

ANNEX 13

CHAPTER 1 UNINCORPORATED AREAS WITHOUT LOCAL FIRE PROTECTION

There are areas in Santa Clara County that are not within any local government fire protection organization’s jurisdiction. Specifically the Mt. Hamilton area, San Antonio Valley, Pacheco Pass, and the portion of the Stanford University campus outside the City of Palo Alto. Fire protection in these unincorporated areas is the responsibility of the County of Santa Clara, but there is no state statute or local ordinance that requires providing any services. Most of these unincorporated areas are designated State Responsibility Areas (SRAs) by state law, and therefore the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has jurisdiction for wildland fire protection in SRAs. CAL FIRE does not have jurisdictional responsibility for non-wildland fire emergencies, but will respond as a good Samaritan or through mutual aid during the fire season when they staff their fire stations. The Stanford University campus outside the City of Palo Alto is wildland but is designated a Local Responsibility Area (LRA); therefore, CAL FIRE has no jurisdictional responsibility.

Since all these areas are unincorporated, land use planning, building permit processes, and local ordinances and regulations are under the jurisdiction of the County Board of Supervisors. The County Fire Marshal has jurisdiction for new construction permit fire/building code approval and inspection. There are no maintenance or defensible space inspections conducted by the Fire Marshal.

CHAPTER 1 MT HAMILTON AND SAN ANTONIO VALLEY

The Mt. Hamilton and San Antonio Valley area of eastern Santa Clara County is characterized as open space lands owned by public agencies and private ranches. The population is sparse.

Public agencies owning open space land include County Parks, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, University of California (Berkeley and Santa Cruz campuses), California Department of Parks and Recreation, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and San Francisco Water. There are a few scattered parcels of land the Bureau of Land Management owns near the northern boundary of Henry Coe State Park (Figure 13-1.1).

Some historically significant and irreplaceable properties, such as Lick Observatory and Joseph Grant Ranch house, are in this planning area.

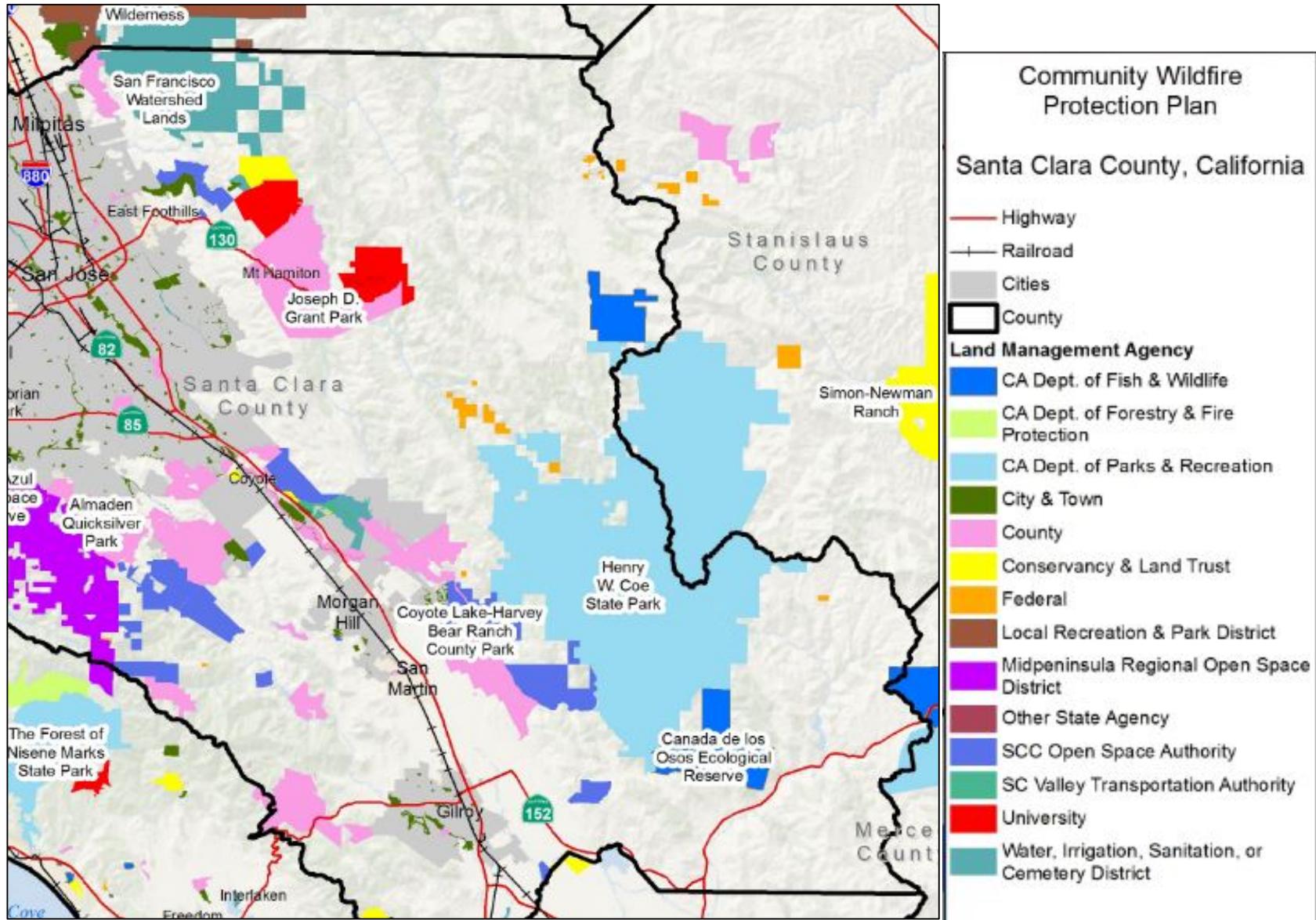


Figure 13-1.1. Land ownership in the Mt. Hamilton and San Antonio Valley planning area.

ORGANIZATION AND JURISDICTION

The Mt. Hamilton wildland urban interface (WUI) planning area is unincorporated and SRAs (Figure 13-1.2). CAL FIRE has jurisdictional responsibility for wildland fire protection and California Public Resources Code (PRC) statutes fully apply.

