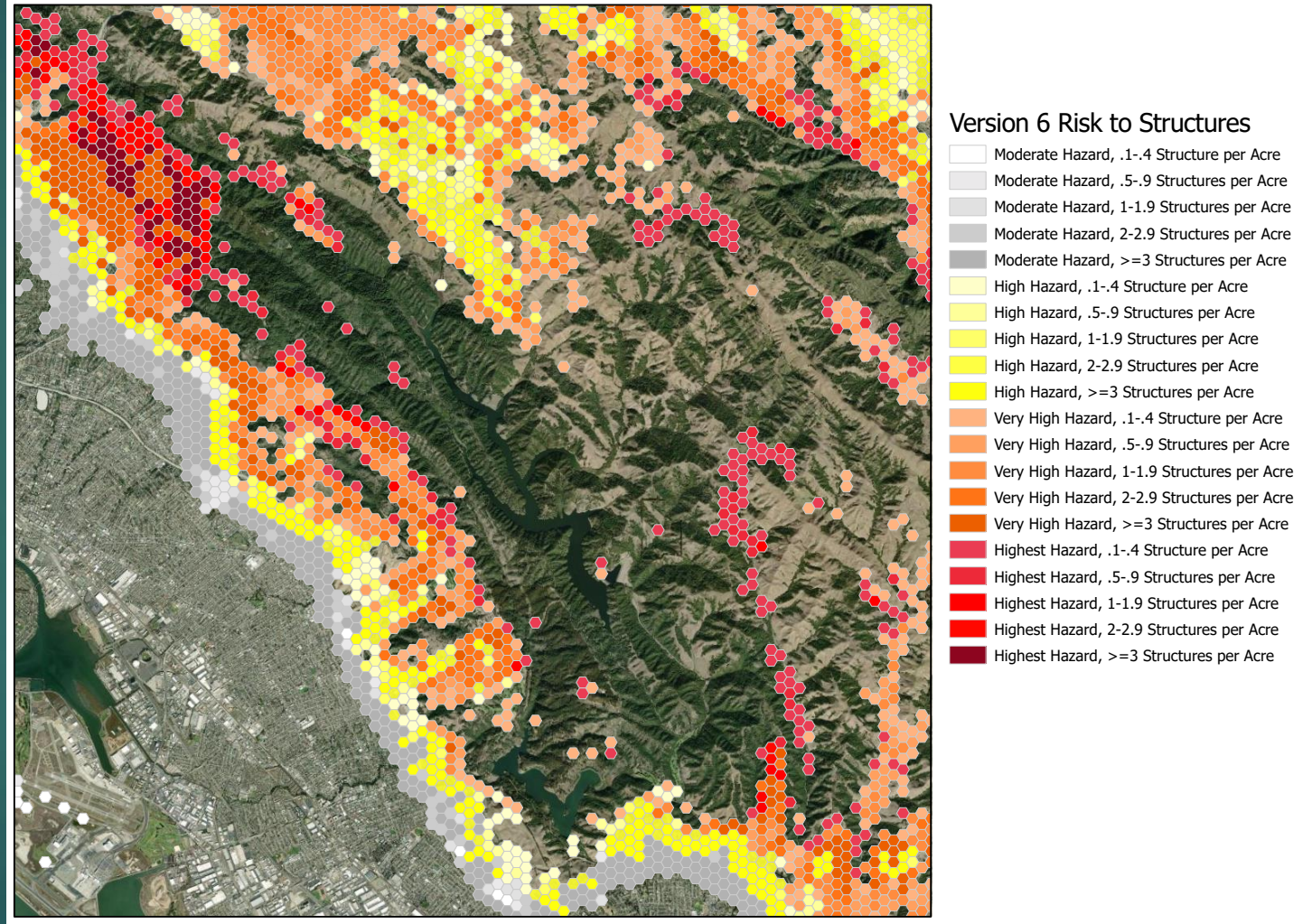


East Bay WUI Vegetation & Forest Restoration Plan, Historic Ecology Study, and CEQA Documentation

Wildfire Risk to Structures,
Alameda and
Contra Costa Counties



EBWC MEETING – NOVEMBER 14, 2024
MARK TUKMAN, LARA RACHOWICZ, SEAN BAUMGARTEN

Agenda

- ▶ Introduction and objectives
- ▶ Historic Ecology Reconnaissance Study (Sean)
- ▶ WUI Vegetation and Forest Restoration Plan (Mark)
- ▶ CEQA Documentation (Lara)



Historical Ecology Reconnaissance Study

Sean Baumgarten, Senior Scientist
San Francisco Estuary Institute

seanb@sfei.org
www.sfei.org/programs/ri

De Mofras 1844
Courtesy of David Rumsey Map Collection

SFEI | San Francisco
Estuary Institute

SFEI Historical Ecology Studies



Why Historical Ecology?

