



Marin County Forest Health and Fire Resilience Public Works Plan

**Public Hearing and Information
Meeting**

August 5, 2025

Welcome and Introductions



Agenda and Purpose of Meeting

- Introduction on the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority
- Wildfire history and regulatory context of the Coast
- What is a Public Works Plan?
- Introduce the Marin Wildfire Public Works Plan and purpose
- Public comment period



Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (Marin Wildfire)

- Mark Brown, Executive Officer
- Anne Crealock, Planning and Program Manager

Coastal Member and Fire Agencies

Key Partner and Land Manager

- California Department of Parks and Recreation

Environmental Consultant, Panorama Environmental

- Caitlin Gilleran, Project Manager



**WATER &
FIRE
SERVICES**
INVERNESS, CA



Who is Marin Wildfire?

- Marin Wildfire is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA)
- Funded through a parcel tax (Measure C, 2020)
- Five geographic zones
- The JPA includes 17 Member Agencies
- Member Agencies in the Coast include those in West Marin and Southern Marin
 - Inverness Public Utilities District
 - Bolinas Fire District
 - Stinson Beach Fire District
 - Muir Beach Community Services District
 - Marin County Fire Department
- Additional partners include land management agencies on the Coast, such as State Parks

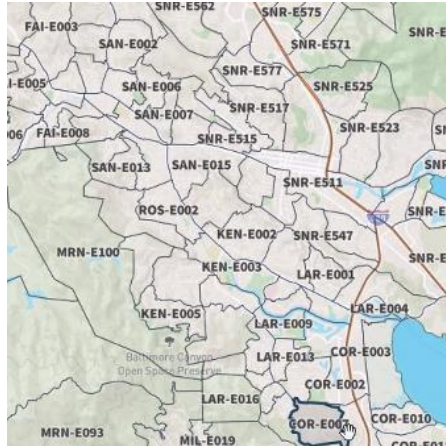


Marin Wildfire Goals Areas



Reduce Wildfire Fuels

Vegetation Management and Local Wildfire Prevention Mitigation



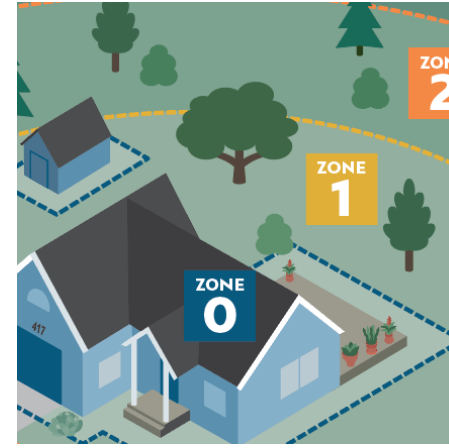
Improve Evacuation Systems

Wildfire Detection, Alert, and Evacuation Program Improvements



Reduce Risks to Homes

Defensible Space Evaluations (1/3 annually) and Home Hardening



Educate the Public

Public outreach and education about fire prevention, preparedness, and risk reduction



Provide Grants to Residents

Grants to modify homes and partnerships to collaborate and augment funds

House-out Approach

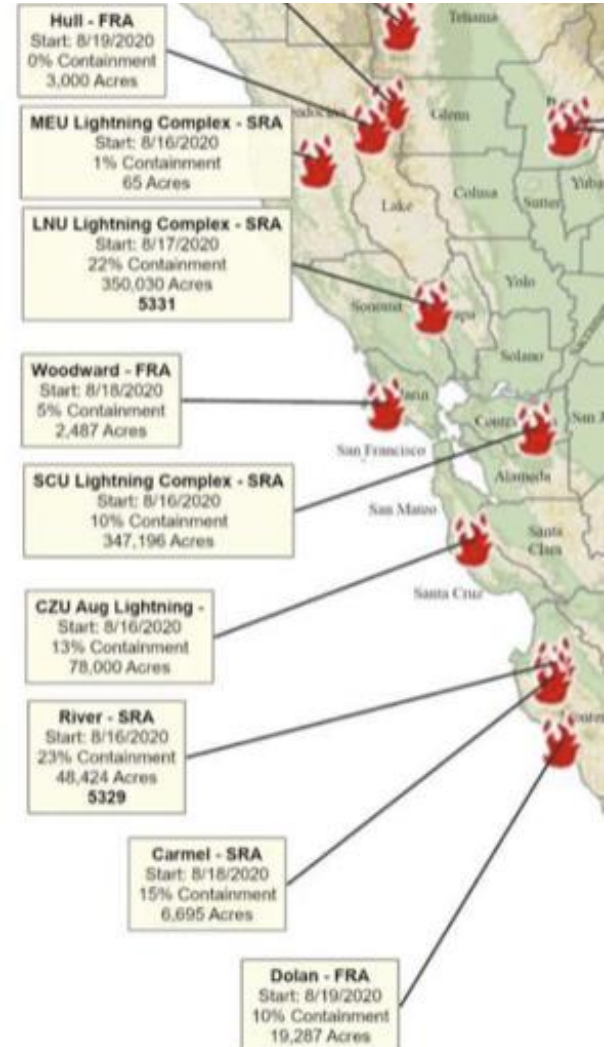
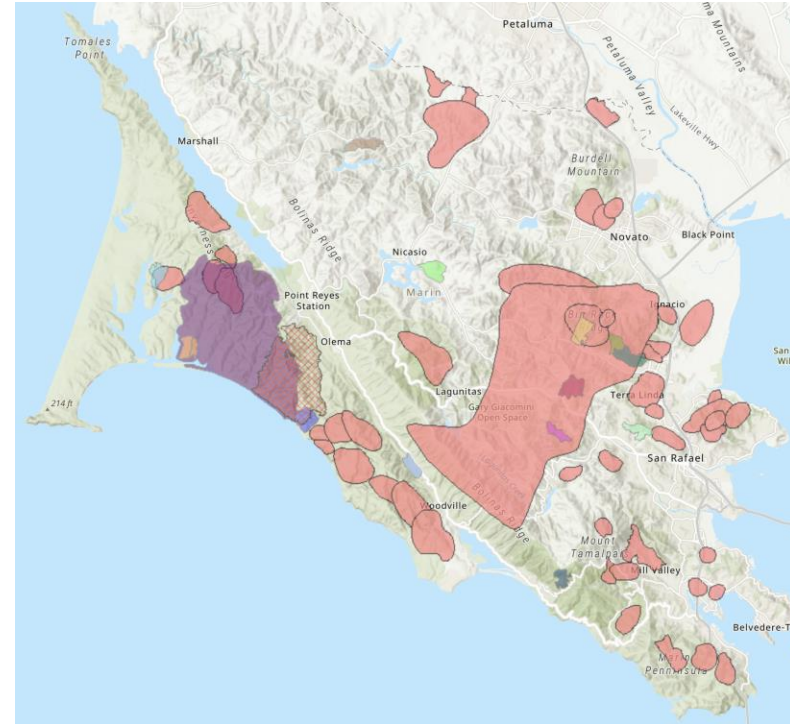


