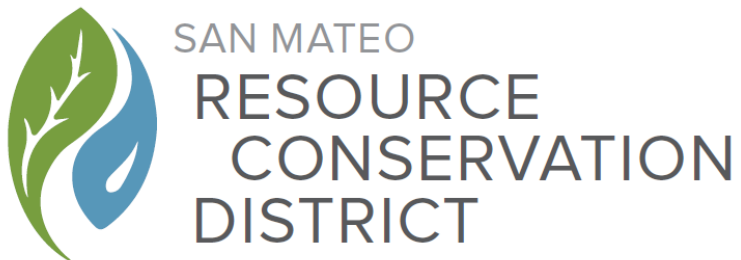


El Granada Wildfire Resiliency Scoping Project Final Report



June 28, 2022 via Zoom

Tonight's Agenda

Overview (RCD) -15min

Final Report (Panorama) – 40 min

Discussion -35 min





6:10

What is the RCDC?

- Local hub for conservation
- Help people help the land
- Non-regulatory
- Boots on the ground
- Since 1939





Water



Climate



Wildlife



Agriculture



Forest Health & Fire Resiliency



Project Purpose

Develop a site-specific understanding of wildfire risk to the community of El Granada and scope a suite of actions that would most effectively reduce those risks.



Project Goals

Define

Define the wildfire risks to El Granada and affected communities, including overview of fire ecology, local fire history, fire environment (fuels characteristics, fuel models, weather, topography).

Assess

Assess wildfire risks to El Granada and affected communities, including most likely scenarios, ignition probability, fire behavior, potential fire spread, and general identification of values at risk.

Identify and scope

Identify and scope an array of potential actions that would most effectively reduce those risks and build wildfire resiliency.



The project does	The project does not
Develop recommendations for voluntary actions	Obligate any public or private entity, organization or individual to any recommendation
Focus resources on strategies to reduce risk moving forward	Litigate the past, place blame, or “take sides”
Develop site specific understanding of higher probability, higher risk wildfires	Predict all possible scenarios of fire or eliminate all risk of fire, e.g. the most extreme conditions or all random events
Develop recommendations to a conceptual level	Develop detailed designs, secure permits or funding, make recommendations for individual residential properties
Model the risk of wildfire coming to the community	Model structure-to-structure ignition within the community



The project does	The project does not
Develop recommendations for vegetation management and general home hardening	Make recommendations about how to fight or respond to fire, how to allocate County Fire or CAL FIRE resources, or emergency evacuation or egress
Build on the work of experts at Coastside Fire Protection District, County Fire, CAL FIRE	Replicate or diminish their work
Focus on reducing the risk of wildfire	Consider other values that may be important in prioritizing or developing a project, e.g. habitat or other environmental values, aesthetics, property values, property owner's concerns



Project Team

- RCD – Project Managers
- Consultants
 - Panorama Environmental
 - Vibrant Planet
 - Prometheus Fire
- Partner Team
 - Supervisor Horsley's Office
 - County Parks
 - Coastside Fire Protection District
 - County Fire
 - CalFire
 - Midcoast Community Council
 - Community-at-large members





Get information or updates.

Project web page including final report

www.sanmateorcd.org/project/el-granada-wildfire-resiliency-scoping-project/

Midcoast Community Council

Monthly meetings of the RCD Board of Directors

www.sanmateorcd.org/about/board-meetings/

Visit us!

Website: sanmateoRCD.org

Facebook: facebook.com/sanmateoRCD

Instagram: instagram.com/sanmateoRCD

YouTube: San Mateo RCD



Questions

Will this document be a plan?

No. it is a scoping document. That mean it provides the analysis and foundation to advance, develop and design projects that are most likely to be effective. Based on particular opportunities or constraints, individual projects might look different. The project boundaries are a function of the model segmenting in 200 acre projects. Maybe a project would be designed to be larger or smaller. Or maybe an opportunity could move forward with a particular landowner instead of the shape of the concepts in this document. Or maybe a project would be to do all of the work that involves the same type of equipment or methods, for example.



Questions

- Why aren't you focused on x particular scenario, or the worst case scenario?
 - Overall purpose is to try to effectively reduce risk. [p.18] That includes an analysis of probability as well as the likelihood of being effective in reducing risk. If a particular scenario was not found to be a high hazard (risk includes x and y), or if the risk could not be significantly mitigated (e.g. some worst case scenarios), it was not a priority.



Questions

- What are the next steps?
 - Received funding to begin to develop a priority project
 - Being to identify other funding
 - Discuss opportunities with landowners



Questions

Why was the area south of El G Blvd included with the area north of EG Blvd?

- 200 acre segments, Automated model, Contiguity, May or may not be how actual projects are designed- provides analytical framework (have to start somewhere), If one were to design a project to protect the community on that ridge, one would likely do work on both sides.



Questions

Why was County Park's Project #16 broken up into RCD project 1 and 8?

- Function of how the model segments. Model picked up highest priority area plus adjacent area to be contiguous 200 acre segment.
- Does not limit how projects can be designed or implemented.



Questions

Why is the middle of Quarry Park not a priority? What about crown fires?

The unbiased model is not showing Quarry Park to be as much of a hazard as people might have thought. The model took into account the weather and moisture content and vegetation type and topography and does not show Quarry Park as the highest wildfire hazard even considering a crown fire. The model was run based on 97th percentile fire weather and Diablo Winds and in neither of these cases was Quarry Park the highest hazard for wildfire even considering crown fire.

One possibility for this that has been hypothesized is a potential eddy effect with weather because of the ridge so that fire is not coming down into the park. Winds might drop off as they hit the downslope side.

The consultants do not necessarily model for the ultimate worst case scenario- which an El D wind driven crown fire may be- but rather they model for a *likely* worst case scenario that is based on observed weather events.

Just because this isn't the most likely scenario, or a likely scenario, doesn't mean we can't consider working to address it. El Diablo wind-driven crown fires are possible and would be catastrophic. The mitigation for that would likely be to extensive tree removal.



Questions

Why is environmental mitigation not included?

- that would be done during project design



Questions

How were the medians addressed?

- This project focuses on the risk of wildfire coming to the community and medians were not found to play a significant role.



Questions

Why is structure to structure ignition not modeled?

- While there are models for that, it is a different type of project. This project focused on the risk of a fire getting to the community, not what would happen when a particular structure catches on fire. That would be its own involved project and would require assessing each individual structure for home hardening, defensible space, etcetera, and it would need to be regularly updated. This is something the community might still choose to do but was beyond the scope of this project.

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Questions

- If we remove eucalyptus and replace with coastal scrub/ chapparal habitat, isn't that equally flammable?
- Yes, these are also flammable. Transitioning to this vegetation type would shifting the hazard. It would still be important to maintain fuel breaks around homes.



Questions

- How does this match up with
- CAL FIRE's High Fire Severity Zone maps?
- County Parks wildfire management plan?
- Quarry Park master plan documents?
- Coastside Fire Protection vegetation management plan?

