



Land Use Planning Best Practices in the Wildland-Urban Interface

*An Update for WMAC Land Use Planning Workgroup Meeting
February 17, 2026*

About Us

- 501(c)3 non-profit organization
- Cofounded in 2017
- Provide technical assistance, trainings, and expertise to support WUI communities across the U.S.



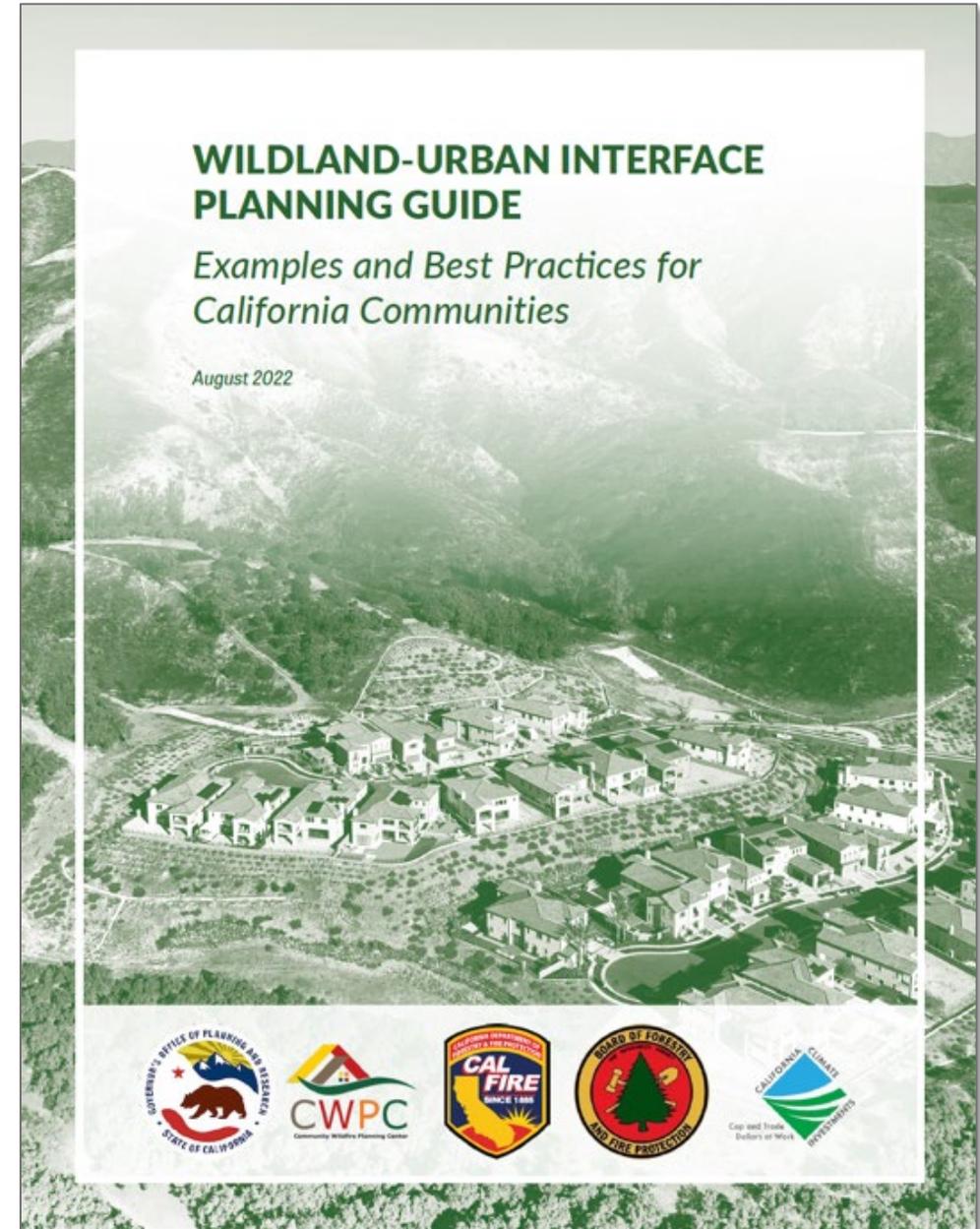
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WUI Planning Guide

- Co-published in 2022 by LCI (OPR) with updated Fire Hazard Technical Advisory
- Guidance on plans, regulations, additional tools for the WUI
- Nine best practice case studies from across California based on inventory



