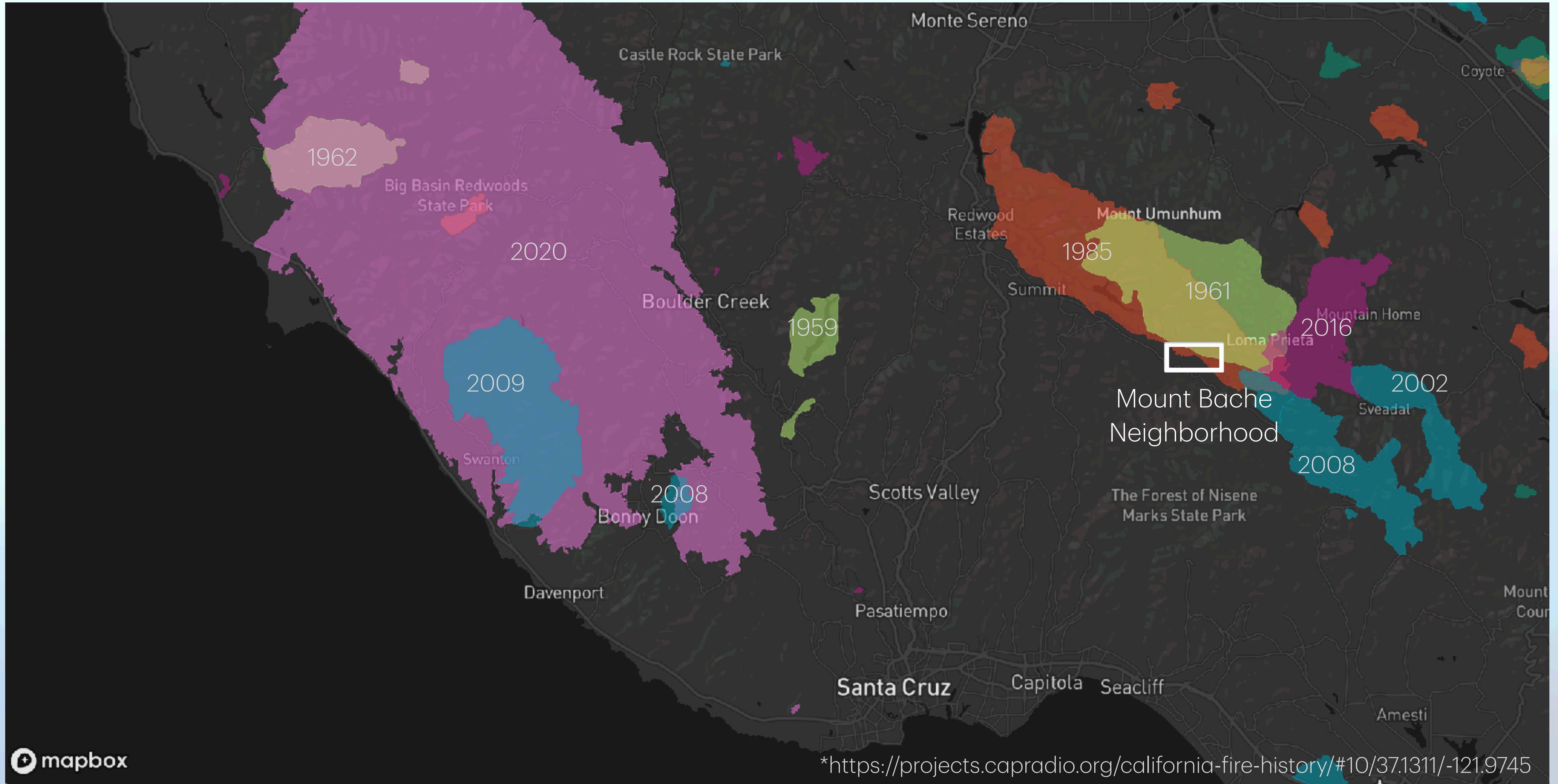


# Firewise

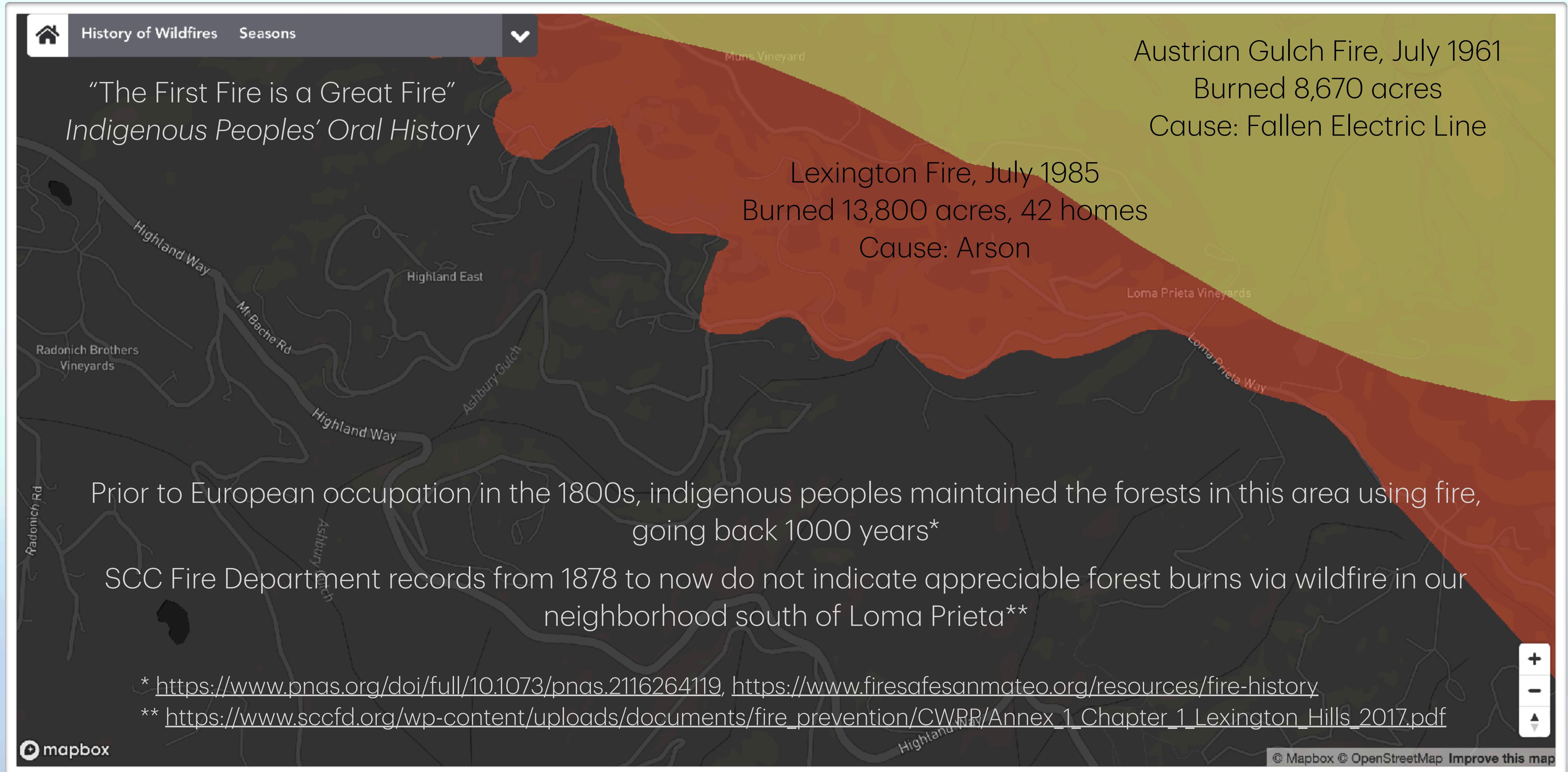
Mount Bache Neighborhood

Compiled by Amy Winkler, June 2024

# Fire History in SCC since 1878



# Fire History near Mount Bache



# California State & Santa Cruz County Efforts

## State Initiatives:

- 100' of Defensible Space (Zones 0, 1, & 2) enforceable by State Law as of 2020
- FairPlan offers 10% discount for Firewise Communities and additional discounts for Home Hardening

