Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Fourth Annual Report

City Council Meeting
February 25, 2025

Paul Lowenthal
Interim Deputy Chief, 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

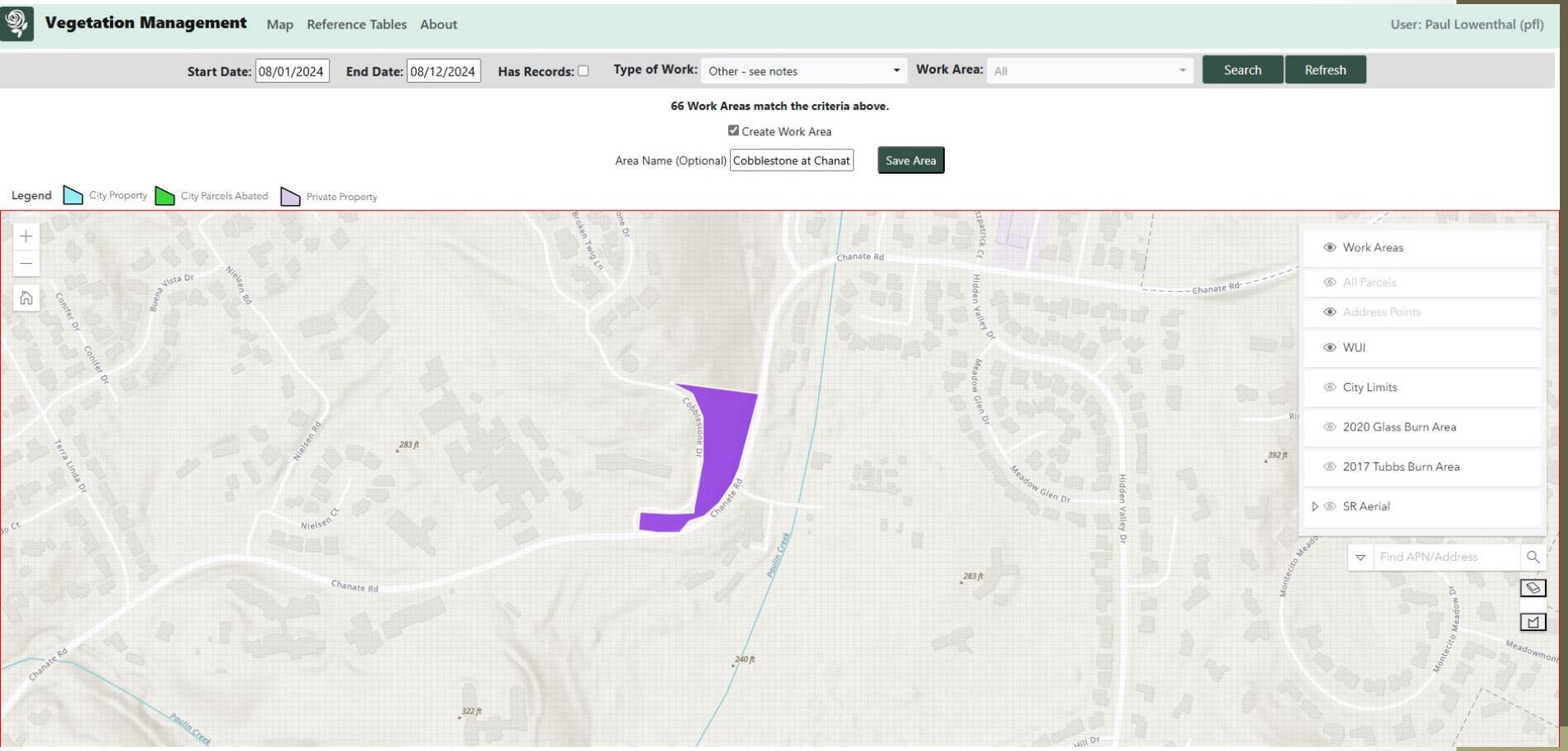
- First CWPP for Santa Rosa funded through HMGP
- Development of CWPP initiated in April 2019
- Final plan approved by Council August 25, 2020
  - Glass Fire September 27, 2020
- Council approved $5.25 million in 2021
  - 5 years of funding + grants
  - $250K for new CWPP in 2025
- Annual reports in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025
- 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


