

ReCoverCA

Mitigation Retrofits Programs

CA Department of Housing and
Community Development (HCD)



ReCoverCA
California

ReCoverCA Mitigation Retrofits Programs



- Purpose: Provide defensible space and home hardening retrofits to enhance resilience and mitigate from future wildfire disasters.
- Available to households earning up to 120% AMI in eligible counties.
- Federal grant funding of up to \$75,000 per eligible household.
- Eligible work is based on “Levels of Importance”.
- The Program manages all aspects including eligibility, inspection, permitting and construction, from start to finish.

Program Pipeline



- Approximately **\$9.5 million** available to award to homeowners in areas impacted by 2020 and 2021 federally declared wildfire disasters – Butte, Fresno, Los Angeles, Napa, Plumas, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Siskiyou, Solano and Sonoma counties.
- **33 mitigated homes and counting!**
 - 45 in construction
 - 65 in pre-construction/pre-award

Levels of Importance

- The **Levels of Importance** was developed based on the California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP) Minimum Quality Standard and review from CalFire.
- The Levels of Importance offers over **30 fire mitigation** retrofit items and **15 flood mitigation** retrofit items.
- Work is prioritized in Level 1 items first, then Level 2, and Level 3, until the grant cap is achieved.

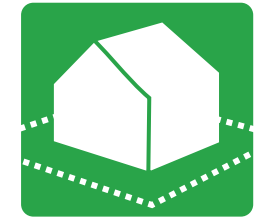


Level 1 Importance Items	
GOAL FOR LEVEL 1: To protect the envelope of the home from fire and water intrusion and install a Zone 0 protective (5'-0") barrier around the primary structure without altering aesthetics.	<p>1.01 – Remove any debris/combustible material items and vegetation (live or dead) under and within five feet (5'-0") from each structure, excluding decks and pergolas, unless deteriorated.</p> <p>1.01A * – Provide minimal grading away from the home to achieve positive drainage.</p> <p>1.02 – Install pea gravel or other non-combustible hardscape under and within five feet (5'-0") from each structure, and if applicable, an attached deck in Zone 0.</p> <p>1.03 – Remove any tree limbs and brush (live or dead) that is within five feet (5'-0") from each Zone 0 structure. Must have ten feet (10'-0") above roof and ten feet (10'-0") away from any chimneys and stovepipe outlets.</p> <p>1.04 – Remove any combustible material items and vegetation (live or dead) on roof, including roof covering, roof valleys, and gutters.</p> <p>1.05 – Remove any deteriorated and combustible means of egress within (5'-0") of primary structure, which include combustible porches, stairs and landings, ramps, and railings. Replace it with ignition resistant standard grade material.</p> <p>1.06 – Remove any deteriorated combustible decks and/or pergolas attached to structure, that are beyond repair, and replace with ignition resistant standard grade steps and landings (5'-0" x 5'-0" or 5'-0" x 10'-0").</p> <p>1.07 – Enclose underside of elevated porches, stairs, landings, decks, ramps, and steps with ember resistant wire mesh to prevent combustible material accumulation and penetration of embers.</p> <p>1.08 * – Coat exposed foundation/stern wall/perimeter foundation with waterproof coating paint and sealant.</p> <p>1.09 * – Seal penetrations in walls up to the flood line with waterproof coating paint and sealant.</p> <p>1.10 * – Seal cracks in windows and doors which are below the flood line.</p> <p>1.11 – Replace the following vents with OSFM approved flame and ember resistant vents. These include fresh air intake, dryer, attic, gable, soffit, and under-floor ventilation vents. *Switch to flood vents in foundation walls.</p> <p>1.12 – Repair any deteriorated areas or holes in combustible roof eaves, soffit, or fascia to prevent ember penetration into roof cavity.</p> <p>1.13 – Repair or remove and replace damaged or deteriorated windows, doors, siding, shingles, or other critical items affecting the living conditions of the applicant and home, with non-combustible materials.</p> <p>1.14 – Install metal flashing around the bottom, tops and sides of combustible garage doors to seal from embers.</p> <p>1.15 – Install a spark arrestor for non-compliant chimneys and stovepipes.</p> <p>1.16 – Install metal flashing or ignition-resistant material at roof-to-wall intersection to extend a minimum of 6" up the combustible wall and repair small gaps or holes in a combustible exterior.</p> <p>1.17 – Remove any attached combustible fences, gates and retaining walls and replace with noncombustible alternative, up to eight feet (8'-0") on each side of the primary structure.</p> <p>1.18 – Remove damaged gutters, or plastic gutters and downspouts and/or install metal gutters, gutter guards, downspouts, and underground downspouts.</p> <p>1.19 – Replace AND/OR install aluminum window, door and sliding glass door screens.</p> <p>1.20 – Install visible address marker on structure for emergency services if not clearly visible from street.</p>
	<p>3.04 – Replace combustible door(s) and/or window(s) with fire rated compliant alternatives.</p> <p>3.05 – Replace or Repair damaged siding and/or trim with ignition resistant siding and trim.</p> <p>3.06 – Replace combustible garage door(s) if mitigation is not possible.</p> <p>3.07 * – Elevate electrical enclosures, junction boxes, panels, outlets, and switches above the flood line.</p> <p>3.09 * – Install a separate electrical main shut-off switch outside of main electrical panel.</p> <p>3.10 * – Provide backflow preventer on main water line.</p> <p>3.11 * – Install check valve on sewer line.</p> <p>3.12 * – Include rainwater harvesting tank or barrels.</p>