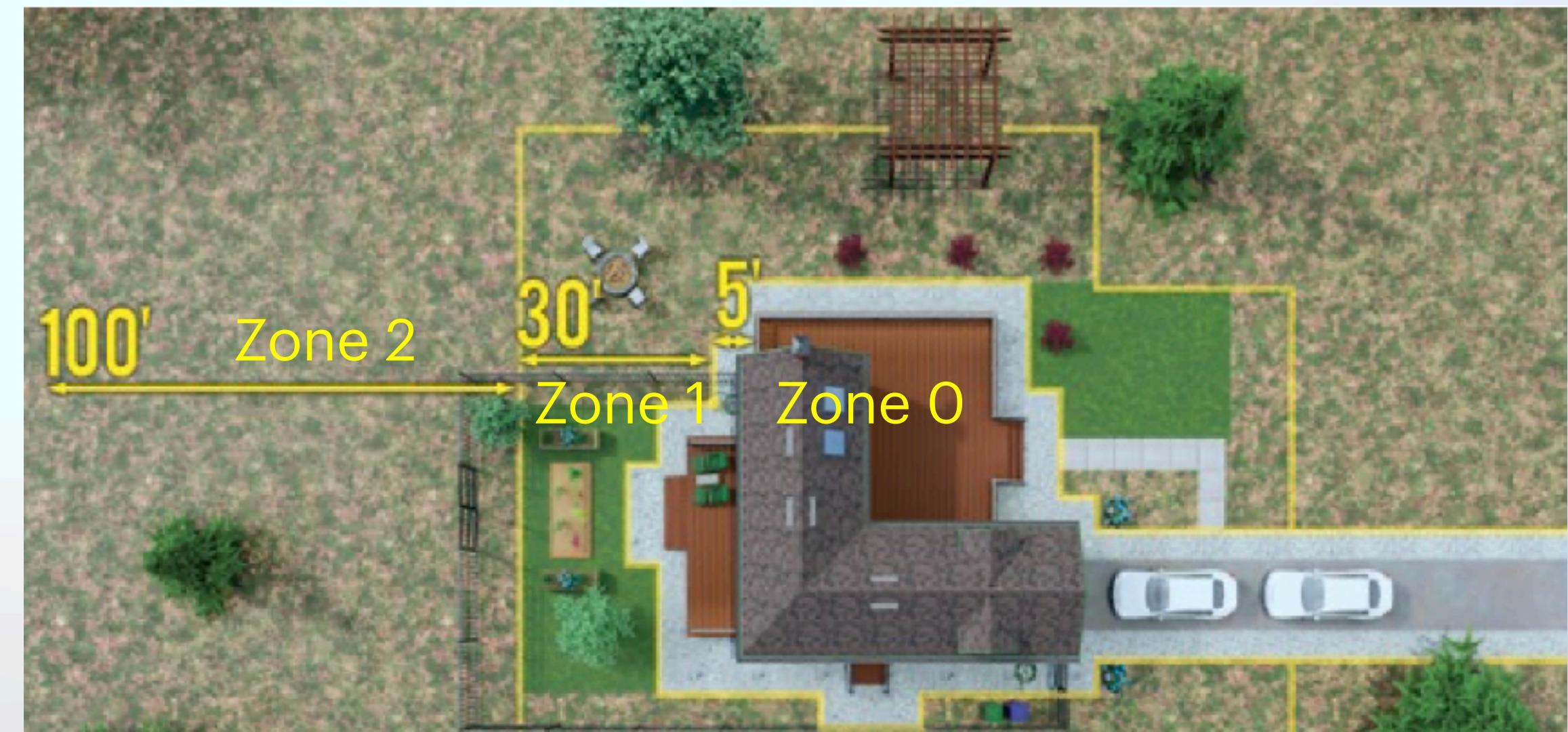
## County Resources:

- Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz formed in 2016 to educate and mobilize local residents to protect their lives, homes, communities, and environment from wildfire
  - Top recommendation: Participate in Firewise!**
    - Learn and disseminate information about county resources
    - Collaborate and share resources with each other
    - Resource Conservation District (RCD) of SCC provides multiple resources, like free on-site surveys for healthy forest and stream management, and free chipping biannually