Fire Protection Jurisdiction: There is no local government fire protection organization for these areas. Local government fire protection falls under the jurisdiction of the County of Santa Clara but is not included in either the Central Fire Protection District, Los Altos Hills County Fire Protection District, or the South Santa Clara Fire Protection District (the three Board of Supervisor–governed fire districts in the county).

Building Permits: Since both areas are unincorporated area, land use planning, building permit processes, and local ordinances and regulations are under the jurisdiction of the County Board of Supervisors. The County Fire Marshal has jurisdiction for new construction permit fire/building code approval and inspection. There are no maintenance or defensible space inspections conducted by the Fire Marshal.

Emergency Response: In the Mt. Hamilton–San Antonio Valley area, CAL FIRE provides wildland fire protection under SRA authority and will respond to all fire/rescue emergencies during fire season when they staff their stations in the planning area (Smith Creek and Sweetwater). During the non-fire season during the winter of 2015–2016, the County Board of Supervisors has a contract with CAL FIRE to staff the Sweetwater Station.

Portions of the northern part of the Mt. Hamilton and San Antonio Valley are receives response from the Spring Valley Volunteer Fire Company (a not for profit 501(c)3 public benefit corporation). Spring Valley does not have government jurisdiction, but it responds as a public benefit.

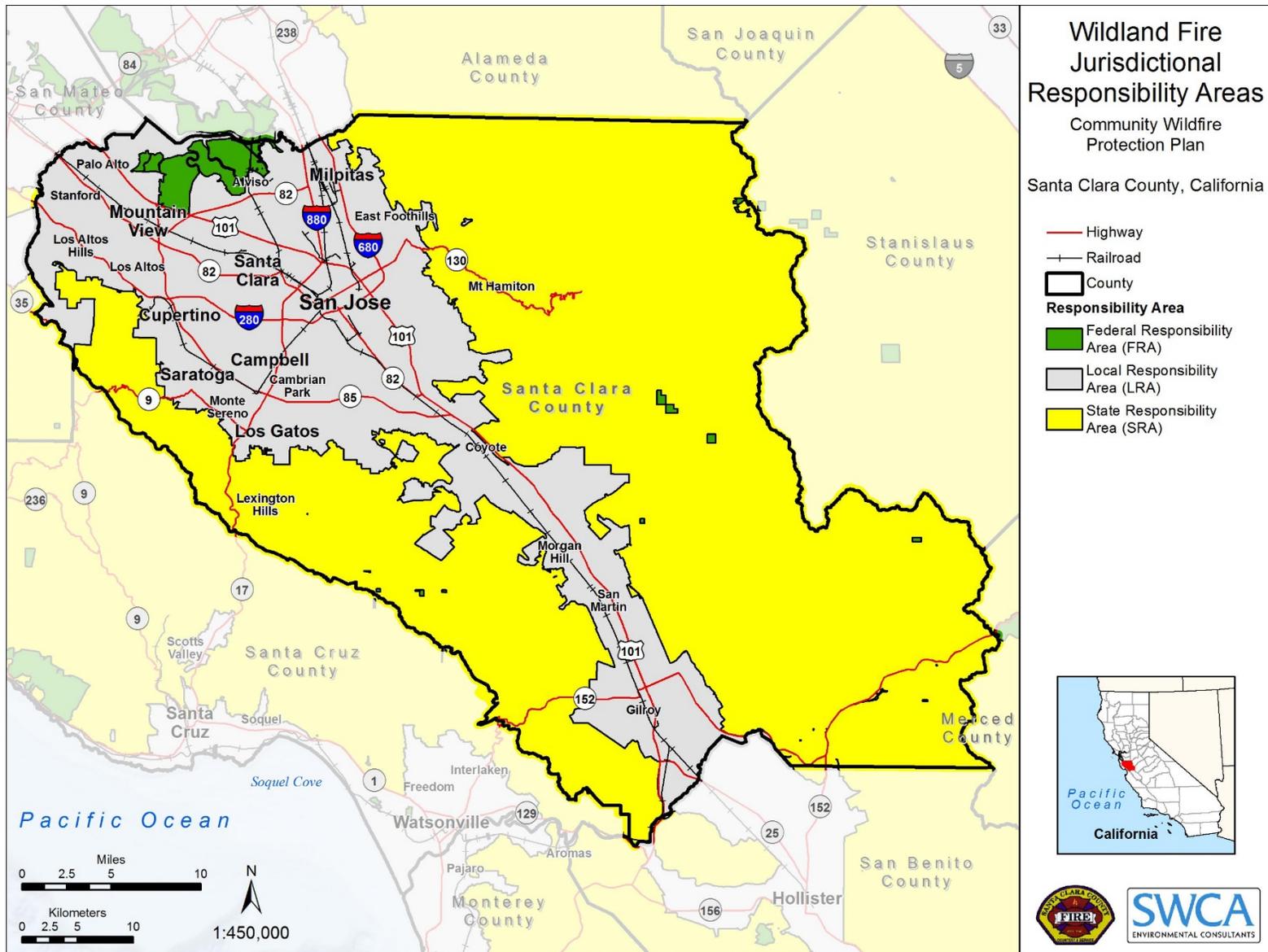


Figure 13-1.2. SRAs and LRAs.

PLANNING TEAM PARTICIPATION

CAL FIRE and Santa Clara County Fire Marshal serves as the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Core Team planning process representative.

SUMMARY

Land use planning, building and fire codes are the jurisdictional authority of the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors. Enactment of WUI defensible space and WUI conditioned land use decisions rest with the Board of Supervisors.

MT. HAMILTON AND SAN ANTONIO VALLEY

The largest fires in county history occur in this area. Wildfires present a significant danger to people and properties within the Mt. Hamilton area. The area experiences long response times for ground resource firefighters, most initial attacks on wildfires are from aircraft from Hollister Air Attack Base and Alma Helitack Base. Sweetwater fire station is the only station east of Mt. Hamilton in Santa Clara County.

