

December 1, 2018: Compiled info about North Bay Fire Recovery

*The following is a partial list of information about ways in which the region is responding to the October 2017 North Bay fires. It is meant to highlight some of the many activities across the region. There are numerous and complex regulatory and legal frameworks that guide these efforts well outside the scope of this short summary. Staff gathered much of this information from organization websites and from recent conversations. Local agency information provided by **Ken Schwarz of Horizon Water and Environment** (thank you Ken).*

This partial snap-shot was developed to help provide NBWA members with some key contacts to the organizations and to the people leading and participating in watershed recovery.

Napa

Land Trust of Napa County has collected resource links to web pages and PDF's that could be helpful in the recovery process and have posted them below and listed resources from other local organizations as well. They will continue to update this list as more is known. These links include:

- Wildfire recovery resources for farmers, ranchers and rural landowners (CDFA) www.cdfa.ca.gov/firerecovery/
- After the fire – RCD and NRCS can help (Napa County RCD) naparcd.org/after-the-fire-rcd-and-nrcs-can-help/
- Erosion control and watershed protection program (County of Napa) countyofnapa.org/NapaFireComplexErosionControl/
- Returning home after a fire (Cal Fire pdf) bit.ly/2vO2X04
- Napa County Resource Conservation District's post fire dos and don'ts bit.ly/2y7PErG
- What to do after a fire for landowners and residents (Pepperwood Preserve) www.pepperwoodpreserve.org/2017/10/25/in-the-wake-of-the-flames/
- Soil erosion control after wildfire (Colorado State University pdf) www.methowconservancy.org/soil_erosion_control_after_fire.pdf
- Napa County Resource Conservation District fact sheets and resources naparcd.org/fire/

More info: www.napalandtrust.org/the-road-to-recovery/

Napa County Resource Conservation District created a resource page for fire related information here naparcd.org/fire/.

- Outreach to private landowners to provide guidance/education on erosion control, sediment management, tree removal
- Prioritizing and targeting outreach based on burn and erosion risk severity mapping
- Hosting series of December workshops on post-fire land management
- RCD website provides many resources to landowners, including BMP videos, etc. to address post-fire conditions

- Coordinating a growing interest in efforts to re-oak Napa County; and providing post-fire recovery publications which will be updated regularly and available at naparcd.org/fire/

More info: Contact the RCD via [Leigh Sharp](#) or the NRCS via [Jennifer Walser](#).

Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

- Surveying streams for erosion/flood risk potential
- Assessing streams for downed trees, hazard trees – focusing on road crossings, bridges, culverts
- Identified monitoring locations throughout County
- Coordinating with Cal Fire WERT and regulators on future activities
- Developing GIS database to track post-fire conditions
- Coordinating with RCD/NRCS erosion control efforts for private landowners and growers

Napa County Planning, Building, and Environmental Services (Conservation Division)

- Mapping households impacted and potential hazardous materials
- Coordinating or private land cleanup and permitting,
- Hazard assessment and BMP implementation of upland soil stabilization in priority areas with assistance from erosion experts from RCD, NRCS, CalFire/OES, and PG&E

Napa County Public Works / Flood Control and Water Resources

- Coordinating Watershed Recovery Operations Center (ROC)

Napa County Watershed Information and Conservation Council (WICC)

- Providing informational forum and making informational resources available for both private and public landowners.

City of Napa / City of Calistoga

- Focus on protecting water supply reservoirs and their watersheds
- Milliken Reservoir, Lake Hennessey, Kimball Reservoir
- Waddle installation to reduce fine sediment transport into reservoirs
- Targeted large debris protection above reservoirs
- Installing booms in reservoirs to manage debris input

Sonoma

Sonoma County Recovers Webpage – Managed by the City of Santa Rosa and the County of Sonoma, this site is a one-stop-shop for information on the fire recovery effort in Sonoma County. www.sonomacountyrecovers.org/

The Sonoma Land Trust created a presentation on the effects of the fire on their lands. It also includes a summary of the fires with specific focus on Sears Point, Glen Oaks Ranch, Stuart Creek Hill, Secret Pasture, and Live Oak Ranch. They included dramatic photography and excellent historic and recent maps of fires in the area. Along with a 25 year vision for the future, in their Big Picture summary the presenters suggest four principles: *Build resilience, Protect wildlife corridors, provide room for ecological processes, and keep people out of harm.*

More info: sonomalandtrust.org/pdf/articles/PowerPoint-for-lead-article.pdf

Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District has created a webpage devoted to the fire and restoration efforts. Over 7,000 acres of their lands were affected and they have been able to do initial assessments on several parcels.

