

Chelsea by the Bay Home Owner's Association

Wildfire is a concern even to communities located near the San Francisco Bay. Discussions for a future Chelsea Wetlands restoration project provided an opportunity to look closely at the wildfire hazards adjacent to 118 homes in neighborhood called Chelsea by the Bay. Over 23 years ago the edge of the community had been densely landscaped with pines, eucalyptus and shrubs. Many of these plants were now aged and overgrown, with ladder fuels connecting them to adjacent to homes. Concerns included adjacent railroad tracks and multi-use trail that could lead to potential ignition of the wetland's seasonally dry grasses.

A site walk with the new Fire Chief from Rodeo Hercules Fire Protection District and Diablo Fire Safe Council coordinator helped refine project plans. Project work included limbing up eucalyptus and pine trees, removing decadent shrubs and 2 dead pine trees. Funding provided by a National Fire Plan grant from the USDA Forest Service through the California Fire Safe Council paid for the tree work. The homeowner matching work included weed whacking along the perimeter of the community.

Before



After



Project statistics

Address: O'Neil Circle, Hercules CA 94547

Acres treated: 0.9 acres

Project Funding: \$5,000

Project Match: \$1,800 + 20 hours

Contractor: Bay Area Tree Care, El Sobrante

Fire Department: Rodeo Hercules Fire Protection District

Homes directly treated: 18 adjacent to work (118 homes in community)

Community members protected: 400