Prescribed burning is an active management technique for this planning area and can serve as an educational resource of effective use of fire as an ecological and cost effective tool for healthy land management. 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 municipal and county government action.

CAL FIRE prepares an annual Santa Clara unit Fire Plan that identifies goals and objectives for fire prevention, mitigation, and fire operations for all SRA lands throughout the CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit, including the Mt. Hamilton area.

The Santa Clara County CWPP establishes strategic goals for these more detailed area fire planning efforts. The Santa Clara unit Fire Plan is incorporated into this county planning process through reference, but remains the most detailed level plan for the Mt. Hamilton WUI area.

WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE AREA DESCRIPTION

MT HAMILTON AND SAN ANTONIO VALLEY WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE AREA DEFINED

The Mt. Hamilton WUI planning area includes the unincorporated lands in the eastern part of Santa Clara County that are not in the Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District. The area is an SRA with the exception of few scattered parcels of federally owned land near Henry Coe State Park. The area is primarily classified high and very high fire hazard severity zone (FHSZ).

There are very few structures, primarily ranchland residences and buildings.

Because of the public open space ownership, thousands of people visit and use the area every year. The visitors present both a risk of human-caused fires and a potential for evacuation challenges because they may not be familiar with evacuation routing and protocols.

For this CWPP the WUI planning area is delineated in Figure 13-1.3.

Figure 13-1.3. Mt. Hamilton - San Antonio Valley WUI area.

FIRE HISTORY

Based on existing vegetation, topography, and typical weather conditions for Mt. Hamilton and San Antonio Valley, the area is considered vulnerable to wildfire (Figure 13-1.4). The proximity of open space to residential structures and to scenic roadways increases the likelihood of anthropogenic ignition (i.e., caused by human activity) from discarded cigarettes, automobiles, fireworks, and electrical transmission lines, etc. Additionally, the potential for spotting (burning embers entering or blowing into unburned vegetation) is high during dry, north and northeast wind-driven conflagrations.

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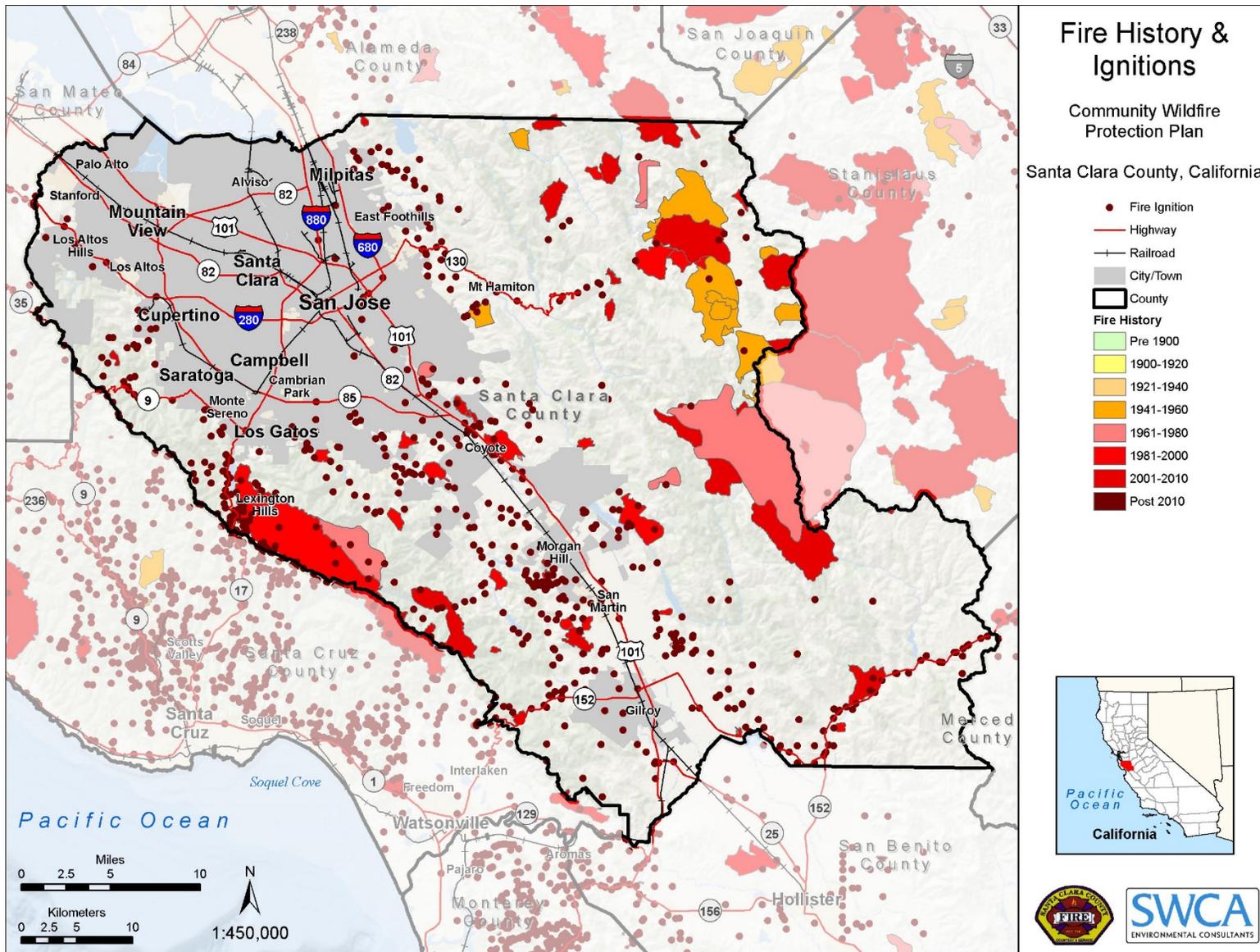


Figure 13-1.4. Fire history and ignition patterns.

For additional fire history information, please see Figure 3.5 in the main countywide CWPP document.

