



EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT WILDFIRE MITIGATION UPDATE

Presented by:

Fire Chief Aileen Theile

Assistant Fire Chief Khari Helae

East Bay Regional Parks Fire Department

January 22, 2025

Where We Began

1. Objectives of EBRPD Fuels Management Program:
Fire Hazard Reduction for Safety Improving Forest Health and Habitat

2. Current Permitting:
Land Use Plans, Wildfire Hazard Reduction, and Resource Management Plan processed through Environmental Impact Reports (EIR) — typically a 10-year timeline.
Future permitting will transition under the Cal VTP framework.

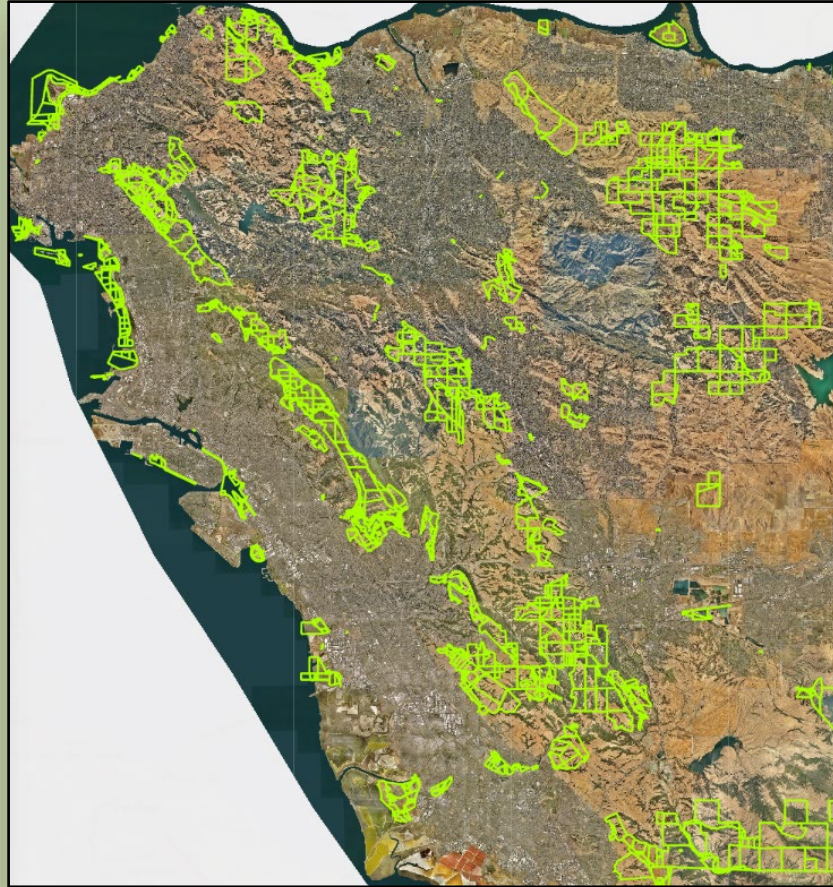


2025 Strategic Fuels Management Plan

Fuels Reduction Priority Areas



District Land



Before



After

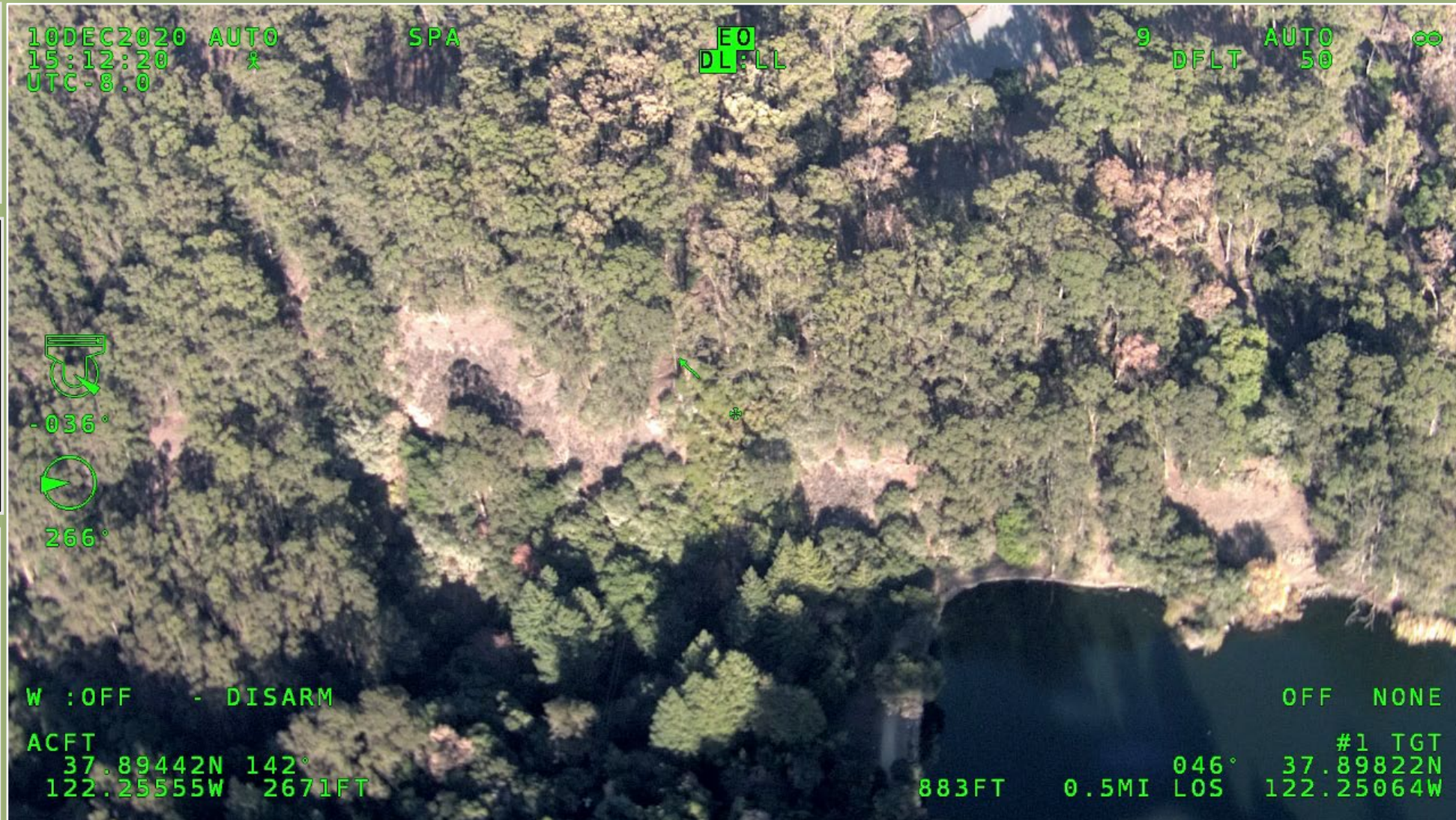


Priority Areas: East Bay Hills Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), ridgetops, roadways, emergency access trails, and designated fuel break regions.

In 2020, there was an observation of an accelerated decline.

In 2020, a comprehensive analysis was conducted across the entire District to identify the areas that were most affected.

From 2021 to 2025, funding has been secured to enhance fuels management and improve forest health.



Review of Widespread Tree Decline

Fuels Management Treatment Completed in 2024

Completed Initial Entry Fuels Projects

- Tilden Regional Park
- Redwood Regional Park
- Sobrante Ridge Regional Park
- Anthony Chabot Regional Park
- Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve
- Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline
- Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve
- Wildcat Canyon
- Kennedy Grove Regional Recreation Area



Additionally, we have prescribed grazing in 16 various locations.

Exciting Update SCC Grant for 2025!

California State Coastal Conservancy

The Fire and Stewardship has secured \$2,075,000 for the treatment of 130 acres in Tilden, Anthony Chabot, and Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline, as well as a 34-acre shaded fuel break in Lake Chabot, Ten Hills Trails.

- \$1.2 million for critical fuels treatment.
- \$7,000 for essential monitoring studies.
- \$250,000 for eucalyptus removal and restoration.
- \$40,000 for herbicide response studies.
- \$500,000 for much-needed additional equipment upgrades.
- \$70,000 for prescribed goat grazing projects.



Exciting Update: Grants for 2025!



FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)

- **Purpose:** Proactively reduce wildfire risks.
- **Projects:** Vegetation management to lower fire hazards.
- **Funding: \$3.8M for Anthony Chabot** (\$2M 2023 Application, \$1.8M 2024 Application).

Focus:

- Remove hazardous eucalyptus trees at Anthony Chabot to **protect Castro Valley & Oakland.**
- **Impact:** Safer communities, reduced wildfire risks, and improved forest health.



Funding Summary

Funding Sources 2024

- CA State Direct Funding: \$4.5 Million
- Fire Department General Fund: \$3.2 Million
- District Measure FF: \$700,000
- Calfire Grant Grizzly Peak Strategic Fuel-Break \$559,000
- PG&E Grant: \$100,000