WUI Planning Trends & Influences

- Extreme WUI fires and urban conflagrations
- State-driven requirements to address housing shortages
- Updated wildfire hazard and risk maps
- Funding and incentives for wildfire planning
- Legislative responses to wildfire
- Analysis of effective mitigations
- Insurance market crisis



Land Use Planning for Wildfires Trainings

- Bring planning and fire professionals together
- Concepts focus on the WUI, fire behavior, planning and regulatory tools, plan alignment, best practices, resources

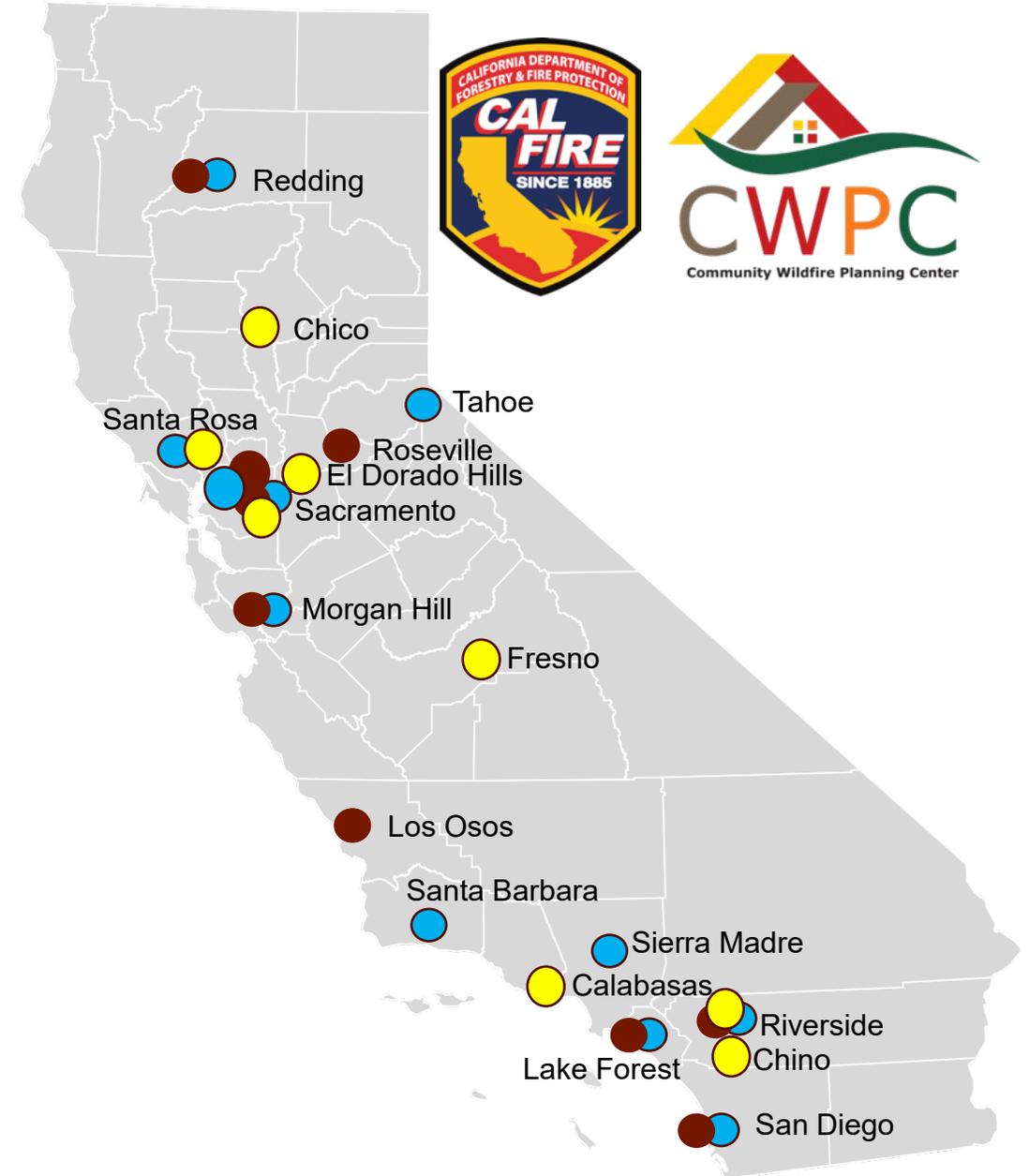


Image: CWPC



Trainings (cont'd)