Examining **past landscape conditions**

landscape patterns, physical processes, ecological functions

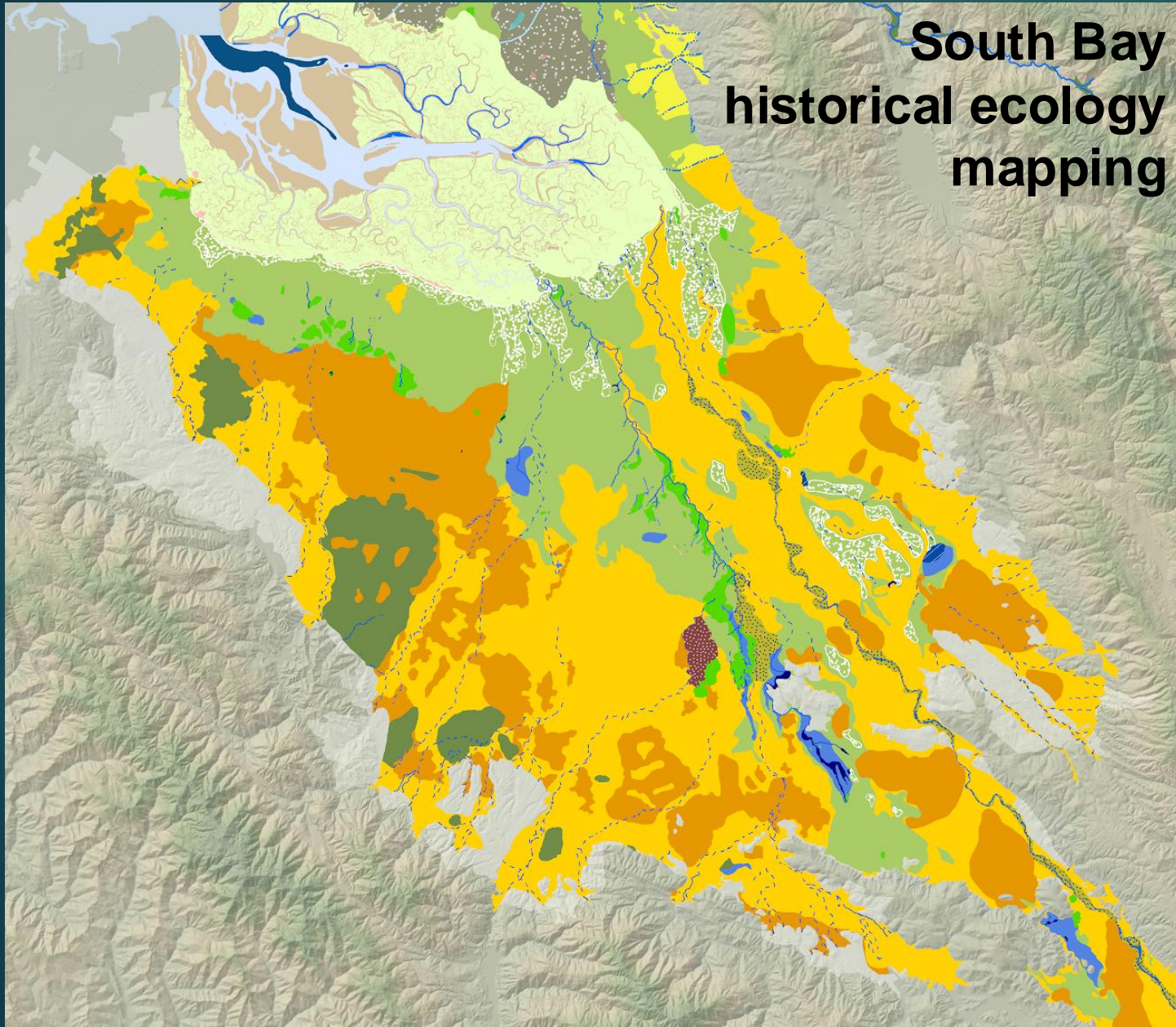
...to better understand the **present landscape**

trajectories and drivers of environmental change (and persistence)

...and envision **future potential**

management and restoration opportunities and targets

South Bay historical ecology mapping



RE-OAKING SILICON VALLEY

Building Vibrant Cities with Nature

SFEI AQUATIC
SCIENCE
CENTER

THE FRANCISCO COUNTY AQUATIC & THE MARINE SCIENCE CENTER



Photos

Maps and Drawings

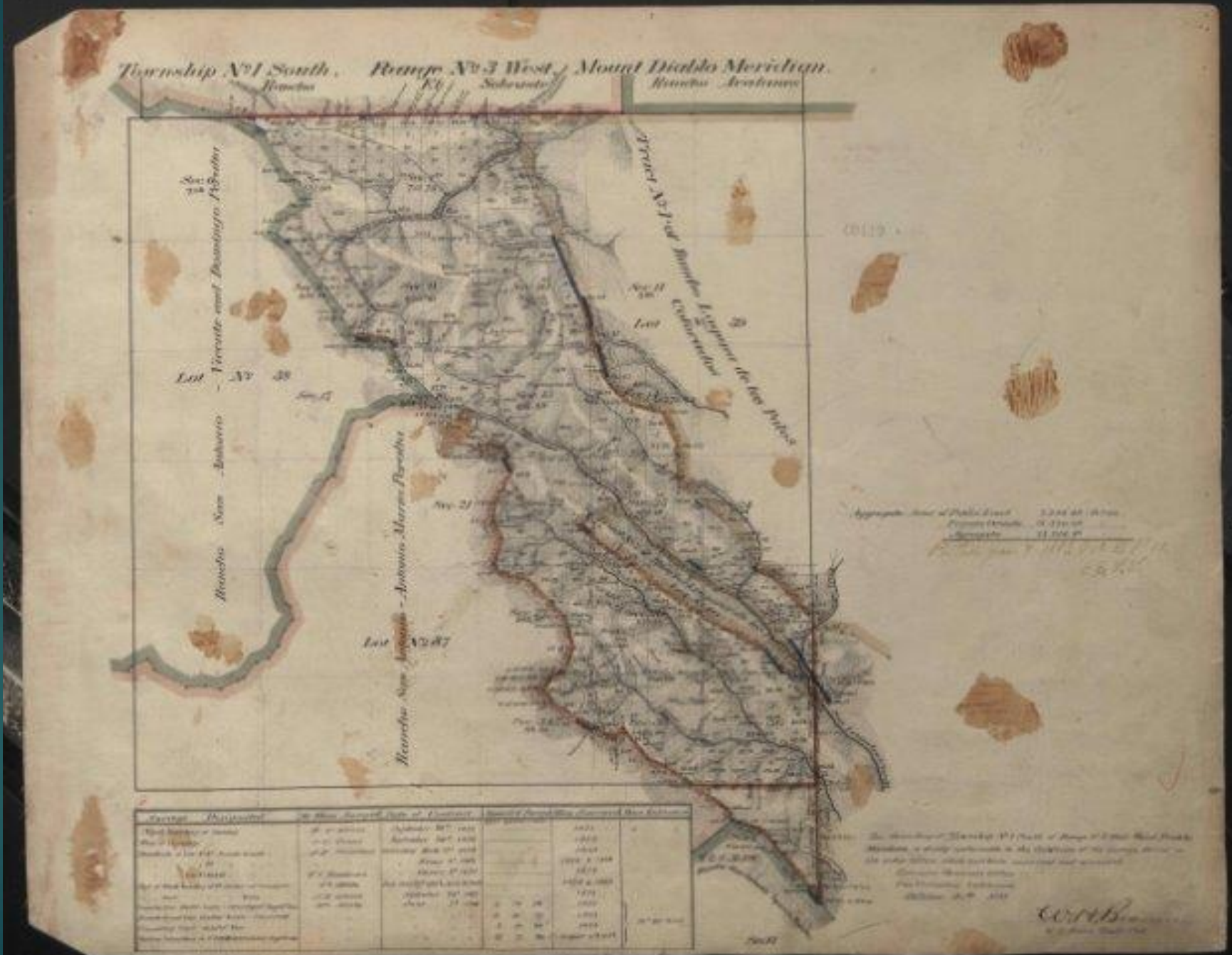


TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1870.
It rains again
leak. I made
some mortar
and Pitman
plastered down
stairs in the
all. Father

ver. When I was working
remember one little incid
load of low grade flour;
and we had to be there in t
ing out in this thick fog
ing down Petaluma Creek.
The bridge at Black Point w
is acting funny today!
He isn't running right."
He says to me, "Have you got
aid, "Yes. I've got one in
way from the compass then.
What! Put it up around that
compass clear around!"