Vegetation Management
Map
Reference Tables
About
User: Paul Lowenthal (pfl)
Start Date: 08/01/2024
End Date: 08/12/2024
Has Records:
Type of Work: Other - see notes
Work Area: All
Search
Refresh
66 Work Areas match the criteria above.
Create Work Area
Area Name (Optional) Cobblestone at Chanat
Save Area
Legend
City Property
City Parcels Abated
Private Property
Work Areas
All Parcels
Address Points
WUI
City Limits
2020 Glass Burn Area
2017 Tubbs Burn Area
SR Aerial
Find APN/Address
Chanate Rd
Cobblestone Dr
Nielsen Rd
Nielsen Ct
Buena Vista Dr
Conifer Dr
Terra Linda Dr
Broken Twig Ln
Hidden Valley Dr
Meadow Glen Dr
Montecito Meadow Dr
Paulin Creek
283 ft
392 ft
240 ft
322 ft

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 2025

Improve Evacuation Routes

6 Action Items Identified

Educating the Public
9 Action Items Identified

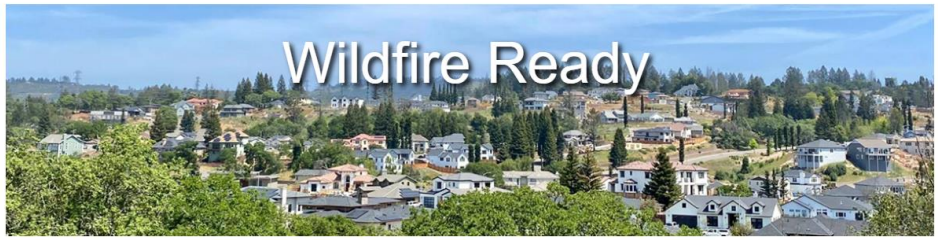
- Successful WildfireReady event at Finley Community Center – Funding for 3 years locally and 1 year of Countywide w/ Fire Safe Sonoma
- Creating new content and materials
  - HCD-MIT-PPS awarded $500,000
- Increased education to residents on defensible space, fire safe landscaping, home hardening, evacuation 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 and srcity.org/ReadySR

Educating the Public

SANTA ROSA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Select Language | Search

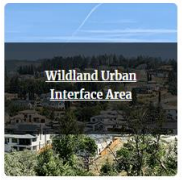
ADMINISTRATION | OPERATIONS | PREVENTION | OUTREACH | EMERGENCIES | HOW DO I...

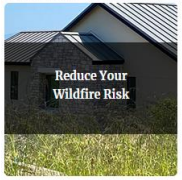


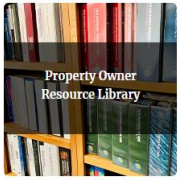
Learn More about the City Efforts to complete Vegetation Management Projects and Reduce Fuels in Santa Rosa. DETAILS.

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

PRES

WILDFIRE READY RESOURCE FAIR

Saturday, May 21, 2022
10am – 2pm

Courthouse Square
Santa Rosa

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 1st, 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 FY funds from Fire Department Weed Abatement and Vegetation Management Program to accomplish projects.
  - Cobblestone at Chanate
  - Woodley Place Water Tank in Oakmont
- Working with HOA on fuel treatment within compartments identified in CWPP and applicable methods in common HOA areas
- Conservation Corps of the North Bay and SAC
- Grazing

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 approval in 2024 and goes into effect 2025
  - Burn scar fuels, dead trees, a 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
  - Phase 2 – Inspection Program
  - Phase 3 – Enforcement Program

