

Background on Community Risk Reduction Grants and Donations

1. CAL FIRE prevention grant

On October 18, 2021, CAL FIRE formally notified County Fire of its intent to award the County \$5.2 million in support of the grant proposal. County Fire will work in close partnership with the California Department of Transportation, the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County, and the San Diego County Department of Parks and Recreation to prioritize critical fire prevention work along state rights-of-way, local communities, and within County parks to help protect the millions of people who call the region home.

Fire prevention activities will include furthering evacuation readiness, strategically reducing fuels to prevent the spread of wildfire, strengthening tactical advantage options for fire suppression operations, and increasing defensible space in the State Responsibility Area and County Fire's jurisdiction by boosting the number of inspections completed.

Goal #1: Increasing Evacuation Readiness

This goal focuses on expanding public education to promote evacuation readiness. Efforts will include helping local Fire Safe Councils complete evacuation planning as part of Community Wildfire Protection Plans

Goal #2: Strategically Reducing Fuels to Prevent the Spread of Wildfire

This goal will continue maintenance of fuel reduction zones in and around the communities of Ramona, Potrero, Lakeside, and Jamul, among others. This fuels maintenance work would encompass more than 425 acres, protecting more than 1,500 homes and 4,200 people.

Goal #3: Strengthening Tactical Advantage Options for Fire Suppression Operations

This goal will focus on vegetation management along 201 miles, equating to 462 acres, of state-maintained roads identified as critical evacuation corridors.

Goal #4: Increasing Defensible Space by Boosting the Number of Inspections Completed

This goal aims to increase defensible space inspections by 102,000 homes. The team will prioritize public education to gain compliance with requirements and include more referrals to the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County's Defensible Space Assistance Program.

2. Home Hardening grant

On September 13, 2021, County Fire applied for a funding opportunity from Cal OES for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). County Fire's HMGP proposal aims to reduce threat to life and property by improving residential structures in the WUI area through home hardening and defensible space. At the time of application, County Fire simultaneously

submitted a sub application for HMGP Advance Assistance funds. The Advance Assistance is to provide initial financial resources to help stand up the overall \$25.5M project. On October 8, 2021, County Fire was formally notified by Cal OES of its intent to award the County \$247,059 in Advance Assistance funds for the HMGP. The remaining funds are expected by June 2022.

County Fire's "Home Hardening Program" will focus on homes that are most susceptible to wildland fire, applying elements of California Building Code 7A to harden structures and provide defensible space reviews and measures. Home hardening addresses the most vulnerable components of a house with building materials and installation techniques that increase resistance to heat, flames, and embers that accompany most wildfires.

Through the program, County Fire will assess a homeowner's property and not only recommend, but pay, for home hardening and/or defensible space activities based on the home's risk. Up to 100 percent of the construction costs can be covered by County Fire depending on the homeowner's income. This program is specifically designed for low income and socially vulnerable homeowners. County Fire has identified the communities of Dulzura, Campo, Potrero and Tecate for this grant. In addition to the high number of socially vulnerable and low and moderate-income homeowners, these communities have experienced multiple destructive wildfires. About 500 homeowners will benefit from this program.

3. Donation for roadside fire retardant

SDG&E recently provided a gracious donation of \$50,000 to the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County (FSCSDC) for the purpose of applying long-term fire retardant (LTFR) along the roadside and along evacuation corridors in high fire risk areas throughout the County. FSCSDC has offered to pass the \$50,000 donation to County Fire.

This donation will allow for the preventative treatment of vegetation with LTFR, offering two key benefits: 1) it will reduce the risk of a roadside fire start from becoming a major wildfire event, and 2) it will help protect evacuation corridors which are critical to emergency response.

4. CERT donation

The Burn Institute has donated \$7,000 to County Fire to fund specialized training opportunities for CERT members, including training to become a certified CPR instructor. This donation will also provide two CERT members the opportunity to attend the 2022 National CERT Conference.