

ANNEX 3 CITY OF PALO ALTO

Palo Alto is located in the northwest corner of Santa Clara County and shares its border with East Palo Alto, Mountain View, Los Altos Hills, Stanford, Portola Valley and Menlo Park (Figure 3.1). As of the 2010 Census, the city total resident population was 64,403 with a population density of 2,497.5 people per square mile.

ORGANIZATION AND JURISDICTION

Fire management for the City of Palo Alto is provided by the Palo Alto Fire Department.

The City of Palo Alto developed a Foothills Fire Management Plan (FFMP) in 1982 that provides the planning framework for fire control activities for the City and the Palo Alto Foothills Area which comprises the predominant wildland urban interface (WUI) area for the community. The FFMP goal is “to reduce government costs and citizen losses from wildland fire by increasing initial attack success and/or protecting assets at risk through focused pre-fire management activities.” The 2009 update addresses changes to the fire hazard assessment, review regional evacuation routes, review municipal ordinances, staffing of Station 8 (Foothills Fire Station), provide wildland fire management recommendations and mitigations, incorporate updates to open space plans, implement CEQA documentation, and create an implementation plan.

In 2012 the city entered into a multi-year agreement with the Santa Clara FireSafe Council to facilitate the implementation of the FFMP and to provide additional community education and outreach to the residents of the WUI area within the city.

Another update is being prepared; the areas recommended for treatment are incorporated into this Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and will appear on the City website.

LAND USE PLANNING, GENERAL PLAN, BUILDING CODES, AND LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS.

Authority and jurisdiction for approving the General Plan and elements, determining land use, community design and building code adoption rests with the Palo Alto City Council. The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) identifies natural hazards that exist that create risk to citizens and properties in Palo Alto. The LHMP is available online at www.cityofpaloalto.org/lhmap; this site also provides maps showing our exposure to these natural hazards, among them WUI fire threats. WUI fires are a real and present danger to the western portions of Palo Alto. This CWPP identifies several goals related to functions the City of Palo Alto has the authority to undertake.

This CWPP may serve as basis for the WUI fire component for LHMP, General Plan, or General Plan element updates.

PLANNING TEAM PARTICIPATION

Carol Rice of Wildland Resource Management Inc. authored the 2009 update to the Palo Alto FFMP. Ms. Rice is part of the planning team for the CWPP and due to her continued engagement in fire planning for Palo Alto, she serves as a Core Team member representing the Palo Alto community. Representatives from the City of Palo Alto Fire Department, Public Works Department, Administrative Services Department and Office of Emergency Services were also involved in the development of this CWPP.

SUMMARY

Palo Alto contains WUI areas and is on the Federal and/or California Fire Alliance list of Communities at Risk from wildfires in Santa Clara County.

Wildfires occur in the vicinity of Palo Alto and present a danger to people and properties within the city.

Mitigations can reduce the risk of injury and damage. Some mitigations are solely the responsibility of property owners, other mitigations require neighborhood-level action, and some require city government action.

In the fire management program update for the Foothills, a review of the fire hazards, mitigation activities, and environmental considerations for the area led to recommendations for wildland fuels and fire management.

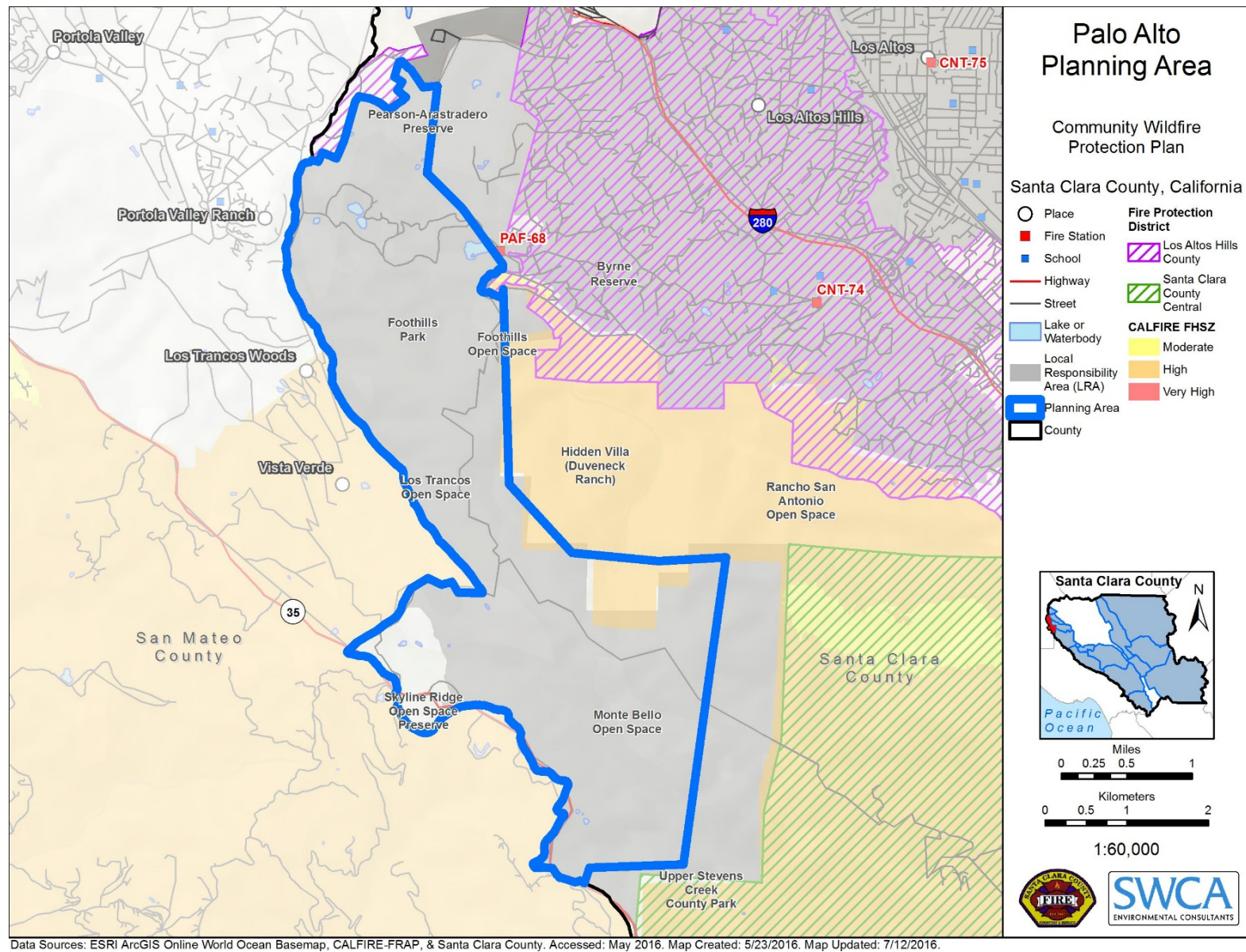


Figure 3.1. Palo Alto planning area.

The FFMP addresses a broad range of integrated activities and planning documents to address and mitigate the impacts of fire hazards in the area west of Foothills Expressway to the city limits of Palo Alto. Fire mitigation project areas include Foothills Park and Pearson-Arastradero Preserve.

The full plan can be downloaded at the following path:

http://www.sccfiresafe.org/images/attachments/community-wildfire-protection-plans/Palo_Alto_FFMP_Final.pdf

The CWPP establishes strategic goals for these more detailed community level fire-planning efforts. The Palo Alto FFMP is incorporated into this county (multi-jurisdictional) planning process through reference, but remains the most detailed level plan for Palo Alto.

