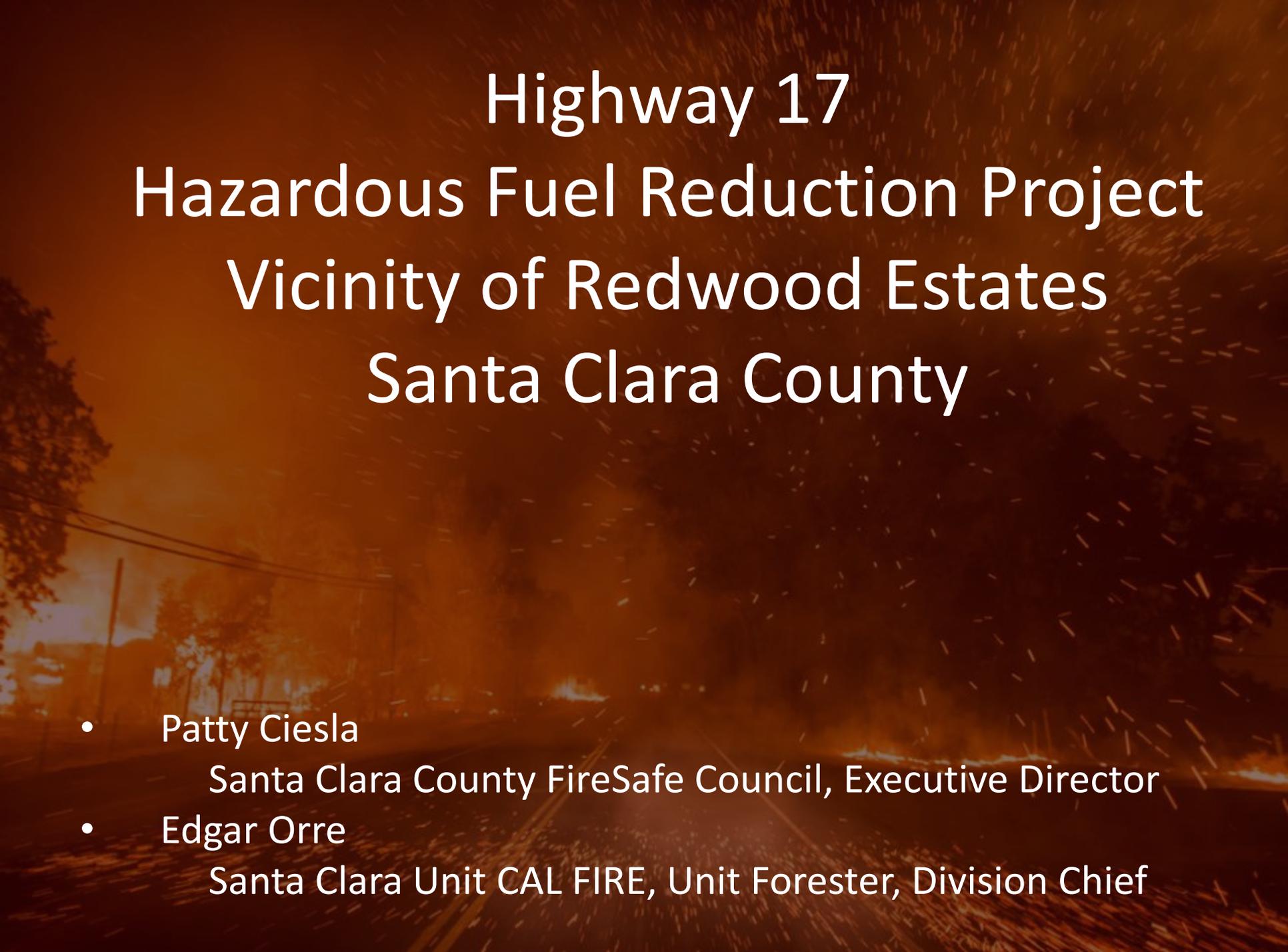




Santa Clara County FireSafe Council

Mobilizing the people of Santa Clara County to protect their homes, communities and environment from wildfires



Highway 17

Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project

Vicinity of Redwood Estates

Santa Clara County

- Patty Ciesla
Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, Executive Director
- Edgar Orre
Santa Clara Unit CAL FIRE, Unit Forester, Division Chief

WHY?

Expect gridlock during wildfire



No good alternate routes for mountain evacuation



GOALS

**Reduce flammability next to the road,
keep road safer in the event of
entrapment**

**Reduce total amount of hazardous fuel
between highway & homes**

**Improve conditions and planning for
evacuation of highway and residences**

GOALS

Collaborate:

**Provide access to adjacent property
for fuel removal for defensible
space at structures
Natural resource protection
(watershed, wildlife)**

Install landscape fuel break (pre-fire plan)

Temporary refuge areas

Outreach & education campaign



What the work will look like



Before



After

Project Elements

Roadside brush clearing

Downed dead material removal

Dead tree removal

Hazard tree removal

Thinning and spacing between trees

**Selective removal of symptomatic
diseased trees**

Phasing

Initial site analysis

Permissions and permits obtained

Biologic and cultural resource values

Erosion hazard analysis

Hazard tree analysis

Safety analysis

Traffic impacts analysis

Traffic control planning

Phasing

Utilizing CALFIRE's Incident Management System (ICS)

Unified command with CAL FIRE, Caltrans, SCCFSC



Phasing

Project divided into divisions

Start below highway, no traffic control

East side (northbound)

**Once hazard tree, brush removal and
traffic impacts determined,
submit traffic control plan to Caltrans**

**Schedule work impacting highway
travel to minimize delays**

Mindful of winter conditions

Phasing

Redwood Estates Temporary Refuge Area complete

Work has begun on Los Gatos Creek Trail south of Main Street bridge

Temporary Refuge Area around Bear Creek Road overpass, OSCH pull out in progress

Work around Alma Helitack underway

Phasing

**Prime contractor for on-highway work
Contract negotiations stage (CALFIRE)**

**SCCFSC responsible for pre-project planning,
Brush and tree work**

**Utilizing SCCFSC staff, established local contractors,
Dudek consultants**

Material processing at Alma Bridge Road site

Phasing

- **Upcoming: work below highway to continue**
- **Roadside “eyebrow” removal on northbound side, should be swift, minimal disruption to travel**
- **Safety measures installed to prevent rollout of material onto roadway**
- **Southbound side brush cutting, piling, leaving eyebrow, work OFF the roadway**
- **Hazard tree removal tactics determined**
- **Brush removal, eyebrow removal tactics and schedule determined**

Challenges

- **Racing winter and wet roads**
- **Fire weather shutdowns**
- **Prime contractor to implement safety measures**
- **Scheduling chicken-egg challenge**
- **Surveying where no adjacent permission**



