

Midcoast Community Council  
Wildfire Issues and Status

6/23/21

<b>Date of Next Discussion:</b>	6/23/21 (This Meeting)	7/14/21 (Next Meeting)	No Planned Date	Resolved Issue
---------------------------------	------------------------	------------------------	-----------------	----------------

#	Issue	Date Discussed	Potential Resolution	Responsible Party	Updates & Potential MCC Actions
1	Eucalyptus removal on private property requires permit process and fee	5/12/21; 6/9/21; 6/23/21	Modify Tree Ordinance to remove fee and simplify process	SMC Planning Department; CCC (for CDP)	MCC letter in to streamline SMC planning written 5/12/21; Planning still reports eucalyptus as 'significant' tree in permit review. Awaiting progress report from County
2	Chipper program is not adequate	6/9/21 6/23/21	Increase frequency of chipper program	SMC Resource Conservation District (RCD)	Program expanded; check Fire Safe website <a href="http://www.firesafesanteo.org">www.firesafesanteo.org</a> for 2021 eligible neighborhoods and schedules. Contact RCD for more dates.
3	No early detection program for wildfire	4/28/21 6/9/21	Install cameras on Midcoast	CAL FIRE	Work with CAL FIRE and other parties to find potential locations and install cameras – <u>Montara Mtn. has camera</u> ; discuss more with MWSD.
4	<b>Governance:</b> No single entity is responsible for Midcoast wildfire preparation	0/13/20 @BoS + 6/9/21 Future Agenda	County form agency to be responsible. Define required governance.	SMC ?LAFCO?	Denise Enea to speak at MCC. Consider emulating Santa Clara County. She had recommended a dedicated fire marshall (Item 16).
5	El Granada medians have unsafe eucalyptus trees	6/9/21; 6/23/21	County taking responsibility for cutting trees in medians, ?work with GCSD on restoration?	SMC-DPW, GCSD ? CalFire?	Supervisor Horsley requesting \$500k funding; DPW advises program in bidding process. Need enlist GCSD? Not complete solution to medians; unclear value as funding benchmark. Len and residents compiled tree survey, to help estimate full cost of median tree removal.
6	Gate at top of El Granada Blvd. is locked	6/9/21	Obtain easement to allow gates to be unlocked: a) for hikers/bikers b) for CalFire/PG&E c) for evacuation	?CalFire? Parks	Pedestrian bars removed; Parks considering better access. Wrote County Counsel. MCC to discuss letter, a statement that the MCC urges the County to take any and all appropriate measures to secure access.

7	Above ground power lines are potential fire hazard	6/9/21 Future Agenda	Underground power lines	PG&E DPW, Planning	1) Get Fire Marshall to cite as risk; 2) then Write letter in support: Make PGE lines in front of the the El Granada Fire Station a model first case to implement undergrounding because of fire concerns. Prioritize other areas of the Midcoast
8	No MCC representation on Fire Safe Council	6/9/21 <b>6/23/21</b>	Join Fire Safe Council	Len Erickson; Denise Enea	SMC forming FireSafe Advisory Council; MCC to Designate Len Erickson as representative to attend Fire Safe Council meetings; plus as rep on new SMC Advisory Committee
9	Evacuation routes along highways have eucalyptus groves - Hwy 1 North of Lantos Tunnel - Hwy 1 Frenchman's Creek - Hwy 1 Medio Creek - Hwy 92	<b>6/23/21</b>	Pursue funding to remove eucalyptus	CalTrans, CAL FIRE? LHMP Denise Enea	Further research responsible parties of adjacent properties; write CalTrans letter putting them on notice of liability; ?write County & CalFire re concerns. Letters to HMB & Pacifica requesting identification of neighboring properties & owners with wildfire fuels? Gregg logging CalTrans service requests for these risks.
10	<b>Quarry Park eucalyptus risk:</b> Immediate Mediation	Schedule pending update on Parks' funding & timing. Future Agenda	Pursue funding to build fire breaks & improve CalFire access	SMC Parks; CalFire?	Small 5 yr. plan approved; trails widened for fire access. LHMP funding unlikely for this; received resident complaints, letter & petition re: inadequate Parks' funding; unclear alignment between Park's projects, current funding, and resident concerns. Research for MCC letter in support of residents. Meet with Parks to share an understanding of the work undone, and planned
11	<b>Quarry Park eucalyptus risk:</b> Permanent Solution	6/9/21 <b>6/23/21</b> Future Agenda	Explore permanent revegetation project; funding initiative	SMC Parks, RCD ? Calfire?, LHMP	<b>? Sheena to discuss grants/consultants?</b> Facilitate privately funded study (with possible county contribution), Grant applications in process; RCD issuing RFP for consultant.
12	Fire-prone eucalyptus groves in Montara, GGNRA, CalTrans Bypass	<b>6/23/21</b>	Pursue funding to remove eucalyptus; transfer ownership to MWSD	CalTrans, GGNRA, CAL FIRE? MWSD LHMP	Residents created a petition to CalTrans. CalFire has written repeatedly with no response – get copies of correspondence. Research responsible property owners; discuss letter in support of MWSD receive funding and take responsibility for a project in this area; Note:

					Green foothills had slowed the property transfer. Gregg logging CalTrans service request for this wildfire risk.
13	Remove regulatory barriers to removing Eucalyptus and other fire hazards on private property	Pending research with RCD, FireSafe Council; Get County Update on <b>6/23/21</b> or <b>early July</b> .	A. Revise SMC fire code to allow eucalyptus and other fire hazard trees to be subject to Fire Abatement Orders, then enforce orders; B. Amend CCC CDX requirements for eucalyptus	CAL FIRE, Coastal Commission, New Fire Marshall	Write letter in support - change County Tree ordinance? - delegate inspection requirements beyond CalFire to avoid staffing bottlenecks? and/or write to change fire code to classify eucalyptus as weed so CalFire can issue abatement/condemnation orders; and/or - write CCC to remove eucalyptus as "significant" tree? RCD working issues with Coastal Commission at both species and project level. Determine point of contact within SMC planning for this effort.
14	Eucalyptus and other fire hazards are costly to remove		Provide funds to incentivize property owners to remove trees posing fire hazard	SMC; LHMP; RCD	Obtain cost benchmarks; Define strategy; Write letter in support.
15	Residents concerns are not being adequately addressed		Escalate concerns above county	State Assembly (Mullin, Berman) State Senate (Becker) Federal House (Speier)	Residents have already written some of these officials. Reach out to representatives.
16	Fire Marshall support on Midcoast is insufficient to ensure citizens are defending private property against potential fire hazard	<b>6/23/21</b>	Request additional Fire Marshall for Midcoast	Board of Supervisors, CAL FIRE	Send letter to SMC BOS requesting a CalFire Fire Marshall for the Midcoast with first priority in El Granada surrounding Quarry Park and then all properties; Request an amendment to the CAL FIRE contract.

17	<b>Governance:</b> coordination with NGO's owning wildfire risk properties.		Work with "big dogs" (list)	SMC fuel reduction task force + List.	Community Wildfire Protection Plan is inadequate for Midcoast, lacks governance authority, and relationships with major landowners (Stanford, MWROS, ... ) Len contacting National Park Service.
----	--	--	--------------------------------	---	--

Possible funding sources:

- FEMA and CalOES via LHMP
- RCD and/or FireSafe SMC to assist homeowners - filing joint agency grants
- County Measure K for safety & homelessness prevention
- Local property tax supplements
- California \$536M wildfire package