

### Goals of this Session!

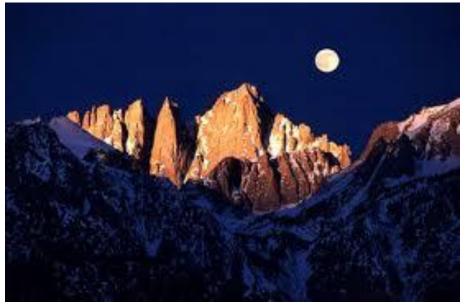
- 1. Learn about wildland fire mitigation strategies
- Wildland Fire: Its not just for Rural California anymore!!!!

### California Trivia # 1

• What are the highest and lowest points in California?

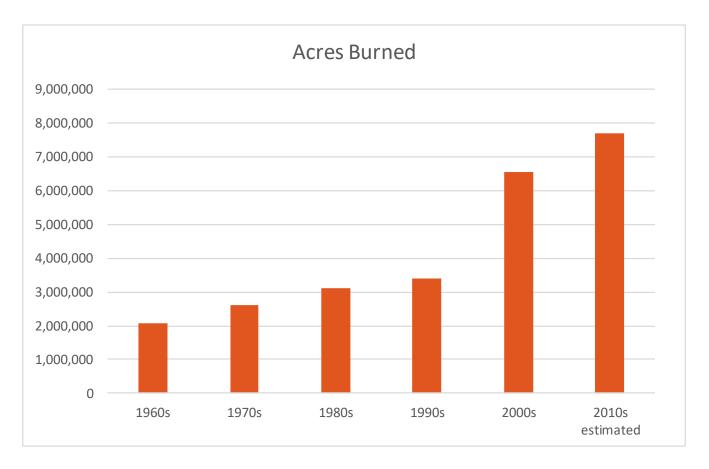
Death Valley





Mt Whitney

# Recent Wildland Fire History in California



Source: CalFire

2018 fire season was the deadliest and most destructive wildfire season on record in CA, with 1.89 million acres burned 2019 expected burned acres are estimated

# Areas Burned in California

(1980s to 2017)

Source: CalFire

2018 fires are not included in this map

2018 fires burned over 1.89 million acres (almost 2% of the State)