- At the home
 - 20,000-30,000 inspections each year
 - Grants to residents to help make homes and yards more resistant to ignition
 - New "Zone Zero in a Box" program
 - Free Chipper Program - 4,694 completed pickups in 2024
- Along evacuation routes
 - Risk modeling for roadways, vegetation management, etc.
 - Evacuation planning and alerts
- At the edges of neighborhoods and other key locations
 - Reduce flame length and fire intensity
 - Slow down wildfire movement into communities
 - Give first responders more places for direct attack
 - Give residents more time to evacuate and in a safer environment

Fire History of Marin County



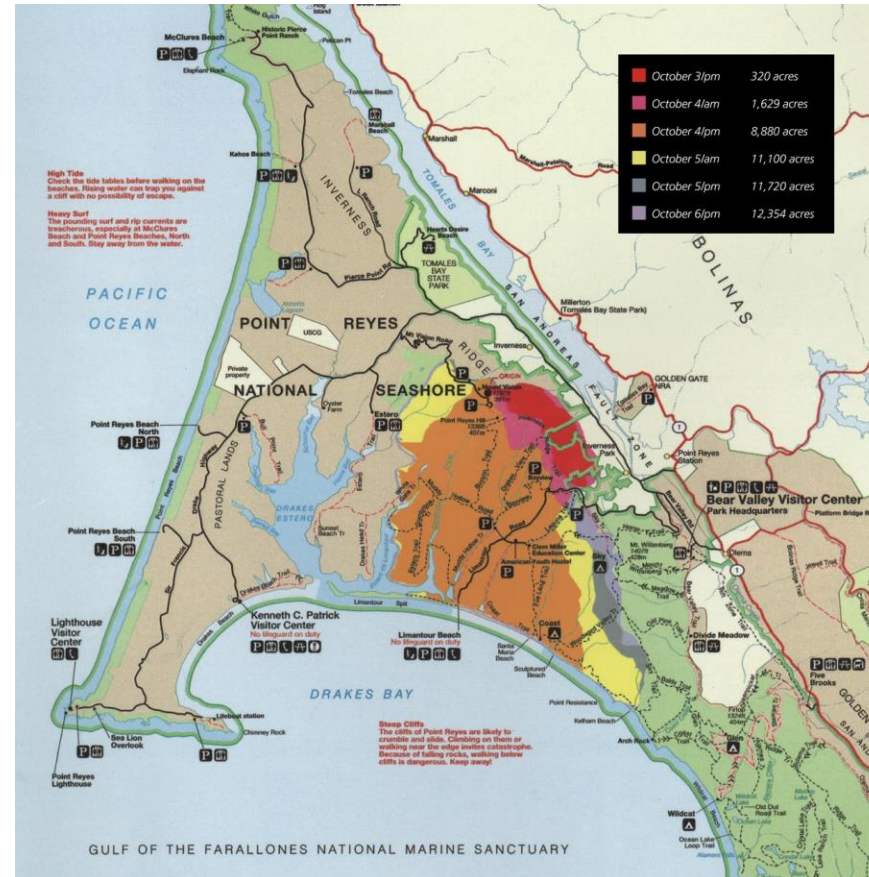
- Significant history of wildfires
- Neighboring communities and counties severely damaged by catastrophic fires over last decade
- Any of our communities could be next - we are all vulnerable