Increase Staffing to Address Wildfire Mitigation

1 Action Item Identified

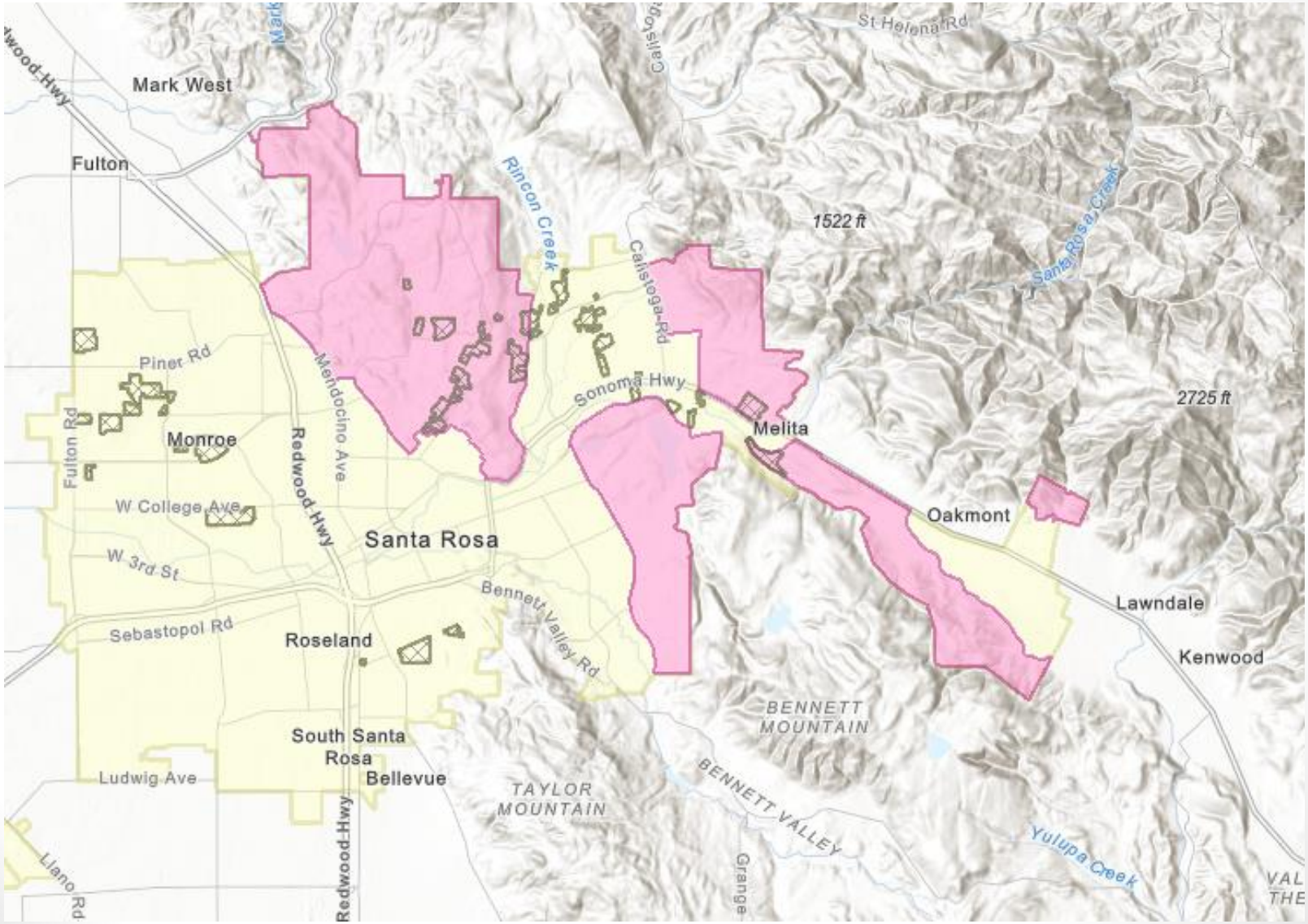
- 43% of the community surveyed during the development of the CWPP didn't feel there was enough staffing. 74% supported increase in staffing.
- Restructured Assistant Fire Marshals and added three limited term positions. 2 Fire Inspector and 1 Community Outreach Specialist (COS)
- One vacant FTE COS
- Working on implementation plan for 2 Measure H Inspectors

