

Response to questions pertaining to the Moody and El Monte Roads Evacuation Route Community Wildfire Safety Project

-In order to complete this project, do the LAHCFD and Santa Clara County Firesafe Council just need permission from the adjacent property owners or must this be approved by the Board of Supervisors or some other county entity?

The process for road hardening (reduction of hazardous fire fuels such as brush and scrubs along roadways) of the Moody and El Monte Evacuation Route Community Wildfire Safety Project (Project) requires residents to grant permission to Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC) to enter their property and provide services. SCCFSC will also be obtaining required permits for the roadside work from Santa Clara County Roads & Airports to work in their right of way.

The Project is part of the Commission's 2021 Strategic Plan Goal 3: Mitigate risk and build community resiliency through integrated hazardous fuel reduction, protection and prevention programs,

Objective a. Identify high fire risk areas; initiate collaborative solutions with regional partners and SCCFD

- Target roadside fuel reduction
- Target open space fuel reduction
- Enhance vegetation management

The Board of Supervisors approved the adopted FY21/22 Commission budget that included funds for evacuation route projects.

-What happens if residents decline to complete a permission form?

Residents occasionally decline and if so their property is not involved in the project and the project proceeds around them. Work will still continue in the County Roads right of way but will not include depth of the roadside that extend into private parcels. SCCFSC provides outreach to residents to explain the benefits of the road hardening and the services provided for the fire safety of the neighborhood and individual properties and examples of what the treated areas would look like. We are not proposing a "moon scape" but retain the shaded over story of tall trees while removed flashy and dead fuels at the ground and understory. In general, a wider treatment area with reduced vegetation fuels provides better protection against roadside ignitions and slows potential fires. We hope to have a very high participation level.

-Approximately how many properties does this project involve? How many property owners have given their permission? Have any declined? 119 properties are in the queue to be offered the opportunity to participate. SCCFSC is still scoping the project. Resident letters are now being prepared for distribution.

-Has a project like this taken place in this location before? Not on Moody and El Monte Roads as I understand. Similar projects were funded by LAHCFD and managed and completed by SCCFSC in two phases on the LAHCFD part of Page Mill Road in 2020 and 2021. The Page Mill Road project was a continuation of the evacuation road hardening project completed by City of Palo Alto in its jurisdiction. As a result of these projects, both jurisdictions hardened the roads, provided evacuation routes within their jurisdictions along Page Mill Road. This project provides connectivity with the aforementioned projects. Connectivity is a key element for effective evacuation. The entirety of the route needs vegetation managed for reduction of fuel volume, removal of dead plants and potential trees hanging over the roadside.

-When will the work begin, when will it end and will traffic be affected?

Project is in the scoping phase. No dates are set but work is anticipated to occur this summer and into the fall. Traffic safety protocols are planned to comply with state regulations and to ensure safety to the crews, passing motorists, residents and the public. Additionally, advance noticing along the route will include signs, website information and potentially neighborhood meetings as needed.