



Santa Clara County FireSafe Council

2011 Annual Report



Celebrating 10 years of community service

Originally a CAL FIRE public outreach effort, the FireSafe Council concept came to light when in 2001, local fire officials from CAL FIRE and Santa Clara County Fire Department came together with a small group of community members to discuss wildfire risks and protection for communities in Santa Clara County.

Key volunteers and dedicated participants stepped forward and over the next year, the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council became a recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit - the only organization in the area whose mission is *"mobilizing the people of Santa Clara County to protect their homes, communities and environment from wildfires."*

2001-2011



Mobilizing the people of Santa Clara County to protect their homes, communities, and environment from wildfires



“We continue to expand our fuel reduction programs.”

Collaboration leads to continued success.

A fundamental key to our success is our ability to work in collaboration with stakeholders and community partners.

In 2011, we exceeded previous years' accomplishments and helped protect over 4,630 homes, 13,770 people and \$4.4 Billion in property values. In addition, 196 Sudden Oak Death trees and 119 other trees were removed.

These accomplishments were partly due to our many collaborative projects such as the Aldercroft Heights and Soda Springs Evacuation Routes in Lexington Hills which were done by In-Kind Service donations from CAL FIRE and Santa Clara Valley Water District.

Stakeholder partner Pacific Gas and Electric Company

provided In-Kind Service donations to help trim and remove trees along roadsides and driveways.

Our fuel reduction programs continue to be the only free service of their kind for residents in high wildfire risk areas.

As we move forward in 2012, I am pleased to welcome Robert Livengood to our team as our new Executive Director.

The former Mayor and City Council Member for the city of Milpitas, Bob is a long time reserve Police Officer and advocate for first responders and fire prevention efforts.

I am proud to serve another year as President of the FireSafe Council and work with our outstanding team of staff and volunteers to provide service to the communities of Santa Clara County.

Jerry Serpa, President

Assistant Chief, Spring Valley
Volunteer Fire Department



Community Outreach and Education continues to be a priority. In 2011, we reached 5,600 children and adults through our Defensible Space education, wildfire prevention and environmental awareness education.

Children from all over Santa Clara County learned about Smokey's campfire rules and respect for the environment through our Smokey in the Classroom and Smokey Story Time programs at local schools, libraries, community centers and community festivals.

Thousands of visitors enjoyed our Smokey Bear Christmas Tree at Christmas in the Park in downtown San Jose and Smokey made appearances at several community events such as the San Jose Salsa Festival and Youth Science Institute's Wildlife Festival.

We were very pleased to have long time volunteers and new participants help us at these various events, including the students in the Fire Service Pathway Program at James Lick High School. We are proud to be supporters of this program as it provides training and education to prepare students for a life in public service.

We provided direct outreach and education to

2,431 kids, 3,221 adults

85 volunteers provided

196 hours of service at events

It starts with education.

Our wildlife is very important. We must save the animals, insects, and trees.

We have to save our world.

-Tiffany, 4th grade

Sudden Oak Death Syndrome (SOD), a forest disease, has infected a large percentage of native and tanoak trees in parts of Santa Clara County, especially in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Recent survey findings conclude that the disease has reached “epidemic levels” along the ridge separating the two counties. The disease spreads quickly and, because eradication is unlikely, land management and tree removal are the only options to help control the spread and lessen the wildfire risk.

In response to this epidemic, the FireSafe Council expanded our existing Hazardous Fuel Reduction programs to include SOD tree removals and chipping for the Communities at Risk from wildfire of Morgan Hill, San Jose, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga, and Lexington Hills.

Thanks to a \$156,485 grant from the USDA Forest Service through the California FireSafe Council, generous matching funds and In-Kind Services donations of \$81,305, including \$50,000 from the County of Santa Clara, SCFSC exceeded the grant objective of 100 tree removals by *removing 245 SOD trees and 58 other trees.*

While many diseased trees were within the 100 feet Defensible Space of a residence, several projects involved trees threatening other structures, evacuation routes, and utilities such as power lines, and water and propane tanks.

This grant funded, in conjunction with a very large matching In-Kind Donation of Services by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a project which removed about 70 trees along Ogallala Warpath in Lexington Hills near power lines. This will help protect the properties and community from power outages and falling trees. Ogallala Warpath is the main entrance and exit for Chemeketa Park, a densely packed community of homes with narrow streets.