## **KNOW THE LAW BE FIRE SMART**

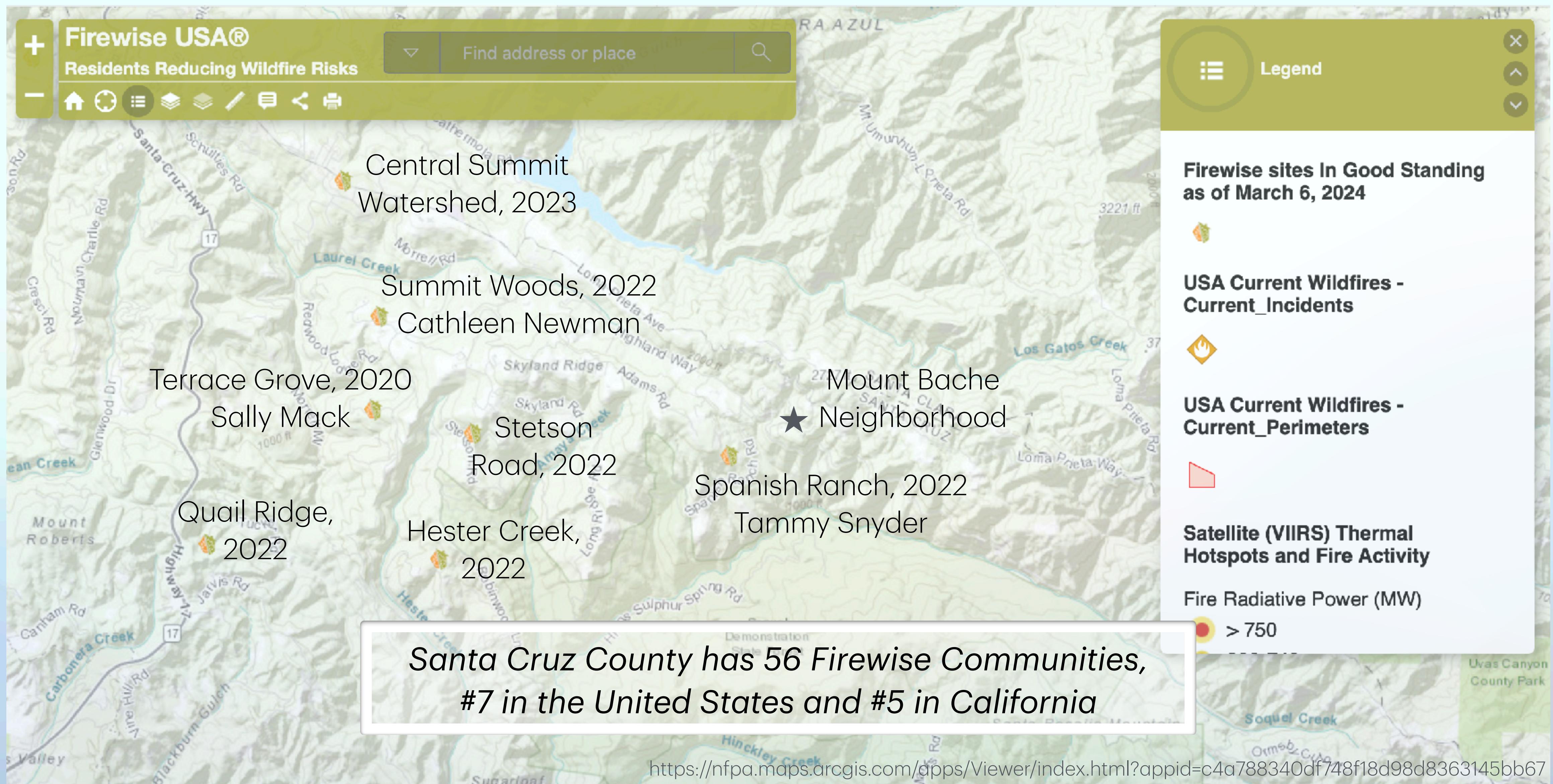
**100 feet of Defensible Space is required by law. Regulations can be found in 14 CCR § 1299.03, PRC § 4291, BOF General Guidelines, CFC § 505.1, CBC § 2113.9.2. California Building Code Chapter 7A requires certain construction materials and methods for homes in wildland areas. Contact your local fire department for additional requirements to ensure your home is compliant with the law. For more information on laws and codes go to:**

**[READYFORWILDFIRE.ORG/THELAW](http://READYFORWILDFIRE.ORG/THELAW)**



*We are being asked to organize and mobilize to protect our lives, homes, communities, and environment*

# Firewise Communities Near Us



# Six Steps to Firewise

1. Form a steering committee of 2-5 neighbors
  - *Determine continuous community boundary of at least 8 households willing to participate*
2. Perform community risk assessment with local fire professional
3. Host or attend an educational event once per year
4. Develop a three-year plan, informed by community risk assessment
5. Document community's annual efforts, e.g. clearing gutters, yard work, any home hardening improvements
6. Create an online account. Submit documentation from previous steps. Renew every three years.

