HAZARDOUS VEGETATION AND FUELS MANAGEMENT

City Council Meeting

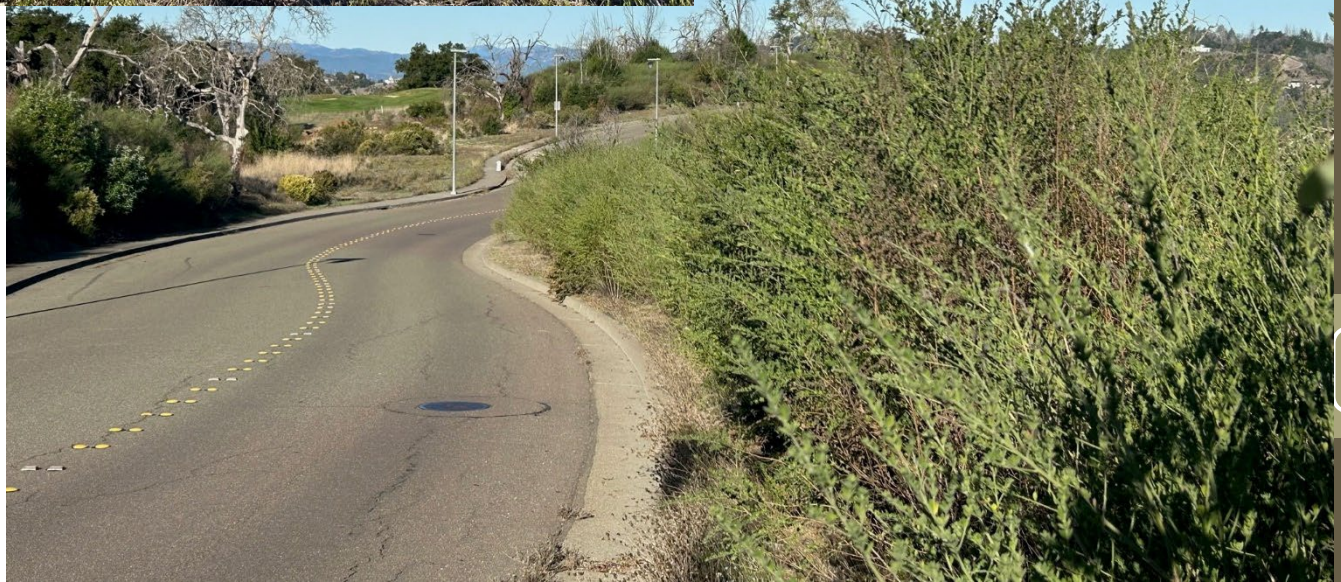
December 5, 2023

Paul Lowenthal

Division Chief Fire Marshal, Fire Department

CURRENT

- Property owners in and around the City's Wildland Urban Interface Fire Area (WUIFA) are taking measures to mitigate the risk of wildfires to our community.
- In some areas of the WUI, the lack of defensible space, dead trees, growth of invasive vegetation and certain types of mulch are creating conditions worse than were present in 2017.



PROPOSED

- Use the Community Wildfire Prevention Plan (CWPP) to continue to lay out the framework to mitigate the threat of wildfires.
- Action items identified in the CWPP include improving defensible space, reducing vegetation fuel load and improving evacuation routes.
- Use CDBG-MIT-PPS funding to rollout the ordinance needs.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE

- Require all parcels in the WUIFA comply with defensible space standards.
- Require the removal of dead trees as a result of a wildfire from specific areas (1 year out).
- Require the removal of certain invasive species of vegetation (Scott Broom, French Broom, as determined) from specific areas (1 year out).
- Requires action on undeveloped parcels in the WUIFA
- Require the removal of stringy/fibrous mulch or other products that aid in the spread of wildfires from within 30 feet of a structure (1 year out).

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended by the Fire Department that Council introduce an Ordinance adding Chapter 9-30 to the Santa Rosa City Code pertaining to Hazardous Vegetation and Fuels Management Ordinance to reduce wildfire risk within our community and minimize the threats to life, property and the environment.

QUESTIONS?