# Typical California Urban-Wildland Interface Fire



## Post 2017 Tubbs Fire: The New Normal



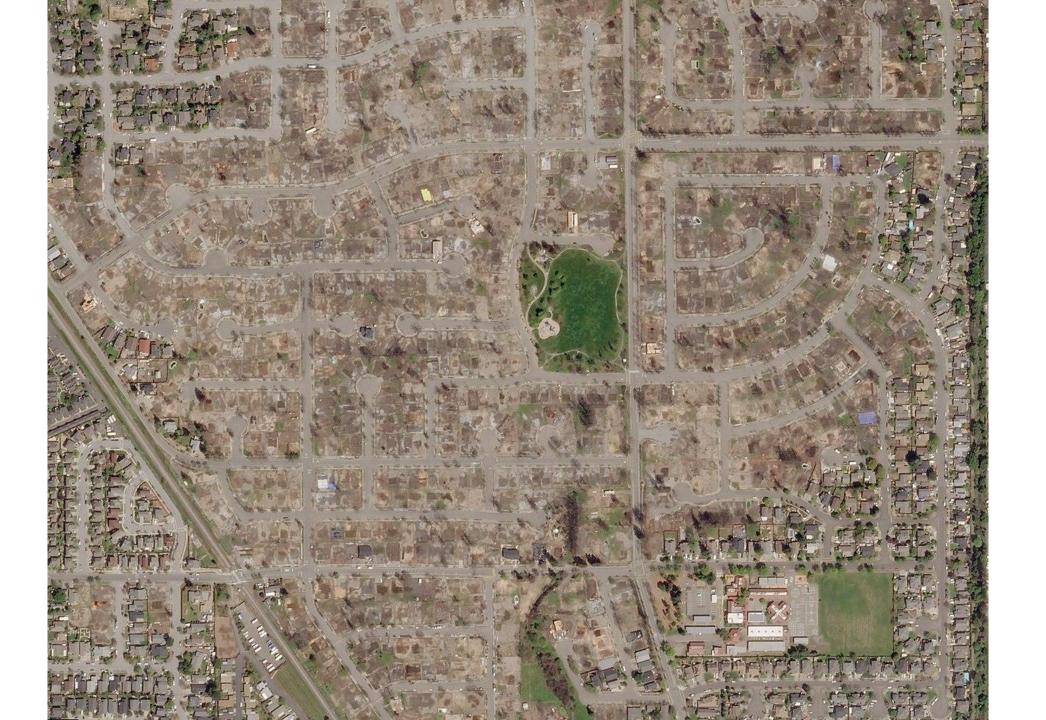
# More Tubbs Fire: The New Normal



## More Tubbs Fire: The New Normal







# Game Changer for Cities: 2017 Tubbs Fire

1. Jumped the Wildland Urban Interface

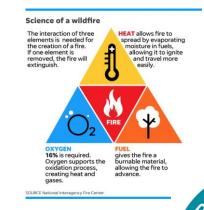


# How Local Agencies Can Implement Changes?

- 1. Fire Suppression
- 2. Vegetation Management
- 3. Structure Resiliency (House Hardening)
- ....But How to Pay For It

...and don't forget about the costs for the power

shutdowns



# 1. Fire Suppression

- 1. Better, Faster Equipment and More Fire Fighters
  - Nimble and distributed
  - Night-time aviation, drones, etc.
  - Fire Science and communications
- 2. Better Evacuation Communications/Prep/Drills
  - Planning and coordination
  - Communications, cell phones?
  - Annual drills
  - Dedicated evacuation routes





#### 1. CONTROL LINE

One of the most important components of wildfire suppression, control lines are simply the boundaries—natural or manmade—that firefighters employ to control how and where a fire spreads.

A rocky ridge or river can serve as a natural control line, or firefighters can establish a manmade one by, for example, clearing out an extended line of brush.

.....And when you hear on the news that a fire is "X percent contained," this is generally what they're talking about—that some percentage of the fire's perimeter has a <u>control/fire line</u>.











### California Trivia # 2

 The Bear Flag Revolt resulted in the creation of the California Republic in 1846. How long did the California Republic last?

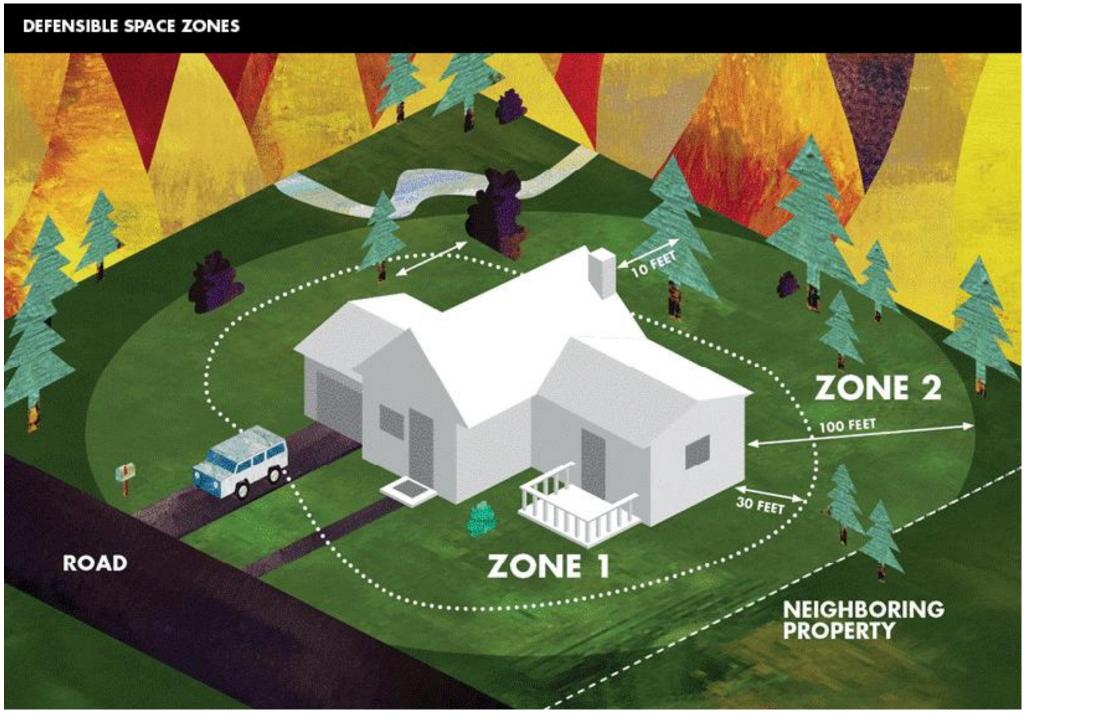
- 3 days
- 3 weeks
- 17 months
- 3 years