# Firewise Activities

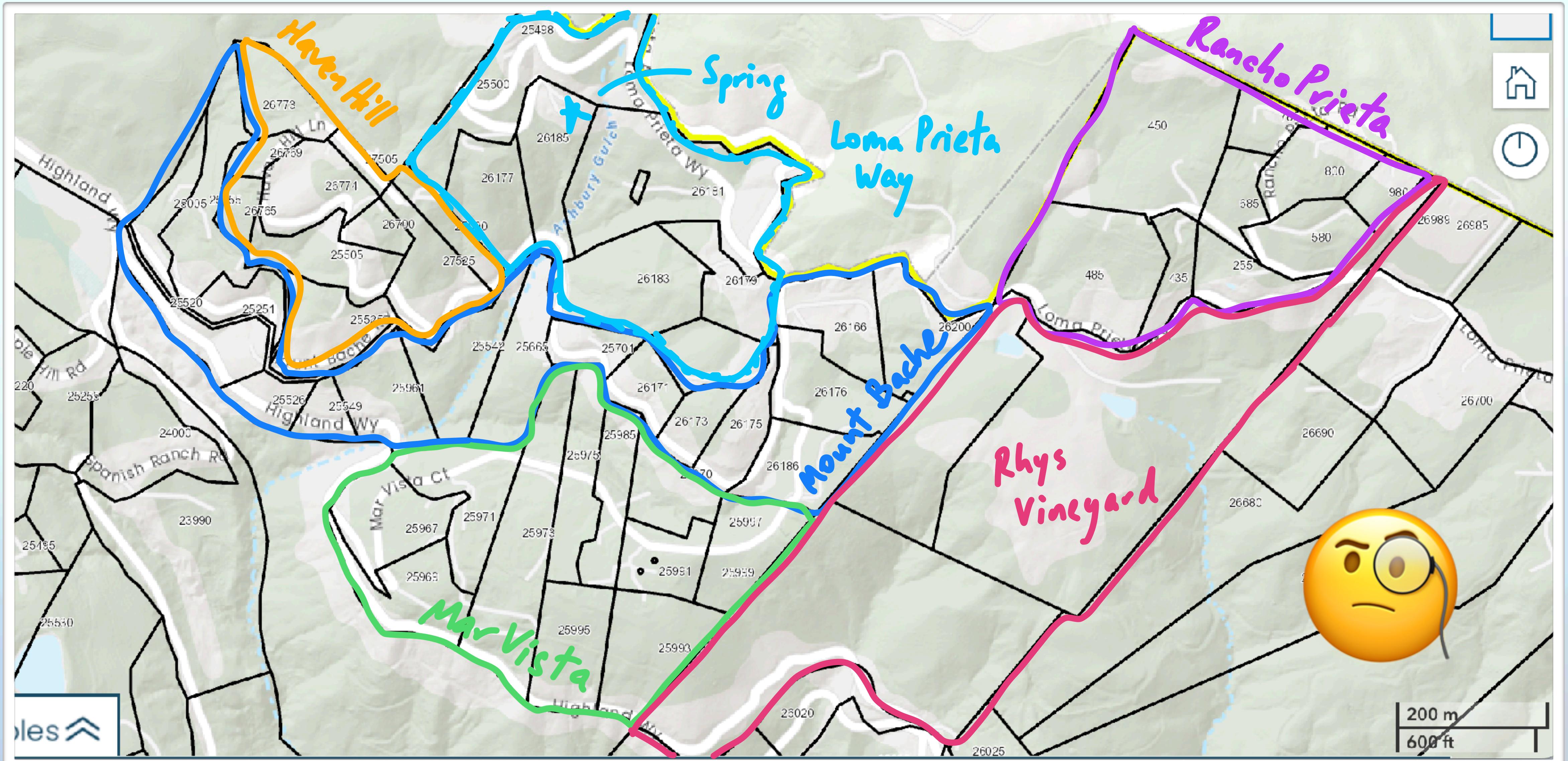
- Home Hardening
  - Embers are the #1 cause of home ignition during wildfire! Hardening the home and Zone 0 yard against embers is the most cost effective
- Fuel Reduction & Defensible Space
  - Direct flames and radiant heat are the two additional paths to home ignition. Keep fire as far away and as low intensity as possible.
  - Defensible Space is required by law and increases the odds that firefighters will be willing to "make a stand" for our homes
- Wildfire Preparedness & Evacuation Planning
  - Prepare our neighborhood to quickly and safely evacuate if need be. Make it easy for first responder vehicles to drive in
- Education & Outreach
  - Share the whys and hows of the Firewise program, and the action plan specific to our community.



