



FIRE SAFE COUNCIL PROJECT TYPES & IDEAS

— Guide for the FireShed Project Readiness Input Form —

Fire Safe Councils support projects that reduce wildfire risk, improve evacuation safety, and strengthen long term community resilience.



1 DEFENSIBLE SPACE & HOME HARDENING

Support for residents to create and maintain defensible space and reduce structure vulnerability.

- Defensible space assistance programs
- Home hardening education and retrofits
- Ember resistant vents, fencing, and zone zero improvements



2 EVACUATION ROUTE & ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Projects that improve safe and reliable evacuation during emergencies.

- Roadside vegetation clearance along evacuation routes
- Hazard removal blocking egress routes
- Evacuation signage and wayfinding
- Temporary refuge area identification (incident based use)



3 COMMUNITY FUEL REDUCTION NEAR HOMES

Reduce wildfire intensity and spread in populated areas and along community edges.

- Brush clearance, thinning, and mowing
- Treatment of heavy fuels near neighborhoods
- Strategic buffers around critical infrastructure



4 HAZARD TREE REMOVAL

Removal of dead, dying, or unstable trees that threaten safety and access.

- Tree removal along roads, powerlines, and evacuation corridors
- Storm damage and fire weakened tree mitigation
- Public safety hazard abatement projects



5 SHADED FUEL BREAKS & STRATEGIC FUEL TREATMENTS

Landscape level treatments designed to slow fire spread and support suppression.

- Shaded fuel breaks along ridgelines and access roads
- Fuel reduction tied to CWPP or Fire Plan priorities
- Strategic treatment zones identified through FireShed analysis



6 FOREST HEALTH & ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Improve long term forest and watershed resilience.

- Overgrowth thinning and forest restoration
- Removal of diseased or overcrowded vegetation
- Habitat and watershed focused treatments



7 NEIGHBORHOOD CHIPPING & GREEN WASTE PROGRAMS

Provide residents with tools to complete defensible space work.

- Community chipping events
- Green waste disposal support
- Ongoing neighborhood vegetation programs



8 PUBLIC EDUCATION & PREPAREDNESS

Build awareness and readiness across the community.

- Evacuation preparedness workshops
- Defensible space education campaigns
- Go bag and Ready Set Go programs
- School and community outreach events



9 RISK ASSESSMENT & COMMUNITY PLANNING

Projects that support data driven decision making and prioritization.

- Wildfire risk assessments
- Evacuation studies and modeling
- FireShed project development and mapping
- CWPP and hazard mitigation plan updates



10 FIREWISE & NEIGHBORHOOD READINESS

Strengthen local organization and long term mitigation efforts.

- Firewise community development and support
- Neighborhood liaison programs
- Local resilience planning and coordination



11 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & STRATEGIC PLANNING (FIRESHED)

Projects that align with countywide priorities and advance strategic outcomes.

- Projects identified through FireShed dashboard analysis
- Multi partner cross boundary fuel reduction efforts
- Projects tied to Governor's Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force priorities
- Grant ready project development with defined scope, budget, and outcomes



WHAT MAKES A STRONG PROJECT

Projects are prioritized when they:

- ✓ Align with strategic wildfire resilience goals
- ✓ Connect to existing plans (CWPP, Hazard Mitigation Plan, Safety Element)
- ✓ Address identified risk areas using FireShed data
- ✓ Have agency support and land access
- ✓ Include a clear scope, funding path, and measurable outcomes



PROJECTS THAT MAY NOT MOVE FORWARD

Projects may be declined if they:

- ✗ Are stand alone with no connection to broader planning
- ✗ Benefit mostly one group, Fire Plan, or State priorities
- ✗ Lack clear benefit, outcomes, or community impact
- ✗ Do not have landowner participation or access
- ✗ Cannot meet permitting or compliance requirements
- ✗ Duplicate existing work without added value



SUPPORTED PROJECT OUTCOMES

Projects may support outcomes such as:

- Reduced wildfire risk
- Safer evacuations and emergency response
- Healthier forests and ecosystems
- Stronger, more resilient communities
- Increased community education and readiness
- Protected homes, infrastructure, and natural resources



NEXT STEP

Submit your project through the FireShed Project Readiness Input Form to begin review and prioritization.

Learn more and access the form:

firesafeslo.org/planning



Together, we can create a safer, more resilient San Luis Obispo County.