WUI AREA DESCRIPTION

The Palo Alto Fire Code defines the Wildland Urban Interface Fire Area as: "...all areas west of Highway 280 and all other areas recommended as 'Very High fire Hazard Severity Zone' by the director of CAL FIRE." (Section 15.04.520). The WUI consists of a mix of urban, semi-urban and open space lands on the eastern slope of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Within the city limits of Palo Alto, the Palo Alto Foothills area west of the Foothills Expressway and Junipero Serra Boulevard represents a WUI area. The Palo Alto Foothills Area includes two city-managed areas: Foothills Park and the Pearson-Arastradero Preserve.

FIRE HISTORY

The fire history is relatively free of major events in recent decades. The last major fire in the vicinity of the upper foothills was in 1912. Significant fires in the lower foothills (primarily light fuels) occurred in 1985, 1992, 2000, and 2007.

HAZARDOUS FUEL CONDITIONS

Fuels found throughout the planning area are extremely varied. Figure 3.2 through Figure 3.5 illustrate the fuel types and potential fire behavior as determined during the 2009 Palo Alto FFMP update.

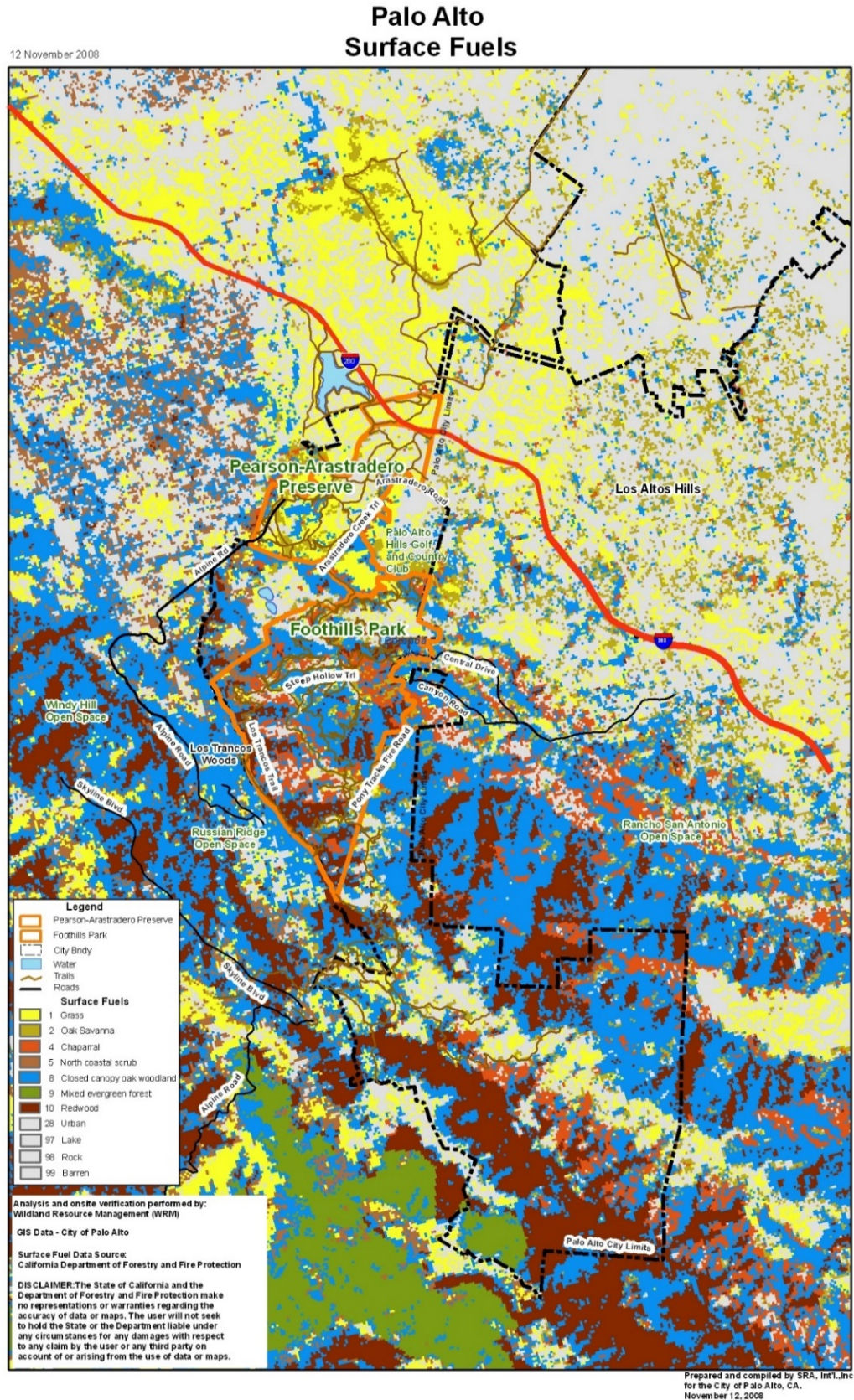


Figure 3.2. Palo Alto fuels, as developed during the 2009 FFMP update.