Levels of Importance

- **Three Levels of Importance:**

- **Level 1** goal is to protect the envelope of the home from fire and install a Zone 0 protective (0" - 5') barrier around the primary structure without altering aesthetics.
- **Level 2** goal is to clear defensible space per CalFIRE Requirements working from Zone 1 (5' to 30') to Zone 2 (30' - to 100') to reduce ember quantity and travel.
- **Level 3** goal is to repair or replace combustible items or items beyond useful life.



ReCoverCA Single-Family Mitigation (SFM) Program



Level 1: *Install a Zone 0 Protective Barrier Around the Home*

Before and after photos showing a 5' pea gravel buffer and defensible space clearing.



BEFORE



AFTER

ReCoverCA Single-Family Mitigation (SFM) Program

Level 1: *Protect the Envelope of the Home*

Before and after photos showing ember resistant wire mesh under deck.



BEFORE



AFTER

ReCoverCA Single-Family Mitigation (SFM) Program



Level 1: *Protect the Envelope of the Home*

Before and after photos showing defensible space clearing, ember resistant wire mesh under porch and pea gravel.



CD

BEFORE



AFTER

ReCoverCA Single-Family Mitigation (SFM) Program



Level 1: *Protect the Envelope of the Home*

Before and after photos showing defensible space clearing, ember resistant wire mesh under deck and pea gravel.