March 22, 1872. I was told
by one lady I did not work
at 12.15. She said I did
not work against Sunday.
I thought by her I had
just been at home. P
Kingdom of Petaluma
the time of the...

Texts



Township No. 1 South, Range No. 3 West, Mount Diablo Meridian.

Section	Owner	Acres	Value
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
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Map of Township 1 South Range 3 West
 Courtesy of Bureau of Land Management

Historical Ecology Reconnaissance Study

- ▶ Collect and compile key archival data sources (maps, photos, texts)

Historical Ecology Reconnaissance Study

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- ▶ Synthesize historical data to identify preliminary findings about historical vegetation conditions

CALIFORNIA.

Illustrated by MUYBRIDGE.

Published by BRADLEY & RULOFSON.



CALIFORNIA.

Published by BRADLEY & RULOFSON.

Illustrated by MUYBRIDGE.

ca. 1873

MILLS' SEMINARY, ALAMEDA CO.

Mills College, circa 1873
Edward Muybridge, courtesy of Northeastern University

Historical Ecology Reconnaissance Study

- ▶ Collect and compile key archival data sources (maps, photos, texts)
- ▶ Synthesize historical data to identify preliminary findings about historical vegetation conditions
- ▶ Summarize methods and findings in brief report and slidedeck
- ▶ Coordination with technical advisors, Tribal engagement

Budget range \$100,000 - \$200,000

Historical Ecology Reconnaissance Study

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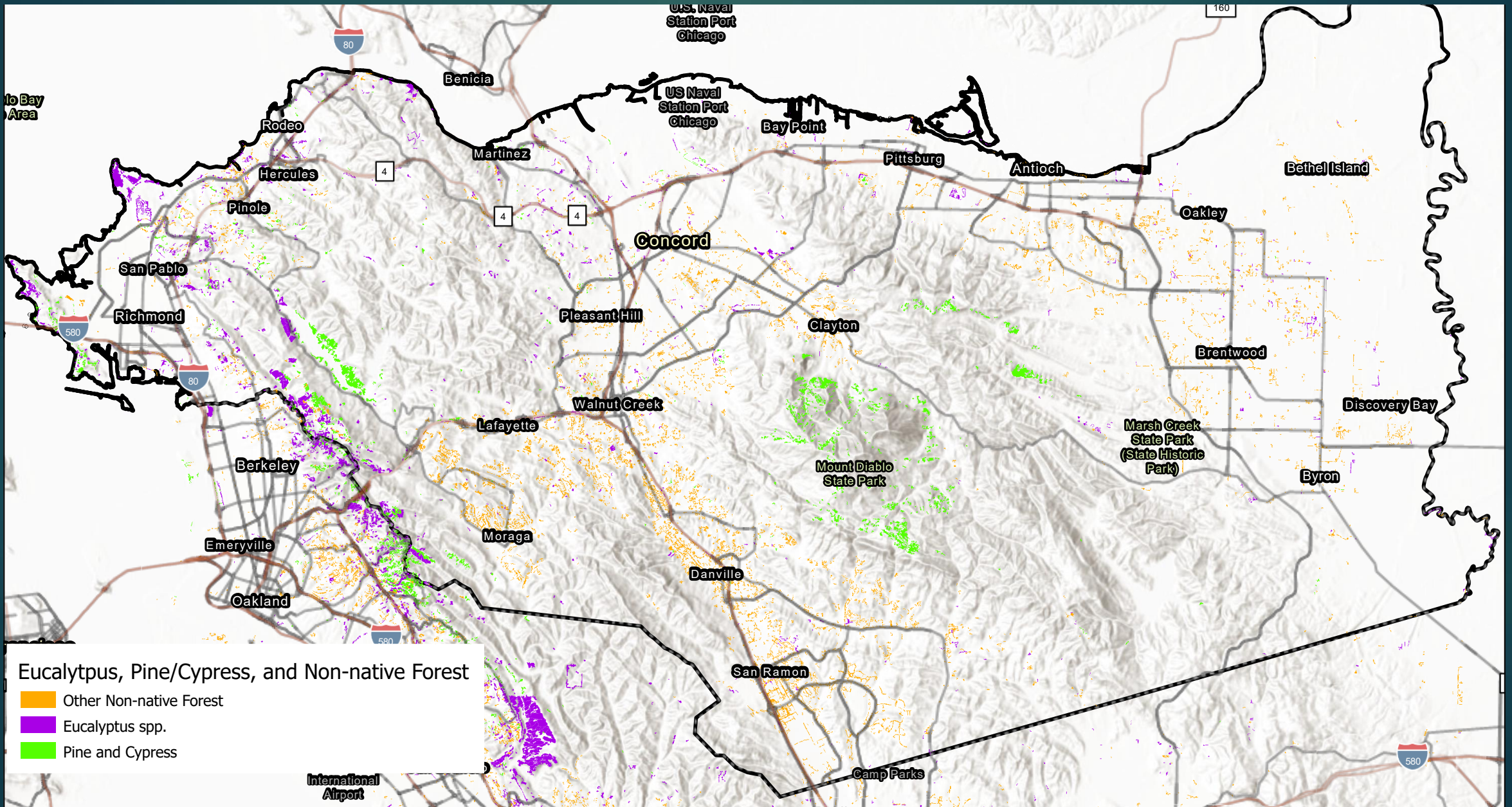
Budget range \$100,000 - \$200,000