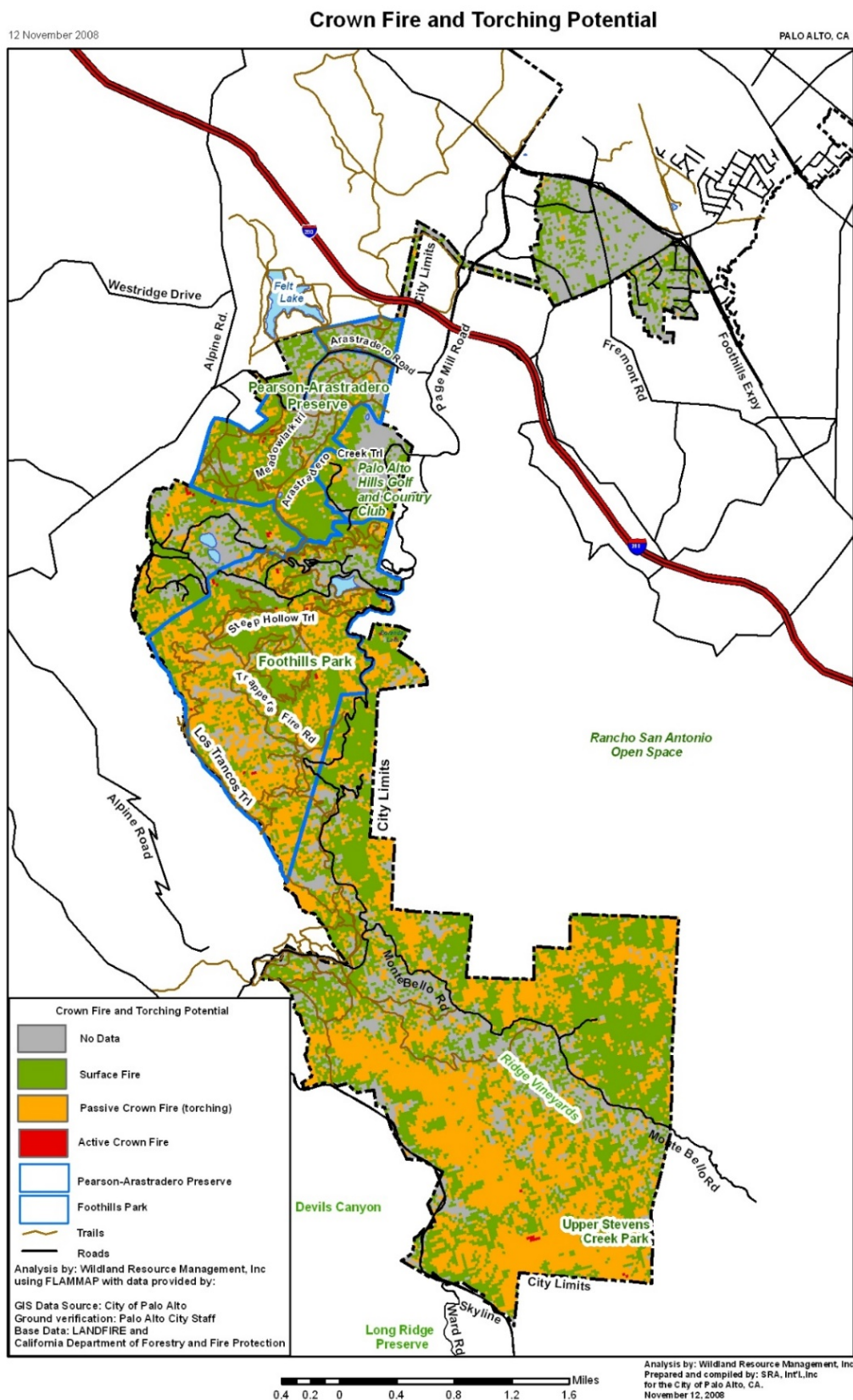


Figure 3.3. Crown fire and torching potential, as developed during the 2009 FFMP update.

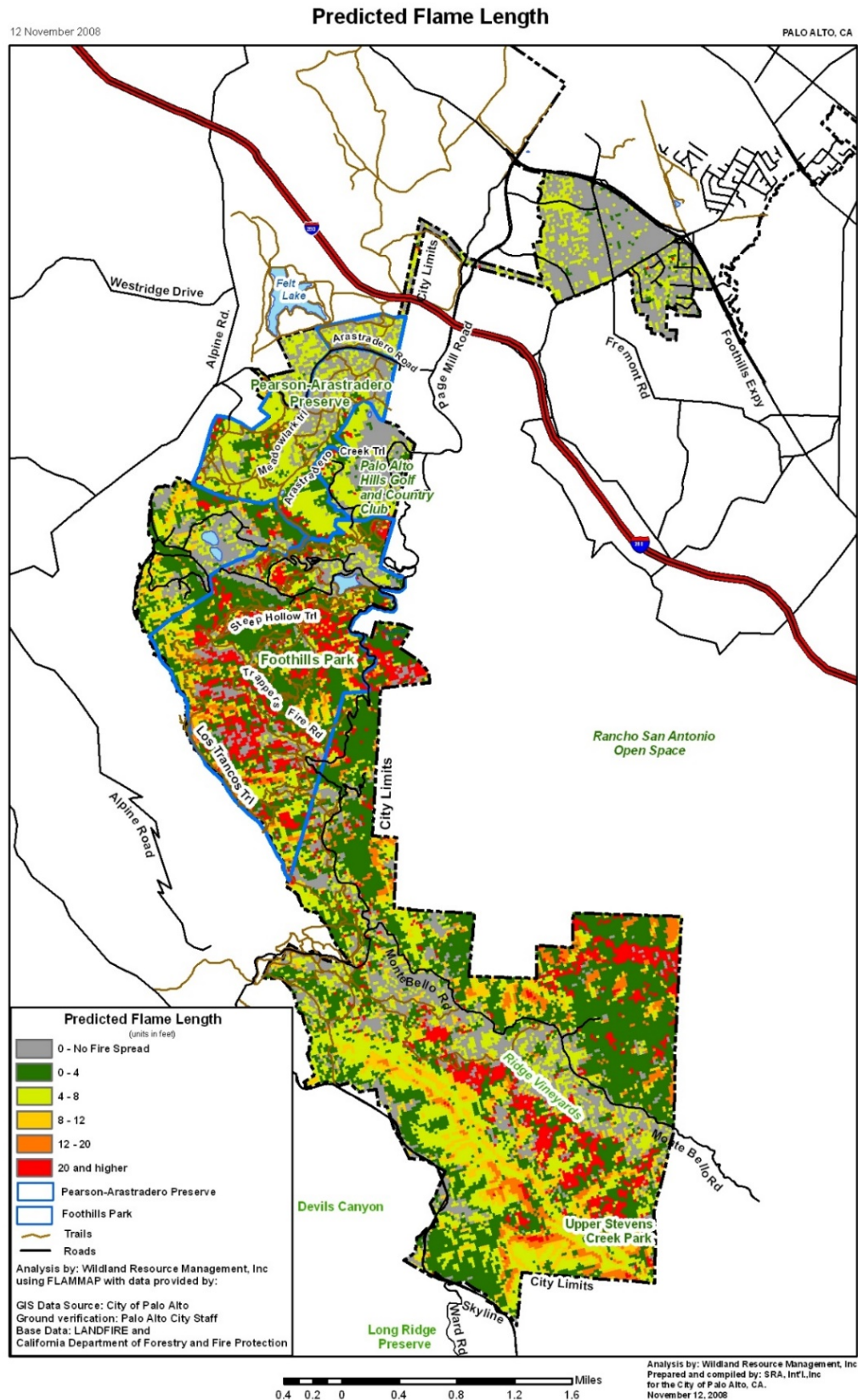


Figure 3.4. Predicted flame length, as developed during the 2009 FFMP update.

