

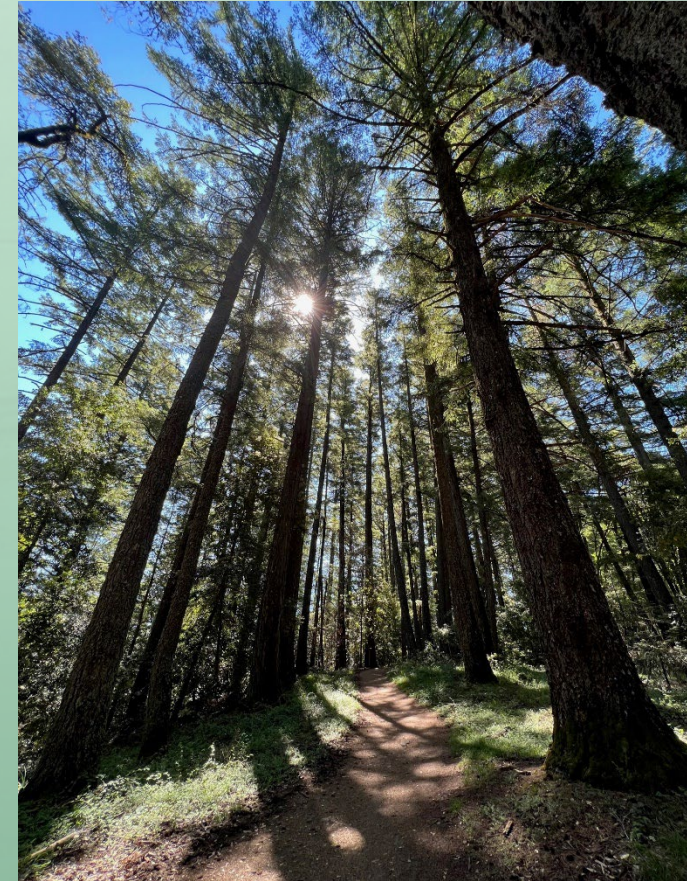
# Sanborn & Upper Stevens Creek County Parks Forest Health Plan

Public Meeting Presentation  
Shelan Zuhdi, Parks and Recreation Department  
October 2022



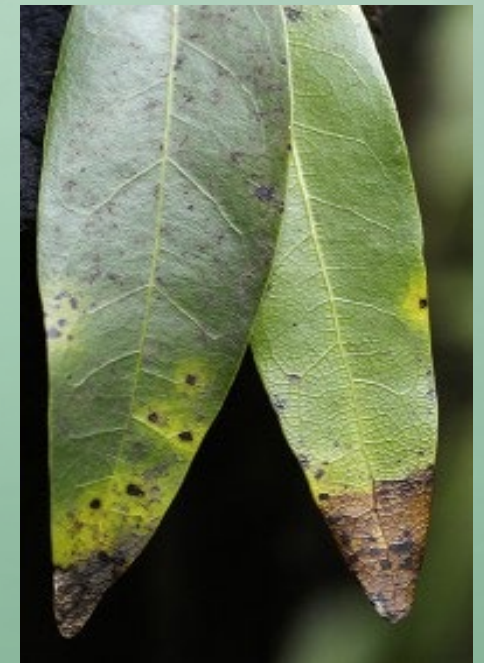
# Sanborn & Upper Stevens Creek Forest Health Plan

- Background
- Purpose and Objectives
- Preliminary Recommendations
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance
- Implementation
- Schedule



# Background

- Stressors and Threats
  - Climate change, drought
  - Fire suppression, tree density
  - Pests (insects, disease)
  - Wildfires
- Unhealthy forest conditions near use areas



# Background- Current Forest Management Practices

- Tree Safety Program
  - Implementation
    - Bi-annual inspections
    - Boundary and trails inspected when potential hazard observed
    - Close areas or change use where imminent tree failure
    - Removal, felling, cutting, or pruning of hazard trees
- Shaded Fuel Breaks with Regional Partners
  - Cooperative efforts with CAL FIRE, County Fire, and the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council.
    - Sanborn County Park (Black Road Shaded Fuel Break)
    - Upper Stevens Creek County Park (Charcoal Road – Table Mountain Shaded Fuel Break)

