CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

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CAL FIRE CZU Plans to Conduct Prescribed Fire Near I-280 on SFPUC Lands

CAL FIRE CZU and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) plan to conduct a prescribed burn, weather permitting, on Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025. The operation will take place between I-280 and St. James Road in Belmont. This high-visibility, single-day operation is a critical component in reducing hazardous fuel loads in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). The 52-acre burn will target dense coyote brush and poison oak within this high-risk corridor. On the day of the burn, Ralston Bike Trail will be closed between Ralston Avenue and Cañada Road. This prescribed fire will generate smoke that will be visible from Sheep Camp Trail and Crystal Springs Road. Smoke may also be seen from the I-280 and Highway 92 corridor, and Highway 92 east to El Camino Real. Smoke could also be visible from San Carlos, Hillsborough, Belmont, San Mateo, Redwood City, Woodside and adjacent neighborhoods. Please see a map on Page 2.

CAL FIRE CZU Burn Boss Sarah Collamer says “This strategically planned fuel reduction project targets dense vegetation, addressing an area of frequent fire activity along I-280. Given the steep, inaccessible terrain of the area, prescribed fire is not merely an option, but the most strategic and impactful method to create a defensible space for nearby communities, including Fox Elementary and residents along St. James Road.”

Many resources will be at the scene, including multiple wildland fire engines, a bulldozer, hand crews, and a water-dropping helicopter. This effort continues successful fuel-reduction projects conducted on the west side of I-280 over the last two years, which have effectively reduced dense vegetation and enhanced native ecosystems.

You will find more information on prescribed fire in the CAL FIRE fuels reduction dashboard here: https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/natural-resource-management/prescribed-fire. You will find more wildfire prevention and preparedness information, please visit https://readyforwildfire.org/.



Ralston Burn Unit

SFPUC VMP - Unit 4 52.1 acres

N
W E
S

Transmission Lines

Work_type

Mastication

Hand Line

9/30/2025 8:41 AM

Scale: 1:6,000

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 Miles

0 1,000 2,000 3,000 Feet