

Persimmon Hill Homeowners Association

May 4, 2023
6:00 pm



Christopher Danch
Executive Director



Kalli O'Connor
Executive Assistant



Natasha Saxena

Ojai Valley
Wildfire Liaison

In collaboration with: Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council



AGENDA

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1. Introductions
2. Invasive Trees Removal: Project Development
3. Rapid Assessments
4. Becoming a Firewise Community
5. Home Hardening Assessments



Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council

Founded in 2000
501(c)(3) Nonprofit



Mission & History

- Promote wildfire safety in the Ojai Valley through community driven collaboration, action and education
- 2000-2019 –managed 26 federally funded grants totaling over \$1.6M with approx. \$2M in matching contributions
- Currently managing \$1.95M in projects
- Administered community-based programs and projects
- Online resources
- Local and regional partnerships

Ojai Valley & Fire

- Top 1% of the nation for wildfire risk (top 3% in CA)
- Surrounded by rugged mountains
- Chaparral-covered canyons
- Steep terrain
- Hot/dry weather and Santa Ana winds
- Very-High and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones
- 89% of building stock pre-2009 (pre-WUI standards)
- Limited evacuation routes
- Communication “dead-zones”
- Vulnerable grid dependency



HOLISTIC VISION OF THE OJAI VALLEY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL




A Wildfire Risk Mitigation Strategy that enables the Ojai Valley community to better ***prepare*** for, properly ***respond*** during, and ***recover*** more quickly from a catastrophic wildfire event

The resilience and community cohesion created by this Strategy will also strengthen the community for other natural disasters and a rapidly changing world



How do we realize the new vision?

A New Initiative

-  **1** Create a Road Map* 
-  **2** Identify project areas for focus 
-  **3** Design and implement priority projects** 



Road Map: General Concerns

Emergency
Communications
to Public



Evacuation
Improvements



Loss of power
to critical
facilities



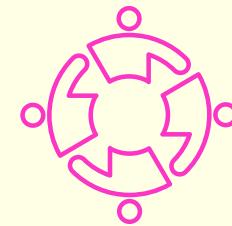
Vulnerable
Populations



Improved
Emergency Planning



Increased community
capacity & resiliency



Road Map Conceptual Project Areas



HIZ
surveys,
risk
scoring,
and home
hardening

Funded, In
Progress



Integrating
community
water
resources



Risk-
Mapping,
Evacuation
Planning &
Preparedness

Funded, In
Progress



Ojai
Valley
CWPP

Funded, In
Progress



Goat
“Super-
Highway”