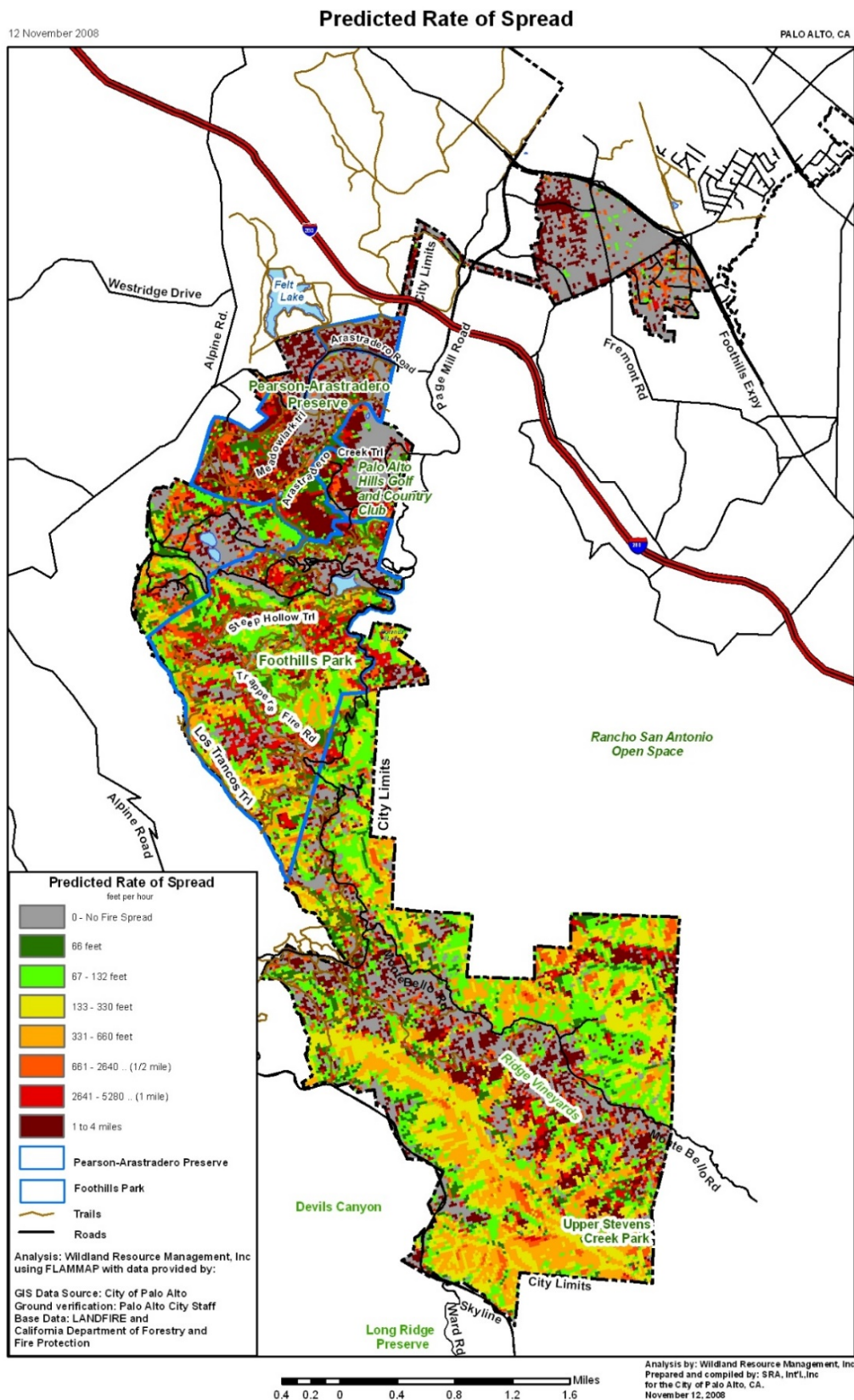


Figure 3.5. Predicted rate of spread, as developed during the 2009 FFMP update.

NEIGHBORHOOD AND STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

The Palo Alto community is made up of a mixture of homes with both old and new construction. Many homes are compliant with Building Code Chapter 7A, having been built since the WUI ordinance went into effect. Siding is a mixture of stucco and wood. Most homes have Class A roofs however there are enough with wood-shake roofs to endanger an entire neighborhood. Most roads are surfaced and have adequate width and turnaround for emergency apparatus. Roads are not very steep in most locations, but short stretches may be 10% grade.

Home lot size is large enough to separate homes enough to limit ignition from radiant heat (if the vegetation is managed between and surrounding the homes). Adjacent wildlands to the west and north are grass and are managed every year by the City of Palo Alto.

Water supply for the WUI areas is adequate and provided via hydrants connected to the city water supply.

There is an organized homeowner association (HOA) for much of the Foothills area that is active in fire prevention and can deliver a strong fire safety message and take action.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPACITY

Approximately 200 residences and large business complexes (some of them exceeding a million square feet in area) are located in Palo Alto's WUI fire area. The City of Palo Alto Emergency Operations Plan (June 2007) notes that 11 health care facilities, 10 schools and 25 government-owned buildings are located in the wildland urban interface threat areas, along with 19 miles of roadway that are subject to high, very high or extreme wild fire threat. The fire department has 122 personnel organized in four areas: Emergency Response (Operations), Environmental and Safety Management (Fire Prevention Bureau), and Training and Personnel Management (Support).

The fire department staffs six full-time stations located strategically throughout the city. To provide coverage in the sparsely developed hillside areas, an additional fire station in the foothills is operated during summer months when fire danger is high.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

The city has a strong online presence where City fire prevention messages inform their residents, with a particular webpage that address Threats and Hazards. This is found at www.cityofpaloalto.org/thira (and in addition to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan referenced earlier).

There is also an annual outreach by the city fire department in conjunction with inspection of parcels. Additionally, representatives from the Santa Clara FireSafe Council and the City Office of Emergency Services annually host a disaster preparedness workshop for the WUI area that includes wildland fire risk preparation and response.

The City works collaboratively with its partners and neighbors. The City contracts with the Santa Clara Fire Safe Council to assist with community outreach and education, as well as hazardous

fuel reduction projects in the WUI. The Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council augments public education material and often makes direct contact with homeowners. For example, a recent roadside treatment project on the San Mateo border was a partnership between the city, the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCFSC), and the Woodside Fire Protection District (WFPD), with the SCFSC facilitating contact of residents to encourage removal of vegetation beyond the road right of way. Homeowners filled several dumpsters (provided by WFPD) which improved evacuation routes.

The City has committed to the goal of having neighborhoods in the foothills become a designated Firewise community. They are sponsoring a fuels assessment of the community and support the application.

POLICIES, REGULATIONS, ORDINANCES, AND CODES

The FFMP includes details of codes and ordinances, as well as the code documents to which they refer.

FIRE CODE

Title 15 of the Palo Alto Municipal Code adopted the California Fire Code, 2013 Edition, with local amendments.

In addition, Title 8 regulates water efficiency, which affects defensible space and weed abatement; this is found at:

<http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/utl/residents/resrebate/landscape.asp>.

BUILDING CODE

Title 16 of the Palo Alto Municipal Code adopted the California Building Code, 2013 Edition. In general these sections support the adopted Title 15 Fire Code.

HAZARD ASSESSMENT

Community hazard assessments include ratings of community conditions compared to best practices for WUI fire mitigation. Community hazard ratings include consideration of applicable state codes, local ordinances, and recognized best practices guidelines.

The National Fire Protection Association Standard 1144 (NFPA 1144) defines WUI hazards and risks at the community and parcel level. This plan utilizes components of NFPA 1144, California laws and local ordinances to evaluate neighborhood WUI hazard and risk. California Public Resources Code (PRC) 4290 and 4291 sections address WUI community design and defensible space standards.

The NFPA 1144 community risk assessment completed as part of this CWPP for the Palo Alto Community assigned the WUI community a risk rating of High with a score of 103 (<40= low, >40 = moderate, >70 = High, >112 = Extreme). Factors that contributed to the risk are illustrated below. Averages are taken across the community for each of these parameters.

Parameter	Condition	Rating
Access	One road in and out	-
	Good road width and minimal grade	+
	Surfaced road	+
	Good fire access and turnarounds	+
	Street signs are present, some are non-reflective	+/-
Vegetation	Adjacent fuels: Heavy	-
	Defensible space: Less than 30 feet around structure	-
Topography within 300 feet of structure	10% to 20%	+/-
Topographic features	Moderate concern	+/-
History of high fire occurrence	Low	+
Severe fire weather potential	Low	+
Separation of adjacent structures	Good separation	+
Roofing assembly*	Class C	-
Building construction	Non-combustible siding/combustible deck	+/-
	Building set back <30 feet to slope	-
Available fire protection	Water: hydrants present with good pressure	+
	Response: Station <5 miles from structure	+
	Internal sprinklers: none	-
Utilities	One above and one below ground	+/-

*Roofing assembly: Class A: effective against severe fire test exposures; Class B: effective against moderate fire test exposures; Class C: effective against light fire test exposures; Unrated (wood shake roofs).