BEFORE



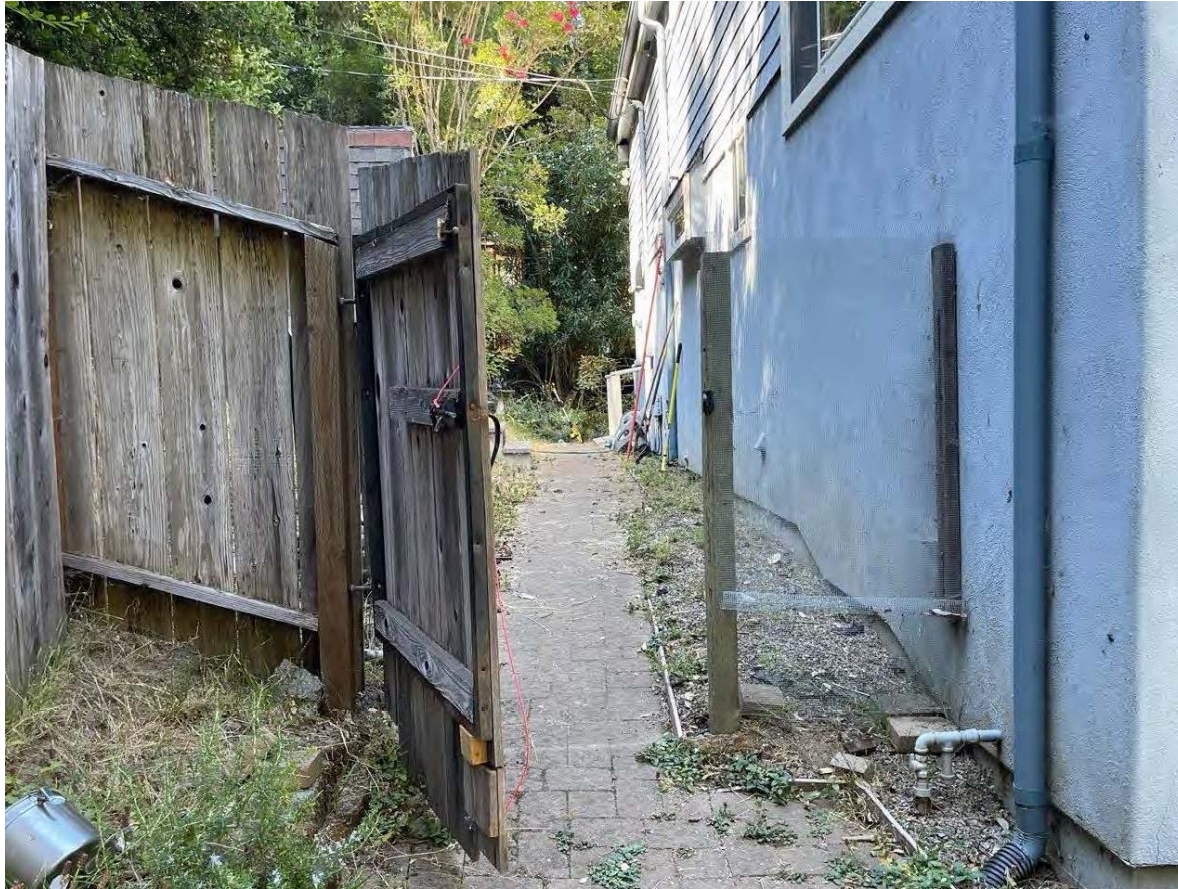
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ReCoverCA Single-Family Mitigation (SFM) Program