We also completed the Summit Road to Wrights Station Shaded Fuel Break. The photos show part of the fuel reduction before and after work was completed. “This work is critically important for protecting the lives of homeowners and emergency responders as well as homes and key infrastructure assets,” states Rick Parfitt, SCFSC Vice President. “The shaded fuel break provides an opportunity to stop or limit future wildfires, while providing safe egress for both homeowners and firefighters.”

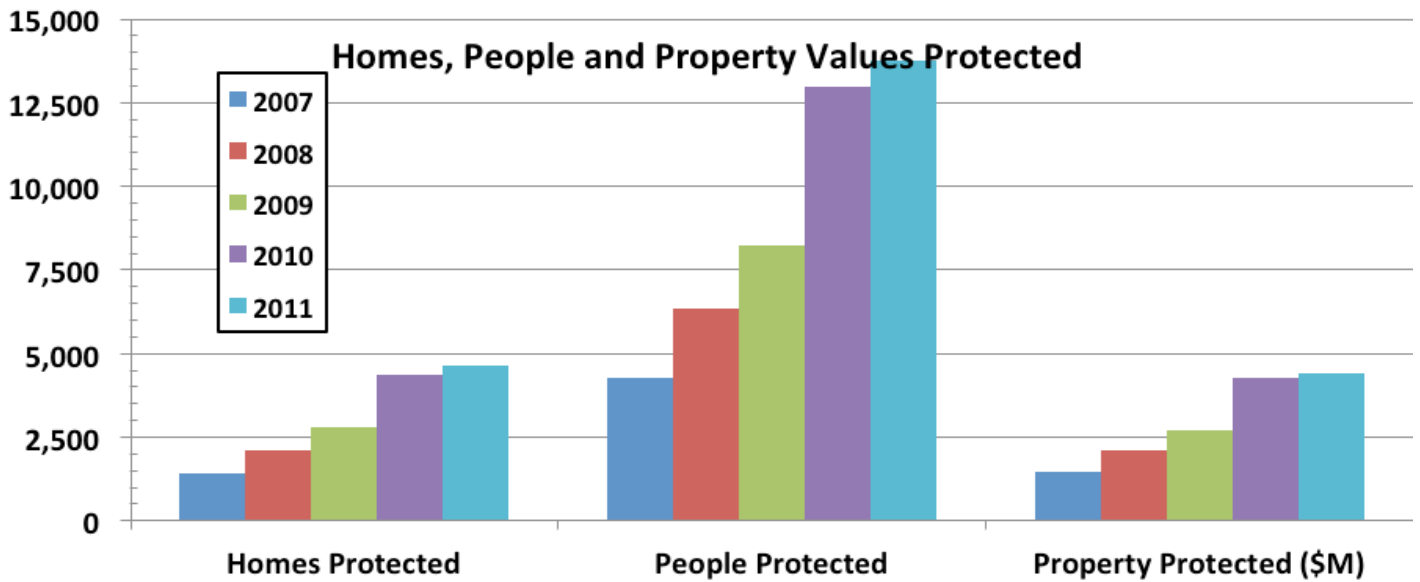
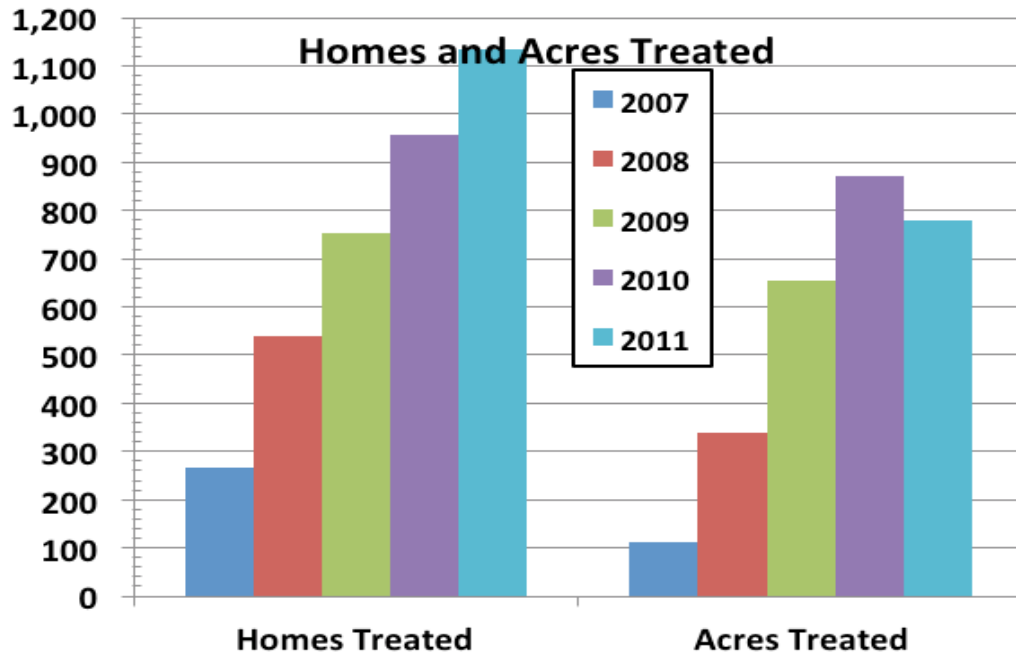
Throughout the process of this grant, SCFSC increased the public awareness of fire safety via community outreach and education activities, meetings with major stakeholders and governmental officials and press releases to communities and on the web.