2024 Total Funding: \$9.1 Million

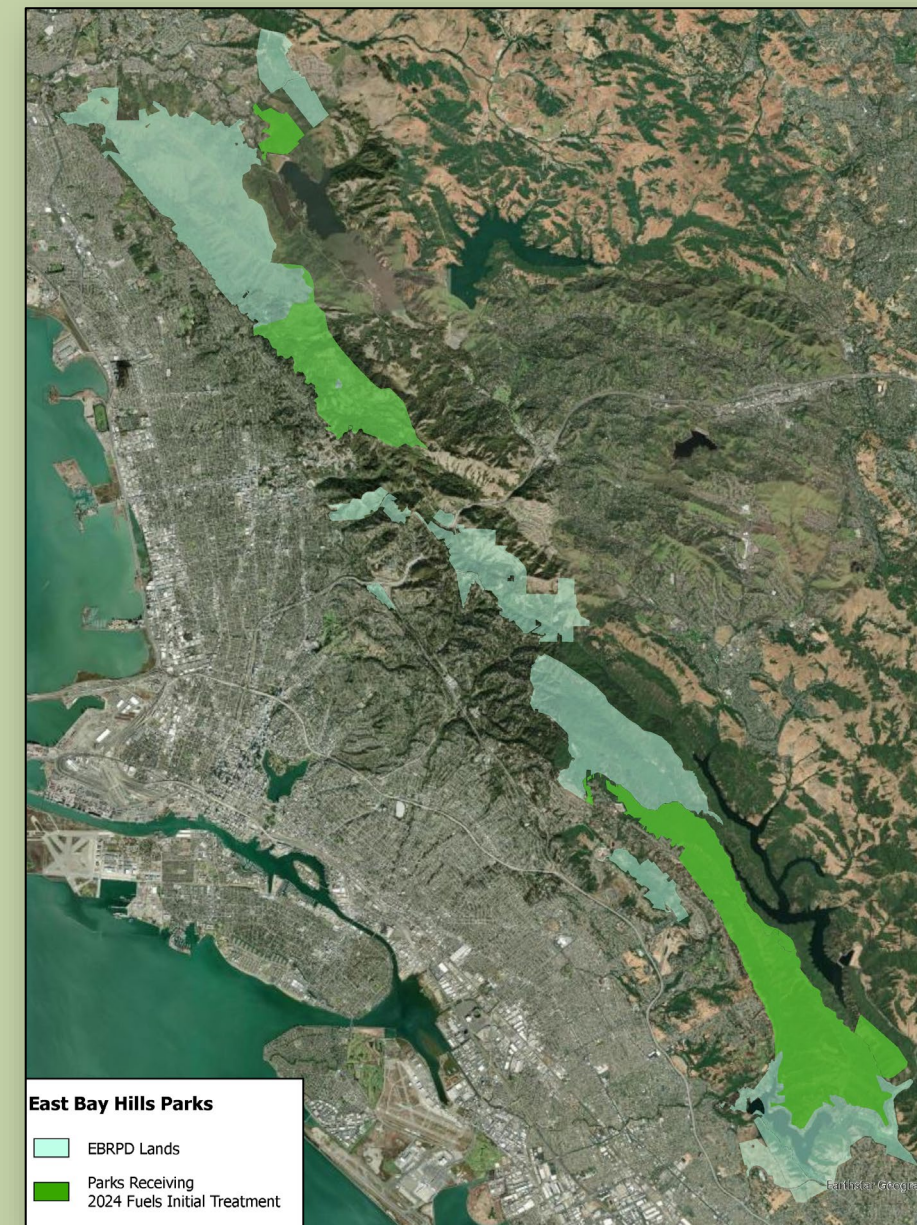
2025 Funding Sources

- Fire Department General Fund: \$3 Million
- PDM FEMA Grant Anthony Chabot: \$2 Million
- Cal OES PDM 2024: \$1.8 Million
- CA State Coastal Conservancy: \$1.7 Million (Fire Dept. Portion)
- Calfire Grant Grizzly Peak Strategic Fuel-Break: \$640,000
- CA Fire Safe Council (State Fire Capacity Wildcat Canyon): \$200,000

2025 Total Funding: \$9.4 Million

Historic and Future Funding

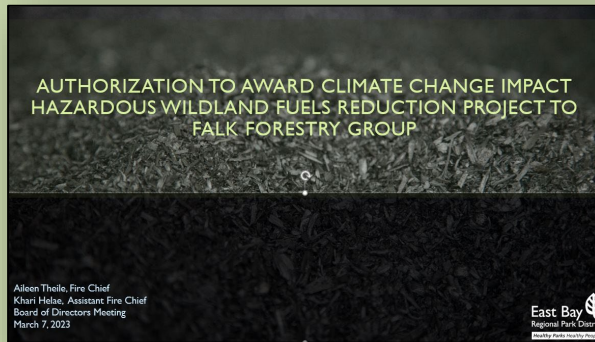
- **2020 Historic Funding:** \$2.3 Million spent on fuels management.
- **Future Outstanding Grant Applications:** \$32 Million pending approval.



