees on right of ways/evacuation routes
  - Removal of Scotch Broom
- Identified property owners to perform fuel reduction
  - Awarded HMGP for Fuel Reduction along Evacuation Routes – \$2.1 Million (Cost Share of 25%)
    - Phase 1 wrapping up (opt residents in)
    - Phase 2 in 2024

# Improve Evacuation Routes

6 Action Items Identified



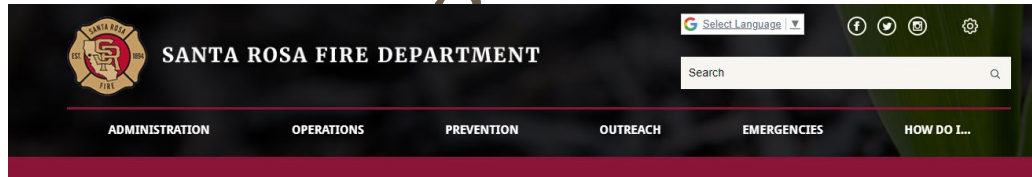


# Educating the Public

## 9 Action Items Identified

- Successful WildfireReady event at Finley Community Center – Funding for 3 years
- Creating new content and materials
  - HCD-MIT-PPS awarded \$500,000
- Increased education to residents on defensible space, fire safe landscaping, home hardening, evacuation and preparedness
  - One-on-one, neighborhood meetings, Wildfire Ready, City Connections
- Maintaining website and keeping it current for everything wildfire ready related.
  - [srcity.org/WildfireReady](http://srcity.org/WildfireReady) and [srcity.org/ReadySR](http://srcity.org/ReadySR)

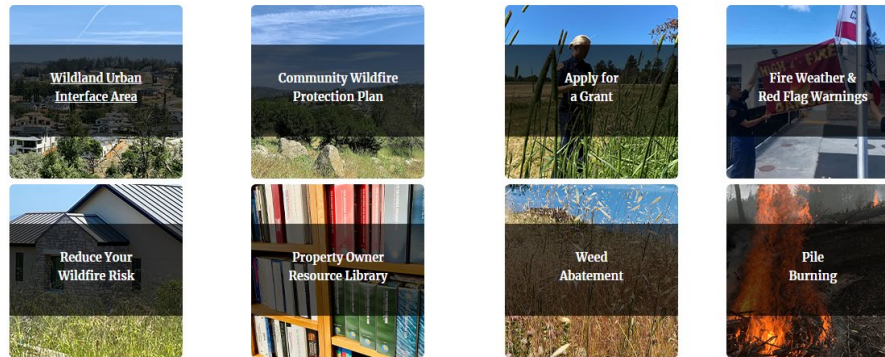
# Educating the Public



Learn More about the City Efforts to complete Vegetation Management Projects and Reduce Fuels in Santa Rosa. [DETAILS.](#)

The City of Santa Rosa Fire Department has officially declared the end of the 2023 wildfire season in Santa Rosa, which suspends the City's Weed Abatement Ordinance and annual weed abatement inspections effective Nov. 14, 2023. The Fire Department anticipates that pile burning will be permissible starting in late November in permitted locations within the City of Santa Rosa. The Fire Department will continue to monitor conditions locally and coordinate any pile-burning-related efforts with regional partners when making the official decision on when to begin issuing those permits.

Find information and resources on this page to learn more about what the City of Santa Rosa is doing AND what you can do to help reduce wildfire risk in Santa Rosa. If you can't find what



## Ongoing Efforts to Reduce Wildfire Risk

One of the ways Santa Rosa Fire Department will seasonally reduce wildfire risk is through prescribed vegetation management burns. Prescribed burns are carefully planned and must meet strict criteria for ecological benefit, are subject to favorable weather conditions, smoke management, and fire safety guidelines. When all conditions are met, trained wildland firefighters conduct the burn while monitoring the set criteria, fire behavior, and designated fire control lines. Prescribed burns must also comply with the requirements of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. The City of Santa Rosa will utilize various communications tools and strategies to notify our community when prescribed burns are scheduled. [See the FAQs Links below for more.](#)

# Educating the Public

Know Your Alerts ▶

Alerting Tools

Evacuation Checklist

Evacuation Zones

Frequently Asked Questions

Neighborhood Travel Routes

Preparedness Tips ▶

NOAA Weather Radio  
Information

[Feature Links](#) > [Emergency & Preparedness Information](#) > [Ready Santa Rosa](#)



READY  
SANTA ROSA

## Are you ready for an emergency, Santa Rosa?

An emergency can happen anywhere and at any time. The City of Santa Rosa wants you, your family, and your neighbors to be prepared in the event of an emergency. Review the emergency preparedness information and resources on this site and prepare an emergency plan today.