Before and After - Summit Road to Wrights Station Fuel Break Project



Accomplishments



4,635 Homes, 13,770 People

\$4.4 Billion in Property Values protected

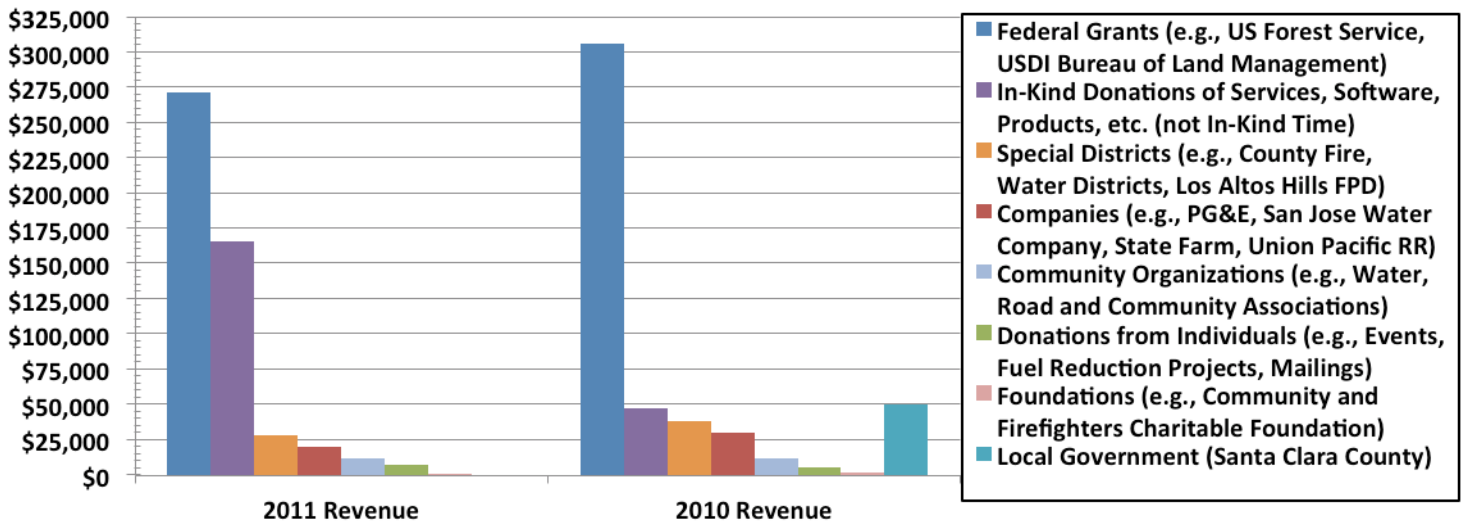
196 dead or dying Sudden Oak Death trees
and 119 other trees removed