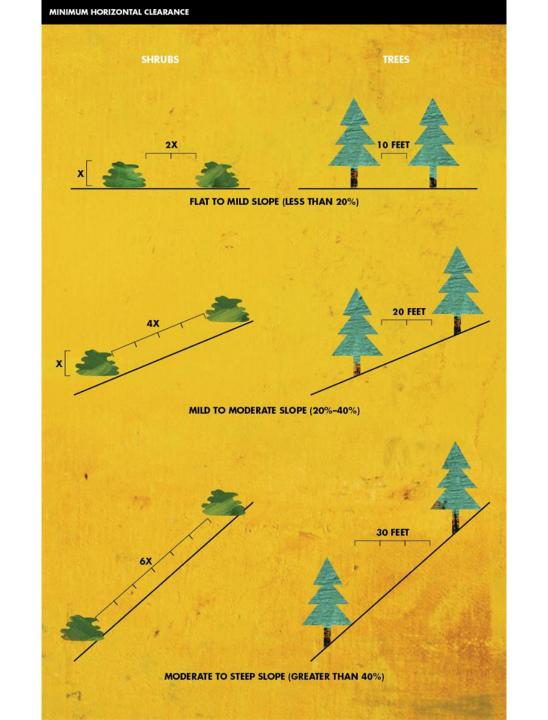


Bonus....who lead the US forces to subdue the California Republic?

# 2. Vegetation Management

- 1. Defensible Space
- 2. Fire break maintenance
  - Shaded Fuel Breaks
- 3. Roadside clearances and other public area fuel reduction
- 4. Fuel chipping programs (FireSafe Council, community forums)





#### Location 1: BEFORE



#### **Location 1: AFTER**



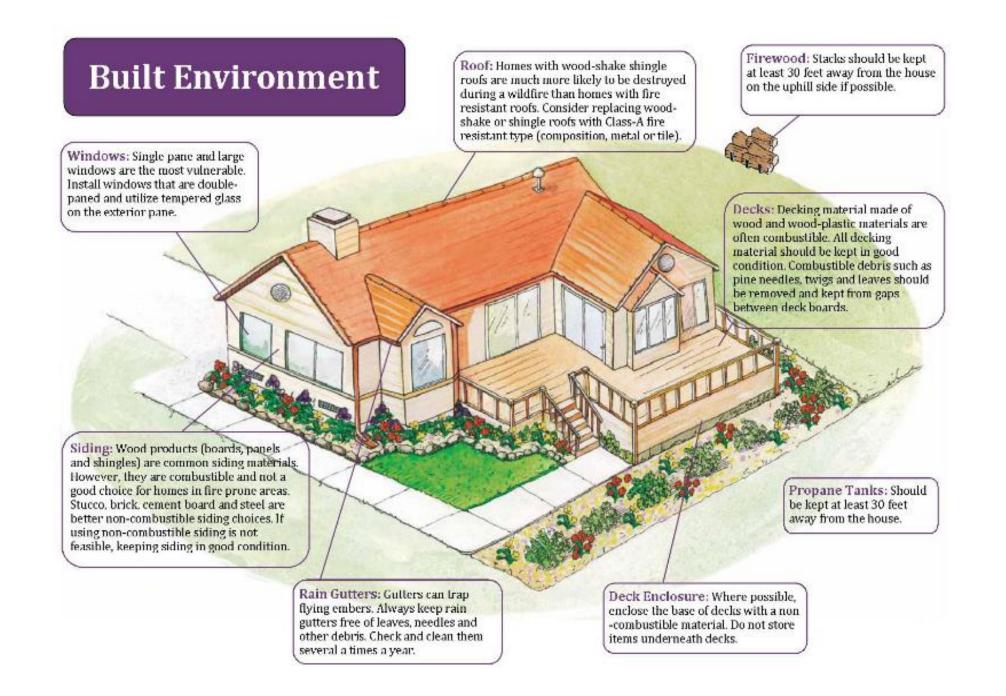
Here, we took ladder fuel from under larger trees, beginning with smallest and working up.