Evacuation Zone  
Look-Up Tool



Pre-Evacuation  
Checklist



Know Your Alerts



Neighborhood  
Travel Routes



Preparedness  
Tips



Frequently Asked  
Questions

Questions about evacuation tags and why they aren't being distributed in Santa Rosa? [Read here](#)

# Educating the Public



PRESENTER

## WILDFIRE READY RESOURCE FAIR

Saturday, May 21, 2022  
10am - 2pm

Courthouse Square  
Santa Rosa

[srcity.org/WildfireReadyResourceFair](http://srcity.org/WildfireReadyResourceFair)

City of Santa Rosa and neighboring Sonoma County agencies for a one-day resource fair open to all community members. Come to the event for wildfire preparedness information including:

- ✓ Individual and Family Preparedness
- ✓ Home and Property Preparedness
- ✓ Emergency Alerts and Notifications
- ✓ Evacuation Zones for Santa Rosa Residents
- ✓ Mental Health and Other Wellness Resources
- ✓ Disaster Resources for Neighborhoods

And more!



# Improve Wildfire Preparedness

## 5 Action Items Identified

- Working to increase the number of City residents active in COPE (Citizens Organized & Prepared for Emergencies)
  - Map Your Neighborhood
  - Future opportunities
- Continuing to foster and maintain relationship with LISTOS/COAD
  - Community Outreach and Emergency Management
  - Spanish NOAA Weather Radios, bilingual materials, targeted events.
- Develop a program to address evacuation of vulnerable populations
  - Oakmont (Evac Planning, COPE, Map Your Neighborhood)
  - Spring Lake Villages

# Increase Structural Hardening

## 6 Action Items Identified

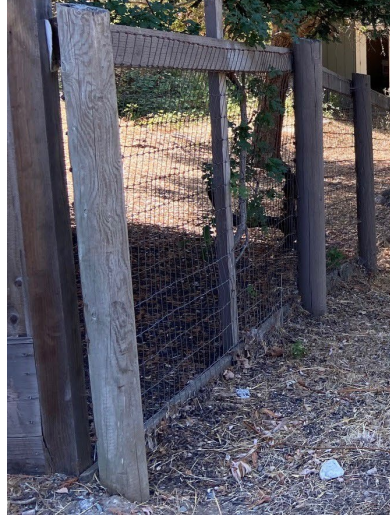
- Ignition Free Zone for new homes permitted after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 (previous code cycle as well)
  - 3'-5' free of vegetation, organic and combustible groundcover and mulch, etc.
  - Noncombustible materials for gates against homes
- Fire Inspector(s) assigned to conduct voluntary home inspections/assessments for home hardening and defensible space
- Approval of Phase 1 for HMGP for \$2.1 million for a Wildland-Urban Interface Fuel Modification Program
  - Includes retrofits – Vent screens and gutter guards
  - 25% cost share

# Treat Vegetation to Reduce Hazard

## 6 Action Items Identified

- Utilized balance of 21/22 FY funds from Fire Department Weed Abatement and Vegetation Management Program to accomplish projects.
  - Fountaingrove Parkway
  - Lower Skyhawk Open Space
- Working with HOA on fuel treatment within compartments identified in CWPP and applicable methods in common HOA areas
- First prescribed fire on Old Redwood Highway, 9.8 acres.
- Santa Rosa Junior College, Conservation Corps of the North Bay and SAC

# Treat Vegetation to Reduce Hazard





# Treat Vegetation to Reduce Hazard



# Improve Enforcement of Defensible Space Standards

## 7 Action Items Identified

- Code adoption priority in 2022, new Vegetation ordinance projected for 2023
  - Burn scar fuels, dead trees, ban on specific mulches, defensible space zones, pile burning, etc.
- Develop fire safe landscape standards
  - Fire Station 7 demo garden
- Developed inspection program
  - Phase 1 – Education and voluntary Assessments
    - In progress with existing staff, full staffing projected early 2023.
  - Phase 2 – Inspection Program (2 years)
  - Phase 3 – Enforcement Program

