



El Dorado County Vegetation Management & Defensible Space Program



February 11, 2020

Ordinance and Implementation Update

- Activities to Date
- Ordinance Revisions
- Implementation Plan



Activities to Date

- Website

- Ordinance
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Defensible Space Resources & Links

<https://www.edcgov.us/Government/CAO/VegetationManagement>

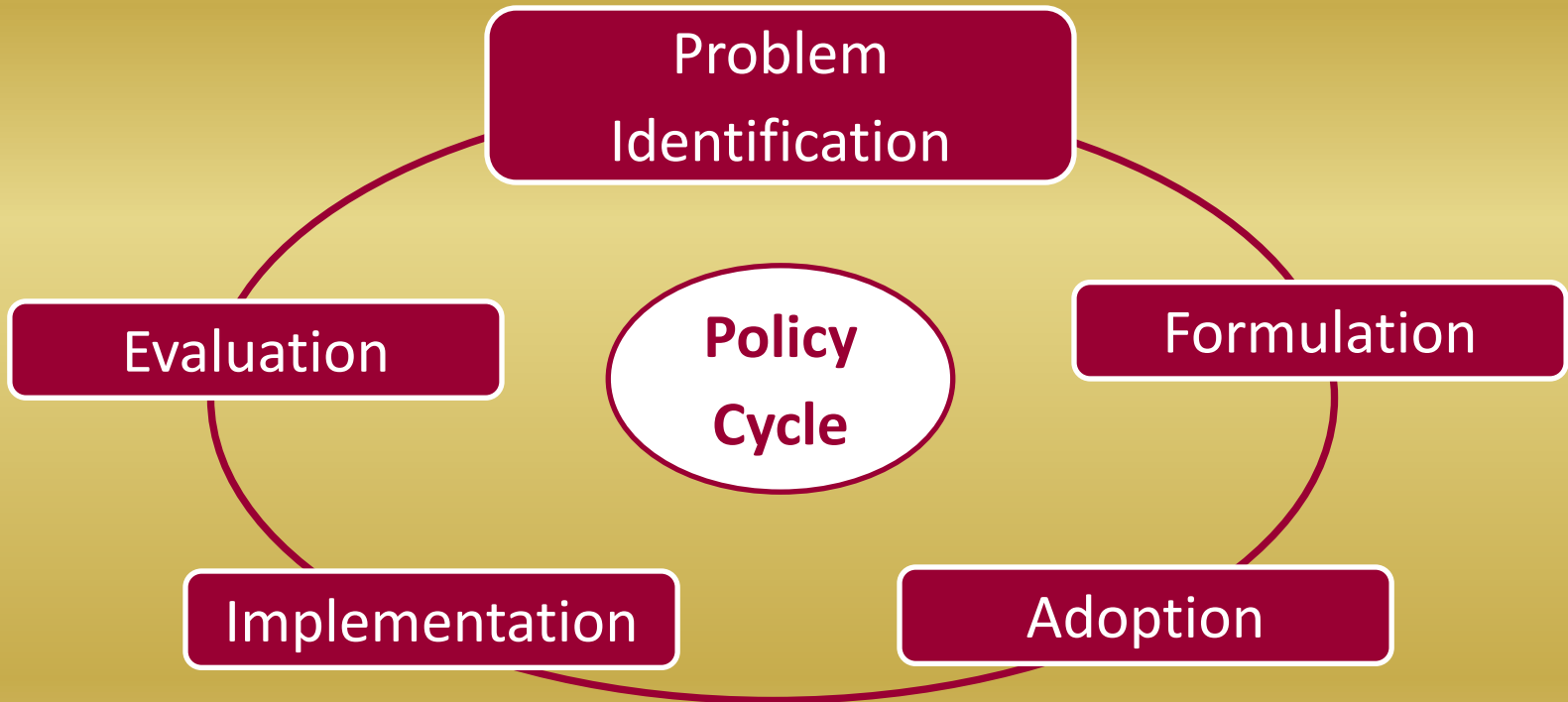
- Hotline

- Recorded Information
- Staff Responds to all Messages

Activities to Date

- Property Tax Mailer
- Real Estate Disclosure
- Community Meetings & Presentations
- Stakeholder-Informed Review of Ordinance
 - Public
 - CAL FIRE
 - Local Fire Agencies
 - Fire Safe Councils
 - County Counsel

Ordinance Revisions



Ordinance Revisions

- More Flexible Timeframes
 - Allows for adjustments in response to workload
 - Reduces risk of appeals
 - Commitment to provide ample notice before June 1 compliance deadline
- Clarify Roles for Centralized, Uniform Enforcement
 - Investigative Official
 - Enforcement Official-May be delegated via MOU
- Refine & Update Definitions
 - County Emphasis Area
 - Wildfire Risk Area
- Educational Program Option on First Violation

Implementation: Collaborators

Quarterly meetings of Collaborators Group

- CAL FIRE
- Local Fire Agencies
- Fire Safe Councils
- Resource Conservation District
- Air Quality Management District
- Agriculture Department
- Environmental Management Department
- County Counsel
- All are welcome!

Implementation: Fire Agencies

Working group consisting of County staff, CAL FIRE, and local fire agencies tasked with:

- Coordinating messaging and education efforts
 - Common forms, letters, etc.
- Coordinating inspection efforts of all agencies
- Developing process for County enforcement on properties inspected by CAL FIRE and local fire agencies
- Developing process for handling citizen complaints
- Ensuring uniform and comprehensive data collection and reporting
 - Use of CAL FIRE Collector Application

Implementation: Planned Inspections

- Notice to property owners in County Emphasis Areas (CEAs) to be mailed by February 15, 2020
- County inspectors in CEAs (Approximately 600 parcels)
 - Request to add one FTE Defensible Space Inspector I/II
 - One Extra Help Defensible Space Inspector I/II
- CAL FIRE in CAL FIRE Target Hazard Areas
 - Defensible Space Inspectors
 - Engine Crews
- Local fire agencies in Wildfire Risk Areas (WRA)
 - Coordinate with CAL FIRE and County on coverage

Implementation: Enforcement

- Emphasis on education and compliance
- Variety of enforcement options
 - Citation
 - Meet and Confer
 - Forced Abatement



Implementation: Continuing Education

- Inspection and enforcement efforts as educational opportunities
- Staff is available to attend community meetings
- Website and hotline will be kept up to date with useful information
- Staff continues to monitor legislation and activities and programs in other jurisdiction

KNOW THE LAW
BE FIRE SMART

Implementation: Challenges

- The Unknown
 - Volume of re-inspections
 - Volume of citizen complaints
 - Administrative needs related to appeals, etc.
- Resources
 - Homeowners may struggle with financial burden of compliance
 - County budget is constrained, limiting staff resources
 - Local agency budgets are constrained, limiting their resources to assist
- Side Effects of Compliance
 - Green waste disposal

Evaluation

- Collaborator Meetings
- Fire Agency Working Group
- Public Input
- Annual reports detailing efforts of all involved agencies

Funding

- Current year: \$291,000 General Fund
- Staff research into other county programs
 - Primarily funded through discretionary sources such as ad valorem property tax and transient occupancy tax
 - Some considering seeking sales tax increases or benefit assessments
 - Grant funding not sustainable for administration and enforcement
 - » Grants typically for larger, multi-agency, landscape-scale projects
 - » CAL FIRE grant funding can't be used to assist with enforcement of, or compliance with, defensible space requirements on privately owned parcels

Thank you