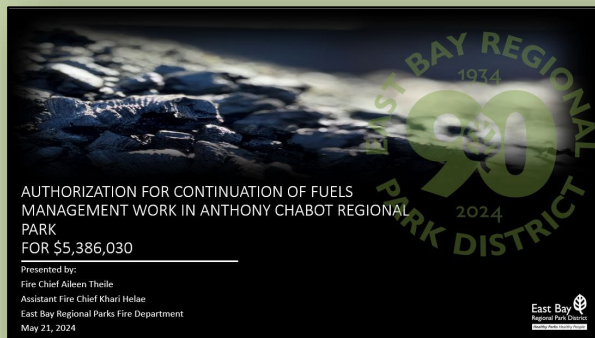
Fuels Management Anthony Chabot



- **June 2022:** Completion of the Anthony Chabot project. The 80-acre pilot involves partnerships with Falk Forestry, Ascent Forestry, and Earth Foundries, with a total budget of \$2 million, funding is split evenly between a \$1 million contribution from the California State Coastal Conservancy and \$1 million from the District general fund.



- **March 2023:** Building on the pilot project's proven success, we have significantly expanded the Climate Change Impact Hazardous Wildland Fuels Reduction Project by an additional 365 acres. This substantial expansion was achieved through the same effective forestry techniques, marking a promising future for the project. The State funded the project with a total budget of \$7.5 million.



- **September 2024:** The **Continuation Project** was approved to address the remaining 221 acres under the original RFP, targeting dead-standing trees. This project phase aims to leverage the proven methods previously employed to ensure forest health and mitigate fire risk effectively with a budget of \$5.3 million from FEMA, SCC, CalRecycle, and the District general fund.



WHAT WE LEARNED

Daily Processing Capacity:

- 80 tons/day requires a 12-hour shift due to Warm-up/Cool-down times.
- 170 tons/day achievable in a 24-hour shift.

Project Output:

- 12,200 tons of logs processed, reduced to 1,220 tons of biochar.

Key Insights:

- On-site processing is more effective than hauling.
- Innovative equipment enhances treatment but still poses challenges.
- Biochar is a sustainable alternative to co-gen or landfills, with local and District applications.

Carbonizer



OAKLAND

San Leandro

Castro Valley

RTAs
55000 and CalRecycle Funds
FEMA PDM Funds
State Funding/CalRecycle Funds
State Coastal Conservancy Match Funds



Funding Sources Anthony Chabot

- State Coastal Conservancy \$1.2 Million
- FEMA PDM: \$2 Million
- Fire Department General Fund of \$1.4 Million
- State Funding/CalRecycle \$9.3 Million

Total Funding: \$13.9 Million

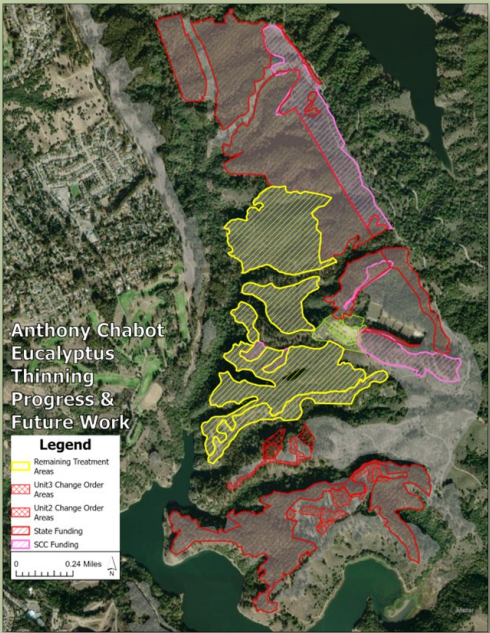




An aerial photograph showing a large area of forest. A winding path or road cuts through the trees, and several clearings or golf course greens are visible. The text '475 Acres of Trees Thinned as of October 2025' is overlaid at the top.