# Increase Staffing to Address Wildfire Mitigation

## 1 Action Item Identified

- 43% of the community surveyed during the development of the CWPP didn't feel there was enough staffing. 74% supported increase in staffing.
- Restructured Assistant Fire Marshals and added three limited term positions.
- Working to recruit second limited term fire inspector position.
  - 2 limited term Fire Inspector
- Unable to recruit for Building Plans Examiner, changed to Limited Term Community Outreach Specialist

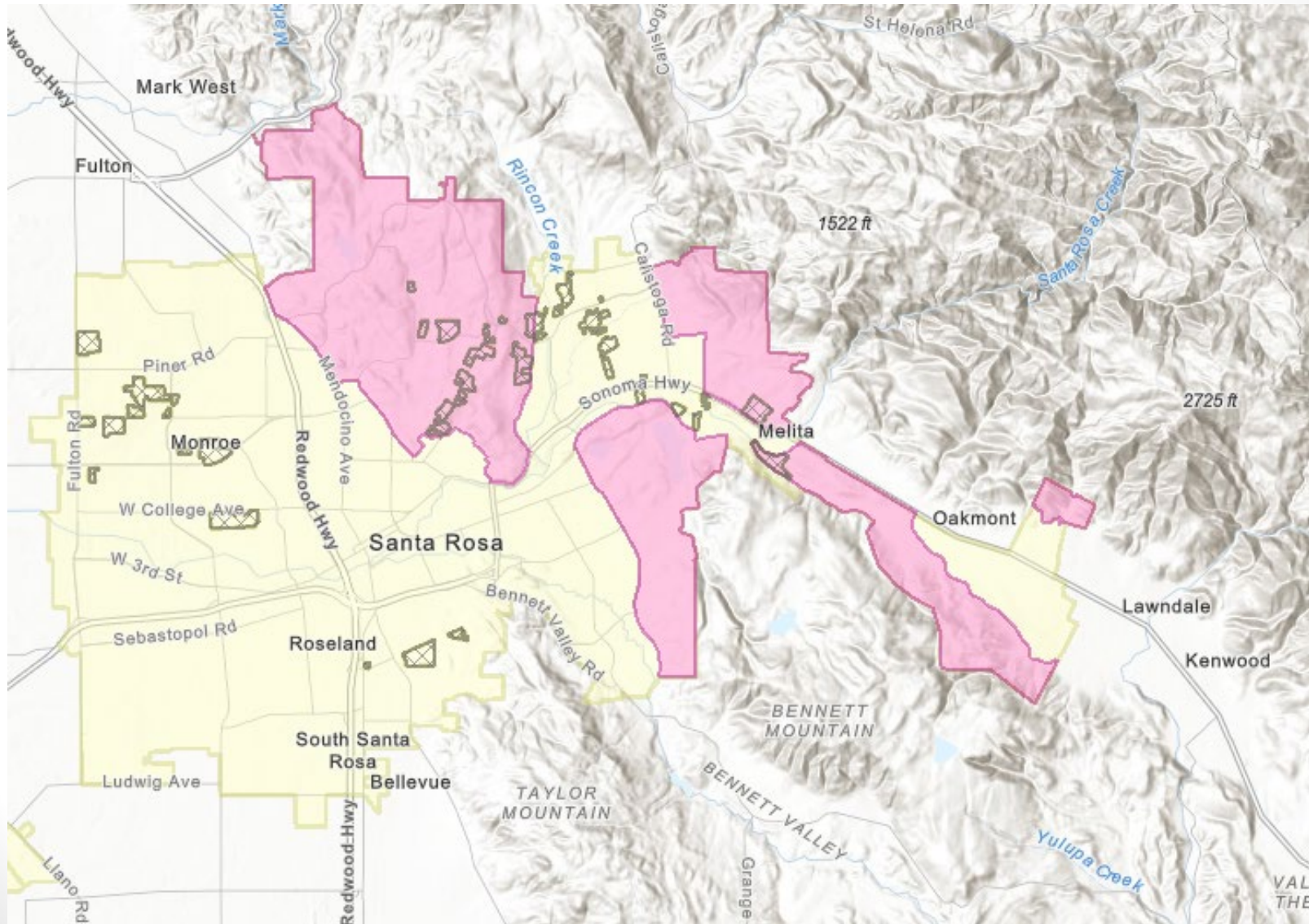
