



Fires Have No Borders: How Collaboration Fuels Resilience

The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC) is proud to share that our team was recently invited to speak at the 2025 California Resource Conservation District's (RCD) Annual Conference. This invitation recognizes the SCCFSC's leadership in developing a unique model for wildfire resilience—one that combines strong community collaboratives with long-term, landscape-scale strategic planning.



Scaling Up for Wildfire Resilience

As the Wildfire County Coordinator, the SCCFSC is tasked with more than just local outreach; we are leading landscape-level projects designed to meet the "pace and scale" required for wildfire resilience in California's Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

Our current model integrates several high-impact initiatives, including:

- The Santa Clara County Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan (CWPP)
- Regional Prioritization Plans (RPP)
- The West Santa Clara Landscape Resilience Project (WSCLRP)
- The Los Gatos Creek Watershed Collaborative

By utilizing the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP), we are ensuring that our environmental compliance matches the massive scale of the landscape we aim to protect.

A Collaborative Effort: The Conference Panel

Our session, titled *"Advancing Wildfire Resilience through Landscape-Level Planning and Prioritization,"* focused on how regional partnerships can elevate wildfire preparedness across county lines.



From left to right: Lara Rachowicz: Ascent; Timothy Federal: San Mateo RCD; Matt Abernathy: Santa Cruz RCD; Amanda Brenner Cannon: SCCFSC; Steve Auten: Auten Resource Consulting; Spencer Gordon: Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD

The SCCFSC was joined by an esteemed panel of experts and partners:

- San Mateo & Santa Cruz RCDs: Discussed their leadership on the Santa Cruz Mountains RPP.
- Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD: Highlighted their SLO-RESIL Project Specific Analysis (PSA) and prioritization efforts.
- Ascent: Provided deep insights into CEQA and the CalVTP framework.
- Auten Resource Consulting (ARC): Showcased interactive maps that bring these complex planning initiatives to life.
- SCCFSC highlighted the collaborative planning that we are doing throughout the region and tied it back to our accomplishments with our work on the CWPP, WSCLRP, and the Los Gatos Creek Watershed Collaborative.

The session was a fantastic opportunity to showcase how Santa Clara County is setting a standard for regional cooperation. By aligning our efforts with partners in San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Monterey Counties, we are moving beyond individual projects toward a truly resilient, fire-safe California.

Together, we are building a model that doesn't just react to wildfire threats but proactively shapes a safer landscape and climate for the future.

[Click here to view the slide deck.](#)