- ▶ Foundation for future in-depth historical ecology research

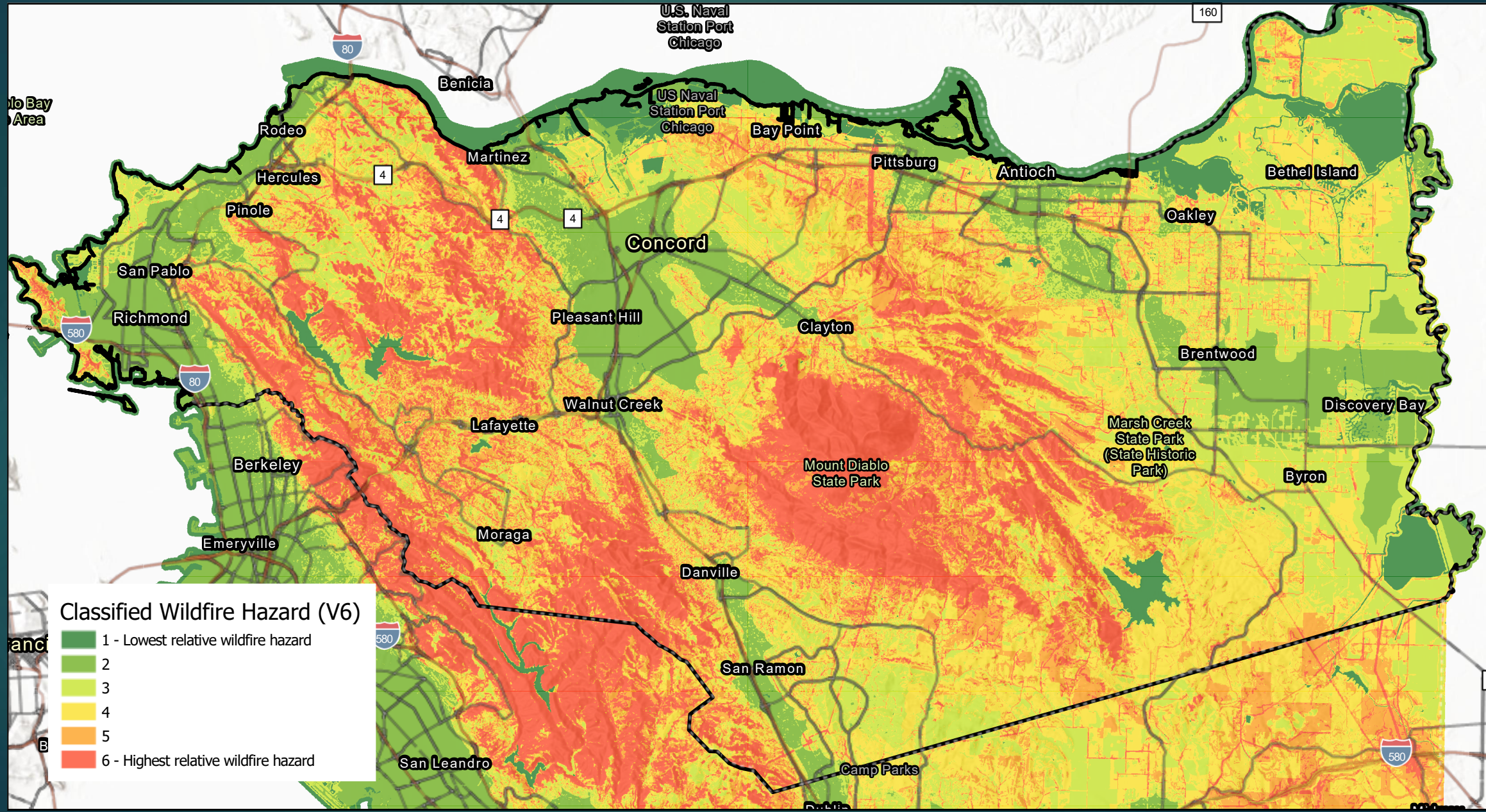
WUI Vegetation and Forest Restoration Plan

- ▶ Compile the best available datasets
- ▶ Analysis to identify hazardous fuels and structures at risk
- ▶ Work with East Bay Hills partners to develop draft priority polygons
- ▶ Develop web maps and narrative reports