# Consider Expanding the WUI

## 2 Action Items Identified

- Based on feedback of the community, the existing Wildland Urban Interface Fire Area for the City of Santa Rosa was examined.
  - Coffey Park
- Staff determined that the current areas outside of the existing WUI do not meeting the intention of the designation.
  - Unintended consequences
- December 14, 2022, CAL FIRE released new SRA maps of the Fire Hazard Severity Zones
  - Bennett Valley, Kawana Springs Road, Fountaingrove and Oakmont

# Consider Expanding the WUI

## 2 Action Items Identified



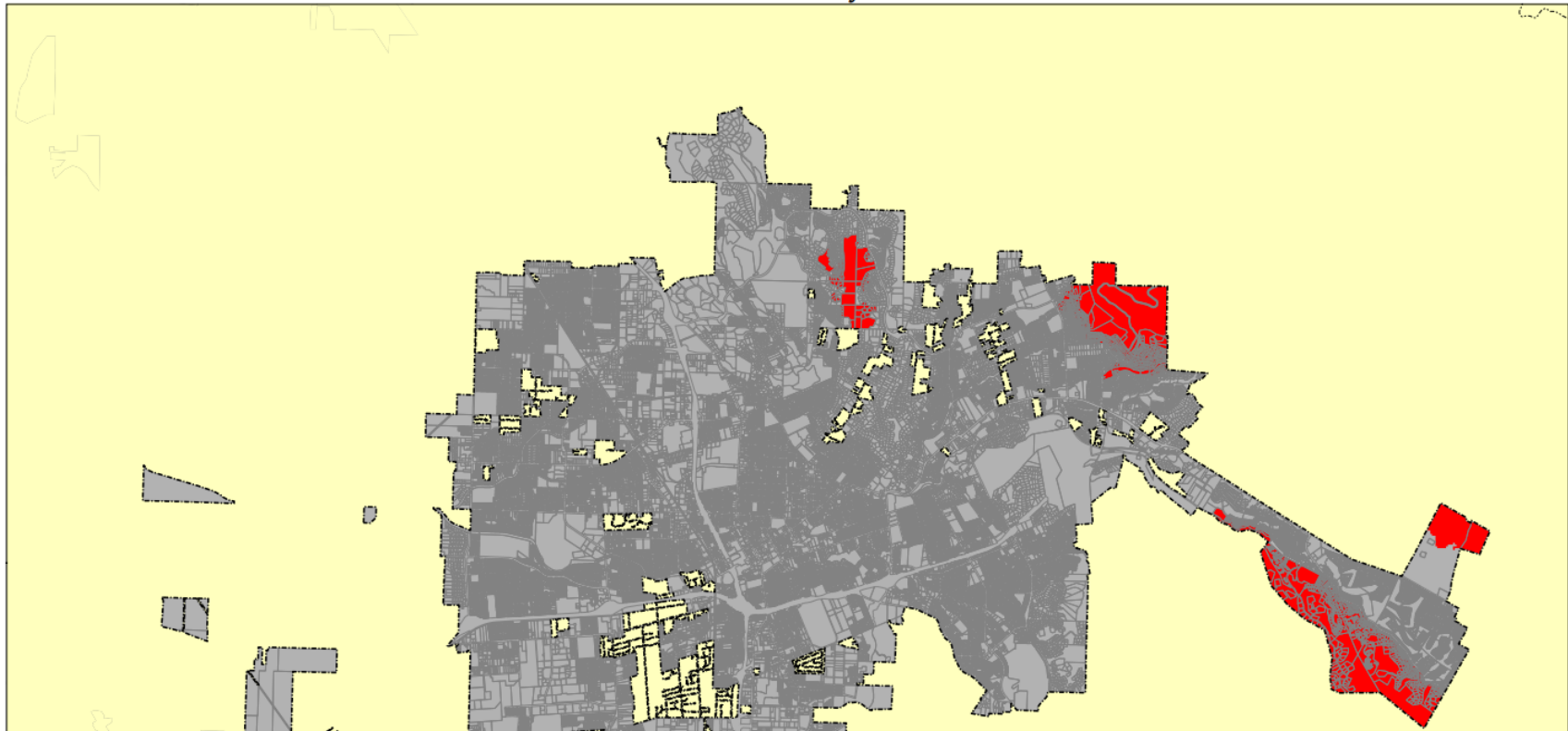
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## 2 Action Items Identified