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
- Waiting on new LRA maps for Santa Rosa
- 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



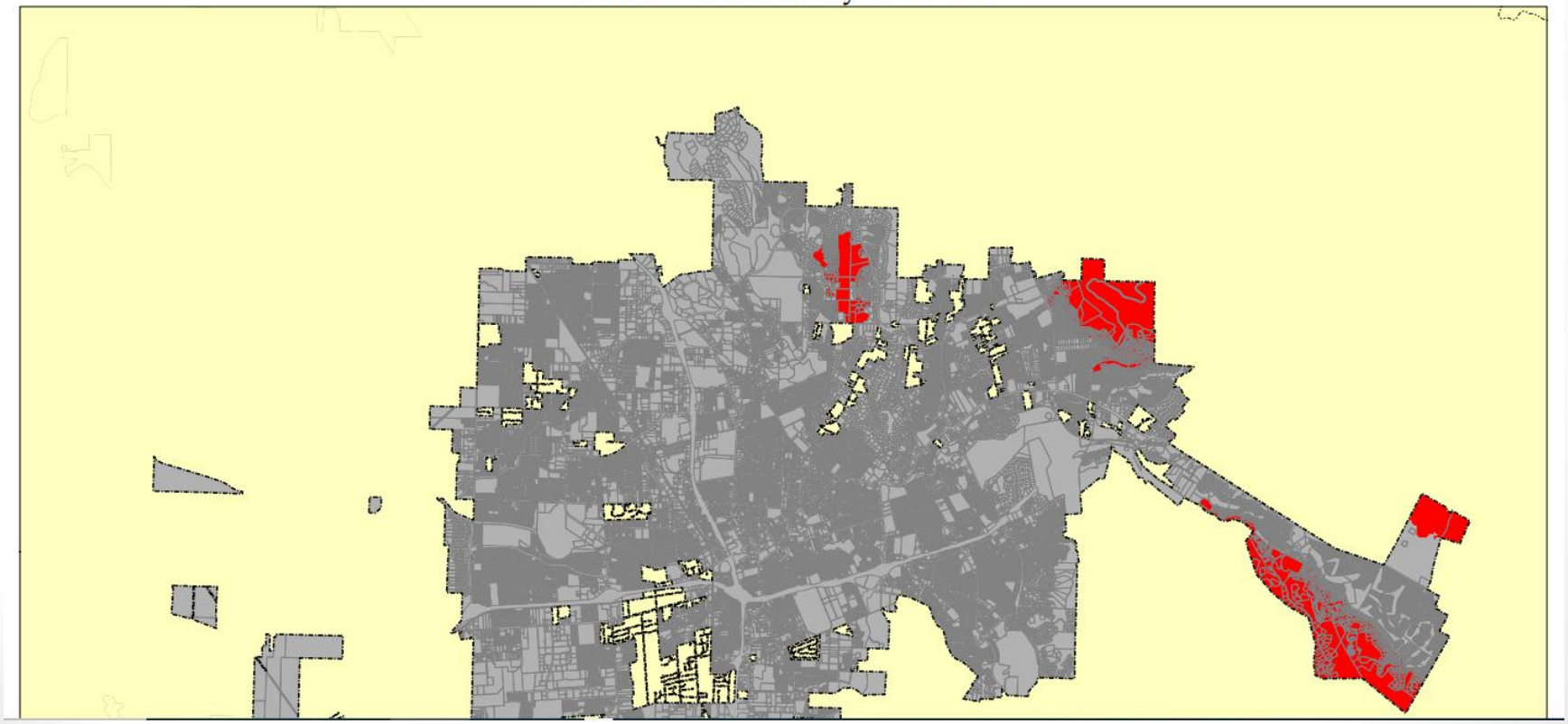
Consider Expanding the WUI

2 Action Items Identified

FRAP

Santa Rosa

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