14 miles\$4 million

# 3. Structure Resiliency-House Hardening



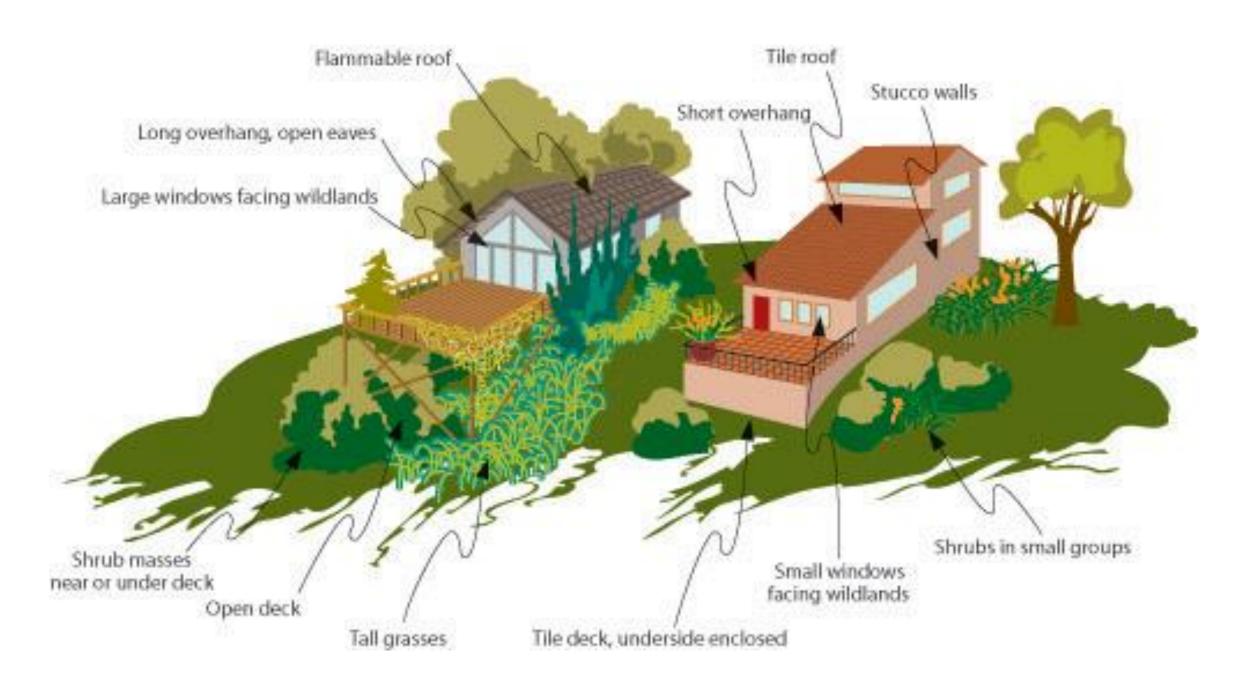


# 3. Structure Resiliency (House Hardening) Cont.

- Roof
- Vents
- Eaves and Soffits
- Windows
- Decks
- Rain Gutters
- Patio Cover
- Chimney
- Garage
- Driveways and Access Roads







# (Costs associated with power outages)

- Mobilization
- Traffic Control
- Community Centers

... For those of you that think it will never happen to you!!!!



# California Trivia #3

Who are the 2 real Californians?