475 Acres of Trees Thinned as of October 2025

Fuels Treatment Anthony Chabot



Grizzly Peak Strategic Fuel Break Collaboration

2.8 Million Grant Funded By Calfire:



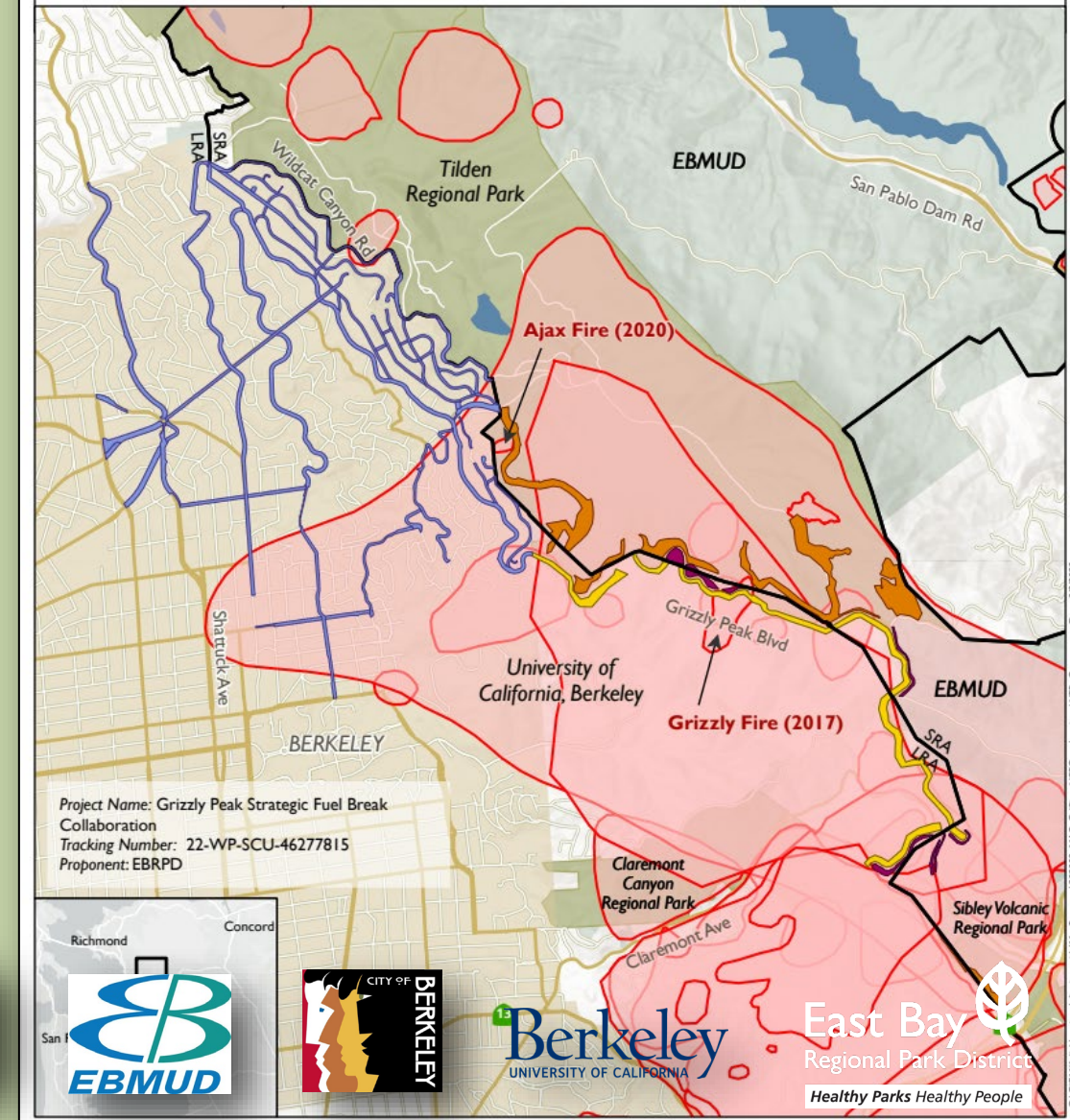
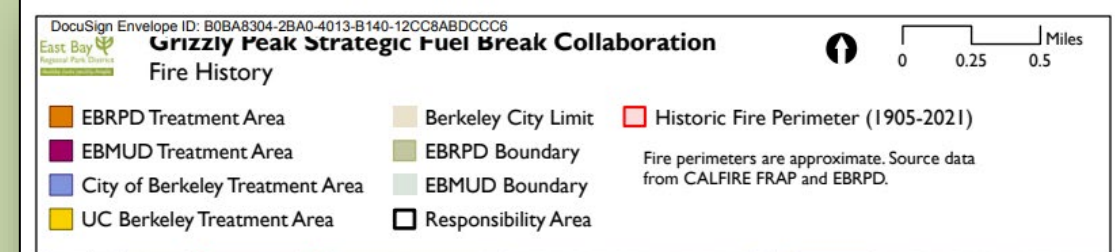
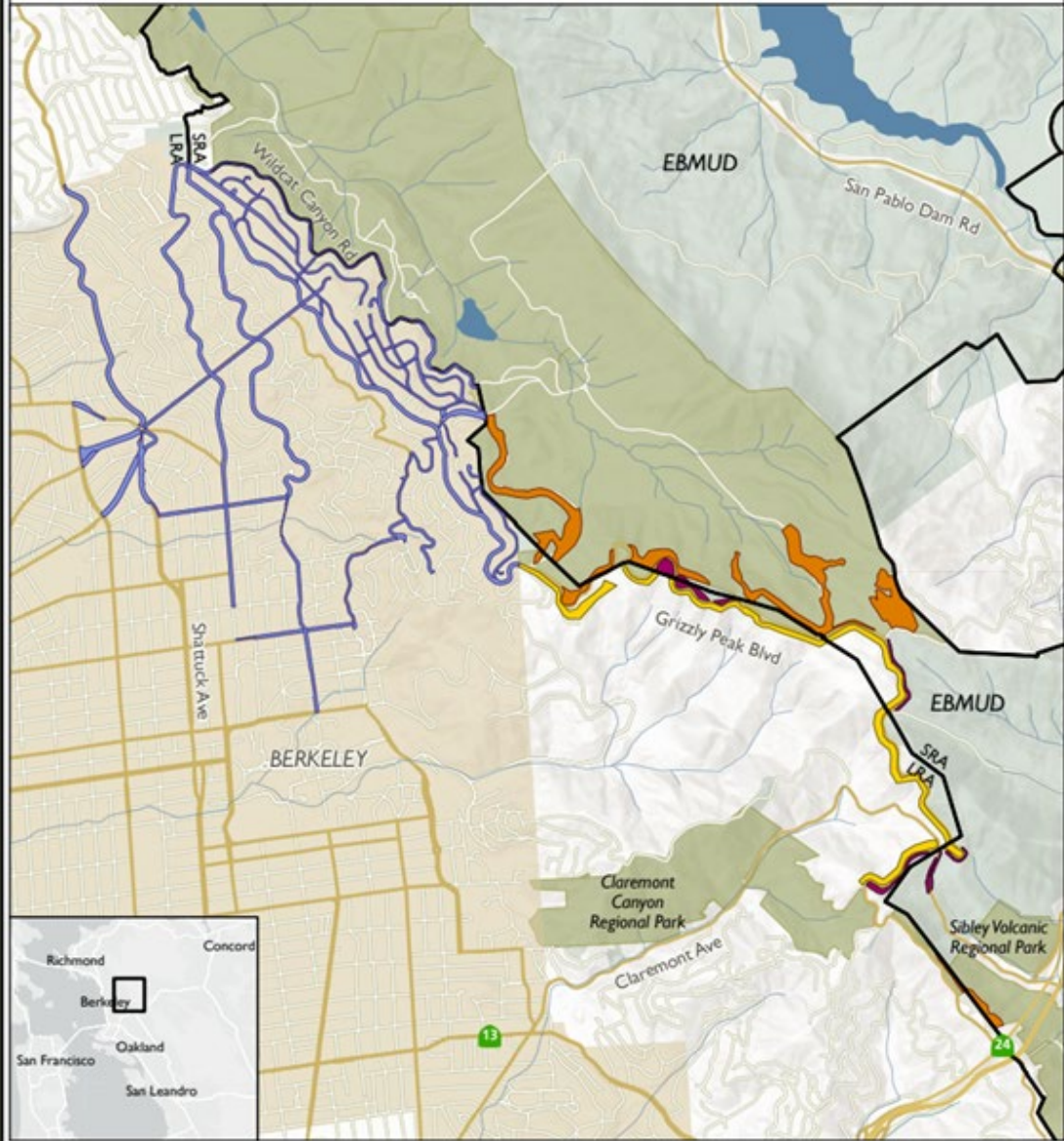
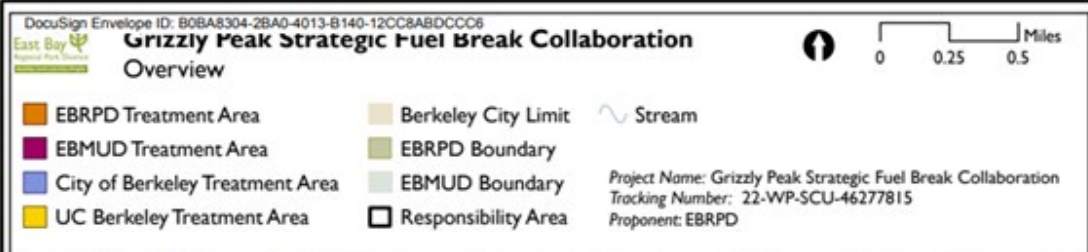
- **Hills Emergency Forum (HEF):** Aims to facilitate coordination in East Bay Hills for fire hazard management and interagency collaboration.
- **Members Awarded Calfire Grant:** East Bay Regional Park District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, University California Berkeley, and the City of Berkley collaborated to apply for the Calfire grant and proposed one continuous fuel break award of 2.8 Million.

