



## Summit Road-Highland Way Corridor Progress Report #5 February 2022

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*PG&E Project: Before and After at Summit Road/Soquel-San Jose Road Junction*

### ***Welcome to the 5th Edition of the Summit Road/Highland Way Corridor - Fire Safe County Roads Project Report***

**Note:** This is a working document and is best viewed on a computer or iPad type device.

Our previous update, Report #4, was published in April 2021. If you would like to review that material, click [here](#).

During this challenging past year our team has made excellent progress to meet our community goals.

#### **Fire Safe County Roads (FSCR) Program Goals:**

- Develop and provide emergency escape routes for residents by reducing the fire risk and intensity along the Summit Road - Highland Way corridor.
- Provide access to emergency vehicles during disasters along these same routes.
- Improve the ISO rating (a measurement of local fire prevention and fire suppression capabilities) to avoid termination of homeowner's insurance.

#### **Scope of Work document**

Our county partner in this project, the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County (RCDSCC), has defined what the forest professionals call "the scope of work" along this corridor to meet our FSCR goals. A project was performed by contractors for RCDSCC to do a fuel reduction program along the north side of the Summit - Soquel San Jose Road intersection using a \$50K grant from PG&E last summer. Lesson learned from that project and CAL FIRE studies of the Northern California wildfires and the neighboring CZU lighting

induced wildfire were used to develop a straightforward “scope of work” for Summit /Highland Way project.

Although some cleanup work still needs to be done at this intersection in this summer’s program you can see from the photos there is a huge reduction in combustible material. A big thank you to those landowners who signed the permission forms allowing this work to be performed.

### **Project Funding**

Our project partner the RCDSCC wrote the funding grant request for this project. We have had support from our District 17 State Senator John Laird and his office in Santa Cruz County under the leadership of Angela Chesnut, our Santa Cruz District 1 Supervisor Manu Koenig, various elements of CAL FIRE and the Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County.

The Grant request was successful. We have funding for the project in place for \$1.3 million. This will fund all or a substantial portion of the total Summit / Highland Way project. This work will be cost free to the landowners who sign the agreements.

### **Project Timing**

With these accomplishments behind us the FSCR project moves from planning to implementation. The next activity for our team and the community is to obtain from our landowners along the project route the signed agreement application and permission forms. The RCDSCC requires these signed forms by mid-March. This will allow contracting and start of field work by late May 2022.

### **Obtaining Landowner Agreements and Permission Forms**

#### **Please keep in mind two important points:**

This work will benefit our entire community and our visitors and guests.

The project teams have no intention of interfering with the homeowners’ desires and responsibility to create landscaping and defensible space around their homes. The project Shaded Fuel Break stops where your landscaping and defensible space starts. The contracts will be closely supervised to avoid any such conflict.

### **Summit Road Corridor Shaded Fuel Break Project Scope of Work**

- Create a **Shaded Fuel Break** 100 feet maximum, on both sides of the road, by removing densely populated vegetation, specifically:
  - Remove smaller trees (less than 8” diameter) while retaining healthy large trees (8” diameter and greater).
  - Remove dead, dying, and/or hazardous trees.
  - Prune the remaining vegetation to decrease available fuels that occupy the space between the forest floor and the lowest branches (i.e., ladder fuels). Trees/limbs will be pruned 15 feet over the road, to improve emergency vehicle access, and 10 feet off the road, to improve wildfire resilience.
  - Remove underbrush to reduce ladder fuels.
- Where large trees are not present or there are large gaps in the tree canopies,

small trees and/or shrubs will be retained, spaced about 15 feet apart.

- Most of the material will be chipped and, where feasible, will be removed from the property. In some locations it may be preferred to broadcast chips on site.

Your local community Fire Safe County Roads team has put together the following tools to help landowners accomplish the final step before work can begin, i.e., obtaining signed Permission Forms.

- The Landowner Team Assignment contact list for properties along the Summit Road/Highland Way corridor can be found [here](#).
- Progress Report # 4 contains a wealth of information concerning the creation of ten landowner teams which include all the landowners.
- A web page ([click here](#)) has been created on The Skyland Community Church web site filled with helpful information concerning the FSCR project.

The Application and Permission Form from RCDSCC follows and can be seen in its entirety by clicking [here](#).

