7 MONITORING AND EVALUATION STRATEGY

All stakeholders and signatories to this CWPP desire worthwhile outcomes. We also know that risk reduction work on the ground, for the most part, is often not attainable in a few months—or even years. The amount of money and effort invested in implementing a plan such as this requires that there be a means to describe, quantitatively or qualitatively, if the goals and objectives expressed in this plan (and other approved plans within Santa Clara County) are being accomplished according to expectations.

This section will present a suite of *recommended* CWPP monitoring strategies intended to help track progress, evaluate work accomplished, and assist planners in adaptive management.

Strategies outlined in this section take into account several variables:

- Do the priorities identified for treatment reflect the goals stated in the plan? For example, do projects for fuels reduction along public roads meet objectives for safe evacuation routes in identified high risk areas? Monitoring protocols can help address this question.

- Can there be ecological consequences associated with fuels work? We may be concerned about soil movement and/or invasive species encroachment post-treatment. Relatively cost-effective monitoring may help clarify changes.

- Vegetation will grow back. Thus, fuel break maintenance and fuels modification in both the home ignition zone and at the landscape scale all require periodic assessment. Monitoring these changes can help decision makers identify appropriate treatment intervals.

- What can a monitoring plan do to assist the Core Team/decision makers in assessing the extent to which the CWPP prevention and outreach program objectives are being met? Tracking program benefits in a qualitative way can increase understanding and support from communities.

- As the CWPP evolves over time, there may be a need to track changes in policy, codes, requirements, stakeholder changes, and levels of preparedness. These can be significant for any future revisions and/or addendums to the CWPP.

Table 7.1 identifies recommended monitoring strategies, both quantifiable and non-quantifiable, for assessing the progress of the CWPP action plan. It must be emphasized that these strategies are 1) not exhaustive (new strategies and protocols can evolve with new CWPP action items) and 2) dependent on available funds and personnel to implement them.

Table 7.1.   Recommended Monitoring Strategies

Strategy	Task/Tool	Lead	Remarks
Photo record (documents pre- and post-fuels reduction work, evacuation routes, workshops, classes, field trips, changes in open space, treatment type, etc.)	Establish field global positioning system (GPS) location; photo points of cardinal directions; keep photos protected in archival location	Core Team member	Relatively low cost; repeatable over time; used for programs, and tracking objectives
Number of acres treated (by fuel type, treatment method)	GPS/GIS/fire behavior prediction system	Core Team member	Evaluating costs, potential fire behavior
Number of home ignition zones/defensible space treated to reduce structural ignitability	GPS	Home-owner	Structure protection
Number of residents/citizens participating in any CWPP projects and events	Meetings, media interviews, articles	Core Team member	Evaluate culture change objective
Number of homeowner contacts (brochures, flyers, posters, etc.)	Visits, phone	Agency representative	Evaluate objective
Number of jobs created	Contracts & Grants	Core Team member	Evaluate local job growth
Education outreach: number, kinds of involvement	Workshops, classes, field trips, signage	Core Team member	Evaluate objectives
Emergency management: changes in agency response capacity	Collaboration	Agency representative	Evaluate mutual aid
Codes and policy changes affecting CWPP	Qualitative	Core Team	CWPP changes
Number of stakeholders	Added or dropped	Core Team	CWPP changes
Wildfire acres burned, human injuries/fatalities, infrastructure loss, environmental damage, suppression and rehabilitation costs	Wildfire records	Core Team	Compare with 5- or 10-year average

7.1   IDENTIFY TIMELINE AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR UPDATING THE CWPP

The CWPP, as an evolving document, will be reviewed annually by the Core Team. The Core Team should decide the most effective way to accomplish this task, given the varying interests represented and personnel time constraints. An example would be canvassing each member for input, generating a list of priority recommendations. Topics may include, but not be limited to, action items and priorities, budgets, changes in agency policies, laws and ordnances affecting safety and fire management operations, new fuels projects, and other modifications to the existing CWPP.

The CWPP review could include a meeting open to the public and affected CWPP municipalities and jurisdictions. Recommendations would be presented, input solicited, and results in the form of documented changes will be attached as amendments to the CWPP.

A primary purpose of the CWPP review and update will be to engage additional parties and stakeholders in the CWPP planning process. Many stakeholders may not have been identified during the first iteration of this SCCCWPP. Annual reviews and updates provide for engagement of additional entities so that the document can serve a wider network of land management agencies and provide opportunities for increased collaboration across the County. The CWPP Core Team should continue to outreach to interested stakeholders and invite them to be part of the Core Team.

A formal revision to this CWPP should be made on the fifth anniversary of signing and every 5 years following.

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