They include links to a number of property owner resources:

- Natural Resources Conservation Service post-fire assistance, publications, and resources – [NRCS Post-Fire Assistance](#)
- Sonoma Resource Conservation District post-fire assistance, publications, and resources – [Sonoma RCD Post-Fire Assistance](#)
- USDA help for California Producers – [California Producers Rebuild and Recover](#)
- Farm Service Agency Disaster Assistance Programs – [FSA Disaster Assistance Programs](#)
- Official recovery page for Sonoma County and City of Santa Rosa – [Sonoma County Recovers](#)
- Access to Disaster Help and Resources – [Disaster Assistance](#)
- Information on Local Assistance Centers in Santa Rosa and Sonoma – [Local Assistance Centers](#)

More info: www.sonomaopenspace.org/

Sonoma County Resource Conservation District created a fire resource page (sonomarc.org/resources/fire-recovery/) with information and services for landowners with a link to an extensive [Resource Guide for the Central LNU Complex](#) and other North Bay Fires. See the guide here sonomarc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/NaturalResourcesRecoveryGuide_11-09-17.pdf

Regional

Bay Area Open Space Council on November 16th hosted a regional forum on fire recovery efforts. Invited speakers represented organizations whose lands were affected by the fires and were invited to discuss lessons from the experience and share ideas about moving forward to steward, rebuild and restore. Invitees included:

- Victoria Schlesinger, Moderator, Editor in Chief, *Bay Nature*
- David Shew, Staff Chief: Planning & Risk Analysis, State Fire Marshal, *Cal Fire*
- Sasha Berleman, Fire Ecologist, *Audubon Canyon Ranch*
- Sheri Emerson and/or Bill Keene, Stewardship Program Manager & General Manager, *Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District*

- Crystal Simons, Conservation Easement Program Manager, *Sonoma Land Trust*
- Mike Palladini, Stewardship Program Manager, *Land Trust of Napa County*
- Melanie Parker, Deputy Director, *Sonoma County Regional Parks*
- Cyndy Shafer, Natural Resource Program Mgr, *Ca. State Parks – Bay Area District*
- Lisa Micheli, President and CEO, *Pepperwood Foundation*
- Robert Doyle, General Manager, *East Bay Regional Park District*

More info: openspacecouncil.org/november-gathering-changed-wildfire-discussion/

NOTE: The Open Space council has uploaded a sound file for the November 16th program – listen to it by going to their website

A Watershed Recovery and Resilience Collaborative has recently been created by a number of our North Bay partners. The Collaborative is a countywide, multi-agency watershed recovery effort, with a focus on long-term resiliency of the natural and working lands. Together, this group will develop the *Sonoma County Recovery & Resiliency Plan for Natural and Working Lands*– a shared vision for short-term recovery and long-term strategies for watershed resiliency. High priority actions include health and human safety related to water quality, landslides, and flooding, as well as impacts to sensitive species and ecosystems, such as stream systems. The group includes the Sonoma County Water Agency, County Parks, UC Cooperative Extension, and state and federal resource agencies including the Regional Water Boards, California Fish and Wildlife, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and NOAA. The contact for this effort is Karen Gaffney, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District kgaffney@sonoma-county.org 707.565.7360

More info: www.sonomaopenspace.org/wp-content/uploads/20171030_WatershedRecovery.pdf

Sonoma County Water Agency

- Watershed and creek evaluations for increased runoff and sedimentation
- Focus on threats to public safety due to flooding
- Large woody debris monitoring
- Recording/monitoring baseline creek conditions (46 locations identified)
- Developing monitoring locations for repeat evaluations
- Identifying/clearing SCWA channel blockages
- Supporting Cal Fire Water Emergency Response Team [WERT]
- Currently evaluating how various watershed facilities have been (or will be) affected, including:
 - Brush Creek Reservoir
 - Piner Creek Reservoir
 - Matanzas Creek Reservoir
 - Santa Rosa Creek Diversion Structure
 - Spring Creek Diversion Structure
- Areas of concern for high flooding risk identified