Below are the documents we need all landowners to fill out and sign. Please complete, sign and return the two pages of this form! You get a printable PDF of this form by clicking this [link](#). The signed copy should be mailed to Lou McTamaney, 23525 Skyview Terrace, Los Gatos, CA 95033 or emailed to: [lmctamaney@comcast.net](mailto:lmctamaney@comcast.net). Your cooperation is essential to getting this program finished this coming summer.

**Note from Larry Lopp, Santa Cruz Mountain Alliance President & Fire Safe County Roads Project Leader:** *Please contact me if you have questions or need encouragement to complete these Permission forms. M-F 9am-12pm, cell# 1 (408) 772-4922*

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**Summit Road Corridor Shaded Fuel Break Project  
Right of Entry and Work Authorization Permission Form**

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_ ("Property")

Assessor's Parcel Number (APN): \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_ ("Owner") am the owner of the above-referenced property and I hereby agree as follows:

1. **Grant Right-of-Entry and Authorization to Perform the Work:** Owner hereby grants the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County ("RCDSCC"), Santa Cruz Mountain Alliance, CAL FIRE and the Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County; and their respective officers, directors, employees, agents, volunteers ("Cooperating Parties"); and contractors under contract with the RCDSCC; the right of entry and authorization to perform work on the Property for the purpose of inspecting the Property for dead and/or dying trees and fuel loading, removing and/or clearing trees and brush, hauling and/or disposing of trees, chipping limbs and slash, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Permission Form. This Permission Form does not create any obligation on the RCDSCC or the Cooperating Parties to perform inspection or tree or brush removal/clearance. The RCDSCC and the Cooperating Parties will not undertake any removal or clearance of fuels or any related action until this Permission Form is signed and returned.
2. **Contractor's Insurance.** The RCDSCC shall require its contractors to be licensed and to maintain general liability insurance with coverage of at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence.
3. **Release from Liability:** Owner acknowledges and understands that (a) participation in the project is voluntary and provided with no cost to Owner upon signing this Permission Form and (b) Owner's participation in this project is conditioned upon Owner's agreement to release the RCDSCC and the Cooperating Parties from any claims, cost or liability arising out or relating to the right of entry and/or the work contemplated in this Permission Form. Owner hereby releases and forever discharges the RCDSCC and the Cooperating Parties from and against any claims, costs or causes of action, including but not limited to personal injury or property damage, arising out of or in connection with the project.  
  
(Owner must initial here) \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner's Initials
4. **Term of Agreement:** This Permission Form shall be effective upon execution by the RCDSCC and Owner, and shall terminate when funding for the project is fully expended.
5. **Authority:** Owner represents and warrants that he/she/it owns the Property and has full power and authority to execute this Permission Form on Owner's behalf and on behalf of all other owners of the Property.

6. **Entire Agreement:** This Permission Form constitutes the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings and representations, oral or written, are superseded.
7. **Modification:** The provisions of this Permission Form may not be modified, except by written instrument signed by both parties.
8. **Successors and Assigns:** This Permission Form shall bind and benefit the parties and their successors and assigns, except as may otherwise be provided herein.
9. **Notices:** Any notice required hereunder shall be provided to the parties as follows:

**“RCDSCC”**

Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County  
820 Bay Ave Suite 136  
Capitola, CA 95010  
Email address: [mabernathy@rcdsantacruz.org](mailto:mabernathy@rcdsantacruz.org)

**“OWNER”**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Owner and RCDSCC have executed this Permission Form effective as of \_\_\_\_\_ (Date).

**Owner**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**RCDSCC**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: Lisa Lurie, Executive Director RCDSCC

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**The safety of our community is our shared responsibility.  
Working together we can get this done!**

We would like to welcome Ben Abeln to the Fire Safe County Roads team! Ben is a life-long mountain resident and well-known to many of you as a manager at Summit Store and through his service on the Board of Trustees of the Loma Prieta School District, just two of his many contributions to our mountain community.

*Santa Cruz Alliance FSCR team:*

Larry Lopp  
David Fullagar  
Lou McTamane  
Al Feuerbach  
Gerry Alonzo  
Jeremy Cole  
Thomas Sutfin

*Special Alliance staff and supporter's:*

June Salsbury  
Nancy Jo Lopp  
Anne Evans  
Saundra Hand



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