In addition to the on-the-ground hazard assessment, the CWPP also includes a Composite Fire Risk/Hazard Assessment which uses fire behavior modelling to determine potential fire behavior and is based on fuel characteristics, topography, weather, and fire history. The Composite Risk/Hazard Assessment for the planning area is shown in Figure 3.6. Large areas of Palo Alto are rated as extreme risk, this is due to the composition of vegetative fuels that combined with topography, historic weather patterns and fire history, lead to predicted extreme fire behavior. For more information on the methodology for this assessment please refer to Section 4.6.1 in Chapter 4 of the CWPP.

PARCEL LEVEL ASSESSMENT

A model for determining parcel level risk and effect of mitigations has been developed through this CWPP project. The model can use information available through public record for basic analysis but can be further refined with a site visit with property owner for a thorough analysis of risk score. The County will be seeking funding to fully implement this parcel level assessment in the future. The goal is for the property owner to be able to use this analysis to determine the most effective steps they can take to reduce their risk. For more information refer to Chapter 4 in the countywide CWPP document.

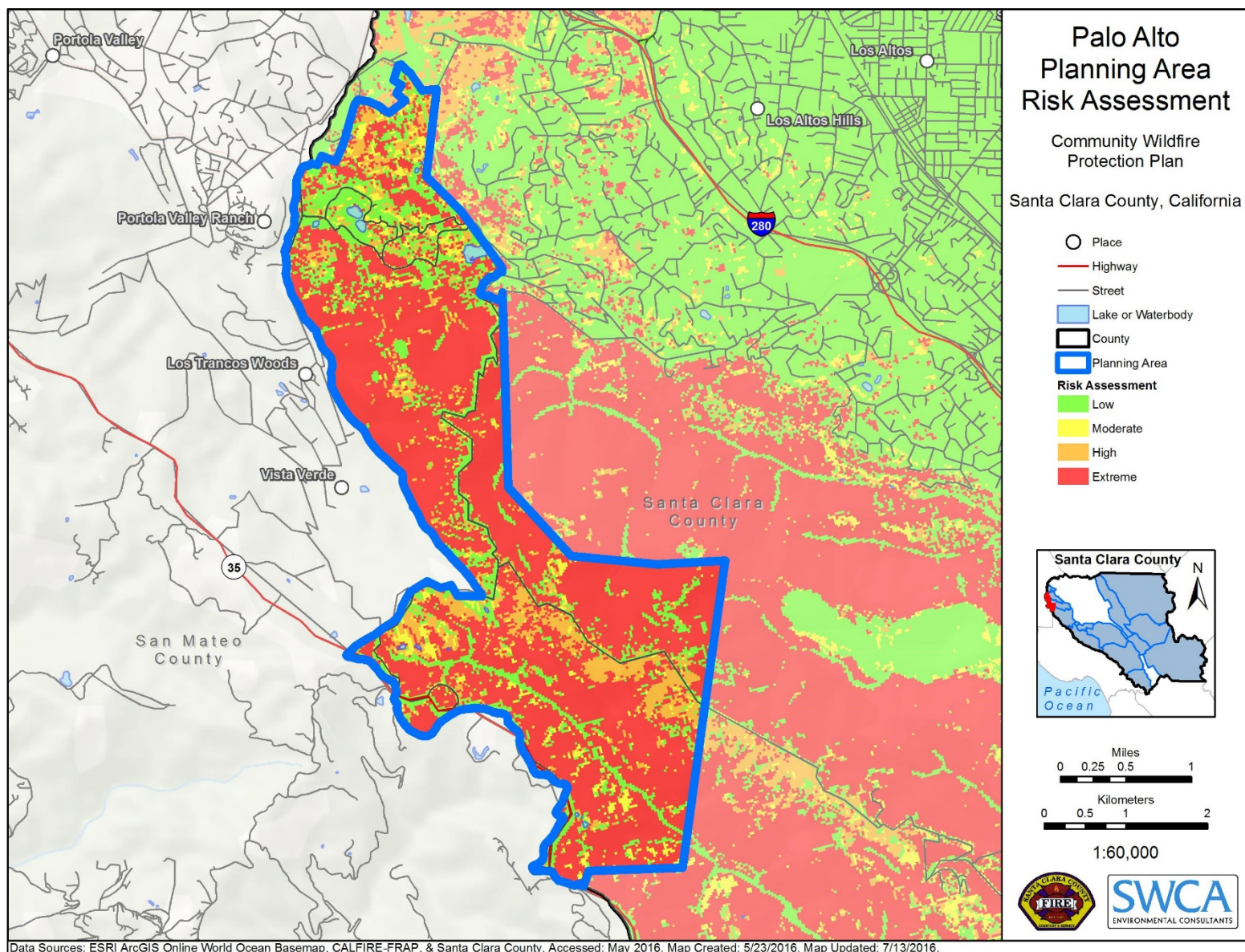


Figure 3.6. Composite Fire Risk/Hazard Assessment for Palo Alto.

IDENTIFY CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY VALUES AT RISK

The CWPP identifies critical infrastructure as: fire departments, emergency shelters, hospitals, schools, communications sites, electrical distribution, and other critical service facilities.

The CWPP identifies the following community values at risk for Palo Alto WUI areas:

- City of Palo Alto Station 8 in Foothills Park
- Open space areas: Midpeninsula Region Open Space District (MROSD) and Stanford University
- Foothills Park and Pearson-Arastradero Preserve
- Private residences
- Private recreation facilities like equestrian centers and Palo Alto Hills Golf and Country Club
- The site of private research facility (the Palo Alto University)
- Unique wildland habitat capable of supporting a mix of wildlife, a diverse plant and wildlife population containing several protected and monitored species, and a mix of ecosystems ranging from riparian areas to serpentine soils
- The FFMP lists (in Figure 11, page 32) sensitive species known or potentially occurring in the WUI area

MITIGATION PROJECTS AND PRIORITIZATIONS

The following project matrices have been developed by the community and Core Team to direct specific project implementation for communities in the Palo Alto WUI (Table 3.1–Table 3.3). The matrices below are tiered to the strategic goals presented in the body of the CWPP through project IDs in the first column of each matrix. The matrices are broken down into projects for addressing hazardous fuels, structural ignitability and public education and outreach.

A treatment map has been developed for the Palo Alto area that identifies a series of fuel treatments and other mitigation measures (Figure 3.7).