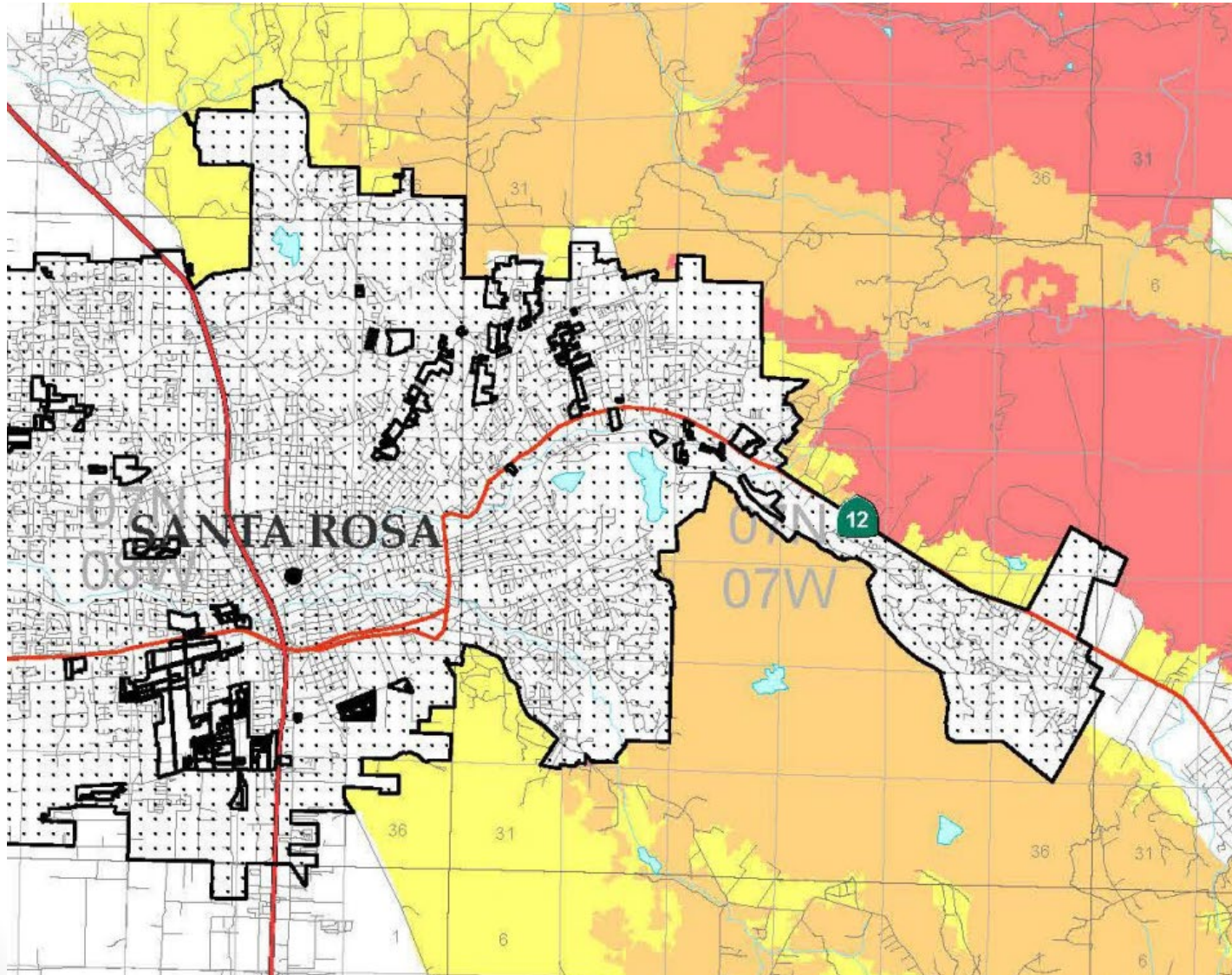
Santa Rosa

Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in LRA  
As Recommended by CAL FIRE