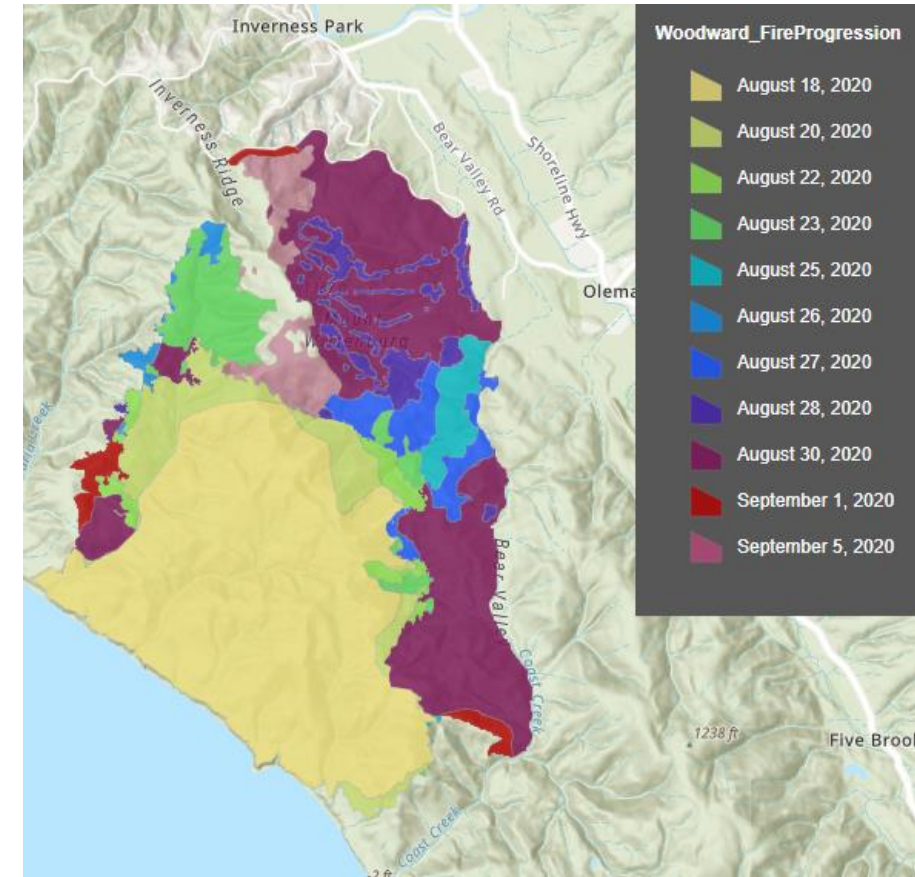
Coastal Marin Fire History and Risk



- Altered fire regime with long fire return intervals compared to several hundred years ago
- Altered vegetation communities and denser vegetation
- Hot, dry windy days



Vision Fire: 1995



Woodward Fire: 2020

Vegetation Treatment and Wildfire Risk



- Surface fuel treatments are proven by studies to:
 - have a large and substantial effect on fire behavior, including reductions in canopy volume scorch, scorch height, and reductions in flame length
 - reduce wildfire severity within treated areas by over 60 percent on average

Flames climbing ladder fuels into the tree canopy at the Chips Fire (photo by Bob Patton)



References: Davis, Kimberley T., Jamie Peeler, Joseph Fargione, et al. 2024. "Tamm Review: A Meta-Analysis of Thinning, Prescribed Fire, and Wildfire Effects on Subsequent Wildfire Severity in Conifer Dominated Forests of the Western US." Forest Ecology and Management.

Martinson, Erik J., and Philip N. Omi. 2013. Fuel Treatments and Fire Severity: A Meta-Analysis. RMRS-RP-103. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station.

Vegetation Treatment and Wildfire Risk



- Selection of recent case studies of treatment efficacy (CAL FIRE)
 - 2017 Thomas Fire – Firefighters were able to plan suppression efforts around fuel reduction projects
 - 2021 Caldor Fire – Caldor Fire approached Tahoe as a crown fire with 100-150-foot flame lengths. When the fire hit treated areas, it dropped to the ground and diminished to 20-foot flame lengths giving firefighters the opportunity to stop the fire before arriving in the community of Christmas Valley.
 - 2024 Park Fire – Firefighters were able to hold a flank of the rapidly growing fire due to Loafer Creek LLC Vegetation Management Program with prescribed burns conducted in 2021 and as recently as 2023
 - 2025 Eaton Fire – Firefighters contained spot fire and established control in an area due to the Mount Wilson Prescribed Fire Project conducted in 2020



Coastal Marin Regulatory Context



- **Coastal Act of 1976:** Guides how land along the coast is developed or protected and created the California Coastal Commission to make land use decisions for the coast.
- **Local Coastal Program (LCP):** Coastal governments, including Marin County are required to prepare a regulatory framework for development within the Coastal Zone.