HAZARDOUS FUEL CHARACTERISTICS

The vegetation in Mt. Hamilton area includes:

- Annual grassland - native and non-native grassland < 4 feet tall: high rates of spread.
- Chamise/Redshank chaparral - 6+ feet tall shrubs: intense fire behavior and fast rates of spread.
- Oak woodland, mixed conifer, montane hardwood, fire carried by understory fuels: slow-burning fire with low flame lengths.
- Ponderosa pine, understory of loose leaf litter: some torching and crowning possible dependent on density of fuels and ladder fuels.
- Coastal sage scrub-shrub vegetation, less than 3 feet in height: potential explosive fire behavior particular in areas of contiguous fuels and during periods of low fuel moisture.

For fuel model information, please refer to Section 4.6.3 and Figure 4.3 in Chapter 4 of the main countywide CWPP document.

NEIGHBORHOOD AND STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

Open Space Areas: Open space areas include portions of Joseph D. Grant County Park and the Sierra Vista Santa Clara County Open Space Authority properties (Figure 13-1.5 and Figure 13-1.6).



Figure 13-1.5. Joseph Grant Ranch House.



Figure 13-1.6. Sierra Vista Open Space.

Lick Observatory: The University of California–Santa Cruz campus operates the historic Lick Observatory along with 3,600 acres of wildland on top of Mt. Hamilton (Figure 13-1.7).



Figure 13-1.7. Lick Observatory.

The Lick Observatory is important scientifically and historically. The observatory was established in 1888 and has been doing forefront observational astronomy for more than 120 years. Approximately 35,000 people visit the facility per year predominantly during the summer fire season period.

Copernicus Peak: Copernicus Peak is adjacent to Mt. Hamilton and houses several critical infrastructure communication sites for local and statewide radio and telephone communication systems (Figure 13-1.8).



Figure 13-1.8. Copernicus Peak communications site.

Residential and Ranch Structures: There are also a number of large privately owned ranches that contribute to the open space in the area (Figure 13-1.9 and Figure 13-1.10). Rural residences also exist and pressure for further development is high.



Figure 13-1.9. Rural ranch residence.



Figure 13-1.10. Rural residences.

Newer development structures are built under Chapter 7A WUI fire codes and are ignition resistant with fire-resistant roofing. Some older properties do have wood shake shingle roofs. Spacing between structures is substantial and structure to structure fire spread potential is minimal. Defensible space and good property hygiene is very effective in reducing fire risk in these situations.

Water Supply: There are no community water systems in the planning area. All water is from wells and storage tanks.

Roads: While there are many maintained roads that provide access to the Mt. Hamilton area, ingress and egress is still a concern due to the remoteness of some areas (distance from fire stations), steep terrain and narrow roads make impact fire response capabilities, and some private roads with narrow road widths and inadequate turnarounds for emergency vehicles (Figure 13-1.11).



Figure 13-1.11. Narrow roads make passing impossible.

Roadside Right-of-way Treatments: Several sections of public roadways show signs of roadside fuel treatments within the road right-of-way. These treatments are very effective in preventing roadside ignitions from vehicle exhaust and should be encouraged where feasible.

Cattle Grazing: Many privately owned ranches and farms are also present in the planning area, as well as associated livestock, equipment and crops (Figure 13-1.12). Cattle grazing on grasslands (public and private) is common and serves as an effective method to reduce flammability. Concentrating cattle in strategic locations in late spring and early summer can reduce fire spread from roadside fire starts. Fires that start along roadsides often slow or stop spreading completely when they reach grazed areas.



Figure 13-1.12. Cattle grazing warning on Sierra Vista Open Space.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPACITY

Mt Hamilton-San Antonio Valley is SRA and wildland fires are shared responsibility with CAL FIRE. When CAL FIRE staffs their fire stations during fire season, they will respond to all fire/rescue emergencies in the area. During the winter of 2015–2016 the County of Santa Clara has an agreement with CAL FIRE to staff the Sweetwater fire station 24/7. This winter staffing is relatively new and it is not clear if the arrangement will continue in the future.

CAL FIRE: The area is an SRA and receives a full wildland fire response from CAL FIRE during fire season. Normal CAL FIRE wildland response includes chief officers, fire engines, air tankers (Hollister Air Attack Base), helicopter (Alma Heli Base), fire dozers, and hand crews (Ben Lomand Camp or Delta Camp).

- Sweetwater Station
- Smith Creek Station
- Sunol Station
- Alma Station
- Morgan Hill Station
- Del Puerto Station

Spring Valley Volunteer Fire Department (SVVFD): The SVVFD is a not for profit public benefit organization. The SVVFD does not have jurisdictional authority over fire code enforcement or land use. The department supports the San Jose Fire Department and CAL FIRE by working as a first responder to some areas on the northern edge of the East Foothills CWPP area. The SVVFD response area is east of north San Jose and Milpitas and runs from Alum Rock Park on the south to the Santa Clara/Alameda County line to the north.

The SVVFD is staffed and operated by men and women volunteers dedicated to protecting 200 square miles of hillside wildlands above Milpitas and northeast San Jose. Volunteers are trained and equipped to the same professional state-certified level as full-time paid firefighters (<http://www.svvfd.org>). They have mutual aid agreements with San Jose and Milpitas Fire Departments and CAL FIRE and are dispatched by Morgan Hill CAL FIRE.

More information regarding fire response is in the 2016 CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit Fire Plan.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

The Mt. Hamilton area does not have an area representative on the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (<http://www.SCCFireSafe.org>). CAL FIRE, County Parks, and Open Space Authority do have representatives and indirectly represent the area. We recommend encouraging citizen representation, too, particularly the ranching community. This organization provides information regarding chipping programs, defensible space mitigation, forest health issues, and much more. They also offer public meetings and forums to support wildfire awareness.

CAL FIRE provides defensible space inspections and enforcement and regulates open burning for debris removal and prescribed burning.

POLICIES, REGULATIONS, ORDINANCES, AND CODES

Mt. Hamilton area is an SRA and is covered by state regulations, and laws related to wildland fire protection, as well as county ordinances. Since the Mt. Hamilton area is unincorporated, structures within the planning area are covered under the County's WUI codes:

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/dpd/Iwantto/PropertyInfo/Pages/WUI.aspx>

RISK/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. PRC 4290 and 4291 address WUI community design and defensible space standards.

