



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## County Coordinator Update and Contra Costa Wildfire Mitigation Program

Rudgear Estates HOA

Michelle Rinehart, Contra Costa County Coordinator  
September 17, 2026





# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## Agenda

- Countywide Updates, Michelle Rinehart - County Coordinator
  - ◆ 25 County Coordinator (COCO) Program
  - ◆ Contra Costa Wildfire Mitigation Program
    - Program Access and Funding
    - Contra Costa County Mitigation Dashboard
  - ◆ Firewise USA Program
- Community Warning System (CWS)
- Know Your Zone Campaign
- Questions



# Funding Acknowledgment



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# Program Overview

Established in 2021, the Wildfire County Coordinators Program seeks to educate, encourage, and develop countywide community collaboration and coordination among wildfire mitigation groups. The program, powered by a partnership between the California Fire Safe Council and CAL Fire, has provided funding to 52 of California's 58 counties to hire a County Coordinator and establish critical local capacity to plan and implement wildfire resilience strategies on the ground.



# Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

County Coordinators are an essential local resource for the CWPP, crucial to the state's wildfire resilience strategy.

Key responsibilities include:

- Developing the overall planning process
- Assisting with local outreach efforts
- Ensuring alignment between state and local objectives

This vital link between state strategy and local execution ensures California communities are better prepared, connected and more resilient to wildfire.

Figure: Elements of Fire Adapted Communities (courtesy Watershed Research and Training Center)

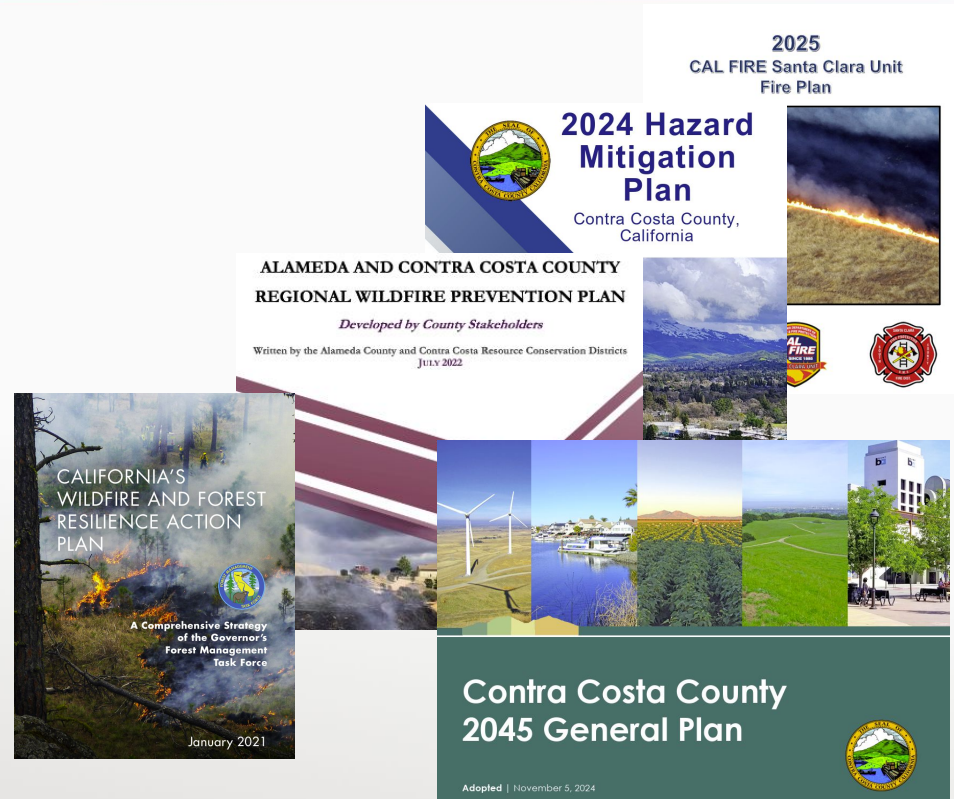


# Plan Alignment

Aligning various Contra Costa County plans is a key focus, including:

- Regional Priority Plan
- Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
- CAL Fire Unit Plan (SCU)
- Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan
- California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan (which prioritizes the CWPP planning process)

Additional as recommended by the CWPP Consultant. This also involves coordination with local agency and community partners.



