

Santa Cruz County  
Firewise  
Communities

Investing In  
Readiness

Contact:  
[info@firesafesantacruzcounty.org](mailto:info@firesafesantacruzcounty.org)



**FIREWISE USA™**  
Residents reducing wildfire risks



**FIREWISE USA™**

Residents reducing wildfire risks

# What is Firewise USA?



- Firewise USA - NFPA program
- Volunteer framework, neighbors collaborate to reduce wildfire risk
- Non-profit FireSafe Councils promote through education, coaching
- Firewise USA Recognized communities:
  - lower risk for fire fighters
  - increase defensible space
  - focus on saving lives and homes

# Everyone Doing Their Part

*Investments For 2021:*

**26 Communities 3027 homes**

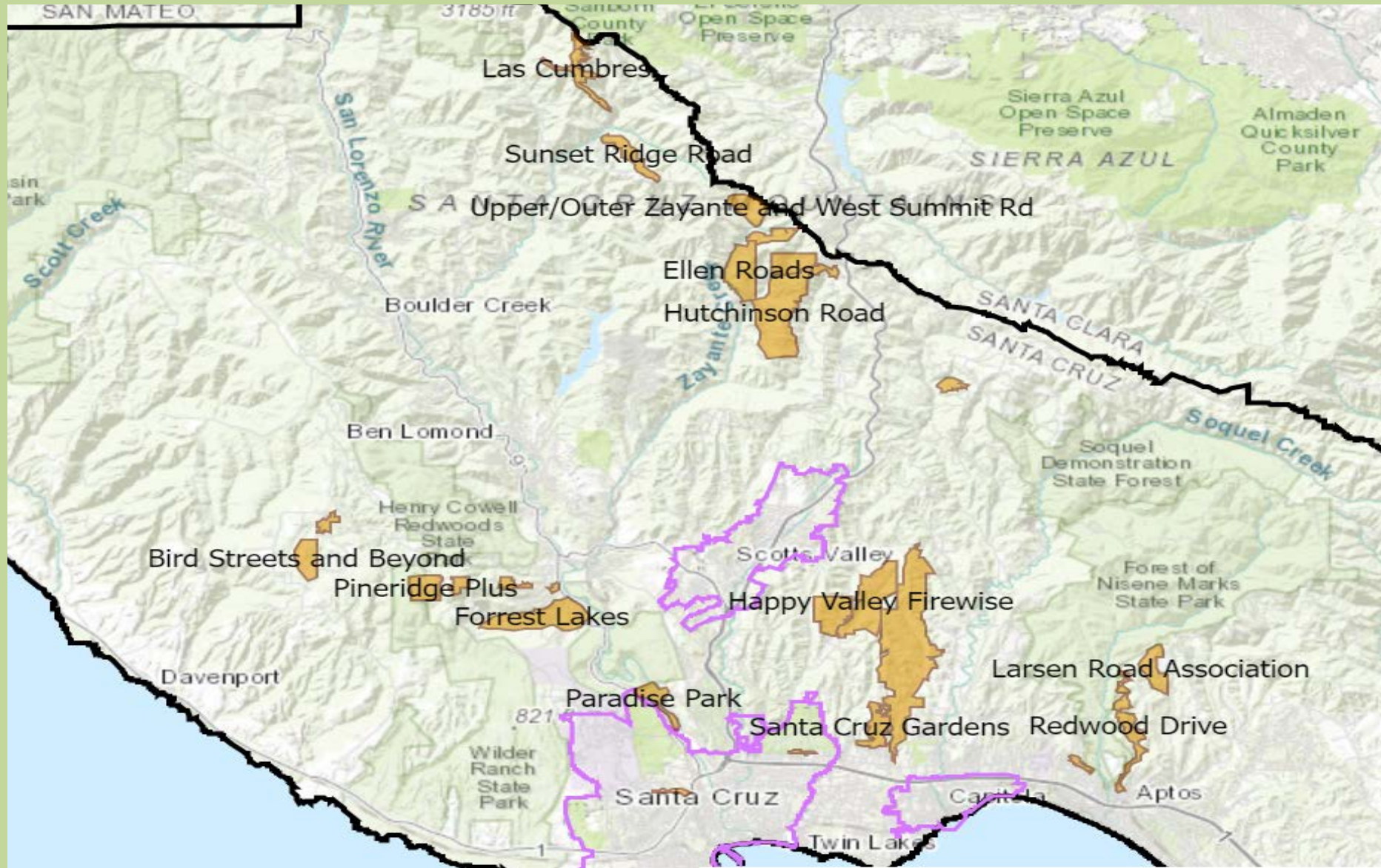
**\$2,700,000 in personal money**

**48,924 volunteer hours**



# Firewise Communities in Action





Map of 26 Firewise Communities as of 4/7/2022

# The Ask

## How can Local Government help?

*Our 2021 investments*

26 Communities 3027 homes

**\$2,700,000 in personal money**

**49,000 volunteer hours**

- **Evacuation Routes** on county roads
  - Improve tree/brush management, add more shaded fuel breaks, remove overhead canopy
- **More Volunteer Fire Fighters**
  - Wildfire structure protection for our homes and communities
- **Improved Emergency Notifications**
  - Better accuracy (CodeRed)
- **Fuel reduction** on public lands
  - Adjacent to communities in high wildfire risk areas



# Backup Slides B



# FSCSCC Firewise Stats

- Jan 2021: 9 Firewise communities, 1200 homes
- April 7, 2022:
  - **26 Firewise USA recognized communities, 3027 homes**
  - 16 more communities in progress, with roughly 600 more homes
- **Total investments in 2021 for wildfire risk reduction (by those 26 communities):**
  - **\$2.7 Million**
  - **48,924 hours**
- 2021= First year for stats collection of this kind
  - NFPA tools issue impacted data for 8 sites
  - Newer communities less experienced with full reporting
  - **Net:** 2021 figures were likely under reported