An on-the-ground hazard assessment was completed for the Mt. Hamilton. The following ratings are based on the NFPA 1144 structural hazard assessment form. Scores are rated as follows: (<40

= low, >40 = moderate, >70 = high, > 112 = extreme). Factors that contributed to the assessment are illustrated in tabular format below. Averages are taken across the community to give a rating for each parameters (individual parameter numerical ratings are not shown here, but instead are shown as a +, - or +/-). For more information on the methodology for the hazard assessment, please see Section 4.6.1 in Chapter 4 of the Santa Clara County CWPP.

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| Parameter | Condition | Rating |
|---|---|---------------|
| Access | Two roads in and out but access still concern | +/- |
| | Narrow road width | - |
| | Surfaced road with greater than 5% grade | + |
| | Poor fire access, dead end spurs, lack turnaround | - |
| | Street signs are present, some are non-reflective | +/- |
| Vegetation | Adjacent fuels: Light | + |
| | Defensible Space: >70 feet to < 100 feet around structure | +/- |
| Topography within 300 feet of structure | 20%–40% | + |
| Topographic features | Moderate to high concern | +/- |
| History of high fire occurrence | Moderate | + |
| Severe fire weather potential | High | + |
| Separation of adjacent structures | Good separation | + |
| Roofing assembly | Class B | +/- |
| Building construction | Non-combustible siding, combustible deck | +/- |
| | Building not set back >30 feet to slope | +/- |
| Available fire protection | Water: storage tanks only; not present on all properties | + |
| | Response: Station >5 miles from structure | - |
| | Internal sprinklers: none | - |
| Utilities | Above ground | +/- |
| Risk Rating - High (84) | | |

In addition to the on-the-ground hazard assessment, the CWPP also includes a Composite Fire Risk/Hazard Assessment (Figure 13-1.13), which uses fire behavior modeling 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 13-1.13. For more information on the methodology for this assessment, please refer to Section 4.6.1 in Chapter 4 of the countywide CWPP.

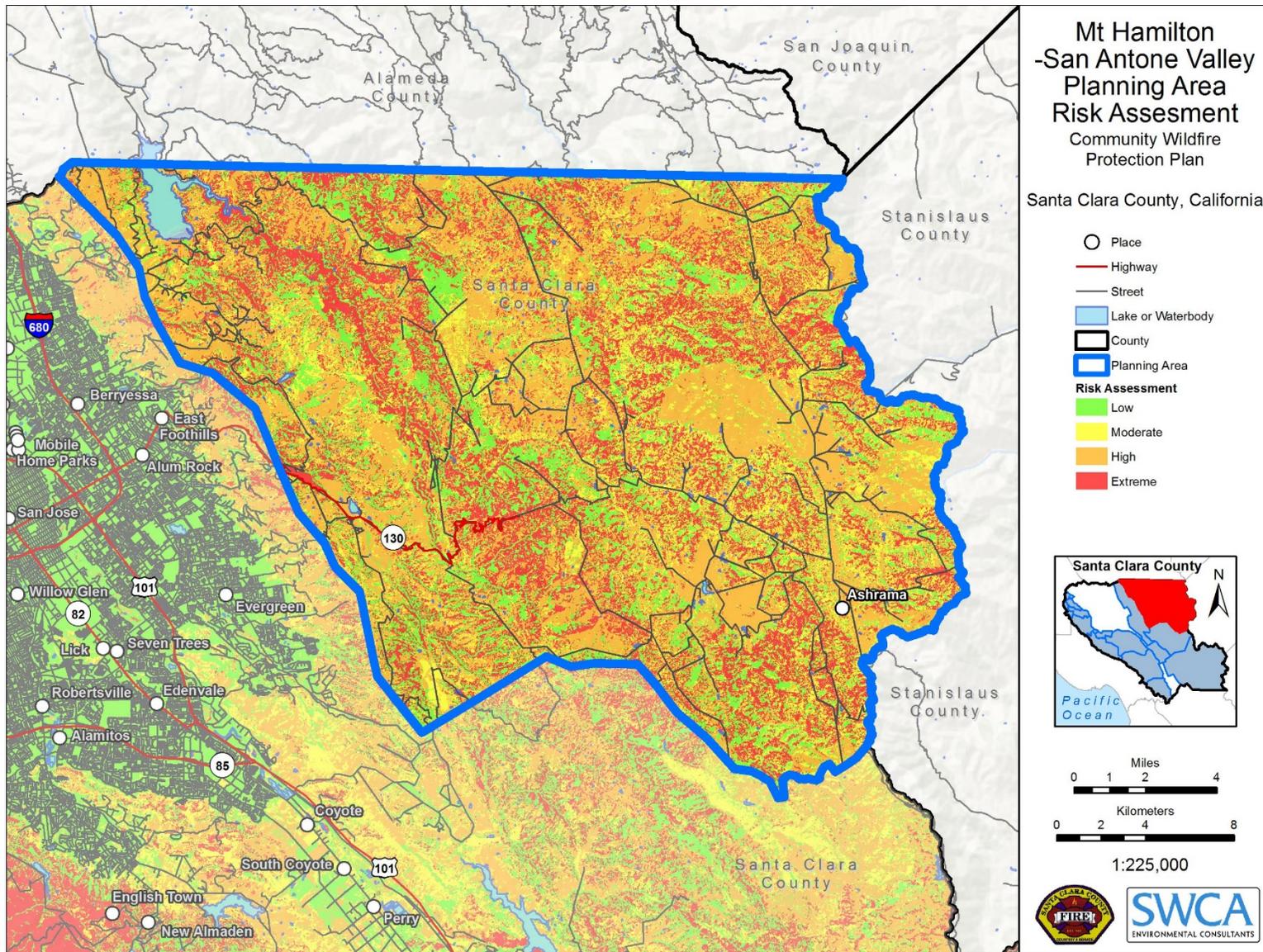


Figure 13-1.13. Composite Fire Hazard/Risk for the Mt. Hamilton planning area.

PARCEL LEVEL RISK 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 take to reduce their risk. For more information refer to Chapter 4 in the countywide CWPP document.