# Contra Costa Wildfire Mitigation Program



## Wildfire Mitigation Program



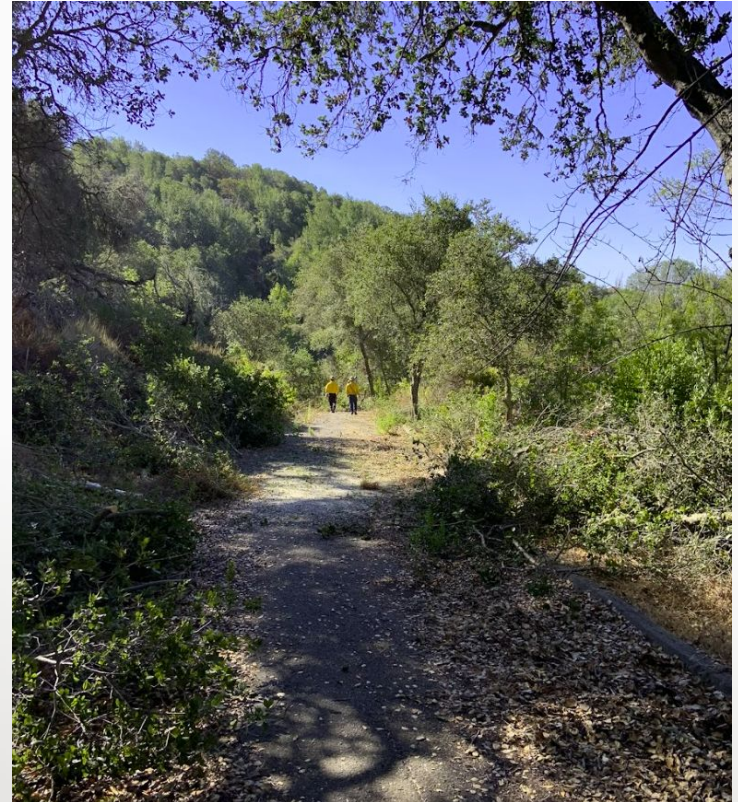
# FY 25/26 Program Funding (Measure X)

Crew 12 Hand Crew ~\$2,750,000

- 4 Fire Captains
- 6 Fire Control Specialists
- 30 Fire Control Workers (Seasonal)
- Mitigation Equipment
- Vehicles and Crew Buggy
- Training and Certification

Wildfire Mitigation ~\$2,200,000

- Contracted Fuel Reduction
- CEQA Consultant
- Green Waster and Chipping Dumps
- Fire Trail Signs and New Folding Maps
- Printed Material
- County Coordinator & Clerical Staff



# Program Overview

*Anyone within Contra Costa County, regardless of their local fire district or department, can apply for a Wildfire Mitigation Program, as long as they meet the requirements for the specific program.*

*For more information, scan the QR code on the reverse side to visit our webpage.*

## **Community Chipping Day**

Chipping crews are provided to chip vegetation in Firewise Communities or neighborhoods with at least 10 homes participating in fuel reduction.

## **Low Income Exterior Hazard Control Program**

Reimbursement of up to \$1,500 for property owner expenses spent on exterior hazard control or weed abatement.

## **Evacuation Route/Fire Trail Clean Up**

This program focuses on maintaining fire access routes and includes vegetation management.

## **Removal of Dead Trees**

Requests must be located on common or open spaces and the trees must be endangering structures.

## **Firewise Strategic Plan Projects**

Firewise is a national program helping neighbors work together with their local fire jurisdiction to protect communities from wildfire danger.

## **Shaded Fuel Break**

The objective of a shaded fuel break is to reduce, modify, and manage fuels in order to enhance mitigation efforts in the event of a wildfire.

## **Home Hardening Outreach Program**

Prepare your home to increase its likelihood of survival from a wildfire.

## **Vegetation Management and Fuel Reduction**

This program focuses on treating, clearing, or reducing debris and other types of combustible fuels.

# Firewise USA Program

The NFPA National Firewise USA® program offers a framework for neighbors to collaboratively reduce local wildfire risks and increase home fire resistance. Communities that meet voluntary annual criteria maintain "In Good Standing" status. The recognition process involves three steps:

1. Organize It
2. Plan It, and
3. Do It.

As Contra Costa County Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Chris Bachman noted, resident involvement is essential for improving community fire hardiness, and the program is a valuable tool for neighbors to enhance safety together.

