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Santa Clara County FireSafe Council invites public comments on a newly developed Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the Croy Fire Area

San Jose, June 18, 2007 – The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCFSC) has released for comments the first Public Draft of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the Croy Fire Area west of Morgan Hill, San Martin and Gilroy. Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) are the new standard for evaluating a community's risk from wildfires. CWPPs not only set forth a detailed plan for ongoing wildfire prevention maintenance in a specific area, but also provide other important benefits to the community.

These Benefits to the Community include:

1. Higher priority for Federal grant dollars for fuel reduction projects
2. Quicker turnaround for environmental permits or navigating compliance issues
3. Communities can organize projects to reduce fire prone fuels without Federal funding
4. Identification of appropriate Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) boundaries with community input

This CWPP was developed by SCFSC and Dudek, a wildfire prevention planning company, with assistance from CAL FIRE (formerly CDF), Casa Loma Volunteer Fire Department, Uvas Volunteer Fire Association and many other stakeholders and residents. It is the second CWPP developed by SCFSC in Santa Clara County (the first CWPP was developed for the East Foothills areas east of San Jose). Patrick Congdon, SCFSC president and general manager of the Santa Clara Open Space Authority, a major land steward in the area states, "This is an exciting project which is extremely timely given current predictions about the 2007 Wildfire Season. I am impressed by the cooperative nature of this project and look forward to reviewing the final plan after public comments."

A presentation summarizing the Croy CWPP, the Executive Summary and the complete Public Draft CWPP can be downloaded from the SCFSC Web site at www.SCCFireSafe.org/CWPPs.htm. Questions or comments should be e-mailed to Fire Captain Nick Ciardella at Nick.Ciardella@fire.ca.gov or call (408) 206-3704. More information on CWPPs is available from the California Fire Alliance at www.cafirealliance.org/cwpp/.

The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council also has a 20-page, step-by-step guide for homeowners and residents available on-line. The guide, *Living With Fire in Santa Clara County*, is at www.SCCFireSafe.org/FireSafe/LivingWithFire.htm. This guide is appropriate for the Wildland Urban Interface areas and includes information on creating Defensible Space, fire resistant plants and roofing materials.

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The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our mission is "Mobilizing the people of Santa Clara County to protect their homes, communities and environment from wildfires." The council meets at 2:00 PM on the second Tuesday of each month. Homeowners, residents and representatives of all interested organizations are welcome! For more information and meeting locations, see www.SCCFireSafe.org, e-mail info@SCCFireSafe.org or call (408) 975-9591.

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