- 28 trainings completed across California since 2022
- ~800 attendees
- Includes CAL FIRE staff
- More scheduled in 2026



Recent WUI Planning Themes



Implementing post-recovery plans and ordinances



Making wildfire resilient housing affordable



Moving beyond traditional defensible space requirements



Increasing emphasis on plan alignment

Post-Fire Recovery Planning

- Comprehensive land use planning and recovery guidance for affected areas
- Can cover short and long-term recovery topics



Disaster Recovery Ordinance (LA County)

- Streamlines recovery process
- Reduces displacement of residents by allowing temporary housing and rebuilding single-family residences
- Encourages recovery of businesses and properties by allowing replacement of buildings and structures and reestablishment of uses

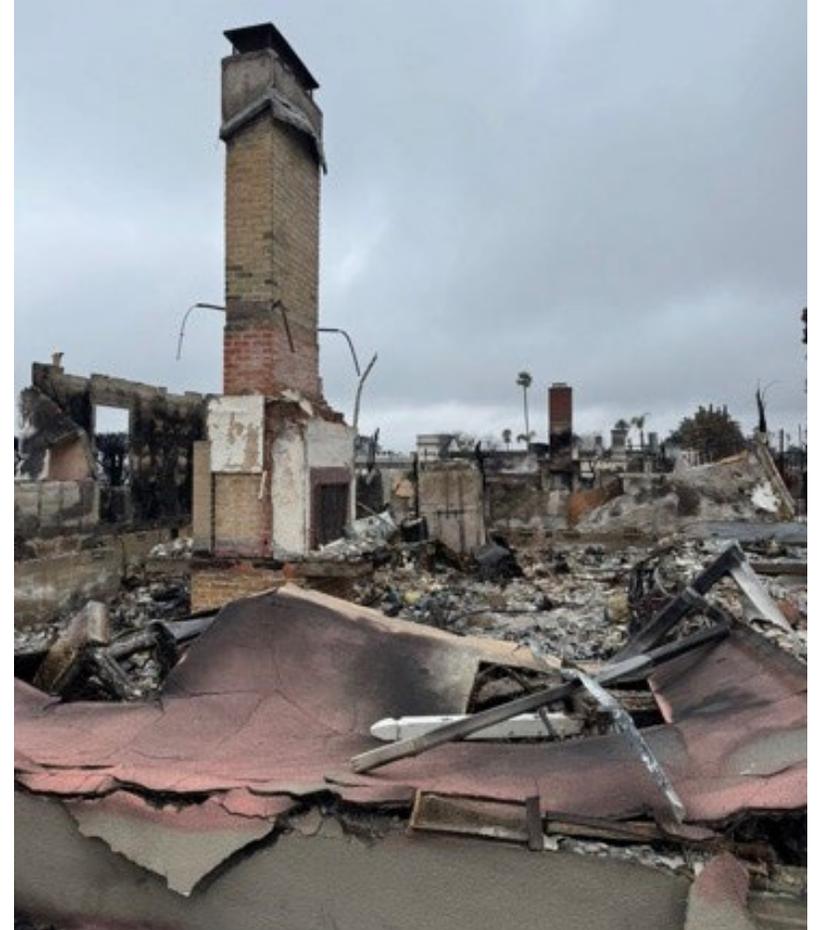


Image: CWPC

Wildfire-Resilient Affordable Housing

- Emerging technology: 3-D printed homes to support post-fire recovery
- Required or voluntary incorporation of additional fire safety measures in ADUs



Image: Jefferson Public Radio (Emergent)

Tiny Homes on Wheels Ordinance (Nevada County)

- Intended for permanent residential use
- Constructed to meet higher safety and habitability standards (different than recreational vehicles)
- Fire Protection Plan required if in FHSZ (High and Very High) or dead-end road (as defined)



Image: CWPC (iStock)

Hazardous Vegetation and Defensible Space Ordinance (El Dorado County)

- Good Neighbor and Neighborhood Protection Policy
- D-space and other requirements for critical infrastructure (essential services, at risk populations, hazardous materials and solid waste facilities)
- Additional clearance along driveways and roads



Image: CAL FIRE

Zone Zero (Berkeley)

