Mobilizing the people of Santa Clara County to protect their homes, communities and environment from wildfires
Highway 17
Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project
Vicinity of Redwood Estates
Santa Clara County

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WHY?
Expect gridlock during wildfire
No good alternate routes for mountain evacuation
GOALS

Reduce flammability next to the road, keep road safer in the event of entrapment

Reduce total amount of hazardous fuel between highway & homes

Improve conditions and planning for evacuation of highway and residences
GOALS

Collaborate:
- Provide access to adjacent property for fuel removal for defensible space at structures
- Natural resource protection (watershed, wildlife)

Install landscape fuel break (pre-fire plan)

Temporary refuge areas

Outreach & education campaign
What the work will look like
Project Elements

- Roadside brush clearing
- Downed dead material removal
- Dead tree removal
- Hazard tree removal
- Thinning and spacing between trees
- Selective removal of symptomatic diseased trees
Phasing

Initial site analysis
Permissions and permits obtained
Biologic and cultural resource values
Erosion hazard analysis
Hazard tree analysis
Safety analysis
Traffic impacts analysis
Traffic control planning
Phasing

Utilizing CALFIRE’s Incident Management System (ICS)

Unified command with CAL FIRE, Caltrans, SCCFSC
Phasing

Project divided into divisions
Start below highway, no traffic control
East side (northbound)

Once hazard tree, brush removal and traffic impacts determined, submit traffic control plan to Caltrans

Schedule work impacting highway travel to minimize delays

Mindful of winter conditions
Phasing

Redwood Estates Temporary Refuge Area complete

Work has begun on Los Gatos Creek Trail south of Main Street bridge

Temporary Refuge Area around Bear Creek Road overpass, OSCH pull out in progress

Work around Alma Helitack underway
Phasing

Prime contractor for on-highway work

Contract negotiations stage (CALFIRE)

SCCFSC responsible for pre-project planning,

Brush and tree work

Utilizing SCCFSC staff, established local contractors,

Dudek consultants

Material processing at Alma Bridge Road site
Phasing

- Upcoming: work below highway to continue
- Roadside “eyebrow” removal on northbound side, should be swift, minimal disruption to travel
- Safety measures installed to prevent rollout of material onto roadway
- Southbound side brush cutting, piling, leaving eyebrow, work OFF the roadway
- Hazard tree removal tactics determined
- Brush removal, eyebrow removal tactics and schedule determined
Challenges

• Racing winter and wet roads
• Fire weather shutdowns
• Prime contractor to implement safety measures
• Scheduling chicken-egg challenge
• Surveying where no adjacent permission