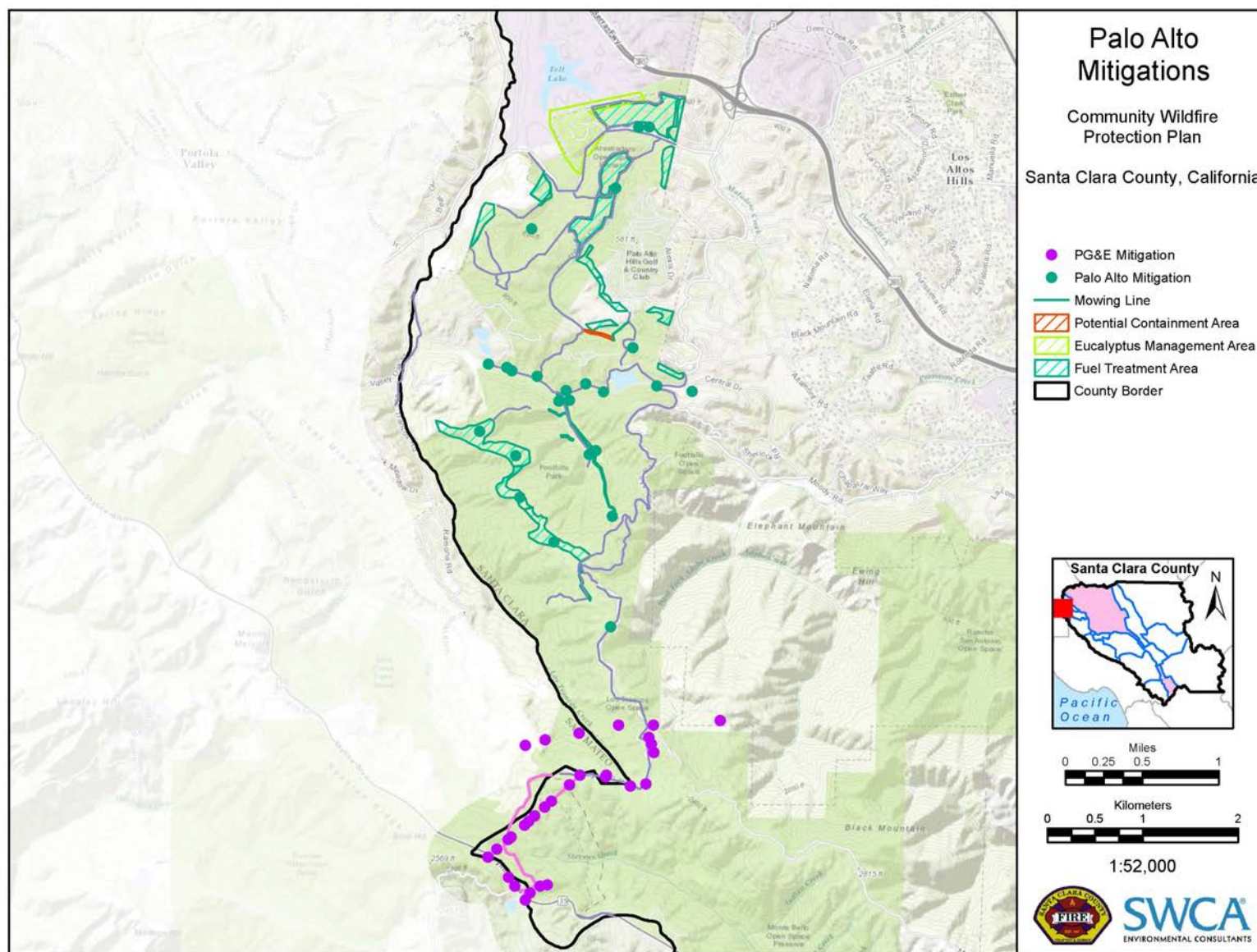


Figure 3.7. Mitigations for Palo Alto

Table 3.1. Recommendations for Public Outreach and Education for Palo Alto

ID PA- Palo Alto	Project	Presented by	Target Date	Priority (1,2,3)	Resources Needed	Serves to
Strategic Goal: EO13-Implement Firewise Communities programs. Work with communities to participate in Firewise Communities and prepare for fire events. Hold Firewise booths at local events for example during the October Fire Awareness Week each year.						
PA- EO13.1	Support designation of the Foothills neighborhood as Firewise	Establish and support a new Firewise Communities. Neighborhood fuels assessment, application to Firewise.	OES, Palo Alto Fire Department, Alexis Drive HOA, SCFSC.	2016	Staff hours to facilitate and support, addition to SCFSC work plan.	Give residents ownership of the fire problem, provide resources and information necessary to inform and prepare the community for fire.

Table 3.2. Recommendations for Reducing Structural Ignitability for Palo Alto

ID	Project	Presented by	Programs Available	Description	Contact	Priority (1,2,3) /Date
Strategic Goal: SI4- Adopt common defensible space standards throughout the county.						
PA-SI4.1	Continue defensible space maintenance around all City structures and water tanks in City-owned parcels (Figure 3.7)	Community Services Department and Fire Department	none	Use hand labor to maintain defensible space and serve as a model for residents in the WUI of Palo Alto.	Community Services Department and Fire Department	H/annually
PA-SI4.2	Continue to contract with Santa Clara FireSafe Council to assist with community outreach and education	Foothills Community Wildfire Management Program Team	City fire prevention material, Firewise, Ready-Set-Go, SCFSC Living with Fire	Offer hands-on workshops to highlight individual home vulnerabilities and how-to techniques to reduce ignitability of common structural elements.	Regional Fire Marshals.	H/annually
PA-SI4.3	Continue annual inspections of defensible space by fire department.	Local Fire Marshal	City fire department material, County Weed abatement "app"		Fire Marshal, Fire department personnel	H/annually
Strategic Goal: SI7- Promote Firewise Community recognition program countywide; consider SCL amendments to Fire wise; partner with CERT and Neighborhood Watch. NOTE: Linked to EO 13						
PA-SI7.1	Support designation of the Foothills neighborhood as Firewise	OES, Fire department, NFPA	Firewise	Assist in neighborhood fuels assessment, application to Firewise.	Fire Marshal	H/2016

Table 3.3. Fuel Reduction Treatment Recommendations for Palo Alto

ID	Project Description	Location and Responsible Party	Method	Serves to:	Timeline for Action	Priority (1,2,3)	Monitoring	Resources/funding sources available
Strategic Goal: FR7: Develop roadside fuel treatment program, including suite of methods available and sustainability mechanism.								
PA-FR7.1	Roadside and Driveway Fuel Modification for Safe Access and Egress (Figure 3.7)	Within road right of way and within City-owned parks, on Page Mill Rd., Los Trancos Rd., Arastradero Rd, Skyline Blvd., and within Pearson-Arasterdero and Foothills Park.	Hand labor, mechanized mowers, grazing livestock.	Allow safe passage for evacuation and emergency access.	Mow grass annually, 3-5 year tree trimming and brush removal.	H	Annual inspection	General Fund, allocated to appropriate departments,
Non-tiered projects								
PA-FR1	Maintain firefighter safety zones in Foothills Park (Figure 3.7)	City-owned Foothills Park.	Mechanized mowers, grazing livestock.	Provide safe haven for firefighters during extreme wildfire conditions.	Mow grass annually.	H	Annual inspection	General Fund, allocated to appropriate departments,
PA-FR2	Create a non-combustible and a defensible space zone around barbeque structures (Figure 3.7)	All barbeque structures in all City parks in the WUI.	Hand labor.	Prevent ignitions.	Annually.	H	Annual inspection	General Fund, allocated to appropriate departments.
PA-FR3	Establish and maintain areas of low-fuel volume in strategic locations (Figure 3.7)	On ridgelines and borders of City-owned parks, and/or as described in the FFMP.	Hand labor, mechanized mowers, grazing livestock, prescribed fire.	Assist in containment of a wildfire to prevent spread into private property.	Mow grass annually, 3-5 year tree trimming and brush removal.	H	Annual inspection	General Fund, allocated to appropriate departments.

The following is a description of the goals for each of the types of projects that manage vegetation as part of this plan:

ROADSIDE AND DRIVEWAY FUEL MODIFICATION FOR SAFE ACCESS AND EGRESS

Specific Goal of Action

The most important goal for this set of projects is to reduce fire intensity near roads to allow firefighting vehicles to pass and ensure safe passage for staff and visitors to pre-determined safety zones, or safe locations out of the parks. In addition, the projects outside of the City parks/preserves are aimed at facilitating access and egress between different portions of Palo Alto's wildland urban interface (Figure 3.8).

