

# PROJECT NAME: PALO COLORADO FUEL MODIFICATION PROJECT

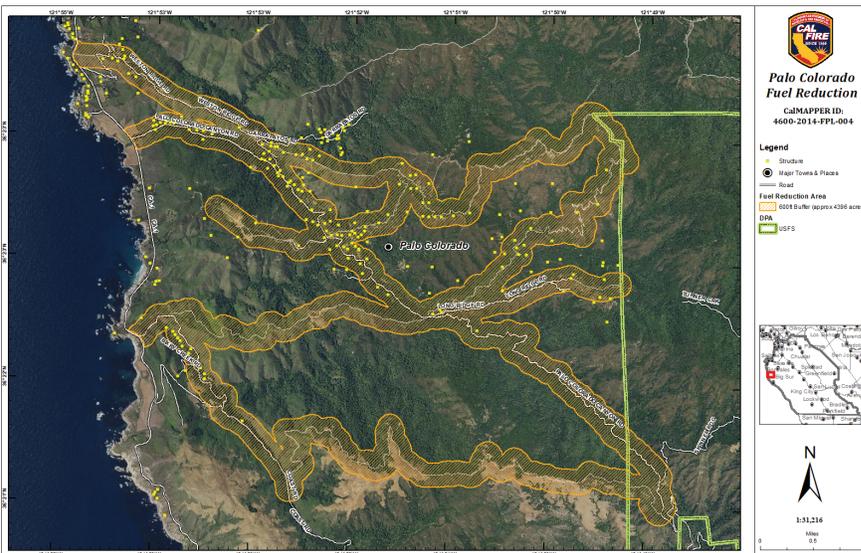
SIZE: 6,843 ACRES



**PROJECTED COMPLETION DATE:**  
12/01/19

**LOCATION:**  
Palo Colorado, Monterey County, CAL FIRE  
San Benito-Monterey Unit.

**Summary:** The Palo Colorado Fuel Modification Project is a continuation of efforts between the Mid Coast Fire Brigade, CAL FIRE, and the US Forest Service. This project has existing environmental analysis documentation, as well as highly motivated property owners. It will create a shaded fuel break and reduced fuel zone in the area of highest density of structures located in the highest fire hazard area in the unit: the northwest Big Sur WUI adjacent to the Los Padres National Forest. The work will be accomplished by constructing 35 miles of shaded fuel breaks on Long Ridge, Mescal Ridge, and Green Ridge, a collection of private lands in a corridor with one exit route: Palo Colorado Road. This will be accomplished by removing understory vegetation, brush, and small trees along both sides of various roads and existing shaded fuel breaks. This project ties into the Foothill project, a joint project of the Fire Safe Council for Monterey County and the Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District, as well as the USFS Los Padres National Forest Strategic Fuelbreak project. CAL FIRE will construct fuel breaks along roads and on ridgetops in strategic locations for firefighting to protect critical infrastructure. The project will treat fuel loading in Tier I and Tier II tree mortality zones. This project will reduce the number and intensity of large catastrophic wildfires, and increase public safety.



**What communities or habitats will project protect?** This project will have a direct impact on the communities of Carmel Highlands, Palo Colorado, and Big Sur.