Funded, In
Progress



Ojai
Valley
Microgrid

What We Do: Our Current Projects

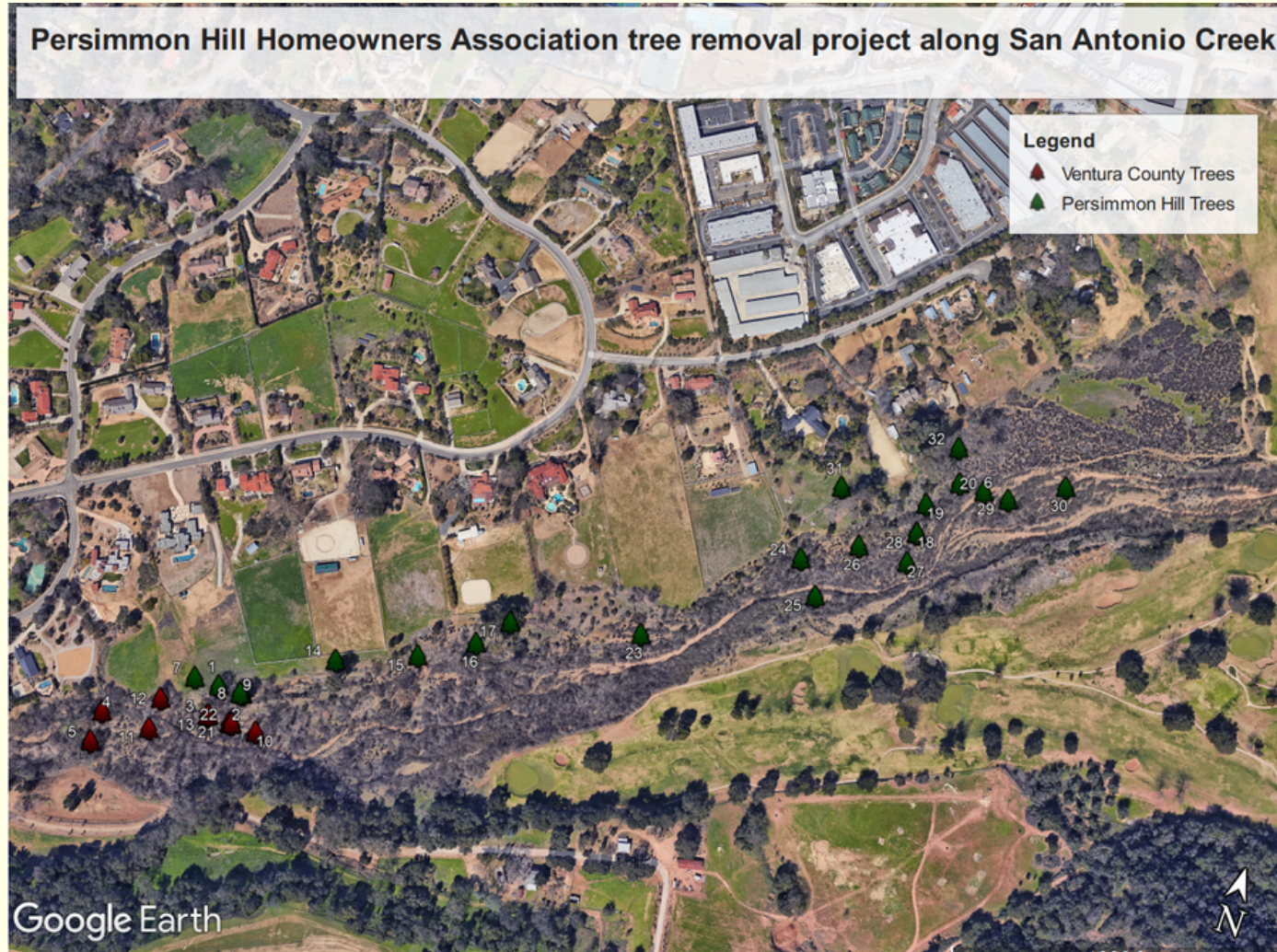
- Community-Supported Grazing Program
- Ojai Valley Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- Fine-Scale Risk Mapping
- Wildfire Vulnerability & Evacuation Assessment
- Ember Cast Modeling
- Structural Hardening
- 2010 Ventura County Wildfire Protection Plan Update
- County Coordinator Grant
- Countywide Vulnerability Assessment
- Regional Project Prioritization Plan