IDENTIFY CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY VALUES AT RISK

Important roads and transportation infrastructure include Mt. Hamilton Road (State Highway 130) from Alum Rock Avenue to Lick Observatory at the top of Mt. Hamilton. Extensive Pacific Gas and Electric Company gas and electric facilities and distribution lines occur throughout this area, as do communication lines (telephone, DSL, and cable). Both the electric lines and communication lines are generally overhead, rather than buried, and thus are both a potential source of wildfires, especially during windy conditions, as well as infrastructure that can be damaged by wildfires. Important San Jose Water Company storage tanks and distribution lines also throughout this area. These facilities feed the fire hydrants and maintain the water pressure for the lower, heavily populated area.

MITIGATION PROJECTS AND PRIORITIZATIONS

The following project matrixes have been developed by the community and Core Team to direct specific project implementation for Mt. Hamilton area (Table 13-1.1–Table 13-1.4). The matrixes below are tiered to the strategic goals presented in the body of the Santa Clara County CWPP through project IDs in the first column of each matrix. The matrixes are broken down into projects for addressing hazardous fuels, structural ignitability, public education and outreach, and fire response capability.

Table 13-1.1. Recommendations for Fuel Reduction Projects in the Mt. Hamilton Area

| ID Ham- Mt Ham | Project Description | Location and land ownership | Method | Serves to: | Timeline for Action | Priority (1,2,3) | Monitoring | Resources/funding sources available |
|--|---|---|--|---|------------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| Strategic Goal FR3: Encourage continued grazing in parks and open space for grass/light fuel maintenance | | | | | | | | |
| Ham- FR3.1 | Encourage continued managed grazing for private land owners and open space areas. | Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, County parks, State Parks, private land | Generate dialogue between public land managers and grazing specialists to encourage the design of an effective grazing program for East Foothills open space lands that will meet fuel management concerns while also addressing biodiversity goals. | Find a balance between the necessary protection of biological resources (vegetation, wildlife, soils and water), while also harnessing the fuel management aspects of an effective grazing program. | Spring 2017 | 2 | Bi-annual meetings of working group to address grazing prescriptions and direct on-the-ground monitoring for grass productivity and invasive species concerns. | Grants: SRA, CA FSC; CFIP; NRCS, FEMA, GHGRF |
| Strategic Goal: FR7: Develop roadside fuel treatment program, including suite of methods available and sustainability mechanism | | | | | | | | |
| Ham- FR7.1 | Install roadway buffers and cut grass earlier in the season | Highway 130 to Lick Observatory, Quimby Road, Calaveras Road. Public and privately owned/maintained road systems. Trim trees to improve line of sight and fire hazard. | Limb trees and remove brush along roadways to at least reclaim full original width and height. Goal: minimum 20' clear width and 15' clear height. Cut grass earlier. Encourage roadside fuel treatments where possible | Ensure the safe and rapid evacuation of residents during fire response and suppression activities and reduce potential for fire spread across roadways. Alleviate concerns raised by the public about heightened fire risk as a result of: heavy traffic use on the roads (cars and recreationists on bicycles), areas of untended grasslands on SFWD lands abutting private property and heavy grass loading in dry late spring through to winter rainy period. | Fall 2016 | 1 | Regular maintenance needed to ensure the fuel break remains clear of vegetation. Monitor for erosion and invasive species. | CAL FIRE crews - Public Works budget. Local community groups - donations and grant funding. Some residents already carryout annual herbicide treatments along roadsides on private land to reduce grass fuel loading. |

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| ID Ham- Mt Ham | Project Description | Location and land ownership | Method | Serves to: | Timeline for Action | Priority (1,2,3) | Monitoring | Resources/funding sources available |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Ham- FR7.2 | Improve man-made fuel breaks around individual structures or groups of residences | -Historical structures on Grant Ranch. Historical and critical infrastructure at Lick Observatory and Copernicus Public and privately owned/maintained road systems. | Clear brush, limb trees, and remove dead woody materials, located within 10' of road edges. | Ensure the safe and rapid evacuation of residents during fire response and suppression activities. | Spring 2017 | 1 | Regular maintenance needed to ensure the fuel break remains clear of vegetation. Monitor for erosion and invasive species. | CAL FIRE crews - Public Works budget. Local community groups - donations and grant funding. |
| Mt Hamilton Area Specific Projects- non tiered | | | | | | | | |
| Ham- FR 1 | Utility line clearance projects | Open space properties, | Enforcement of utility clearances will be crucial for minimizing the likelihood that fires are ignited from this potential source. | Reduce potential of ignition from utility lines and reduce potential impact to utility lines in event of wildfire | Spring 2017 | 1 | Annual maintenance needed to ensure the ROW remains clear of vegetation. Monitor for erosion and invasive species. | Utility company funds. |
| Ham- FR 2 | Defensible space clearance zone specific for Lick Observatory and Copernicus Peak | UC Santa Cruz, CAL FIRE | Develop a custom defensible space plan for these two critical sites that takes into consideration site topography, fuel and weather | Reduce potential of ignition from wildfire and reduce potential impact to utility lines in event of wildfire | Spring 2017 | 1 | Annual maintenance to protect vital infrastructure | SRA Fees, CA FSC, PG&E, UC |
| Ham- FR 3 | Encourage additional prescribed burning programs. Continue prescribed burning programs at Joseph D. Grant Ranch Park and UC's Blue Oaks Reserve. These reduce fire hazard and limit invasion of Medusa head grass. | UC, County Parks, County Open Space, private landowners | Within 2 years | 2 | Prescribed burn prescription , hand crews, equipment. | 1 | Protect communities and infrastructure by reducing fuel loads Improve habitat health by restoring natural fire regime on landscape | SRA , NRCS, CFIP, CAL FIRE VMP |

