Wildfire Prevention & Mitigation Initiative
Marin’s Wildfire Hazard

- Deadliest and Most Destructive Fire Seasons on Record
- Wildfire knows no borders
- Marin’s hazardous vegetation increases risk of wildfire
- 19 local fire agencies
- No single coordinating agency for wildfire prevention & mitigation
2016: Community Wildfire Protection Plan
“This document provides a framework for future collaboration that can be used to identify, prioritize, implement, and monitor hazard reduction activities throughout the county.”

2018: Lessons Learned from North Bay Fire Siege
“When fires started October 8th the only thing separating Marin County from their neighbor's north was simply an ignition source.”

2019: Marin Civil Grand Jury Report on Wildfire Preparedness
The Grand Jury proposes "the creation of a joint powers authority to coordinate a comprehensive, consistent approach to pre-ignition planning...This new approach will remedy the gaps in our preparedness and demonstrate our political will to improve wildfire safety in Marin."
Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority

- Local fire agencies and emergency service providers
- Cities and towns
- Marin County

Working together as a single Joint Powers Authority (JPA) for comprehensive wildfire prevention and emergency preparedness
## Wildfire Prevention JPA Program Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Area</th>
<th>% of Funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>JPA Core</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vegetation Management</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wildfire Detection &amp; Evacuation Program Improvements</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Education</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Defensible Space Evaluations</strong></td>
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<td>With the ability for an agency to administer vs JPA</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Local Wildfire Prevention Mitigation</strong></td>
<td>20%</td>
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Wildfire Detection & Evacuation Program Improvements

- Improvements to early emergency alert and warning systems
- Organized and coordinated evacuation planning
- Improved evacuation routes and infrastructure for organized evacuations
A Coordinated Vegetation Management and Fire Hazard Reduction Program

- Reduce combustible plants & vegetation
- Protect critical infrastructure
- Crews, equipment, and grazing
- Environmentally sound practices
Prevention and Preparation Strategies

Vegetation Management and Fire Hazard Reduction
Example of Coordinated Prevention

Coordinated prevention & mitigation creates benefit across communities
Public Education

Educating the Public About Wildfire Safety and Prevention

• Support FIRESafe MARIN community outreach & fire preparedness education

• Establish & support FIREWISE USA programs in neighborhoods throughout Marin
Defensible Space

A Coordinated Defensible Space Management Program

• Home evaluations and inspections
• Educate homeowners about reducing wildfire hazards
• Ensure defensible space around critical public infrastructure
• Grants and support to help seniors, low income and people with access and functional needs maintain defensible space
• Dedicated abatement program
Specific Local Needs

Addressing Specific Local Community Needs

- Core program ensures consistency and coordination across Marin
- Local wildfire mitigation program assists local fire agencies in meeting unique community needs
- Examples: Fire risk from homeless encampments
  - roadside vegetation removal on evacuation routes
  - Problem areas
Dedicated Wildfire Prevention Funding

- Wildfire Prevention Program Budget: ~$20 million annually
- Stable source of locally controlled funding dedicated to wildfire prevention & mitigation
- Supplementing and not supplanting existing funds
- Potential countywide tax measure for March 2020 election
- Requires 66.7% support countywide
- Recent survey of Marin voters shows strong support for a wildfire prevention funding measure
- Ongoing vs one-time funding and grant dependence
## Wildfire Prevention Expenditure Plan

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Program Area</th>
<th>Estimated Funding</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>JPA Core</strong></td>
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<td>Local Wildfire Prevention Mitigation</td>
<td>$4 million</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Cost:</strong></td>
<td>$20 million</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Voter Opinion Survey Results

Voter Support for March 2020 Wildfire Prevention Funding Measure

- **11 cents Per Sq. Foot**
  - Definitely Yes: 39%
  - Probably Yes: 36%

- **$178 Per Parcel**
  - Definitely Yes: 35%
  - Probably Yes: 38%

- **1/4% Sales Tax**
  - Definitely Yes: 34%
  - Probably Yes: 26%

- **Total Support for March 2020 Wildfire Prevention Funding Measure**: 66.7%
Mandatory Fiscal Accountability

- All funds must stay local and cannot be taken by the State
- Funds must be used for wildfire prevention and cannot be diverted
- Independent oversight and annual audits required
- Exemptions available for low-income seniors
- JPA helps Marin qualify for state and federal grants with matching funds that otherwise go to other counties
19 Agencies

5 areas = 11 Members

- 2 – Novato
- 2 – San Rafael
- 2 – Ross Valley
- 2 – Southern Marin
- 2 – County
- 1 – Districts

Agencies will maintain independent, local control
**MWPA Governance Structure**

**Board of Directors (11)**
2 electeds from each zone
plus 1 from small district

**Operations/Budget Committee (11)**
Agency Staff of Members

**Advisory Committee**
Technical Staff of Members
Timeline and Next Steps

• **August – September 2019**
  - Informational presentations to fire district boards and city councils
  - Finalize MWPA structure
  - Finalize Wildfire Prevention Funding Measure

• **September – October 2019**
  - Fire district boards, city councils and Board of Supervisors adopt resolutions joining MWPA

• **November 2019**
  - Board of Supervisors adopts resolution placing Wildfire Prevention Funding Measure on March 2020 ballot

• **March 2020**
  - Election and Implementation of MWPA
Questions and Discussion