

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Unit Strategic Fire Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan (Plan) covers San Luis Obispo County, California. This Plan serves as both the CAL FIRE Unit Strategic Fire Plan for the San Luis Obispo Unit and the Community Wildfire Protection Plan for San Luis Obispo County and was developed to collaboratively address fire protection planning efforts occurring in the County to minimize wildfire risk to communities, assets, firefighters, and the public. This Plan presents the County's physical and social characteristics, identifies and evaluates landscape-scale fire hazard variables, utilizes Priority Landscape data sets for evaluating wildfire risk, identifies measures for reducing structural ignitability, and identifies potential fuel reduction projects and techniques for minimizing wildfire risk. The goal of this Plan is to provide a planning-level framework for hazardous fuel assessment and reduction within San Luis Obispo County so that structures and assets are provided additional protection, reducing the potential for wildfire-originated ignitions. This Plan is intended to be a living document managed and updated routinely by CAL FIRE/SLO with community and stakeholder input and involvement.

As a key component of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003, a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) serves as a mechanism for community input and identification of areas presenting high fire hazard risk as well as identification of potential projects intended to mitigate such risk. Further, the CWPP process is intended to provide the community a forum for identifying values at risk from wildfire, which may include people, property, natural resources, cultural values, economic interests, and infrastructure. A CWPP must be collaboratively developed with input from interested parties, local, state, and federal agencies managing land within the County, and local government representatives. It must also identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommend measures to reduce the ignitability of structures within wildland urban interface areas. CWPPs are intended to better protect communities from the threat of wildfires by promoting community-level fuel reduction projects.

The CAL FIRE Unit Strategic Fire Plan is intended to support the vision, goals, and objectives of the California Fire Plan which will create a state that is more resistant and resilient to the damaging effects of catastrophic wildfire while recognizing fire's beneficial aspects. Similar to the goals of the CWPP, the Unit Strategic Fire Plan is intended to improve fire prevention and suppression efforts, reduce hazardous fuels, restore fire-adapted ecosystems, and promote community assistance. The goals of the Unit Strategic Fire Plan include: improving the availability and use of information regarding hazard and risk assessment; providing guidance for land use planning efforts; promoting a shared vision among communities and multiple fire jurisdictions; establishing fire resistance in communities; prioritizing protection of communities and other high-priority watersheds; collaborating with government agencies and a broad representation of stakeholders; improving fire suppression and prevention capabilities; promoting post-fire recovery efforts; and maintaining accountability through monitoring based on performance standards. The Unit Strategic Fire Plan utilizes the following strategies to accomplish its goals:

- Collaborate with stakeholders and multiple fire jurisdictions
- Conduct and refine risk assessments for wildland urban interface (WUI) areas
- Develop high-hazard wildfire community pre-attack plans
- Foster community involvement in pre-fire planning efforts
- Monitor the effectiveness of programs, projects and initial attack success.

This Plan, with the cooperation of key stakeholders, has been developed with the intention of meeting the goals set by community stakeholders and the California Fire Plan while integrating a community input-focused approach consistent with CWPP requirements. As a combined document, this Plan prioritizes protection of communities, natural resources, and the lives of the public and firefighters. This priority is shared among federal agencies, state and local governments, and other community stakeholders. Collaboration, priority setting, and accountability provide the framework for the guiding tactical principles of this Plan, which include:

- Increase the safety to residents and firefighters during wildland fires
- Reduce the costs and losses associated with wildland fires
- Support implementation of WUI building standards through coordination and cooperation with local government planning departments
- Support the implementation and maintenance of defensible space around structures

- Support project work and planning efforts that encourage the development and/or maintenance of safe ingress and egress routes for emergency incidents
- Promote cooperation between fire agencies in the County to minimize wildland fire damage through strategic fuel treatment projects
- Utilize fire prevention efforts to reduce ignitions within the County
- Conduct post-incident analysis to evaluate success in achieving the 95% threshold of keeping fires less than 10 acres in size
- Promote public education efforts about wildland fire through the support of the San Luis Obispo County Community FireSafe Council (SLOFSC) and Firewise community activities.

Note: All text in [BLUE](#) is hyperlinked to external websites.