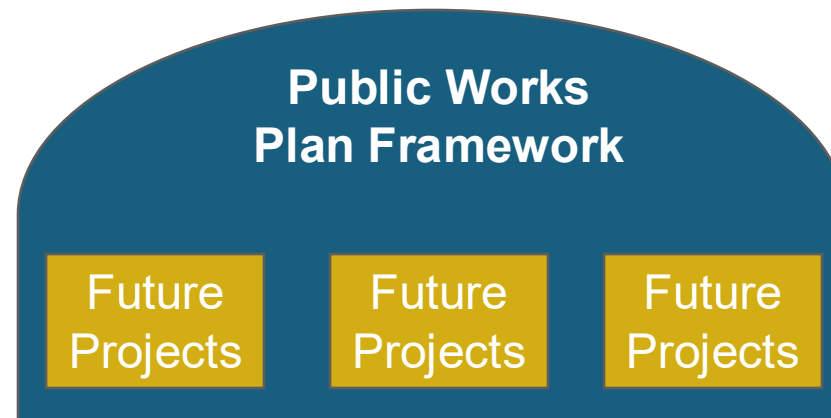
“Development” within the Coastal Zone requires a Coastal Development Permit. “Development” includes any “change in the density or intensity of use of land . . . and the removal or harvesting of major vegetation other than for agricultural purposes, kelp harvesting, and timber operations” (PRC § 30106).

Vegetation treatment activities to reduce wildfire risk and increase landscape resiliency are often considered “development”.

What is a Public Works Plan (PWP)?



PWPs are meant to provide a single document that establishes a framework for comprehensive and streamlined planning, reviewing, and Coastal Commission permitting for a suite of related activities that would otherwise trigger the need for individual Coastal Development Permits.

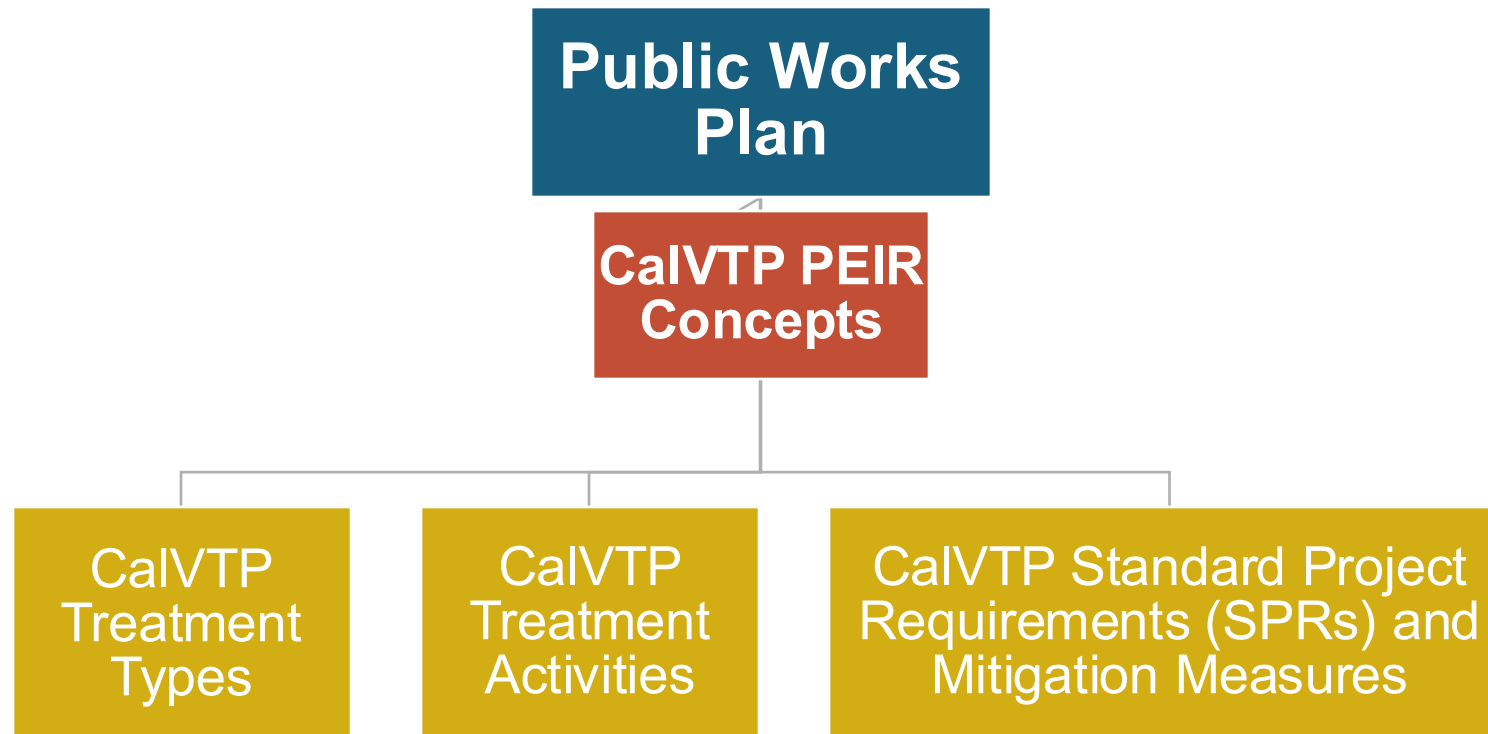


The Marin County Forest Health and Fire Resilience PWP **does not** include specific vegetation management projects.

Purpose and Need of the Public Works Plan



Provide a planning authorization tool based on the concepts and structure of the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) that allows for the review and authorization of individual vegetation management projects in Marin County's Coastal Zone.



