

Fuels Management - Scope of Work

Program Objectives

The Wildfire Fuels Management Program is designed to reduce the risk of point source wildfire ignitions in the High Fire Threat Districts ("HFTD") and protect the electrical infrastructure. This annual program consists of three primary components: 1) removal of dead/down material, 2) removal of all herbaceous vegetation ("fast fuels"), and 3) selective thinning of woody vegetation ("hot fuels") to reduce the vegetation cover within fifty feet (50') radius of select poles subject to California Public Resources Code 4292. Wildfire fuel management is targeted to be conducted at 500 structures (work sites) within the service territory per year.

The goal of fuels modification treatment is to reduce overall cover of native woody vegetation to less than 30%; to break up dense stands to create open spaces between vegetation; and to reduce lower ladder fuel load by pruning low branches on shrubs. Additional efforts include eliminating quick-ignition fuels, such as dry grasses and dead material, and removing vegetation in contact with the structure.

Fuels Management operations involve two general types of vegetation clearing: 1) Thinning – the initial treatment of fuels modification around a pole, and 2) Maintenance – sites where vegetation around poles have been previously treated.

Program Activities

The Fuels Management Program work activities consist of the following: 1) Project management (planning, scheduling, reporting, environmental monitoring, public outreach, and 2) Mechanical thinning of vegetation.

Project Management

The Project Management contractor is responsible for planning work activities, meetings, sub-contractor management, invoicing, budget tracking, and annual reporting associated with the project. Project Management also provides coordination with the fuels thinning contractor.

Public Outreach

In support of all field efforts associated with this program, the Project Management contractor conducts all public outreach tasks for engaging with property owners and the public, and facilitates customer authorization to perform work.

Scheduling and Field Logistics

The Project Management contractor manages scheduling and field logistics. Based on site conditions and vegetation component, a list of structures (poles) is selected each year to receive fuels modification. The selection is also influenced by vegetation regrowth patterns, and work frequency to determine whether a pole should be kept on a maintenance cycle.