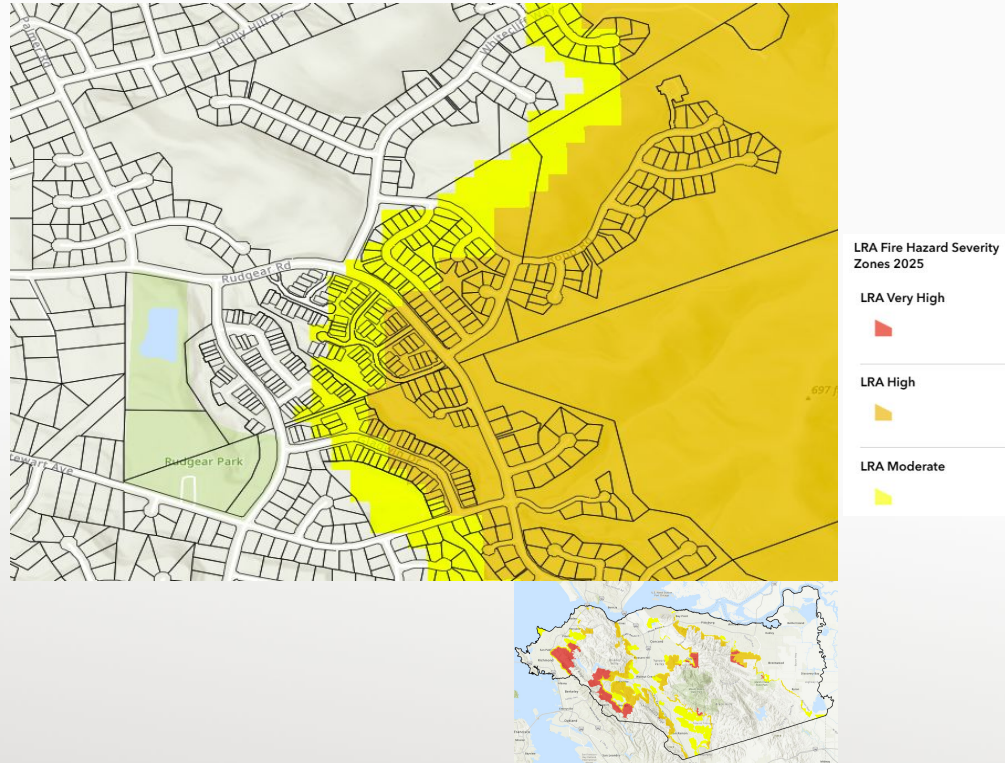


# Fire Hazard Severity Zones

Fire Hazard Severity Zones are one factor considered when evaluating a project. Some others are:

- Fire History
- Existing and Potential Fuel
- Predicted Flame Length
- Ember Cast
- Topography
- Weather

\* County Coordinator does not review Contra Costa Wildfire Mitigation Program projects.



# Future Project Mapping

Technology is used statewide to benefit a multitude of areas (fire risk, vegetation density, insurance, etc.). Sharing our efforts may impact local, regional, and state objectives.

Contra Costa County mapping may include projects such as:

- Evacuation Route Clean Up
- Fuel Breaks
- Vegetation Management

We are currently working with various partner agencies and wildfire groups to enhance data collection. Public release completed in June 2026.



# Know Your Zone Campaign



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

**BE PREPARED  
FOR WILDFIRE**



KNOW YOUR **ZONE** | I'm **prepared.**  
protect.genasys.com



genasys Protect

MY ZONE



# Resident Action Items



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## 3 STEPS TO A SAFER FIRE SEASON

### 1 Find your evacuation zone

Visit the Genasys website to learn your evacuation Zone.

KNOW YOUR ZONE



### 2 Subscribe to CWS

The Community Warning System (CWS) sends you emergency messages in Contra Costa County. CWS will let you know if your area needs to be evacuated.

If we can't reach you, we can't ALERT you.



### 3 Protect your home with defensible space

Identify vegetation hazards, and make a plan to address them.



For more information email us at: [info@cccfd.org](mailto:info@cccfd.org)

or visit our website: [www.cccfd.org](http://www.cccfd.org)

# Questions?

## County Coordinator Program Participants



Thank you!

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