Datasets – East Bay Target Species for Treatments

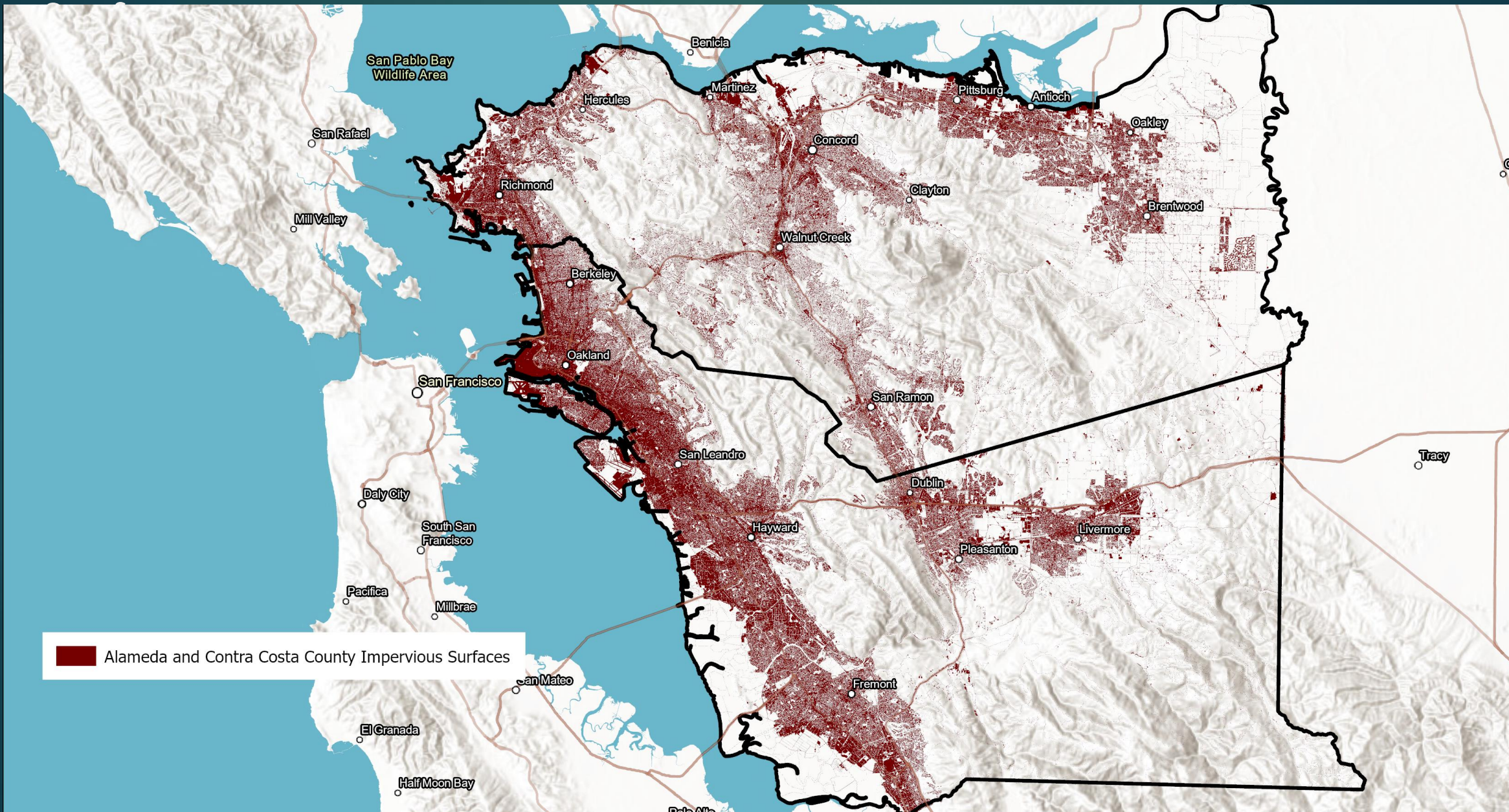


Datasets – East Bay Hills Wildfire Hazard



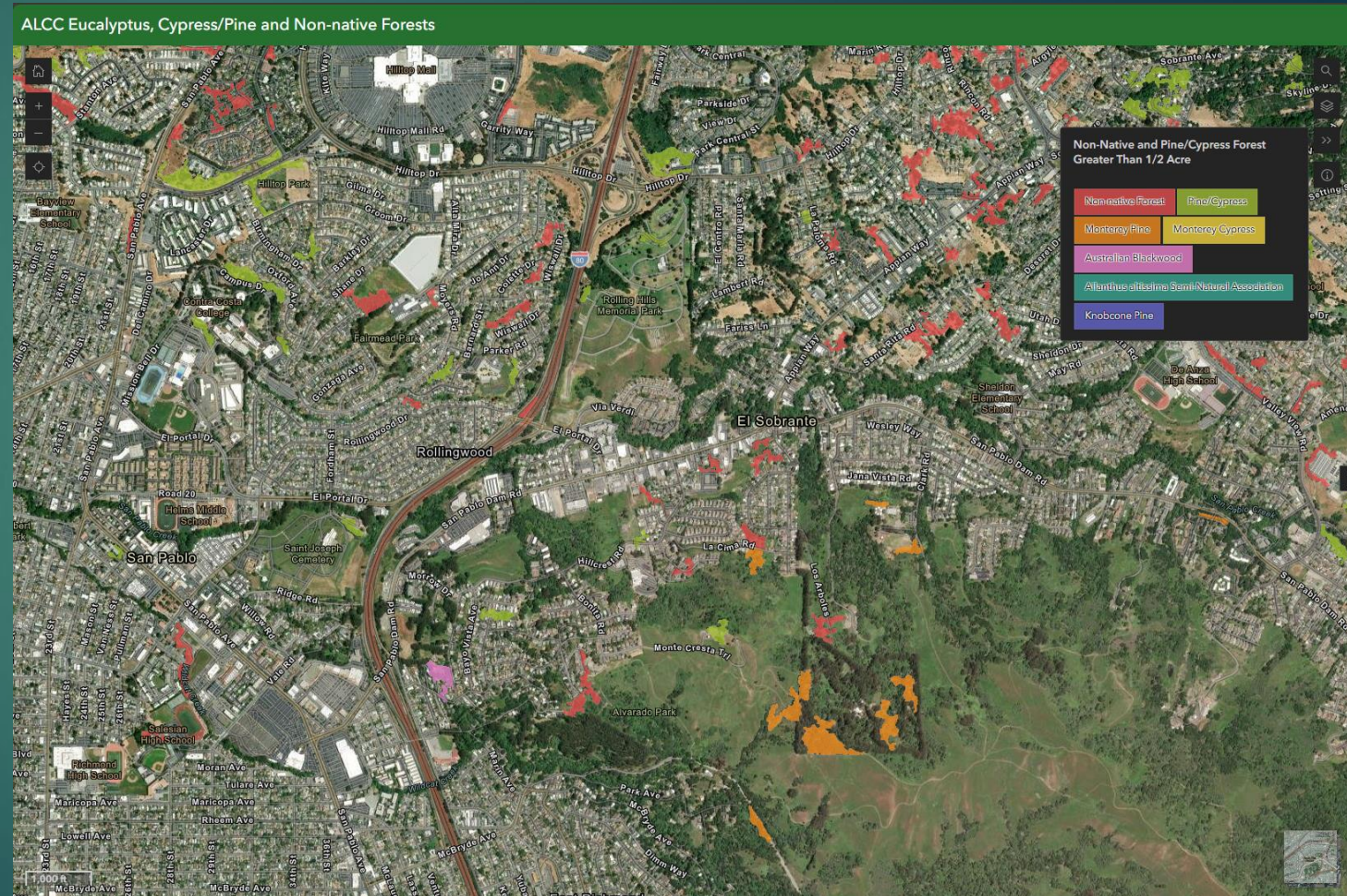
Datasets - Contra Costa Wildfire Risk to Structures