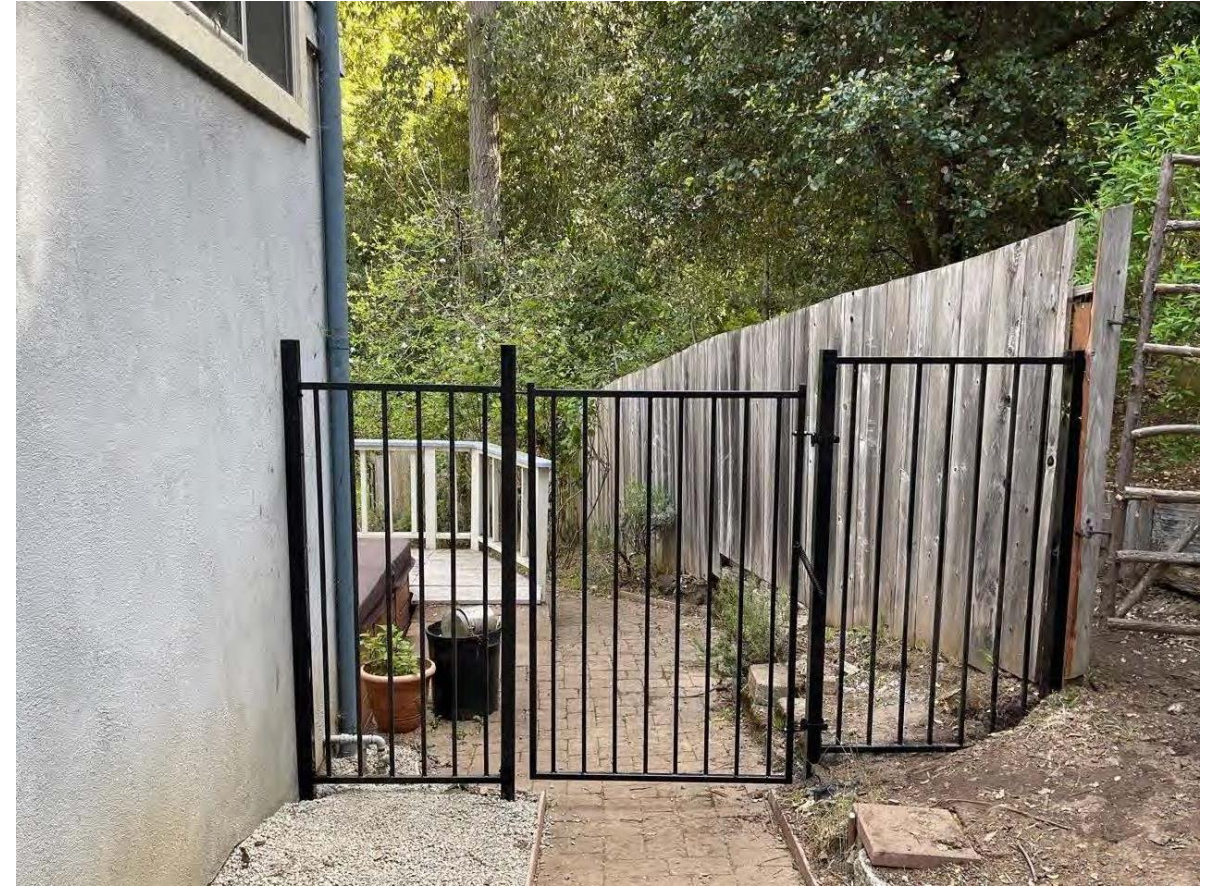


Level 1: *Protect the Envelope of the Home*

Before and after photos showing replacement of combustible fencing and added pea gravel within 5' perimeter.



BEFORE



AFTER

ReCoverCA Single-Family Mitigation (SFM) Program



Level 1: *Protect the Envelope of the Home*

Before and after photos showing replacement of deteriorated combustible balcony railing.



BEFORE



AFTER

ReCoverCA Single-Family Mitigation (SFM) Program

Level 2: *Clear Defensible Space in Zone 1 and Zone 2*

Before and after photos showing defensible space clearing.



BEFORE



AFTER

ReCoverCA Single-Family Mitigation (SFM) Program

Level 2: *Clear Defensible Space in Zone 1 and Zone 2*

Before and after photos showing defensible space clearing.



BEFORE



AFTER

ReCoverCA Single-Family Mitigation (SFM) Program

Level 3: *Repair/Replace Combustible Items*

Before and after photos showing roof replacement to fire safe, Class A asphalt shingles.



BEFORE



AFTER

Challenges



#1 - Program Design

- First iteration of Levels of Importance called for a significant amount of aesthetic-altering changes to homes in Level 1.
 - e.g. Demolition of non-deteriorated combustible features, like porches, decks and pergolas.
- Program received strong pushback from homeowners during discussions about scopes, with the potential for widespread program dropout.

Program Adjustment:

- Program updated Levels of Importance to prioritize protecting the envelope of the home and defensible space before altering the aesthetic of the home.

Challenges



#2 – Mitigation Enabling Repairs

- Significant deferred maintenance, making mitigation impractical and ineffective until necessary repairs are completed.
- Deferred maintenance that is not addressed can reduce the lifespan of mitigation measures.

Program Adjustment:

- Grant cap increase to \$75,000 to implement “mitigation enabling” repairs.
- Sound investment of public funds and extend useful life of mitigation work.

Learn More About ReCoverCA



Questions?