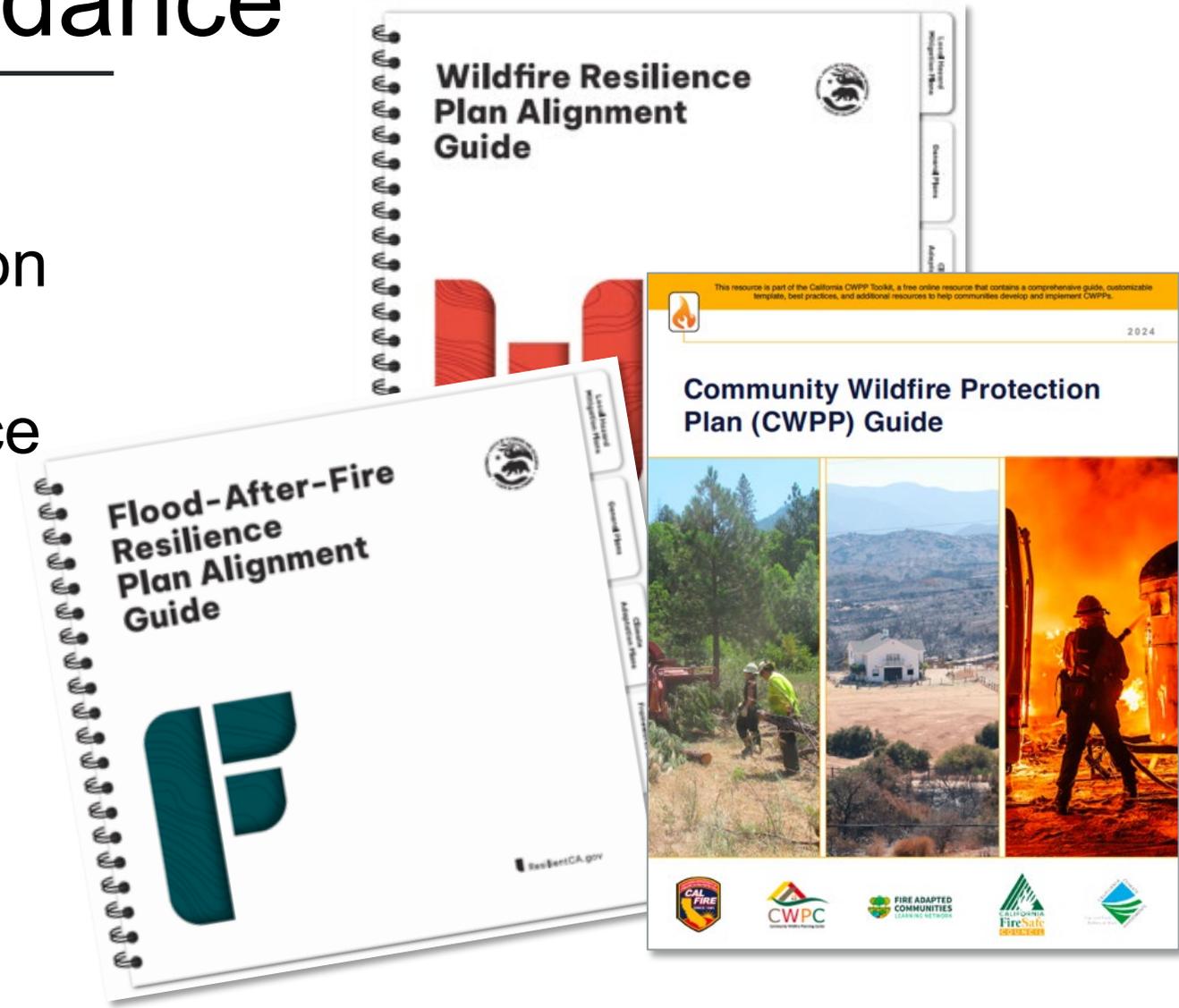
- Limits flammable materials within first five feet (and has requirements in additional zones)
- Retroactive requirements for all properties in specified area



Image: Berkeleyside

Plan Alignment Guidance

- LCI Plan Alignment Toolkit
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan Guide and Toolkit
- Plan Integration for Resilience Scorecard for the WUI



Plan Alignment (Santa Clara County)

- Multi-stakeholder planning process (MJHMP)
- Concurrent plan updates to integrate data sharing with CWPP, Safety Element
- Coordination on public input
- Alignment of mitigation priorities



Image: CWPC

Contact

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