Datasets - Alameda and Contra Costa County Impervious



WUI Vegetation and Forest Restoration Plan - Deliverables

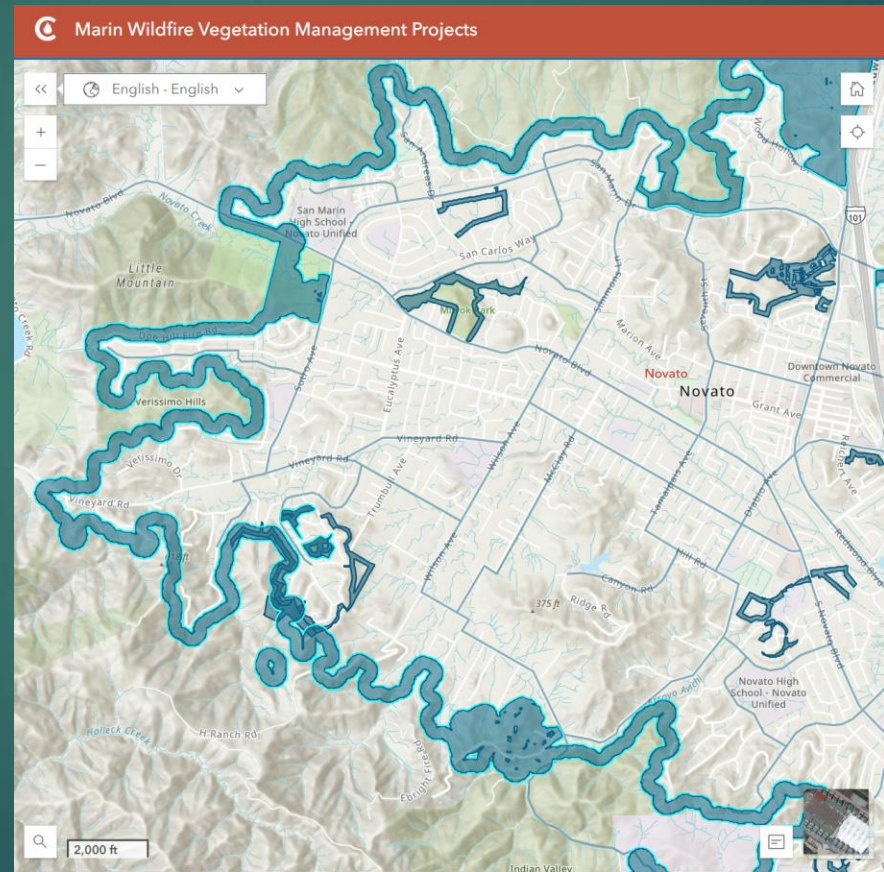
- ▶ Deliverables
 - ▶ Proposed boundaries for fuels treatment projects
 - ▶ Web mapping to show proposed projects, hazard and risk data, fuels data
 - ▶ Narrative report



Web Application Showing Target Species for Treatment

WUI Vegetation and Forest Restoration Plan - Deliverables

- ▶ Deliverables
 - ▶ Proposed boundaries for fuels treatment projects
 - ▶ Web mapping to show proposed projects, hazard and risk data, fuels data
 - ▶ Narrative report



Marin Wildfire Vegetation Management Projects

English - English

Vegetation Management Project

Greater Novato Shaded Fuel Break Project

Zone: Novato Zone

Agency: Novato Fire Protection District

[More Information](#)

Before **After**

Description | The roughly 60-mile long, up to 3,500-acre Greater Novato Shaded Fuel Break Project (GNSFB) includes a fuel reduction and forest health zone within 200 to 300 feet from the edge of structures adjacent to the wildland-urban interface and heavily vegetated areas with a history or potential of ignition. The project is designed to reduce fire intensity and slow the spread of wildfire to give firefighters time and space to suppress the flames. Project activities target non-native invasive vegetation, dead and down woody debris, and other fire hazardous vegetation while seeking to retain healthy native plant communities. Prescribed burning is also included in portions of the project area. (Note that some portions of the project area are unlikely to be treated by Novato Fire as they overlap areas already treated by various public and private landowners or include vegetation conditions that do not require treatment.) Environmental compliance is complete, and roughly 180 acres was treated in the project's first work year, 2023-24. An additional 300 acres is targeted in the 2024-25 work year. This project is funded by Measure C and by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire Prevention Program.

CEQA *Documentation*

California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) Program EIR

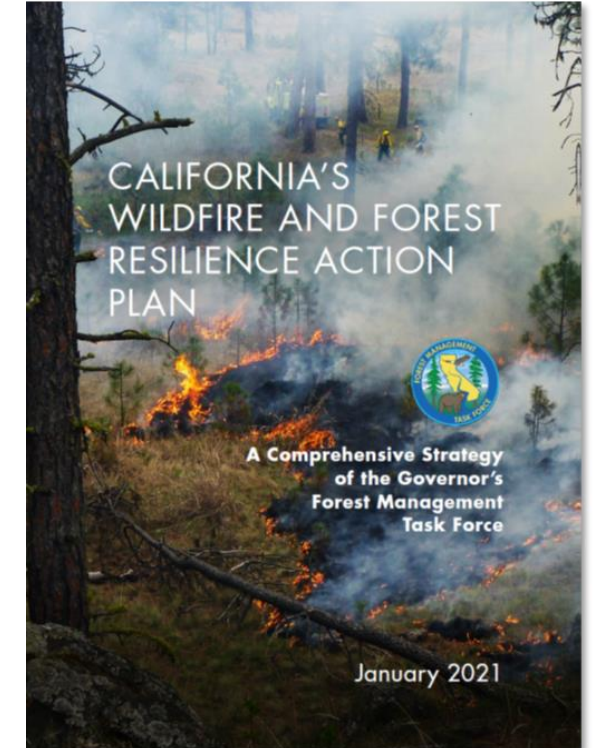
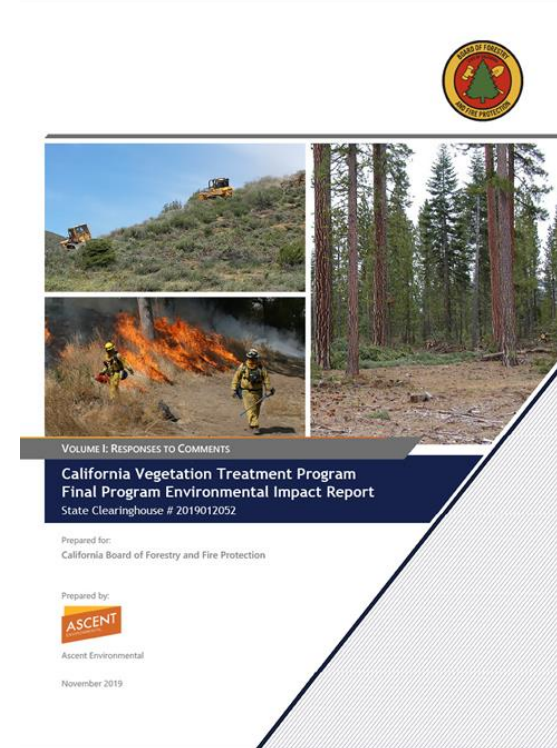
Overview of the California Vegetation Treatment Program and
Use by EBWC

Lara Rachowicz, PhD, Senior Ecologist

The logo for ASCENT, featuring the word "ASCENT" in white capital letters on a red and orange rectangular background.