# How Can You Participate?

- Fill out a risk assessment survey for your property and share with our steering committee
- Share your Firewise activities with our steering committee, e.g. clearing gutters, yard work, any home hardening improvements
- Attend an educational event once per year
- Let our steering committee know how to best contact you for Firewise events and updates or in case of an evacuation order

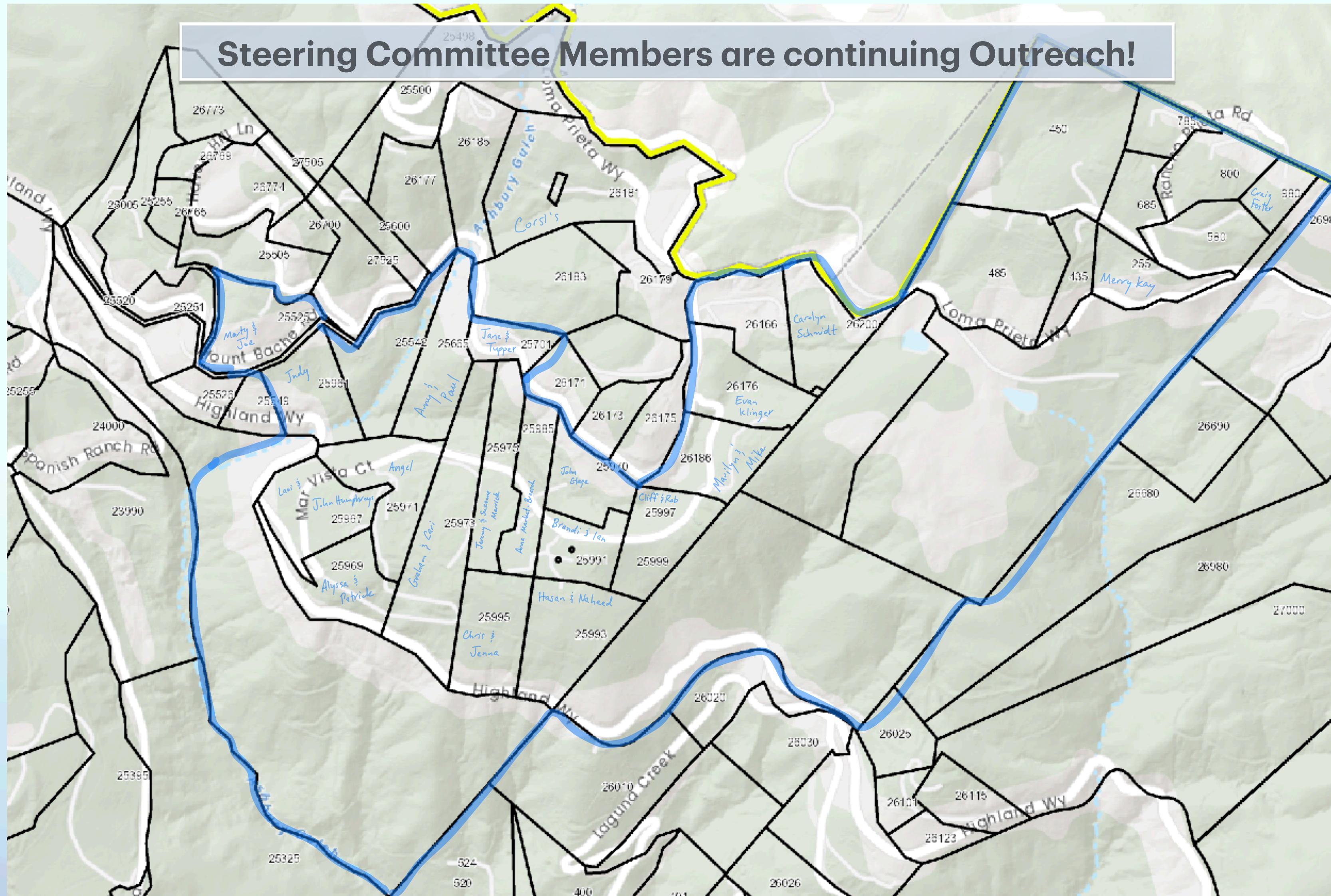
# Determine continuous community boundary



# Community Boundary based on Responses

# Lower Mount Bache and Haven Hill: Amy

# Mar Vista and Highland Properties: Alyssa



# Rancho Prieta: Merry Fay

# Upper Mount Bache and Loma Prieta: Marilyn