Before

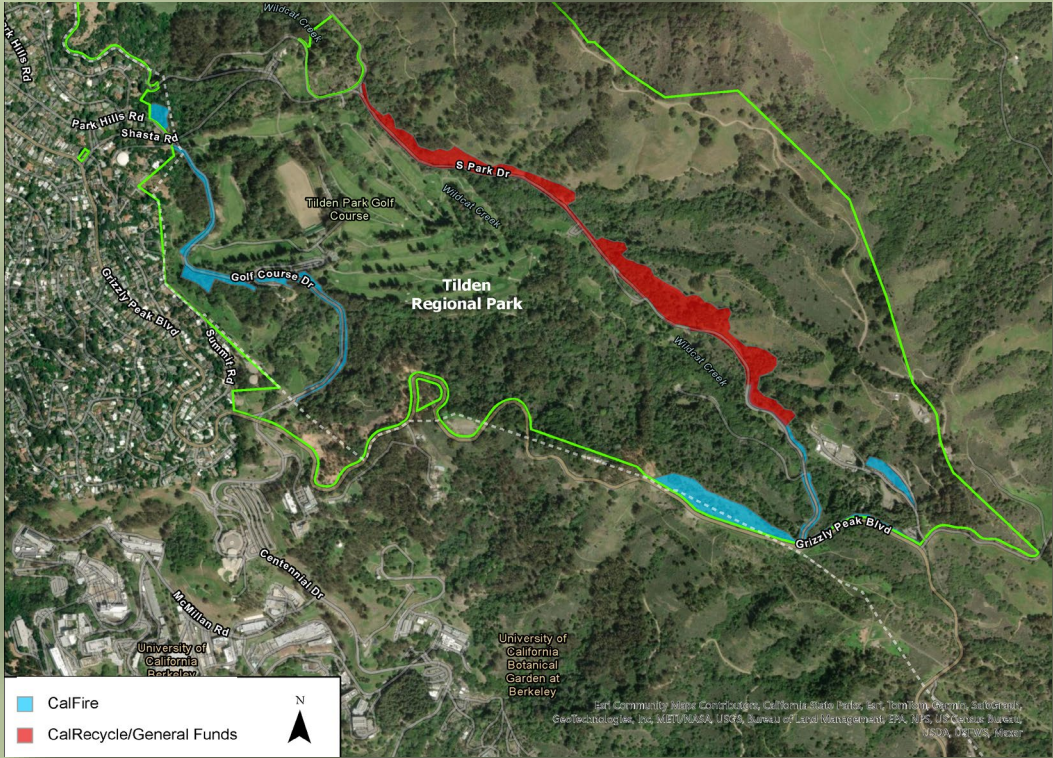


After





South Park Drive Tree Dieback Project



Tilden South Park Drive Tree Dieback Project



Before



After



Wildcat Canyon



Before



After

Kennedy Grove



Before



After

Anthony Chabot

Wildfire on October 6, 2024

Recommended Treatment Area (RTA) AC002

Redwood Road/Skyline Oakland



Anthony Chabot

Wildfire on October 6, 2024
Recommended Treatment Area
(RTA) AC002
Redwood Road/Skyline Oakland



Grizzly Peak Strategic Fuel Break Collaboration

2.8 Million Grant
Funded By Calfire:

The fire in the
picture occurred
on Sunday, October
13, 2024, at Grizzly
Peak Blvd. near
South Park Drive
on UCB property.



Keller Fire - October 18, 2024,
response by East Bay Regional Parks
Fire Mutual Aid.



The Diablo Fuels Crew



Oakland Berkeley Hills Fuel Break





Tilden - Eucalyptus Grove Mitigation



East Bay Regional Park District: Biochar Deployment Success

- **What is Biochar?** Biochar is a form of charcoal produced from organic materials such as wood, leaves, or crop waste. It can be utilized to enhance agriculture, control erosion, restore plants, and manage water.