# Shaded Fuel Breaks at Mt Madonna County Park



# Shaded Fuel Breaks at Mt Madonna County Park



Before



After

# Shaded Fuel Breaks at Mt Madonna County Park



Before



After

# Shaded Fuel Breaks at Mt Madonna County Park



Before



After



# Purpose and Objectives of Forest Health Plan

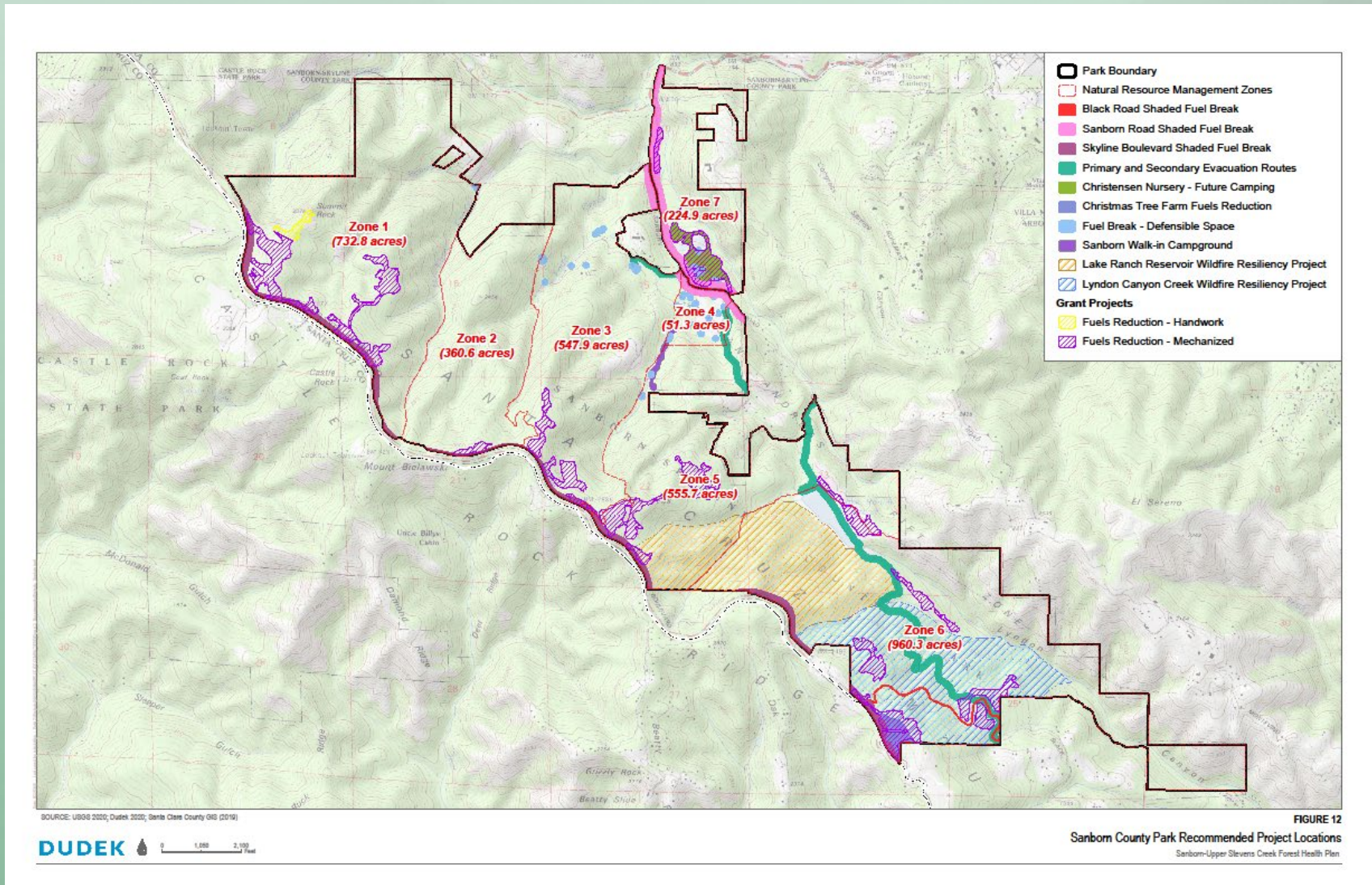
- Purpose:
  - Mitigate hazards to Park users and employees
  - Promote forest resiliency to drought, pest and disease infestation, catastrophic wildfire, and climate change
  - Avoid or minimize impacts to other natural resources and recreational facilities
- Objectives:
  - Improve forest conditions to promote long-term forest health
  - Remove hazards to public and infrastructure in use areas
  - Monitor forest stressors and threats
  - Identify areas to reduce wildfire threat to the Park and nearby communities
  - Implement best management practices to minimize effects of forest management activities
  - Evaluate effectiveness of forest management activities



# Preliminary Recommendations for Sanborn County Park

Create and maintain:

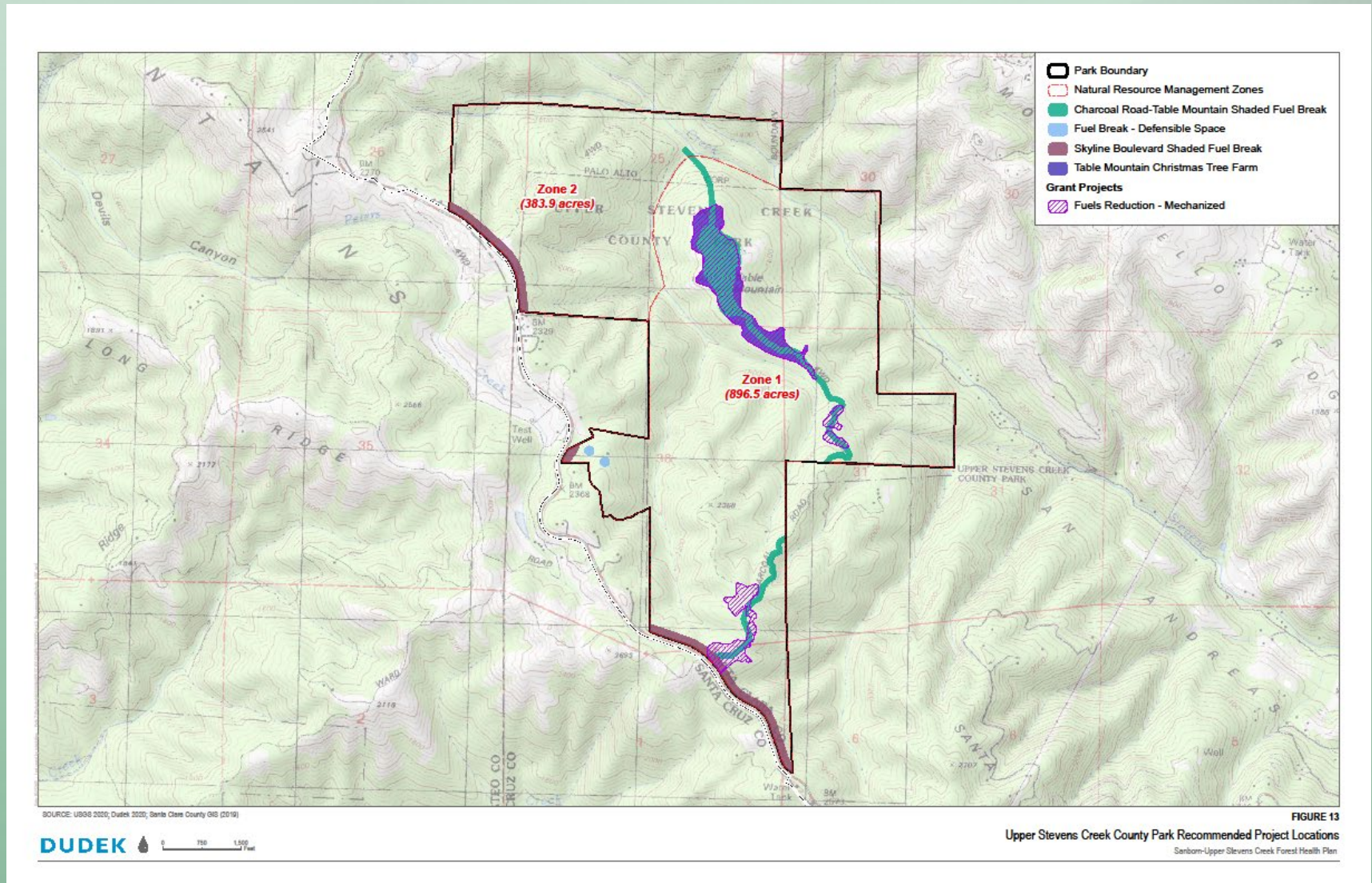
- Shaded fuel breaks
- Priority fuel reduction areas
- Defensible space
- Prescribed fire (pile burns, broadcast burns)
- Resiliency projects