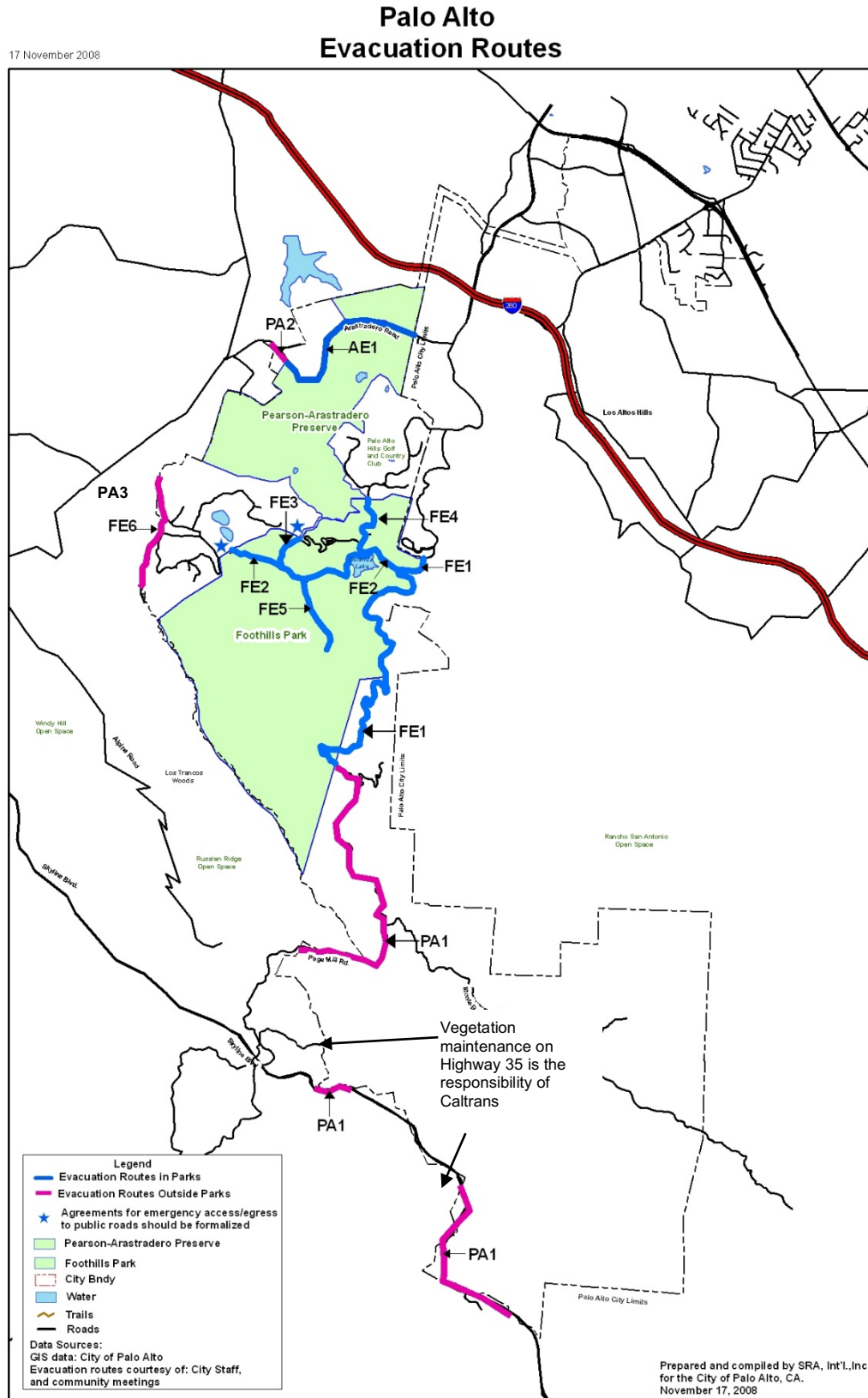


Figure 3.8. Evacuation routes external to Foothills Park and Pearson-Arastradero Preserve.

FUEL MODIFICATION FOR FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

Specific Goal of Action

This project goal is specific to the safety of firefighters during emergency response when safe refuge comprised of low fuels is vital.

STRUCTURE AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS – DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Specific Goal of Action

- Reduce damage to structures, developed areas and critical infrastructure from wildfire by reducing flame length to two feet within 30 feet of structures by managing fuels per Defensible Space Guidelines in Appendix A of the CWPP. In some cases, treatment will need to extend to 100 feet in order to reduce flames to two feet within thirty feet of a structure.
- Minimize negative effects of fuel manipulation on wildlands
- Reduce damage to wildlands from wildfire

IGNITION PREVENTION FUEL MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

Specific Goal of Action

Ignitions from barbeques may occur in Foothills Park. Ignition prevention relies upon fuel management, coupled with education, signage, and enforcement of park rules regarding fire safety. Under extreme fire weather conditions, the parks may be closed to the public. The fuel management will consist of the following:

- Follow standards for defensible space for a 30-foot radius from the barbeque site.
- Remove vegetation to create a non-combustible zone for a 10-foot radius from the barbeque site.

FUEL MODIFICATION FOR CONTAINMENT EASE

Specific Goal of Action

The specific goal of modifying fuels is to compartmentalize fuels in order to facilitate the containment and control of a fire. The treatment areas are positioned in strategic locations, usually on a ridgetop, with access, avoiding areas that would preclude the use of mechanical equipment such as steep slopes or riparian areas. Fuels are modified to reduce fire intensity and thus allow firefighters better access to the fire, making firefighting actions more effective. Fuel modification also creates more opportunities to backfire, which occurs during wildfires where fire suppression crews create large firebreaks in advance of the fire front. Fuel modification can also slow the spread of a fire, further enhancing fire control efforts. Where trees abut grasslands in the new fuel breaks, it is especially important to limb trees and remove shrubby understory from trees along the edge of the forest canopy in order to break vertical continuity between grass and tree canopy. This

action will remove the “ladder fuels” that promote crown fires and hinder fire containment. Table 3.4 describes proposed/conceptual fuel modification projects for the Palo Alto WUI.