Program Area and Major Landowners



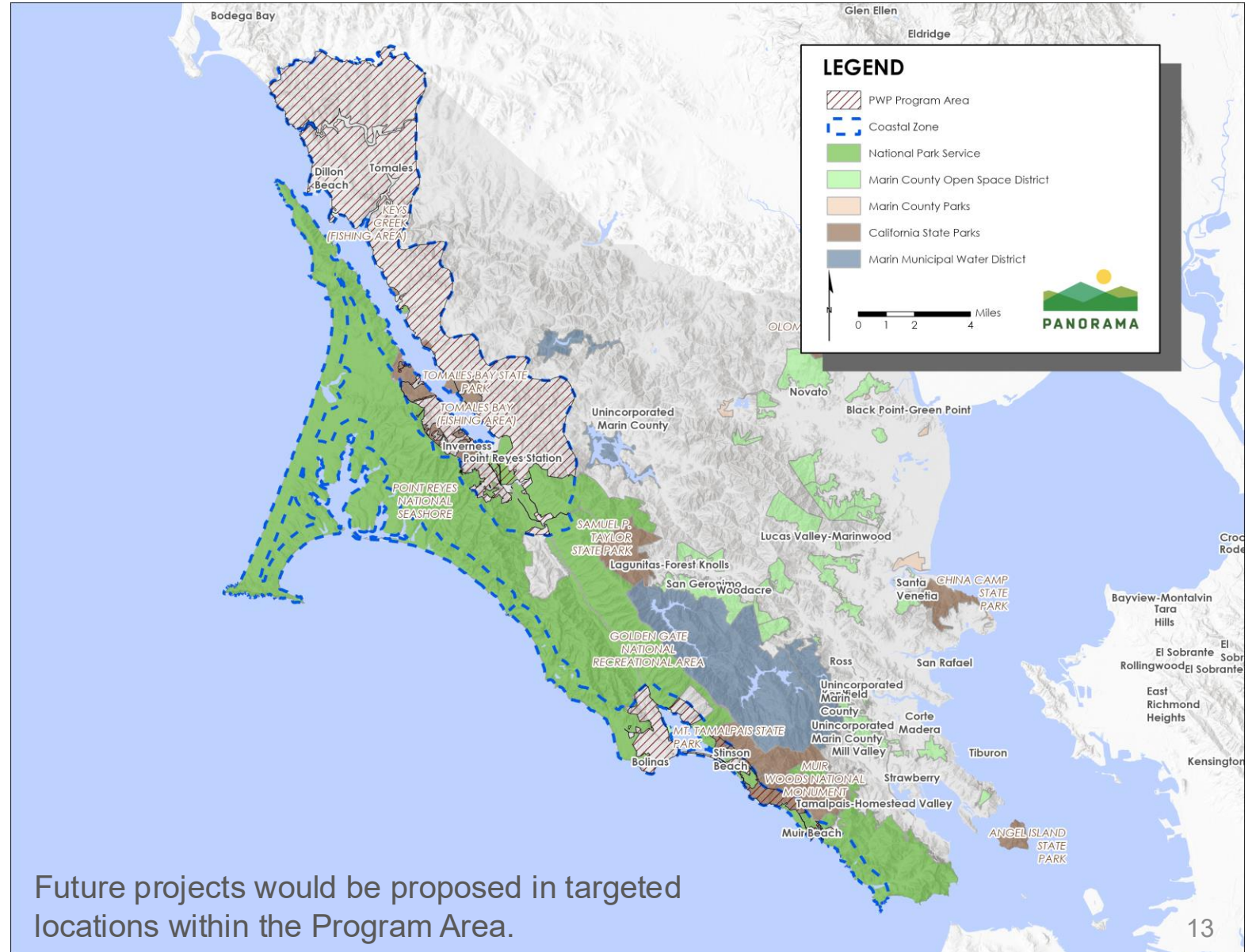
44,210 acres where potential future project activities could take place

Main Landowners

- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- Inverness Public Utilities District
- Large private landowners