Sources of Revenue in 2011

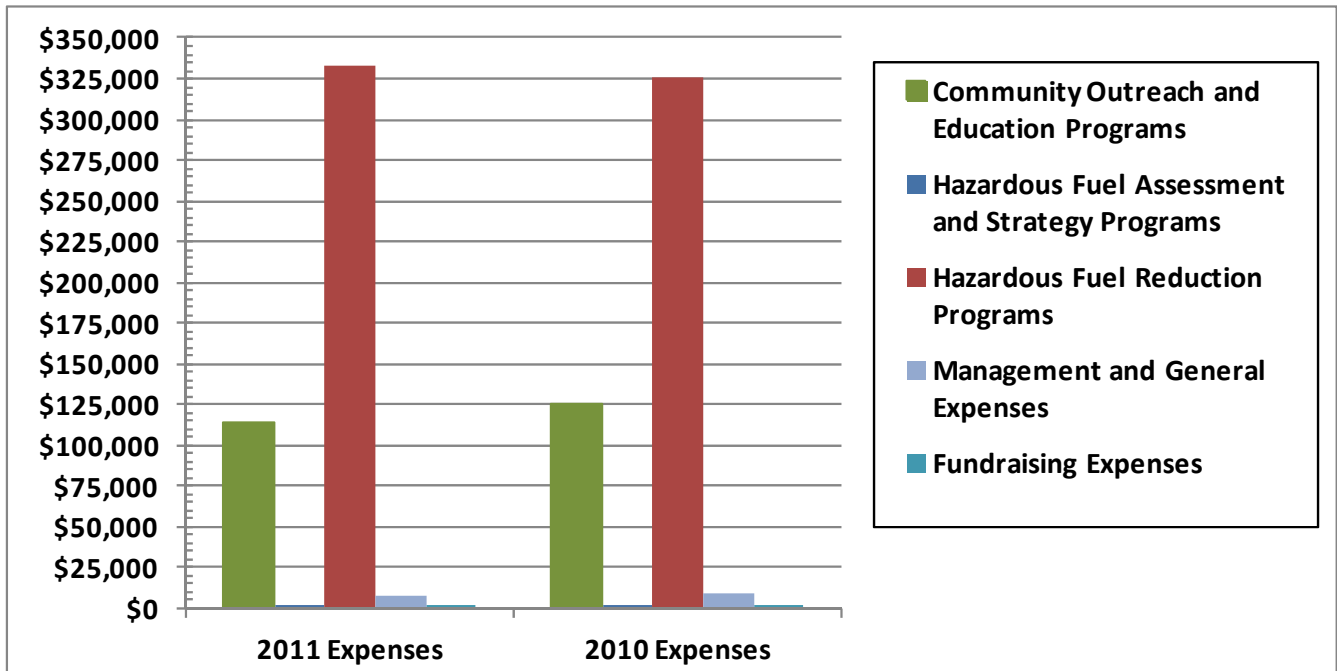
The FireSafe Council has six federal grants totaling \$449,971 from the USDA Forest Service. Four of these grants end in 2012 and two extend until mid-2013. We are in the process of raising \$110,466 in matching funds for these grants.

Revenues before interest increased 3% from \$488,970 in 2010 to \$503,232 in 2011



Distribution of Expenses in 2011

Expenses decreased 1% from \$461,528 in 2010 to \$455,176 in 2011. Net Change in Net Assets (Surplus) increased 71% from \$29,310 in 2010 to \$50,102 in 2011.



Our Surplus is matching funds for federal grants which will be used in future years and other donations which can be used to build our cash reserves. We intend to reduce our dependence on Federal grants.

Community Outreach and Education Programs include events, outreach and youth programs. Hazardous Fuel Reduction Programs include our Defensible Space Chipping Programs. Our most recent Hazardous Assessment and Strategy Program was the Lexington Hills Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) which was completed in mid-2009. We completed our Sudden Oak Death Tree Removal programs in 2011.

Major Grants and Donors

(revenues of \$5,000 and above)

USDA Forest Service

CAL FIRE

Pacific Gas and Electric Company

City of San Jose

USDI Bureau of Land Management

County of Santa Clara

Santa Clara Valley Water District

Santa Clara County Fire
Department

Aldercroft Heights County
Water District

Redwood Estates Services
Association

Los Altos Hills County Fire District

State Farm Insurance

Union Pacific Railroad

Major Grants and Donors

(revenues of \$1,000-\$4,999)

City of Morgan Hill

FM Global Foundation

San Jose Water Company

Chemeketa Park Mutual
Water Company

Loma Prieta Resource
Conservation District

Individual donors



COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT

Santa Clara County FireSafe Council
For Year Ended 12/31/11

I certify that the following statements were prepared from the unaudited books and records of the Santa Clara Fire Safe Council, Inc. Copies of IRS Form 990s signed by our CPA are available on request. Allan Thompson, Treasurer