Consider Expanding the WUI

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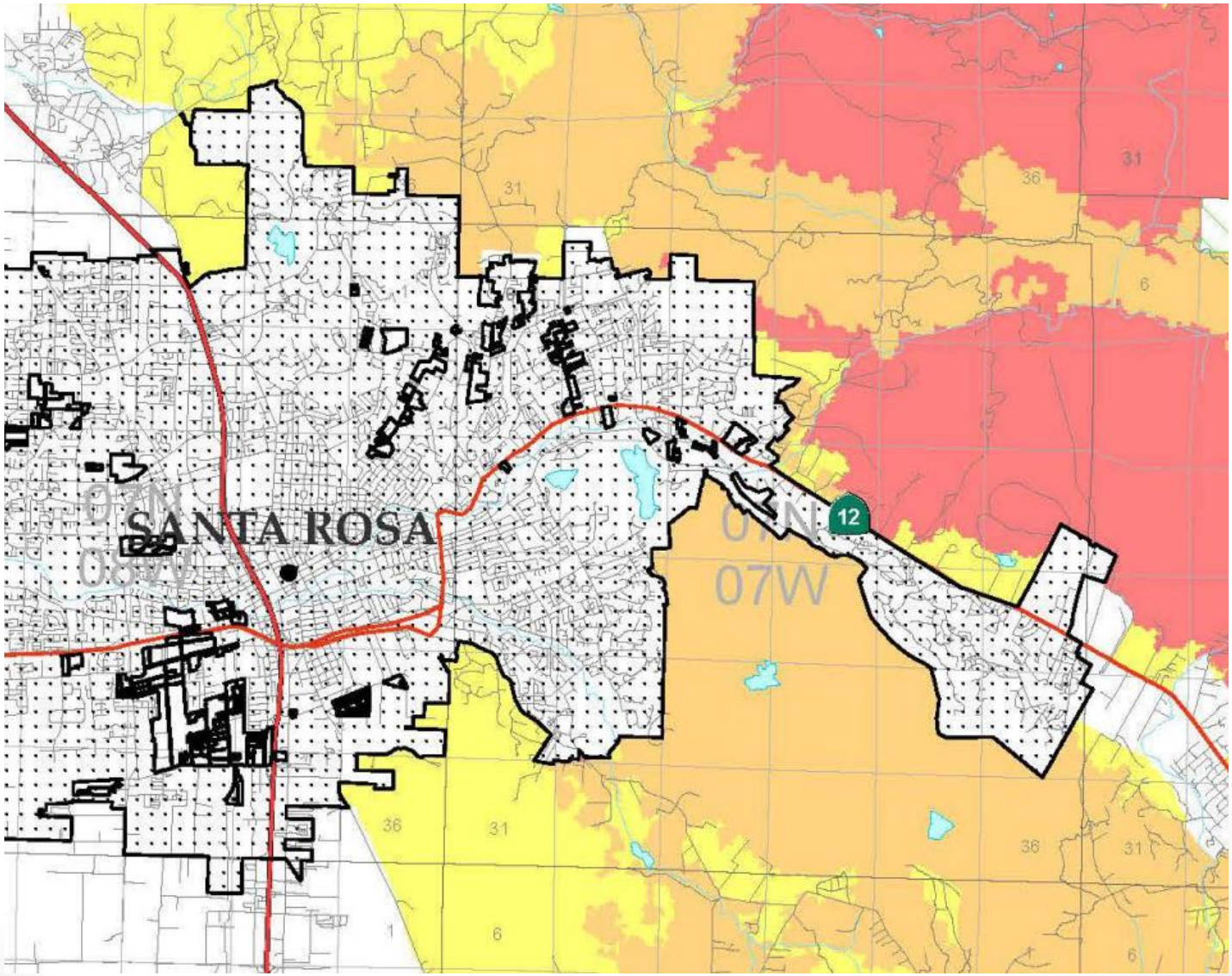
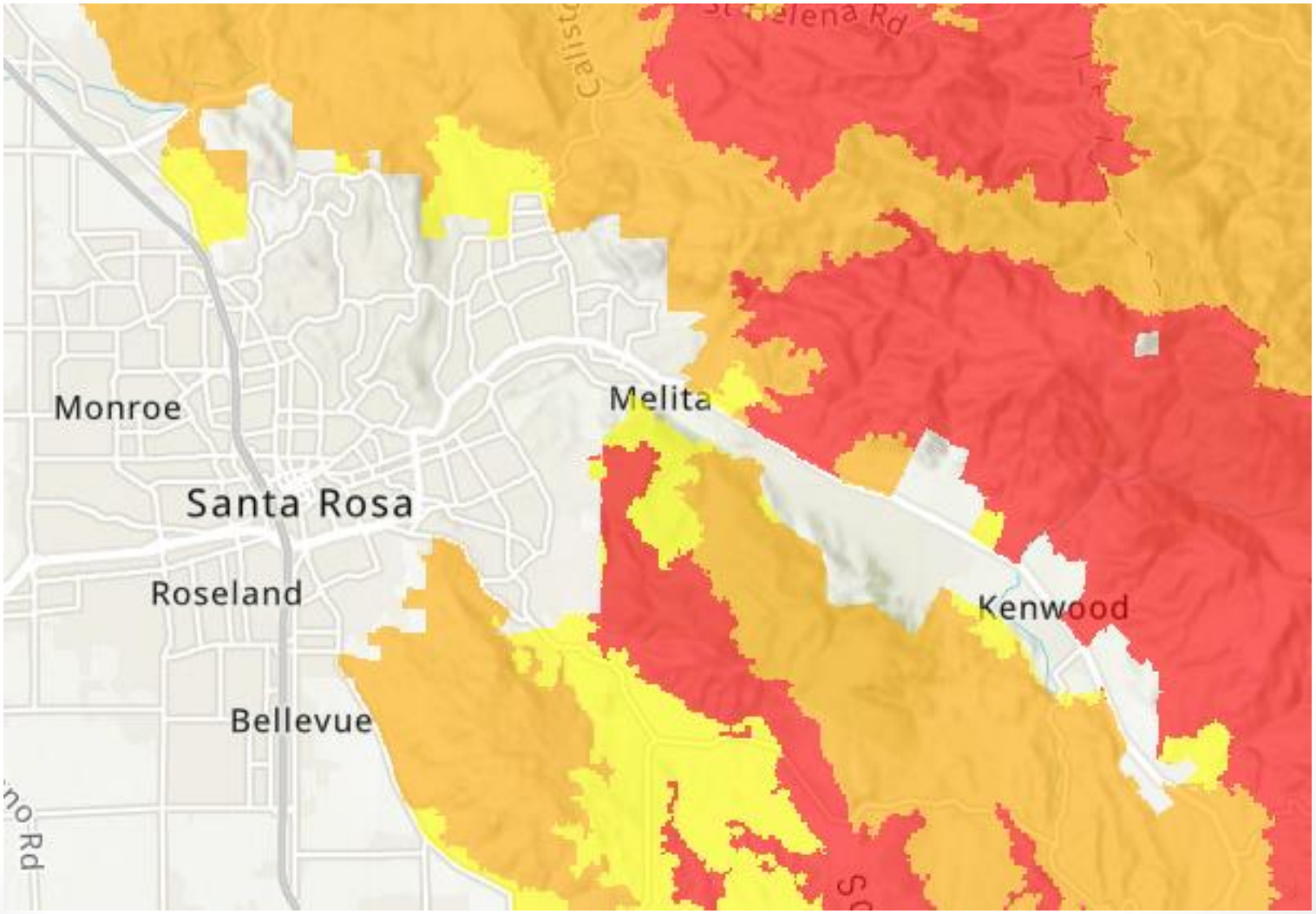


Consider Expanding the WUI

2 Action Items Identified



Next Priorities

- Implement use of herbicides to treat invasive species along evacuation routes.
- Conduct visible projects.
- Continue to support partnership with Fire Safe Sonoma.
- Implement grazing.
- Initiate inspections in compliance of the new Vegetation Management Ordinance with the goal of each property every three years

QUESTIONS?