Sonoma County Permit & Resource Management Department

- Coordinating with private landowners and regulatory agencies for bridge sediment and debris clearing
- Coordinating with Cal Fire WERT and regulatory agencies on guidance and recommendations for BMP selection/applicability – including what are best erosion control wattles, in various locations such as stormwater or culvert inlets

Federal/State

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

EPA is coordinating with federal, state and local agencies, including FEMA and the California Environmental Protection Agency, on response operations.

The agency has collected more than 8,300 containers of household hazardous waste in Napa and Sonoma counties as part of the multi-agency response to the Northern California fires. The items, which range in size from small paint canisters to large chemical drums, have been transported to EPA staging areas in Windsor and Yountville before disposal at hazardous waste facilities.

EPA is working with local, state and federal partners on the response to the Northern California fires. EPA has been tasked with surveying, collecting and disposing of household hazardous waste (HHW) in Napa and Sonoma counties. This work will allow other state and federal agencies to remove ash and other debris so that the rebuilding process in these communities can begin. Household hazardous waste includes leftover household products that are unstable, corrosive or toxic. Products such as paints, cleaners, solvents, oils, batteries, herbicides and pesticides can contain hazardous ingredients and require special handling and disposal.

Latest Actions:

- EPA has launched a new online tool for the public to track the agency's progress in both Napa and Sonoma counties.. The map is updated daily and available at: www.epa.gov/norcalfireresponse.
- EPA completed HHW collection in the Sonoma Coffey Park neighborhood on October 31, 2017. In Sonoma County, operations continue in the neighborhoods of Mark West, Larkfield-Wikiup, and Fountaingrove; teams have begun operations in Glen Ellen and Kenwood. Work is also ongoing at commercial, industrial and public parcels.
- In Napa County, EPA teams are working in the following areas: Silverado, Atlas Peak, Soda Canyon, Old Soda Springs Road, Mount Veeder Road, Redwood Road, Hardman Ave., Vichy Springs Road and Monticello Road.

More info: www.epa.gov/norcalfireresponse

U.S. Corp of Engineers – SF District

The homepage for the Corps SF District contains up-to-date information of flood risk reduction actions at both Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino. Additionally, information is provided about the Hamilton Field restoration work and the Sears Point levee breach. More info: www.spn.usace.army.mil/

California Water Resources Control Board Region 2 created a Fact Sheet for the October fires. CAL FIRE and California Geologic Survey have convened a Water Emergency Response Team (WERT). The WERT will rapidly assess the risks of landslides and flooding posed by the fire impacted zones. Multiple local agencies are working together, independently and in collaboration with CAL FIRE's WERT, to assess and reduce the risk of flooding and to prevent fire-related debris, pollutants and sediment from burned areas from being carried into our storm drains, creeks and rivers. These partners include the U.S. Forest Service, the State Department of Water Resources, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, the cities of Santa Rosa and Sonoma, the counties of Sonoma and Napa, the Sonoma County Water Agency, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Sonoma County Regional Parks, Sonoma County Department of Transportation and Public Works, Resource Conservation Districts, non-profit organizations and private partners. More info:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/publications_and_forms/available_documents/pdf/2017/fire_response_updated_10.30.17.pdf

They also created a list of **available grant funding** for fire response found here

www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/publications_and_forms/available_documents/pdf/171025_FireRecoveryFunds_Final.pdf

Cal Fire – Watershed Emergency Response Team (WERT)

- Debris cleanup
- Hazard identification and prioritization
- Downed tree removal and clean-up

USDA/NRCS

- Providing assistance and guidance to landowners to protect soil resources and water quality for croplands, rangelands, and private forest lands
- Providing on-site visits/assessments and BMP recommendations including mulching, seeding, grade stabilization, tree planting, etc.
- Coordinating federal funding to support landowners with these activities