East Bay Regional Park District: Biochar Deployment Success

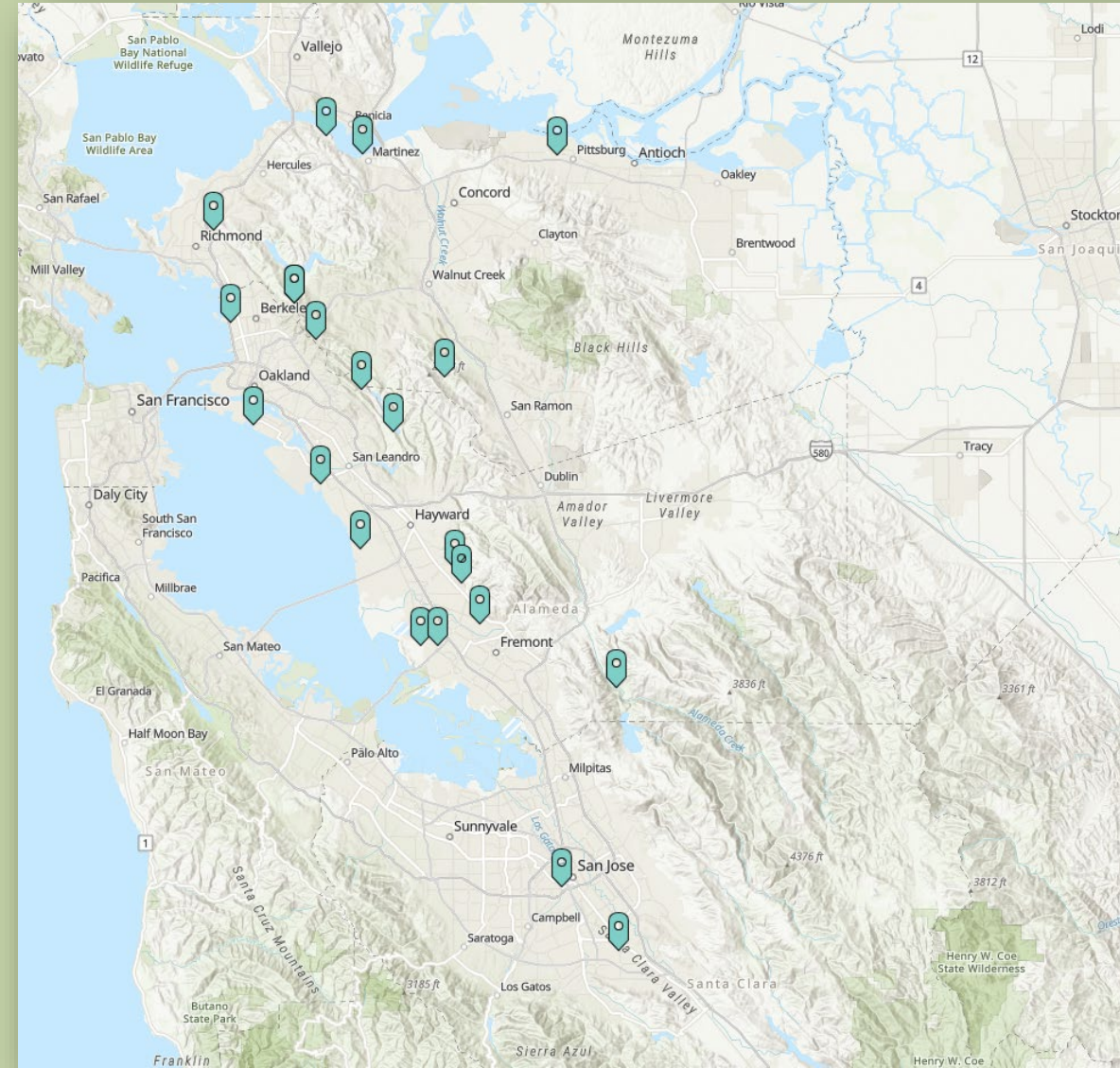
- **Applications Across the District:**

- **Agricultural Enhancement:** At Ardenwood Farms & Dig Deep Farms, biochar boosts crop soil, leading to healthier plants and increased yields.
- **Erosion Control:** Usage at Oyster Bay & Wildcat counters soil erosion, while at Sunol, biochar aids in water filtration and plant enrichment.
- **Restoration and Revitalization:** Sibley at McCosker Ranch for improved soil and Shadow Cliffs & Quarry Lakes benefit from enhanced plant health through biochar application.
- **Water Management:** Radke-Martinez Park employs biochar in bioswales for effective stormwater management and pollution filtration.



East Bay Regional Park District: Biochar Deployment

- Anthony Chabot Regional Park
- Ardenwood Historic Farm
- Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline
- City of Berkeley Aquatic Park
- Coyote Hills Regional Park
- Crown Memorial State Beach
- Dr. Aurelia Reinhardt Redwood Regional Park
- Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Park
- EBRPD Fire Station 2 - Fuels Management
- Water Quality Department (EBRPD)
- Garin Regional Park
- Hayward Regional Shoreline
- John Muir Land Trust - Family Harvest Farm
- Las Trampas Wilderness Regional Preserve
- Martial Cottle Park
- Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline
- Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area
- Radke Martinez Regional Shoreline
- Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve
- Sunol Regional Wilderness
- Tilden Regional Park
- Valley Verde
- Wildcat Canyon Regional Park



41 Anthony Chabot Tours

Board and Legal (5)

- 1-Legal and GM
- 3 - Board Tours
- 1- EBRPD Parkland Unit Meeting

Demonstrations and Press Events (8)

- 2-Demo Days
- 2 - Press Event
- 1- SCC Press
- 1- US Biochar
- 1- BAAQR and CAR
- 1- USFS Wood Innovations

Fire Safe Councils (2)

- 1- Oakland Fire Safe Council
- 1- Diablo Fire Safe Council and BAAQR

Visits by Officials and Electives (5)

- Senator Feinstein Staff
- Asm Bauer-Kahan Intern
- EBRPD Chief of Public Safety
- Chief Hess (CalFire)
- Secretary Lien-Mager

Agency and Government Visits (14)

- 1- EBRPD GM Ops
- 1- CalFire Pre Ops
- 2- SCC Tour early Ops
- 1- SAF Bay Area Tour
- 1- ALCO Environmental Health
- 2- BAAQR
- 1- CalFire- John McCarthy
- 1- CalFire- SCU
- 1- CalRecycle
- 1- EBRPD IPM
- 1- EBRPD Stewardship
- 1- EBRPD Public Affairs

Visits by Officials and Electives (5)

- Senator Feinstein Staff
- Asm Bauer-Kahan Intern
- EBRPD Chief of Public Safety
- Chief Hess (CalFire)
- Secretary Lien-Mager