# Preliminary Recommendations for Upper Stevens Creek County Park

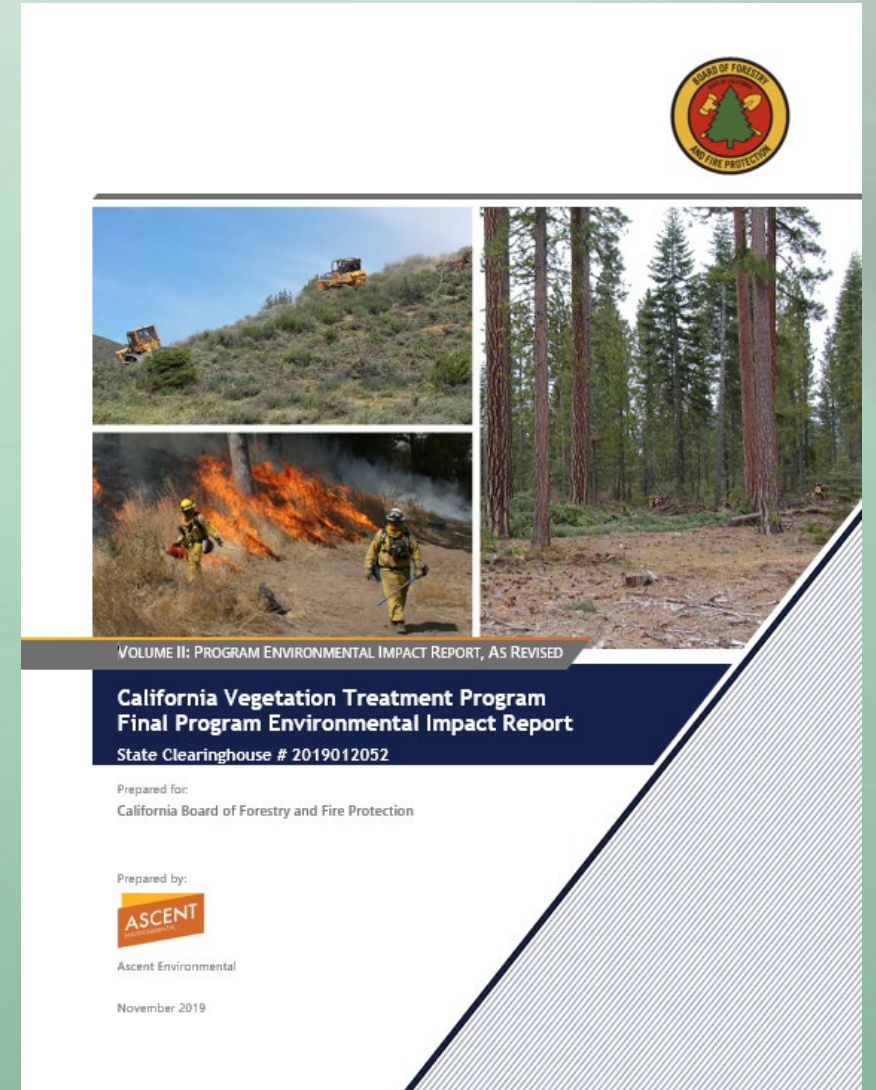
Create and maintain:

- Shaded fuel breaks
- Priority fuel reduction areas
- Defensible space
- Prescribed fire (pile burns, broadcast burns)



# CEQA Compliance

- Forest Health Plan will be covered by California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)
- Requires preparation of Project Specific Analysis (PSA), including:
  - PSA Checklist
  - Biological Resources Assessment
  - Cultural Resources Assessment
  - Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (if necessary)



# CEQA Compliance



## Biological Resources

- Qualified biologist conducted reconnaissance-level surveys within project treatment areas in June 2022
- Standard project requirements and mitigation measures outlined in the PEIR as well as revisions to project design (if necessary) will be applied to avoid impacts to biological resources
- Agency coordination in progress (e.g., CDFW, USFW)



# CEQA Compliance

## Cultural Outreach:

- Notified the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)
- Conducted tribal outreach



## Cultural Resources Survey:

- Qualified surveyor conducted reconnaissance-level surveys in May/June 2022
- Conducted cultural resources record searches - California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) and Sacred Lands File (SLF)

# Implementation of Forest Health Plan

- Prioritize forest management projects
- Coordinate with partners and explore other opportunities
  - Cal Fire, Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, Midpeninsula Open Space District, adjacent landowners
- Explore funding sources to supplement Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) budget since implementation will need ongoing funding/grant opportunities
  - Annual funding through Forest Health capital programs
  - Los Gatos Watershed Forest Health Collaborative Grant
  - Cal Fire (Forest Health Grant Program)

# Schedule for Forest Health Plan

- Draft Final Forest Health Plan – September 2022
- Public Outreach – October 2022
- Final Forest Health Plan – November 2022
- CEQA Process – December 2022
- Consideration by Board of Supervisors – January 2023
- Implementation of initial projects starting in Spring 2023



# Questions?

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