CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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CAL FIRE CZU to Conduct Prescribed Fire on San Francisco **Public Utilities Watershed Lands**

Felton - On Tuesday, October 4, 2022, weather permitting, CAL FIRE CZU will conduct a prescribed burn on an estimated 20 acres near Upper Crystal Springs Reservoir in San Mateo County to reduce fuel and lower the risk of a larger fire. This is a one-day burn. Smoke may be visible in Woodside, Belmont, Burlingame, Emerald Hills, San Carlos Hills, and parts of I-280 in San Mateo County. There will be extensive fire equipment and a helicopter on scene. There is no need to call 911.

This is the first broadcast burn larger than five acres in bayside San Mateo County in decades. This project is part of a larger plan to conduct prescribed fire in the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) watershed. The burn unit is filled with dead and dying coyote brush, which presents high fire danger. CAL FIRE CZU Forester Sarah Collamer says, "The goals are to reduce those fire fuels, and to reintroduce disturbance for plants and animals that are disturbance-dependent in the San Francisco watershed."

The SFPUC Peninsula Watershed is approximately 23,000 acres of land that collects drinking water in three reservoirs. The reservoirs serve about one million people in San Francisco and northern San Mateo County. The Peninsula Watershed supports the highest concentration of rare, threatened, and endangered species in the San Francisco Bay Area.

"We support CAL Fire and their efforts to reduce wildfire risk," says Tim Ramirez, Manager, SFPUC Natural Resources and Lands Management Division. "We value this important collaborative partnership."

For additional information on how to be prepared for wildfires, as well as tips to prevent wildfires, visit readyforwildfire.org.