Table 3.4. Fuel Modification Projects

Designation	Project	Description	Acreage or Distance	Treatment Method
Foothills				
F.C1	Containment	Trappers Trail	72.51 acres	Mowing, grazing
F.C2	Containment	Pony Tracks south of Trappers Ridge	2,975 feet	Mow annually 10 feet on either side of road, use a brush hog (or grazing animals) to mow areas to the break in slope both under wooded canopy and in grasslands with cover of coyote brush greater than 30%
F.C3	Containment	Pony Tracks north of Trappers Ridge	2,461 feet	Mowing, grazing
F.C4	Containment	Bobcat point	5.28 acres	Graze with goats
F.C5	Containment	North of entry Gate	3.47 acres	Graze with goats
F.C6	Containment	Valley View Fire Trail	1,459 feet	Mowing
Pearson-Arastradero				
A.C1	Containment	Property boundary adjacent to Liddicoat	5.39 acres	Grazing, mowing
A.C2	Containment	Property boundary adjacent to Stanford and Portola Pastures	5,371 feet	Grazing, mowing
A.C3	Containment	Within Redtail Loop Trail, to entire eastern boundary of Preserve	48.72 acres	Grazing
A.C4	Containment	Property boundary adjacent to Paso del Robles	7.71 acres	Grazing
A.C5	Containment	Property boundary Laurel Glen - north	11.22 acres	Grazing
A.C6	Containment	Property boundary Laurel Glen - south	4.05 acres	Grazing
A.C7	Containment	Property boundary west of Meadow Lark Trail	9.71 acres	Grazing, mowing
A.C8	Containment	Property boundary adjacent to 1791 Arastradero Rd.	8.08 acres	Grazing (mowing is not possible)
A.C9	Containment	Property boundary adjacent to John Marthens	1,726 feet	Mowing
A.C10	Containment	Arastradero Creek to Arastradero Road	10,222 feet	Mowing, hand labor near riparian zone
A.C11	Containment	Meadow Lark to Juan Bautista Trail	8,893 feet	Mowing
A.C12	Containment	Meadow Lark	1,569 feet	Mowing
A.C13	Containment	Bowl Loop	1,388 feet	Mowing
A.C14	Containment	Arastradero to extended split RX1 and RX2	1,830 feet	Mowing
A.C15	Containment	Acorn Trail	1,218 feet	Mowing

FUEL MODIFICATION FOR ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

Specific Goal of Action

The City should conduct fuel modification to reduce the invasion of coyote bush into grasslands and thus reduce expected heat output. The objectives are to maintain grasslands and restore the native pattern of vegetation on the landscape.

Other fuel management projects also enhance ecosystem health (Table 3.5). Reducing the amount and height of understory shrubs creates a vegetative structure that is more open at the forest floor,

with less biomass and is vertically discontinuous; this mimics the pre-fire-suppression era. This would be done either with goat herds or with hand labor forces.

Location and Description of Projects

Table 3.5. Project locations for Ecosystem Health

Designation	Project	Description	Acreage	Treatment Method
Foothills				
F.C1	Containment	Trappers Trail	72.51 acres	Mowing, grazing 2–3 rotation
Pearson-Arastradero				
A.Rx1	Containment	Juan Bautista Prescribe fire north	18.25 acres	Rx fire, grazing
A.Rx2	Containment	Acorn Trail Prescribed fire south	24.45 acres	Rx fire, grazing
A.C3	Containment	Within Redtail Loop Trail, to entire eastern boundary of Preserve	48.72 acres	Grazing, mowing

COOPERATIVE FUEL MANAGEMENT PROJECTS FOR OFFSITE FIRE CONTAINMENT AND EVACUATION EASE

Specific Goal of Action

The goal of this project is to prevent a wildfire from spreading into the parks. The City should work with adjacent landowners to institute and maintain the vegetation in a condition that would facilitate containment and ease evacuation operations.

Location and Description of Projects

Most importantly, the enhancement of roadside treatments along Page Mill Road requires cooperation with several other landowners and agencies. Cooperative projects include the formalization of agreements for passage through properties during time of emergency evacuation with public and private land owners and managers. Develop partnerships to address regional evacuation routes from residential and public areas and fuel management on City-owned open space adjacent to private structures, as detailed in the following section. In some cases, such as on the western edge of Foothill Park east of Carmel and Ramona Road in Los Trancos Woods, access through private parcels would enable fuel management on City lands that would benefit both parties involved.

Sudden Oak Death has been observed in many locations within the Foothills area. At this time the areas are small and consist of one or two trees. The urgency for treatment of these affected areas is related to its location. Dead trees near structures, City property boundaries and along roads should be treated first. For example, dead trees along evacuation routes would get higher priority than those in the middle of remote woodland. However, if entire stands die, or Sudden Oak Death changes the fuel characteristics of the stand, the priority and potential treatments would change. The location and extent of stands affected by Sudden Oak Death should be monitored.

Treatment should be consistent with the City policy regarding Sudden Oak Death. Treatments generally entail removal of dead material smaller than six inches in diameter. The trunks of the trees may remain if needed for wildlife habitat, however it is often difficult to retain just the larger material. The proximity of California bay to the foliage of oaks has been linked with the spread of Sudden Oak Death. Removal or trimming of bay trees to separate the foliage is another strategy to prevent further spread.

Table 3.6. Recommendations for General Planning Projects in City of Palo Alto

ID	Project Description	Method	Timeline for Action	Priority (1,2,3)	Monitoring/Sustainability	Resources/Funding Sources Available
Strategic Goal GP1: Ensure project sustainability.						
PA-GP1.1	The CWPP serves as the wildfire component of Palo Alto Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) and General Plan - Safety and other element amendments.	Work with city planning to identify timeline for incorporation in next LHMP update. Aim to have the strategic-level CWPP incorporated into the Safety Element of the General Plan when the safety element is next revised. Getting it into the General Plan is equivalent to getting the CWPP adopted.	Next 5 years	2	The core group of stakeholders would need to ensure that the document is kept relevant in that time and position it for incorporation.	Internal funding
PA-GP1.2	Ensure project sustainability.	Have a target date for updating the datasets used in the risk assessment model and re-running the model. Establish trigger points for updating CWPP. Make contact with Santa Clara County Fire Department to note your interest in participating in the project and identify CWPP meeting schedule.	Annually	1	Establish annual oversight of the CWPP and project status. Get buy-in from Core Team members for long-term commitment to CWPP review.	Internal funding
PA-GP1.3	Designate a member to the Countywide CWPP Core Team for CWPP updates.	Identify staff and convene a kickoff of the working group and identify tasks and goals for CWPP updates.	Meet quarterly	1	Commit to attendance at one CWPP meeting annually.	Internal funding
PA-GP1.4	Develop methods for sustainability of hazardous fuel reduction.	Develop action for city council to adopt method to fund sustainable hazardous fuel maintenance (such Mello-Roos Community Facility Districts for new subdivisions).	As needed	2	Enactment of policy.	Internal funding

Santa Clara County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
Annex 3 – City of Palo Alto

ID	Project Description	Method	Timeline for Action	Priority (1,2,3)	Monitoring/Sustainability	Resources/Funding Sources Available
Strategic Goal GP2: Parcel Level Defensible Space Inspection Task Force						
PA-GP2.1	Join countywide task force to do parcel level inspection work to enhance model; utilize portable data collection and ArcGIS as analysis tools.	Carryout parcel level assessments to enhance risk assessment model components at a finer scale. Add data to model and re-run as necessary.	2 years	1	Set target number of parcels to be assessed each year. Review number of parcels assessed each year at annual CWPP meeting.	Internal funding
Strategic Goal GP3: Develop countywide standard and method for continued data gathering and risk analysis.						
PA-GP3.1	Use a countywide standard and method for continued data gathering and risk analysis.	Conduct funding to purchase a commercial application, such as Fulcrum, that provides a standard data collection platform that could be used on a smart phone/tablet.	2 years	1	Annual review of progress as part of Core Team.	California Fire Safe Council clearinghouse grants; internal funding
Strategic Goal GP5: Add hyperspectral and LiDAR imaging to periodic aerial photography flights.						
PA-GP5.1	Seek LiDAR and hyperspectral imagery for aerial photography of Palo Alto.	Work in conjunction with the City Planning, County Assessor, or others to add additional sensing cameras to aerial photo flights. Hyperspectral and LiDAR can provide in depth identification and analysis of hazards and risks.	1–3 years	1	Periodic new flights to update data sets.	Grants: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, Greenhouse Gas Reduction

This page left intentionally blank