Some of Our Partners

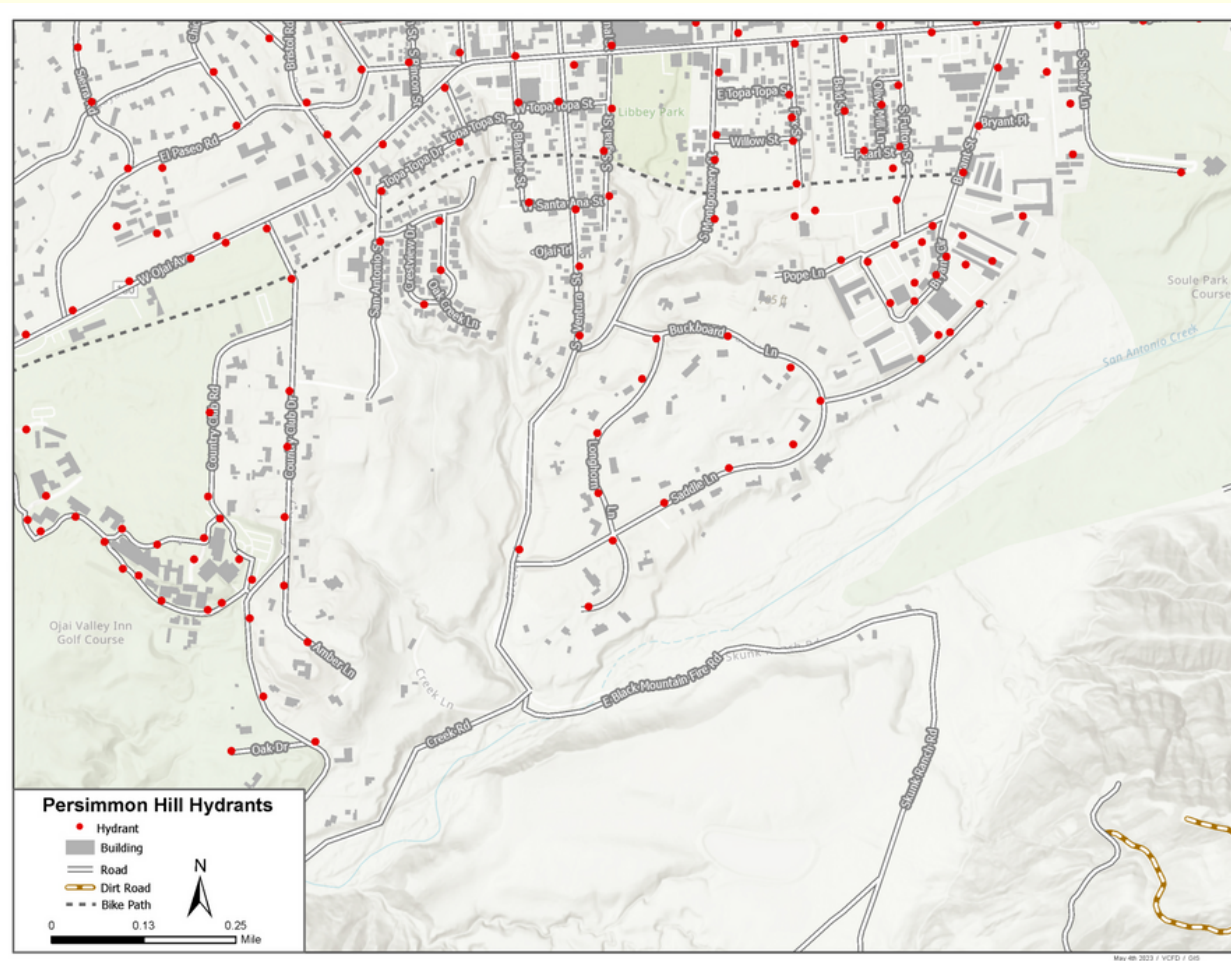


(www.firesafeojai.org/our-partners/)

Invasive Tree Removal Project



Rapid Assessments



- Windshield Survey
 - 2 components:
 - Persimmon Hill Subdivision
 - general risk assessment
 - Individual Homes - Zone 0,
 - fuel pathways to home
- Sharing information
 - Persimmon Hill Subdivision Assessment: to you
 - Individual Home Assessments: between landowner and us

Persimmon Hill: Becoming a Firewise Community

- Insurance
 - new regulation requires insurers to take into account risk mitigation taken at the parcel level



Persimmon Hill: Becoming a Firewise Community



Natasha - Wildfire Safety Liaison & Regional Firewise Coordinator

- Benefits
 - Street signs, potential insurance discounts
- Application Steps
 - Organize - committee, boundary
 - Plan - action plan, risk assessment
 - Do - track volunteer hours, 1 annual event
 - Apply - portal.firewise.org



Free Home Wildfire Assessments

Register at VenturaFireSafe.org



- CAL FIRE grant-funded program, 400 assessments in VC
 - educational purposes only, based on latest science
 - homeowners receive action plans
 - potential access to funds for home retrofits
- Challenge: help us get sign ups!

Coming up:

- Virtual Community Workshop
 - Ojai Valley Community Wildfire Protection Plan
 - End of *May*
- Transit Survey

Thank you!



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