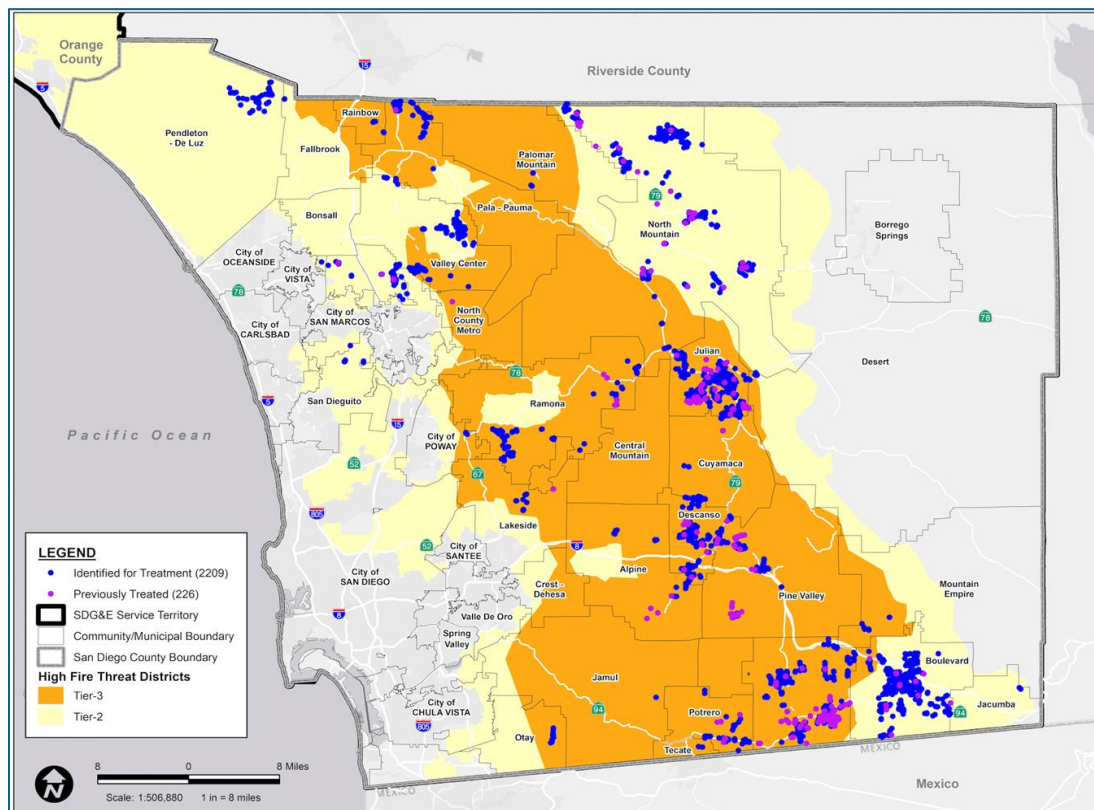
Environmental Monitoring

Within each treatment area, specific vegetation is retained for native biodiversity and habitat structure, whenever possible. Work site locations are previewed in the field to determine scope and feasibility, and are also pre-screened for environmental impact to determine any work exclusions or constraints. A biologist lead is present with each new treatment site, and is responsible for identifying the appropriate work area and thinning composite. The biologist lead is responsible for all data collection associated with site activities. The biologist also coordinates closely with the thinning crew to mitigate safety risks.

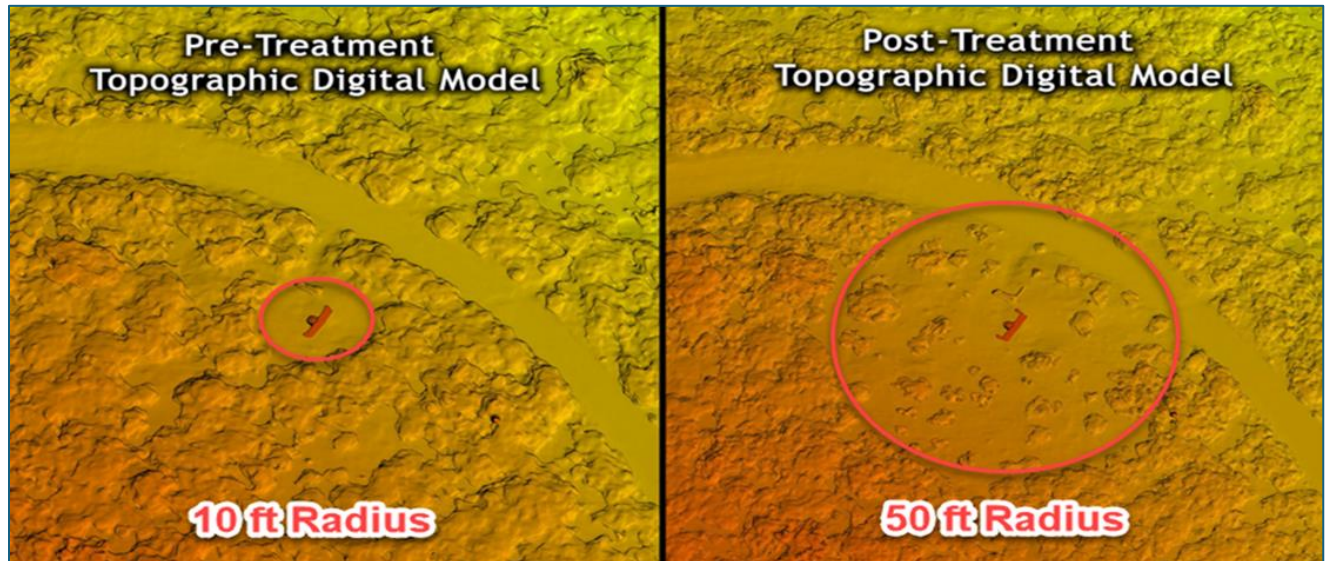
Data Management and Reporting

The Program Management contractor provides comprehensive program reporting for all activities including weekly summary reports, annual Program Activity report, and a final mitigation report.

Mapped Fuels Management Work Locations



Treatment Site - Digital Model



Fuels Modification Treatment – Before and After