California Vegetation Treatment Project (CalVTP)

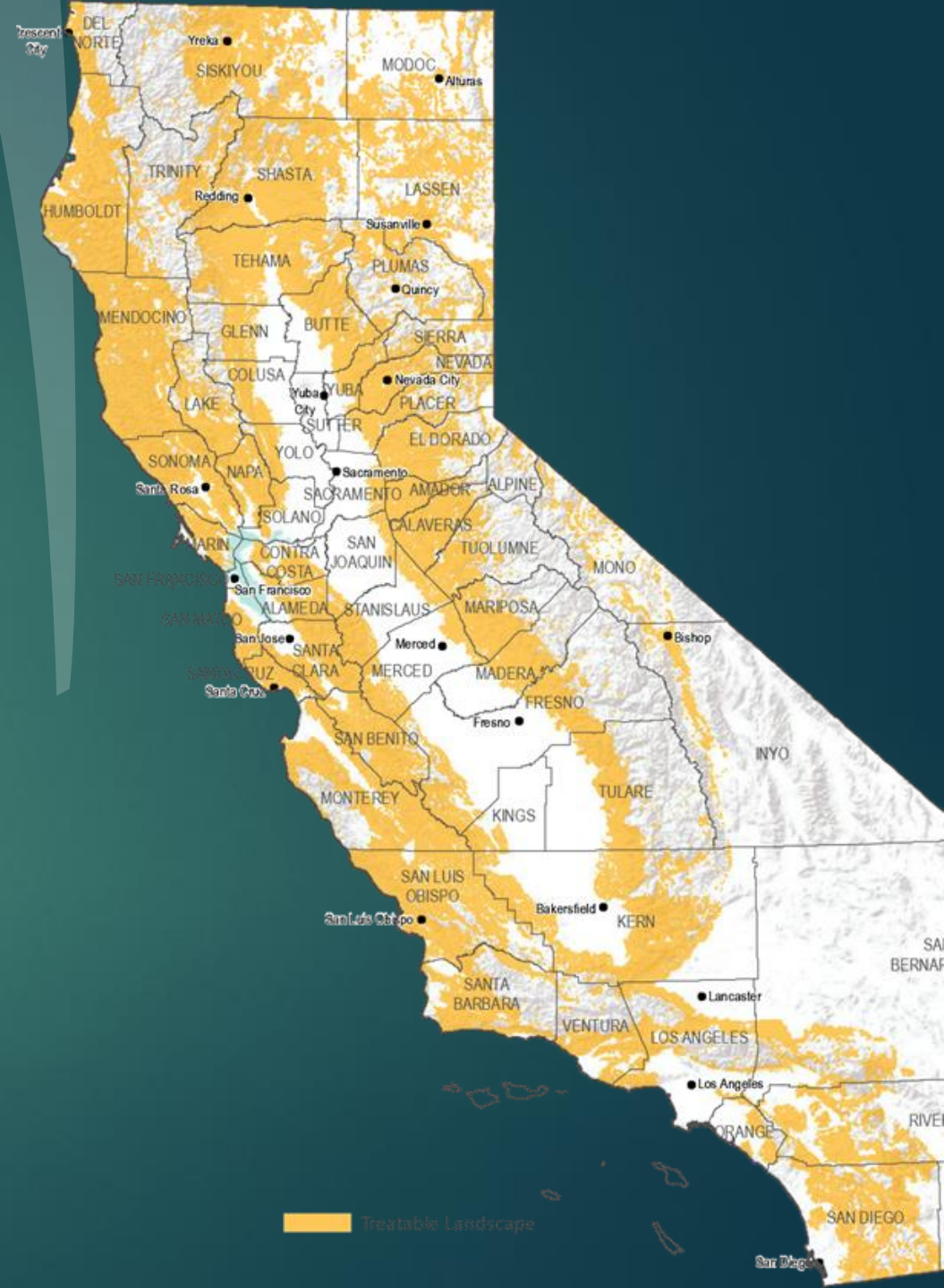
- ▶ Provides CEQA efficiencies for use by many agencies to increase the pace and scale of vegetation treatments while maintaining environmental protections



CalVTP Program Area

"Treatable Landscape"

- ▶ Non-federal land
- ▶ 20.3 million acres total
- ▶ Tree, shrub, grass fuel types



CalVTP Program Description

▶ Covered Treatment Types

- Wildland-urban interface (WUI) fuel reduction
- Fuel breaks (shaded and non-shaded)
- Ecological restoration

▶ Covered Treatment Activities

- Prescribed burning
- Manual and mechanical vegetation treatment
- Prescribed herbivory
- Targeted ground application of herbicides