Statement of Financial Position	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$340,326	\$301,003
Accounts Receivable	0	0
Other Current Assets	0	0
Fixed Assets	<u>75</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Assets	340,401	301,003
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	7,685	10,108
Deferred Federal Grant Revenue (Notes 1, 3)	205,562	113,763
Other Deferred Revenue (Notes 1, 3)	<u>4,056</u>	<u>3,932</u>
Total Liabilities	217,303	127,803
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	71,005	76,595
Temporarily Restricted (Notes 2, 3)	<u>52,093</u>	<u>96,605</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>123,098</u>	<u>173,200</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$340,401	\$301,003

Statement of Activities	<u>2010</u>	Temporarily	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	Temporarily	<u>2011</u>
Revenues, Gains and Other Support	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Contributions (Notes 2, 3)	\$22,748	\$109,935	\$132,684	\$11,499	\$220,614	\$232,113
Federal Grant Revenue (Notes 1, 3)		306,286	306,286		271,119	271,119
Other Deferred Revenue (Notes 1, 3)		<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Revenues Before Interest	\$22,748	\$466,222	\$488,970	\$11,499	\$491,733	\$503,232
Interest Earned	1,868		1,868	2,046		2,046
Net Assets Released from Restrictions						
Satisfaction of Program Restrictions (Note 4)	95,845	(95,845)		176,102	(176,102)	
Deferred Federal Grant Revenue (Note 4)	306,286	(306,286)		271,119	(271,119)	
Other Deferred Revenue (Note 4)	<u>50,000</u>	<u>(50,000)</u>		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	476,747	14,091	490,838	460,766	44,513	505,278
Expenses						
Community Outreach and Education Programs	125,444		125,444	114,185		114,185
Hazardous Fuel Assessment and Strategy Programs	384		384	319		319
Hazardous Fuel Reduction Programs	326,303		326,303	332,650		332,650
Management and General (Note 5)	8,789		8,789	7,981		7,981
Fundraising (Note 5)	<u>608</u>		<u>608</u>	<u>42</u>		<u>42</u>
Total Expenses	<u>461,528</u>		<u>461,528</u>	<u>455,176</u>		<u>455,176</u>
Change in Net Assets	15,219	14,091	29,310	5,590	44,513	50,102
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	<u>55,786</u>	<u>38,002</u>	<u>93,788</u>	<u>71,005</u>	<u>52,093</u>	<u>123,098</u>
Net Assets at End of Year	\$71,005	\$52,093	\$123,098	\$76,595	\$96,605	\$173,200

Statement of Cash Flows	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Change in Total Net Assets	\$29,310	\$50,102
Adjustments to Reconcile Net Assets to Cash and Equivalents		
Decrease in Accounts Receivable	0	0
Decrease in Other Current and Fixed Assets	900	75
Increase in Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	168	2,422
Increase in Deferred Revenues and Grant Returns	<u>26,419</u>	<u>(91,922)</u>
Net Increase in Cash and Equivalents	56,797	(39,323)
Cash at Beginning of Year	<u>283,529</u>	<u>340,326</u>
Cash at End of Year	\$340,326	\$301,003

**Santa Clara County FireSafe Council
For Year Ended 12/31/11**

Notes:

Note 1: SCFSC reports federal grant payments and certain other contributions as deferred revenue and restricted support because they may have to be returned and are received with stipulations that limit their use. Deferred revenue includes grant funds or interest to be returned.

Note 2: SCFSC reports gifts of cash and other assets as restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets or if they are used as matching funds for a federal grant. In-Kind Donations of Products and Services are included in Revenues and Expenses above but not on our IRS Form 990. For 2011, the total In-Kind Donations of Products and Services is \$165,464.

Note 3: When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the Statement of Activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Note 4: Net assets were released from donor restrictions by incurring expenses satisfying the restricted purposes or by occurrence of other events specified by donors. SCFSC does not have any permanently restricted net assets. Our restricted net assets will be used to expand and sustain our programs in future periods.

Note 5: Management and General and Fundraising are also done by volunteers. SCFSC does not have any facilities or related expenses. Participants facilities are used for meetings.

Funding provided by National Fire Plan grants from the Cooperative Fire Program of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Pacific Southwest Region, through the California Fire Safe Council. Our programs and other council activities are also funded by grants and donations from local agencies, companies, foundations, organizations and individual donors.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this organization is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

The views and conclusions in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the California Fire Safe Council, Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, U.S Forest Service or the U.S. Government. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute an endorsement by the California Fire Safe Council, the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council or the U.S. Government.