Communities

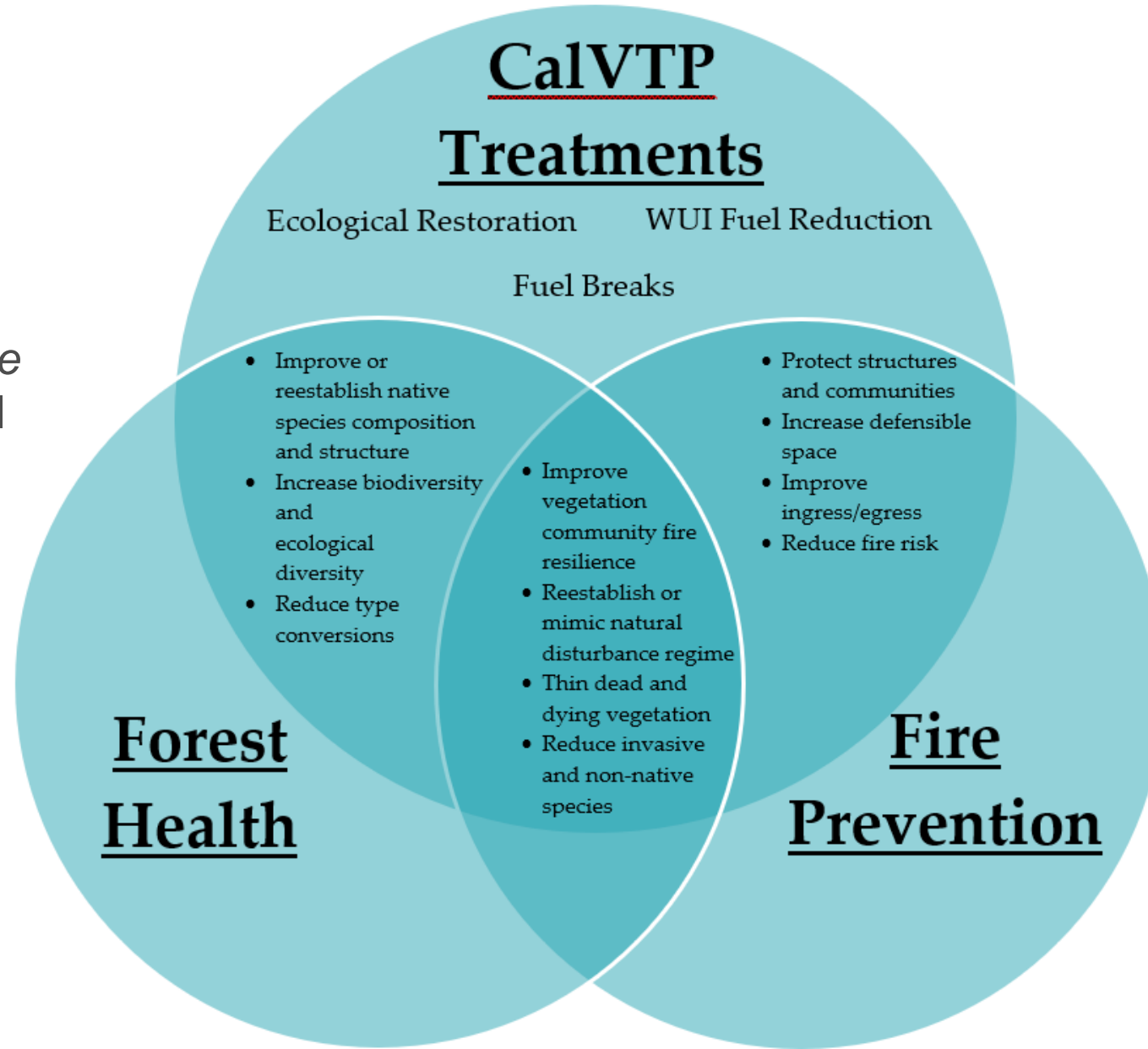
- Muir Beach
- Stinson Beach
- Bolinas
- Inverness
- Point Reyes Station
- Marshall



PWP Allowable Future Project Types



The majority of the total acreage of *future* covered projects will be **forest health** projects.

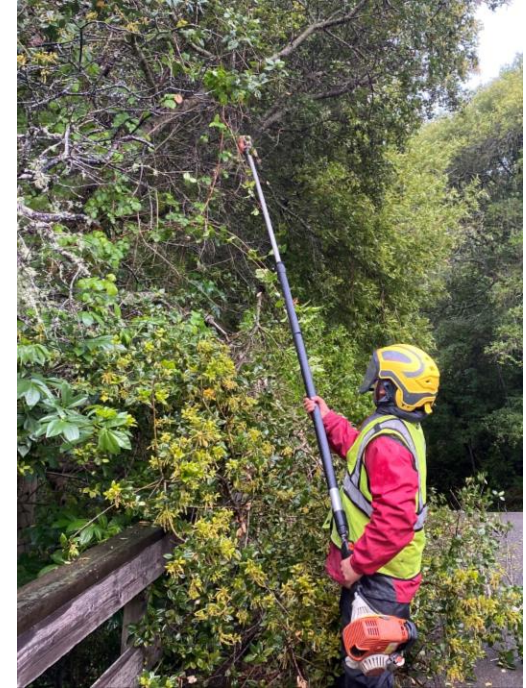


Treatment types can achieve the outcomes of a forest health project *or* a fire prevention project or **both**!

PWP Allowable Future Project Activities



- Manual Methods
- Ground-Based Mechanical Methods
- Prescribed Burning
 - Pile Burning
 - Broadcast Burning
- Targeted Herbicide Application



PWP Required Measures



Future projects under the PWP must comply with the following:

- Project Standards
- CalVTP PEIR Program-Level Standard Project Requirements (SPRs) and Mitigation Measures
- Coastal Vegetation Treatment Standards (VTS)

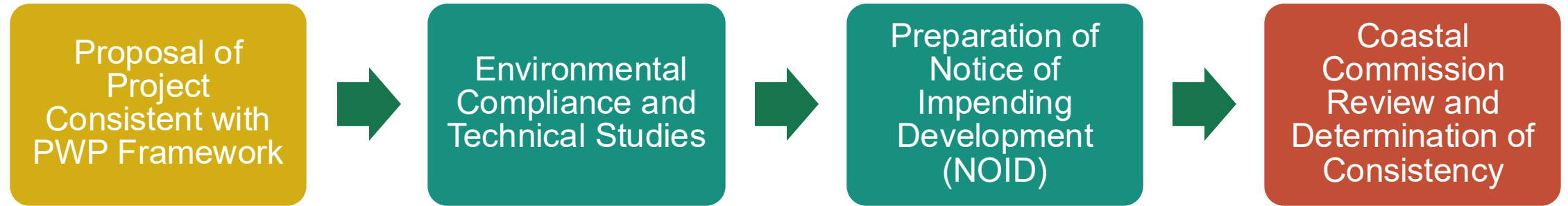
These measures address:

- Scope of future projects
- Tribal coordination and community engagement
- Impacts on sensitive resources, such as:
 - Coastal-specific resources (wetlands, Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas)
 - Special-status wildlife and plant species
 - Cultural and tribal cultural resources

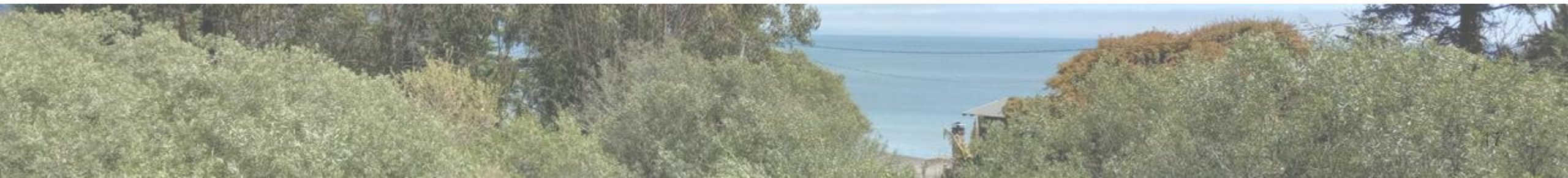


20th Century cosmetic bottle

How are future projects processed under the PWP?



Future projects would be intended to reduce risk of catastrophic wildfire to communities and ecosystems and improve ecological conditions and trajectories for the vegetation communities and habitats within the Coastal Zone.



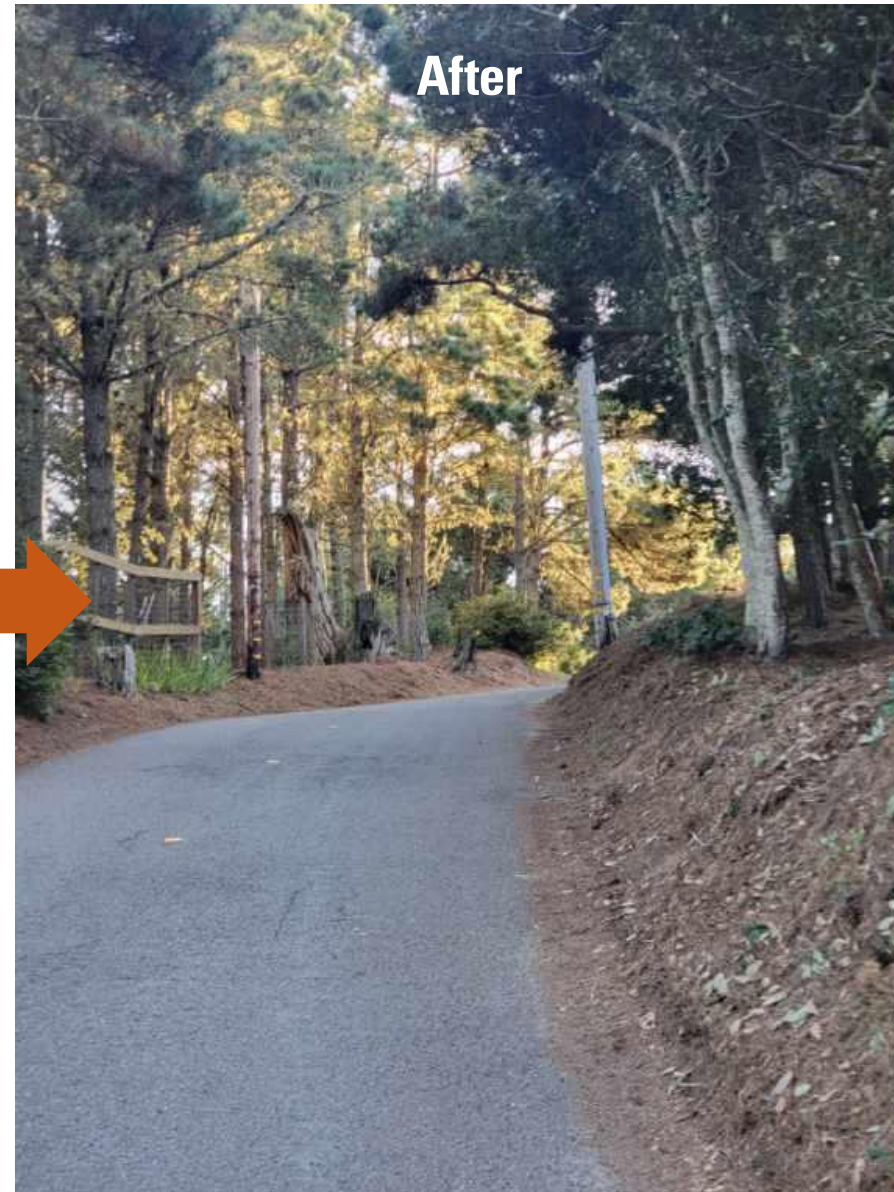
Potential Future Projects



- March 1, 2025 Governor declared a state of emergency regarding wildfire
- Streamlined approval for qualifying projects
- Marin Wildfire received approval to proceed in Coastal Marin
- These projects will eventually require long-term approval through the PWP



What do projects typically look like?