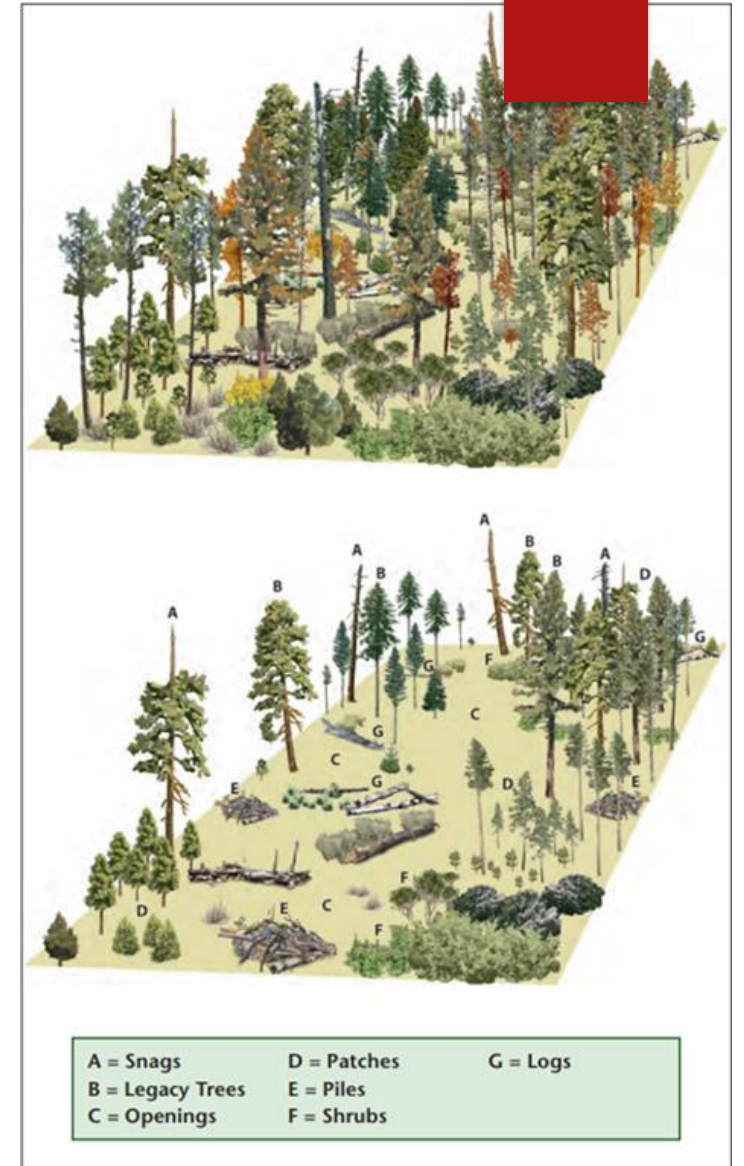
Project-Specific Analysis (PSA)

- ▶ Evaluate a later vegetation treatment project to determine if the project is consistent with the CalVTP
 - Documented in a **PSA** checklist
- ▶ An Addendum to the CalVTP can be paired with a PSA to address elements related to treatment that were not covered in the Program EIR
 - **PSA/Addendum**



CalVTP Environmentally Protective Measures

- ▶ Standard Project Requirements (SPRs)
 - Requirements to avoid or minimize impacts of vegetation treatments
 - Incorporated into the PSA as a standard part of treatment design and implementation
- ▶ Formulated through interagency coordination with:
 - California Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - California Coastal Commission
 - California Air Resources Board
 - State Water Resources Control Board



Benefits of Using the CalVTP

	Average Size/Length	Public Review Requirements	Overall Timeline to Complete	Standard of Review
EIR	300-1000+	30-day review period for the NOP 30-45 day review period for draft EIR	12-18 months	Substantial evidence
IS/ND IS/MND	70-120 pages	20-30 day review period for proposed ND/MND	6-8 months	Fair argument
PSA PSA/Addendum	40-80 pages	None required	4-6 months	Substantial evidence

How to Use a PSA/Addendum

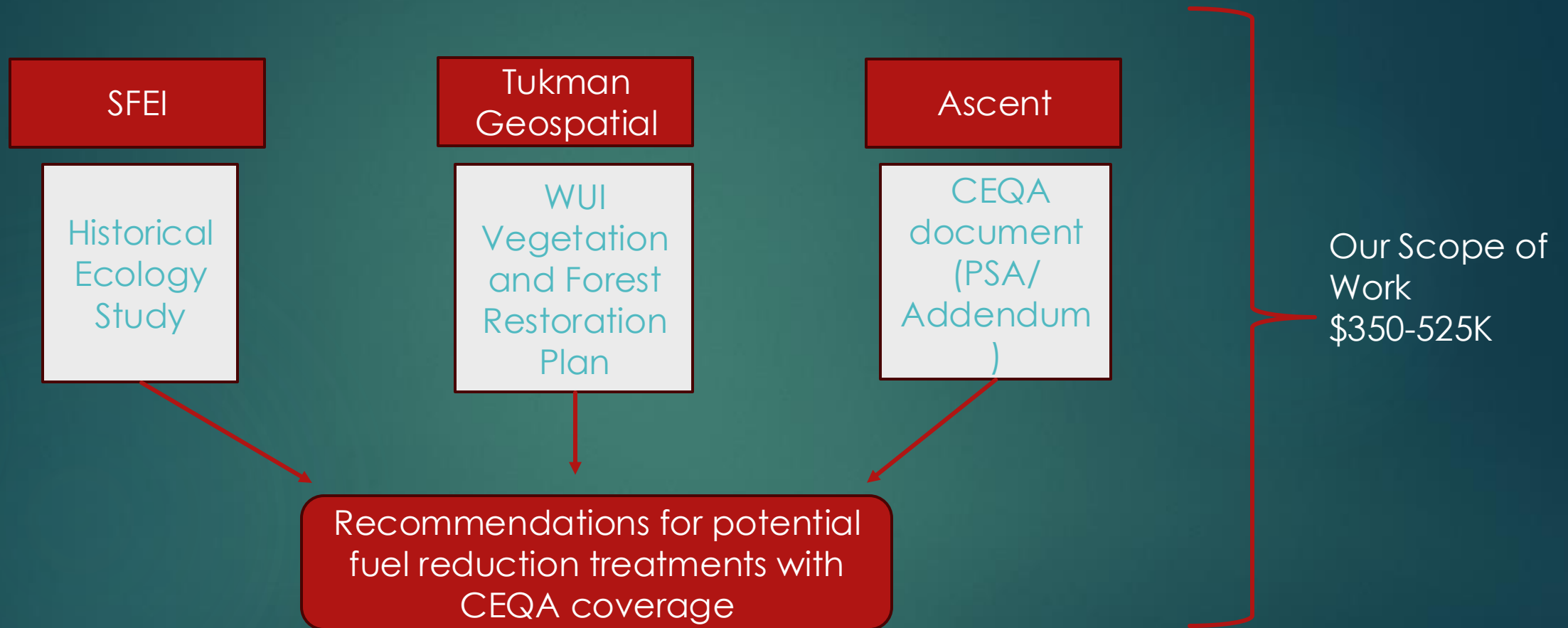
One CEQA Lead Agency

Other EBWC agencies: Responsible Agencies

For each discretionary approval

- File Notice of Determination (NOD)
- Prepare CEQA Findings

Collaboration with A Focus on Implementation



Next Steps for EBCG – more funding, ground investigations, gain access/participation by landowners, detailed treatment prescriptions, implementation

Q&A / *Discussion*