Table 13-1.2. Recommended Firefighting Capability Projects in the Mt. Hamilton Area

| ID Ham-Mt Hamilton | Project Description | Fire Department/Agency | Benefits of the Project to the community | Timeline/ Priority (1,2,3) | Resources/funding sources available |
|--|---|--|--|----------------------------------|--|
| Strategic Goal: FC3: Identify carless population/evacuation assistance needed locations. Establish registry in cooperation with Emergency Management agencies. Incorporate map component and utilize EQ Clearing House GIS Exchange Core. | | | | | |
| Ham-FC3.1 | Inform the public about the Special Needs Assistance Program and Extend SC FSC outreach to Spring Valley area. | CAL FIRE, Spring Valley VFD, SCFSC | Aids in safe evacuation of residents, those with evacuation assistance needs | Fall 2016/1 | FEMA, DHS |
| Strategic Goal: FC2- Define Safe Refuge Areas and establish maintenance program in WUI areas where fire behavior and evacuation timing is problematic. | | | | | |
| Ham-FC2.1 | Identify/map potential staging areas for wildfire incident. | CAL FIRE, Spring Valley VFD. | Provides pre-planned area for staging to expedite set-up in event of wildfire | Spring 2017/1 | Grants: SRA, FEMA, CA FSC, DHS |
| Strategic Goal: FC13: Develop a coordinated approach between fire jurisdictions and water supply agencies to identify needed improvements to the water distribution system, initially focusing on areas of highest wildfire hazard. | | | | | |
| Ham-FC13.1 | Improve firefighting water supplies in areas with inadequate supplies and limited hydrants. Potentially develop multiple use water catchment that is also livestock or wildlife water source | CAL FIRE, Spring Valley VFD, CAL FIRE | Increase available fire flow in these neighborhoods. Add fire hydrants to areas dependent on private wells. Install dry hydrants where available. Provide redundancy in water supply infrastructure Increase capacity of gravity fed water supplies | Fall 2016/1 | General Fund, SRA, NRCS |
| Ham-FC13.2 | Mapping of available private water supplies- for example stock ponds- and evaluation of water supplies for suppression purposes. | CAL FIRE, Spring Valley VFD | Increase knowledge of available water sources prior to a wildfire event to improve fire response capability. | Fall 2016/1 | |
| Strategic Goal: FC5: Develop WUI preplans and accompanying Evac plans for all WUI areas in Santa Clara County using standardized format | | | | | |
| Ham-FC5.1 | Develop WUI preplans to identify available water sources and poor access areas. | CAL FIRE, Spring Valley VFD | Improve fire response capability in event of wildfire by familiarizing response crews with available water sources for suppression and identifying potential access bottle necks to responders and evacuating public. | | |
| Strategic Goal: FC8: Where road systems are antiquated and do not provide for proper evacuation or two way flow, require removal of obstructions or upgrade to minimum 2 lanes road system over time | | | | | |
| Ham-FC8.1 | Improve ingress/egress capabilities. | Private roads and roads through County Parks and Open Space, | Establish secondary access roads into neighborhoods with poor ingress/egress Ensure the safe and rapid evacuation of residents during fire response and suppression activities Addresses concerns raised by residents at the Milpitas Community Workshops regarding development restrictions due to poor access. | Fall 2018/1 | General Fund Budget. CAL FIRE crews and dozers - Public Works budget. Local community groups - donations and grant funding |

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| ID Ham-Mt Hamilton | Project Description | Fire Department/Agency | Benefits of the Project to the community | Timeline/ Priority (1,2,3) | Resources/funding sources available |
|--|---|--|---|----------------------------------|--|
| Strategic Goal FC 12: Implement County wide program to replace existing house number markers with reflective markers that meet consistent standard. | | | | | |
| Ham-FC12.1 | Improve road, street, and address, identification. | Privately owned/ maintained road systems. | Repaint, re-letter, or replace road/street signs that do not meet existing standards, install additional road/street signs to ensure identification from either direction of travel. Post community address signs to identify unmarked residences. Ensure the rapid identification of streets, roads, and addresses, during an emergency. | Spring 2017/2 | Local community groups - donations and grant funding. HOAs |
| Strategic goal FC11: Investigate and potentially install Fire Detection Robots to alert departments of a fire start in remote areas. | | | | | |
| Ham-FC 11 | Install and monitor a series of fire-detecting cameras facing the parklands, open space lands. Property owners could be approached for installation on private lands- One neighbor already offered placement on their property. | CAL FIRE, Open space, Spring Valley VFD, open space agencies | This benefits the areas covered by the cameras. Fire can be detected early, data is recorded and can be used for later analysis, and fires in progress can be monitored. | Fall 2017/1 | Local community groups - donations and grant funding. HOAs |
| Mt Hamilton Area Specific Projects- non tiered | | | | | |
| Ham-FC1 | Fire Access Route Signs: Facilitate installation of fire access route signs: | CAL FIRE, | Fire access route signs are needed to keep the access routes clear of parked cars and other obstructions | Fall 2017/2 | SRA funds |
| Ham-FC3 | Increase law enforcement in Mt Hamilton area to reduce incidence of arson/burned out cars and illegal occupation of derelict buildings etc. | County Sheriff | Would help relieve concerns raised by residents in area regarding potential ignitions from unlawful activities. | Fall 2016/1 | |
| Ham-FC4 | Ensure all Santa Clara County Open Space Technician's carry fire suppression tools in their vehicles particularly during high fire danger periods. | Santa Clara County Open Space Authority | Would help relieve concerns raised by residents in the area regarding potential ignitions from Open Space vehicles during fire season. | Fall 2016/1 | Santa Clara County Open Space Authority budget. |