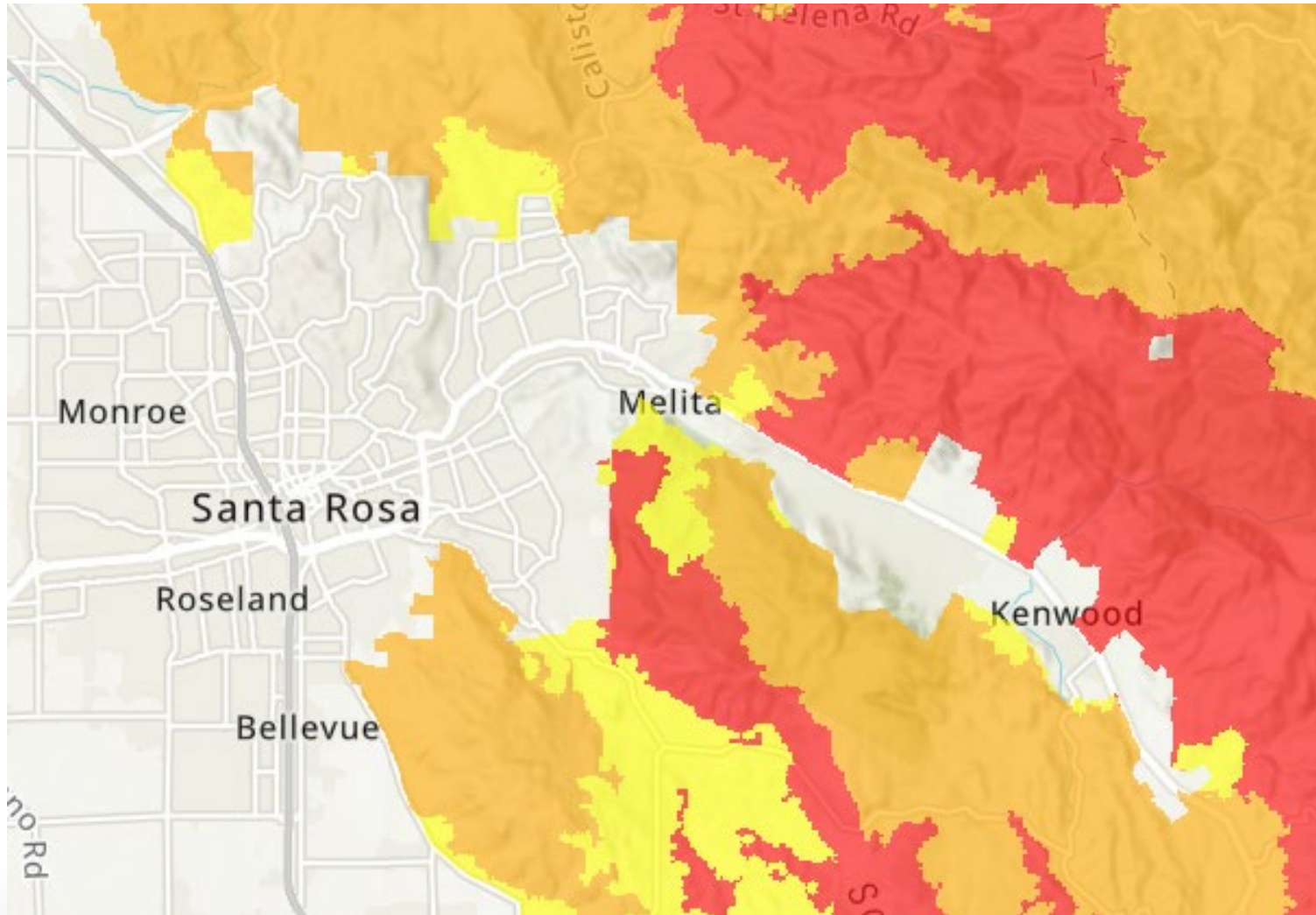
# Consider Expanding the WUI

2 Action Items Identified



# Consider Expanding the WUI

2 Action Items Identified





# Next Priorities

- Fire Department to form a working group to coordinate conflicting requirements and or future needs between Vegetation Management Ordinance and Tree Ordinance, Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance and any other regulations locally.
- Investigate the use of herbicides to treat invasive species.
- Additional staffing to support HMGP and HCD grant implementation
- Conduct visible projects
- Support partnership with Fire Safe Sonoma
- Finalize partnership with Santa Rosa Junior College

QUESTIONS?