

CWPP Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)?

- A CWPP is a community-based plan focused on identifying and addressing local hazards and risks from wildfire. A CWPP determines what is at risk and provides a roadmap of actions for a community to address the wildfire threat.
- A CWPP may open up state and federal funding opportunities to implement the plan.
- CWPP's are authorized and defined in Title I of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA), passed by Congress in 2003 (<https://www.fs.fed.us/projects/hfi/field-guide/web/page07.php>).

What is required in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)?

A CWPP can vary in scope, scale, and detail, but must meet three minimum requirements for their contents and adoption per the Healthy Forest Restoration Act and the State of California. These requirements include:

- Collaboration - A CWPP must be collaboratively developed. Local and state officials must meaningfully involve nongovernmental stakeholders and federal agencies that manage land in the vicinity of the community.
- Prioritized Fuel Reduction - A CWPP must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel-reduction treatments on both federal and nonfederal land and recommend the types and methods of treatment that, if completed, would reduce the risk to the community.
- Treatment of Structural Ignitability - A CWPP must recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the plan area.

What area of the City will the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) cover?

The CWPP will address the entire City of Malibu as well as define and address the Wildland Urban Interface areas.

Because wildfire is not specific to jurisdictional boundaries, the CWPP hazard and risk analyses area will include a buffer around the City Wildland Urban Interface area to evaluate its impact on the City.

Actions identified within the CWPP may include collaborative projects within unincorporated Los Angeles County and the City of Malibu. However, as a local plan most actions will be focused on the City Wildland Urban Interface areas.

How is the development of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) being funded?

In June 2019 the City of Malibu was awarded a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) California Climate Investments Fire Prevention Grant to create a city specific CWPP.

What are some advantages of having a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)?

- It assesses the wildfire hazard and risk to a community.
- It helps communities identify values/assets and how to enhance protection to those assets in case of a wildfire. Assets at risk are unique to each community and can include homes, roads, other structures and infrastructure, wildlife habitat, or even the view.
- It provides the opportunity for the community to identify their local wildfire hazard mitigation priorities and actions within the Wildland Urban Interface.
- The CWPP process has proven effective at building and strengthening relationships in communities and organizations, strengthening relationships among agencies and providing visibility for organizations and individuals.
- Producing viable action times that result in the creation of other projects. e.g. a project identified in the CWPP might involve clearing of vegetation along major evacuation routes. This may result in a neighborhood recognizing their need to clear their roadways to provide evacuation safety.
- The CWPP will guide the City and the Los Angeles County Fire Department in prioritizing projects and where action can take place to reduce the wildfire threat in ways that are reasonable and acceptable to the community's way of life.
- Actions based on your community's wildfire hazard and risk analyses reduce the wildfire threat to human life, homes, neighborhoods, businesses, and other community assets.
- An important outcome of the CWPP process is building effective working relationships between agencies and the stakeholders.
- Fuel-reduction projects identified in a CWPP are eligible to receive priority for funding and implementation by state and federal agencies.
- Fuel hazard reduction projects identified in a CWPP that require California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance can be expedited.
- A CWPP can identify community-level projects, e.g.: clearing vegetation from major evacuation routes; creating community chipping programs; or developing plans for fuel hazard reduction treatments around a community.
- A CWPP requires actions to be identified that reduce the structural ignitability of buildings to survive a wildfire.

How will the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) address existing City policies and build on other City of Malibu Plans?

The CWPP will be consistent with the objectives and policies set forth in the City of Malibu's General Plan and other related Plans

How does the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) address California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)?

The CWPP itself is not a project under California Environmental Quality Act. It is merely a guidance document and does not make decisions for City actions. Instead, the CWPP will serve to guide the preparation of specific action decisions in an Implementation Plan(s).

How does the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) address environmental conservation measures?

The CWPP addresses environmental conservation measures at a programmatic level and builds on policies in the City of Malibu General and related Plans. The CWPP is a guidance document and therefore does not address site specific fuel treatments and related impacts.

How will the actions identified in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) be implemented?

Following City Council, Los Angeles County Fire Department, and Cal Fire approval of the CWPP, City and Los Angeles County Fire staff may proceed with preparing Implementation Plans and securing funding. The Implementation Plans should identify the specific actions and steps needed to implement those actions. Any actions that require site specific treatments to address wildfire hazard in City-owned lands may require environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act and permitting