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Table 13-1.3. Recommended Public Education and Outreach Projects in the Mt. Hamilton Area

| ID Ham- Mt Hamilton | Project | Presented by | Target Date | Priority (1,2,3) | Resources Needed | Serves to |
|--|--|--|---------------|---------------------|--|---|
| Strategic Goal: EO1- Educate citizens on how to achieve contemporary WUI code compliance in retrofits/cost: benefit ratio. Provide workshops and/or demonstration site. | | | | | | |
| Ham-EO1.1 | Encourage retrofit of roofs and measures to “harden” property to wildfire | FireSafe Councils, County Fire, CAL FIRE | 2030 | 2 | Workshop expenses, personnel Workshop venues Demonstration site Strategize on avenues for engaging the public. Be opportunistic- engage residents following a local wildfire or at existing well- attended events- i.e. annual BBQ, Pancake Breakfasts, Open days offered by Fire Departments. | Increase compliance with County code. Reduce fire risk level for individual parcels and community as a whole. |
| Strategic Goal: EO2: Analyze playing with fire ignitions and focus education programs at vicinity schools. | | | | | | |
| Ham-EO2.1 | Implement a public outreach campaign focusing on the danger of fireworks. Target toward youth and children. | County Fire, CAL FIRE, municipal fire departments, FireSafe Council | Within 1 year | 1 | Install fire danger signage at main intersections with a firework theme. (See East Foothills Area KML for spatially delineated projects) Close Sierra Rd. during the Fourth of July. If it is not closed, provide a patrol at night because it is a major party-place and a place where folks come to watch fireworks. Enforce no parking along the entirety of Sierra Rd during fire season and provide enforcement in order to reduce human ignitions from fireworks or other sources. | Adds to existing programs provided by County Fire and FireSafe Council targeted at youth. Reduces number of ignitions. |
| Strategic Goal: EO3: Organize a community group made up of residents and agency personnel to develop materials and communicate relevant defensible space messages. Could coordinate with fire departments or Fire Safe Council. | | | | | | |
| Ham-EO3.1 | Organize a community group made up of residents and agency personnel to develop materials and communicate relevant defensible space messages. Could coordinate with fire departments or Fire Safe Council. | FireSafe Council, fire departments, local residents, Eagle Scouts, High School Community Volunteer Program | Within a year | 1 | Funding to help cover costs of materials (green waste removal or chipper) and participation. People trained in defensible space practices. Install a community mailbox to facilitate communication. | Engage diverse stakeholders in reaching out to community members and encourage defensible space practices. Empower homeowners to make affordable and effective changes to reduce the vulnerability of individual homes. Address concerns raised by the public at the Milpitas Community Workshop that existing wildfire preparedness literature is not applicable for their east foothills community. |

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| ID Ham- Mt Hamilton | Project | Presented by | Target Date | Priority (1,2,3) | Resources Needed | Serves to |
|---|--|--|----------------|---------------------|---|---|
| Ham-EO3.2 | Work with SCCFSC to develop a "one stop shop" for fire-preparedness information. Could be applied countywide. | SCCFSC, All fire agencies. | Within 1 year | 1 | Funding to help cover research costs for compilation of data | SRA fees |
| Strategic Goal: EO6: Work with Caltrans to install or utilize existing electronic message signs on major highways to notify public of extreme fire danger. | | | | | | |
| Ham-EO6.1 | Install Fire Danger signs at entrance to communities | County, Caltrans, CAL FIRE | Within 1 year | 1 | Funds for sign installing and maintenance | Inform residents, commuters and tourists of extreme fire danger in order to reduce accidental ignitions and encourage pre-planning. |
| Strategic Goal: EO12: Promote and increase the use of prescribed burning as a fuels reduction method. Gain public support for using prescribed burns to reduce fuel loads and to improve ecosystem health through a pilot burn project and demonstration site. Consider developing informational material for distribution at natural areas or via email distribution lists. | | | | | | |
| Ham-EO12.1 | Encourage additional prescribed burning programs. Continue prescribed burning programs at Joseph D. Grant Ranch Park and UC's Blue Oaks Reserve. These reduce fire hazard and limit invasion of Medusa head grass. | UC, County Parks, County Open Space, private landowners | Within 2 years | 2 | Prescribed burn prescription, hand crews, equipment. Research and costs of producing, printing, and distributing paper informational flyer. | Protect communities and infrastructure by reducing fuel loads Improve habitat health by restoring natural fire regime on landscape |
| Strategic Goal: EO7: Plan livestock evacuation routes and inform communities. Work with emergency management officials to plan evacuation routes for residents with livestock and then hold community meetings to disseminate to the public. | | | | | | |
| Ham-EO7.1 | Address density of livestock in planning area and provide plan in event of wildfire | Emergency management officials, livestock agencies/ civic groups | Within 2 years | 2 | GIS software or maps- coordinate with EQ Clearing House- GIS sharing. | Protect communities, livestock and infrastructure through increased awareness. |
| 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. | | | | | | |
| Ham13.1 | Encourage the area to identify a consolidated area that could become certified under Firewise | Fire Safe Council, CAL FIRE, County Fire | Within 2 years | 2 | Firewise Communities educational materials. | Protect communities and infrastructure through increased awareness and defensible space. |

Table 13-1.4. Recommendations for Structural Ignitability Projects in the Mt. Hamilton Area

| ID Ham- Mt Hamilton | Project | Presented by | Programs Available | Description | Contact | Date/ Priority (1,2,3) |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Strategic Goal- SI 1: Retrofit/eliminate flammable roofs | | | | | | |
| Ham-SI1.1 | Retrofit/Eliminate flammable roofs | County Planning in conjunction with County Fire and municipalities | FEMA grants | Require elimination of all flammable roofs through attrition or time deadline | County Planning | By 2030/1 |
| Ham-SI1.2 | WUI Fire Protection Workshops | Local Fire Marshal- All residents would be encouraged to participate. | Firewise, agency outreach personnel, Ready, Set, Go! Tailor to specific risk/hazards in each community | Offer hands-on workshops to highlight individual home vulnerabilities and how-to techniques to reduce ignitability of common structural elements. | CAL FIRE, Fire Marshal, Fire Safe Council | Spring 2017/1 |
| Ham-SI 11.1 | Implement Community yard clean-up drive with signage throughout community. Coincide with a public outreach event to kick off the clean-up day. Workshop style event focusing on good Firewise landscaping, property hygiene and tailored literature appropriate to the area | SCCFSC | SCCFSC chipper program | Encourage a “lead-by-example” type approach to yard maintenance to encourage residents with poor yard hygiene to carry out clean-up. Would help alleviate concerns raised by residents at the Milpitas Community Workshop regarding poor property hygiene. | SCCFSC | Fall 2017/1 |