But How To Pay For It

# The "Five-Legged Stool" Approach

- Impact Fees
- CFDs
- Fees
- Grants
- Special Taxes and Benefit Assessments





# Special Taxes and Benefit Assessments

- Require balloting
- Long term, reliable funding sources
- Prop 13 and Prop 218 compliant

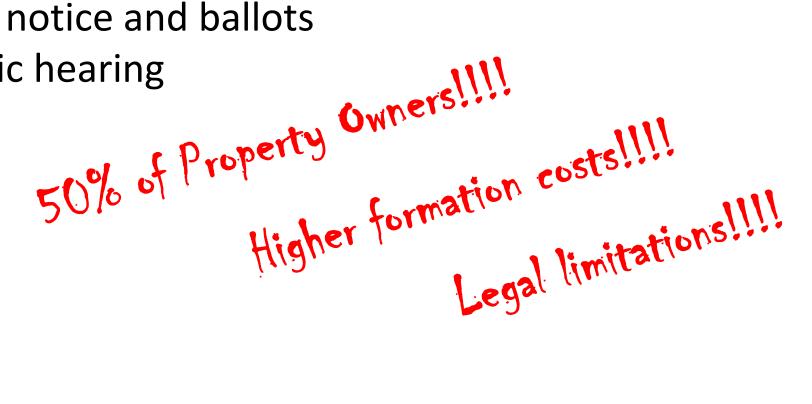


# Special Taxes—Prop 13 & 218

- 1. Improvement plan
- 2. Develop Tax Methodology
- 3. Resolution of consolidation
- 4. Polling place or mailed ballot

# Benefit Assessments – Prop 218

- 1. Engineer's Report
- 2. 3 Resolutions
- 3. Mail notice and ballots
- 4. Public hearing



# Comparison of Taxes vs Assessments

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Special Tax</u>	Assessment	
Who votes?	Registered Voters	Property Owners	
Who created requirements?	Jarvis Taxpayers	Jarvis Taxpayers	
Election venue	Polling Booth	Mailed Ballot	
Election period	1 Day	45 Days	
Deadline to place on County tax bill	August 10	August 10	
Does everyone who will pay get a vote?	No	Yes	
Are votes proportional to overall burden?	No	Yes	
Threshold of vote required for success	Super Majority (66.6%+)	Weighted Majority (50%+)	
Most common local funding option for fire	Yes	Yes	
Special benefit required	No	Yes	
Use of funds	Wide Range	Somewhat Limited	

### Process

- 1. Public opinion survey
- 2. Community outreach
- 3. Implement ballot measure



# Public Opinion Surveys

- Identify winnable rate
- Identify key messages
- Choose optimal funding mechanism



# Community Outreach

- Continuous
- Be...
  - authentic
  - knowledgeable
  - not slick, not rehearsed
  - credible
- Face-to-face meetings
- Detailed financials and services
- ....You know what you are doing...







#### 2008 Measure WW Regional Parks Bond Extension Project List

Update 7/1/200

#	Location	Complete park boundaries, lls restore marsh, build public use facilities	Description		Total \$	
16	Coyote Hills		\$8.1 million to acquire remaining lands adjacent to Coyote Hills to complete park boundaries and preserve sensitive riparian wildlife habitat. Restore and expand existing marsh complex to include seasonal wetlands, coastal prairie grassland and reduce cattails. Enhance habitat for Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse and California Black Rail. Replace the aging visitor center with a state of the art facility to interpret the significant cultural and natural resources of the area. Add family camping opportunities at the reclaimed Dumbarton Quarry site and provide trail links to the Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge and Bay Trail.	\$	8,100,000	
17	Crockett Hills	Expand park and improve public access	\$4 million to acquire scenic open space to expand this park near the West County communities of Crockett, Hercules and Rodeo. Build new public access, trails for all users and camp sites easily accessible from Highway 4 and the Cummings Skyway.		4,050,000	
18	Crown Beach	Improve visitor center, restore  \$6.5 million to replace and expand the Crab Cove interpretive center, currently located in an outdated military building. Expand and restore Alameda Beach to increase space for beach recreation and protect the		\$	6,480,000	



City of Santa Barbara Case Study