

Project Summary – County of Los Angeles
LOS ANGELES COUNTY INTEGRATED WILDFIRE SAFETY PROGRAM (IWSP)

Funding Request: \$250,000

Wildfire Event: 2017 Creek Fire, 2018 Woolsey Fire, 2019 Tick Fire, and 2020 Bobcat Fire

Grant Award: \$175,315

Project Duration: 18 months

Planning Activities: Development of a holistic climate adaptation and planning strategy that includes an Integrated Wildfire Safety Program, comprised of a Unified Vegetation Management Plan and Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan. These will inform the update of the General Plan Safety Element.

Project Partners: Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), North Topanga Fire Safe Council, and Endangered Habitats League

Project Statement

Los Angeles County will develop a holistic climate adaptation and planning strategy to address wildfires through an Integrated Wildfire Safety Program (IWSP) that sets clear policy direction to facilitate implementation of plans and policies. The IWSP aims to: 1) update the General Plan Safety Element to integrate climate resiliency and adaptation; 2) develop a Unified Vegetation Management Plan (UVMP) to address the balance of fire safety and vegetative ecosystem maintenance; and 3) create a Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CCWPP) as a complimentary document to the Los Angeles County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan to provide focused fire protection. The Safety Element Update, currently underway, will set the policy foundation from which the UVMP and CCWPP will prepare communities for wildfire resilience.

Recovery Activities

Changing climatic conditions, development in the wildland urban interface, and increased fuel loads from diseased vegetation have contributed to the devastating wildfires Los Angeles County experienced in recent years. Those wildfires include the 2017 Creek Fire, 2018 Woolsey Fire, 2019 Tick Fire, and 2020 Bobcat Fire which totaled over 232,000 acres burned, each necessitating a Governor's state of emergency declaration. The IWSP will fill these unmet needs by creating a cohesive strategy to proactively guide wildfire policy. It sets out to: 1) discourage new developments in the wildland urban interface (WUI); 2) help communities develop pre-disaster recovery plans; and 3) unify and focus efforts to mitigate risks for existing communities.