What do projects typically look like?

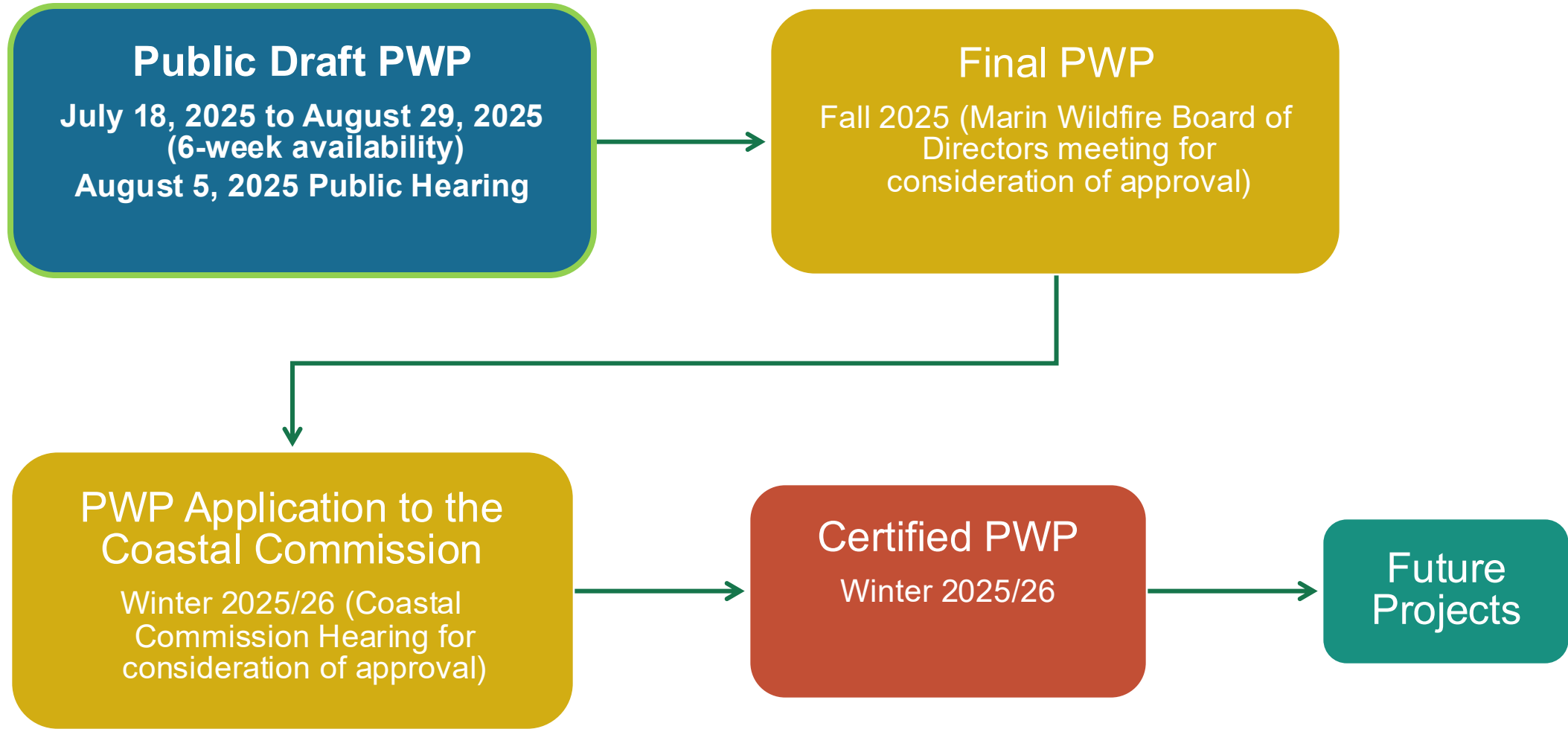


Note that the non-native, invasive French broom was hand-pulled but the trees remain.

Next Steps in the PWP Timeline



We are here



Verbal Public Comments



- A court reporter will document all comments provided tonight.
- Those who signed up will be called in order of speaker cards received.
- If you would like to speak, raise your hand and we will provide a speaker card for you to fill out.
- Do not disturb the court reporter during live verbal comments. The court reporter will be available to take comment forms if you do not want to provide them live/verbally.
- Your comments will be included in the record.

Public Comment Period



Out of respect for everyone's participation and comments, we will be using the following guidelines:

- Stay within your allotted time so that everyone can speak
- Please be respectful of others
- Refrain from profanity

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Additional Information and How to Submit Further Comments



More information is available at the project website:

<https://www.marinwildfire.org/project/draft-marin-county-forest-health-and-fire-resilience-public-works-plan>

Want to provide a comment?

Email: MarinWildfire-PWP@panoramaenv.com

Public availability period ends August 29, 2025

Project website
QR code

