# SAN BENITO WILDFIRE



# RESILIENCE PROGRAM

Photo by Martha Skelly

**What is the San Benito Wildfire Resilience Program?** The San Benito Wildfire Resilience Program (SBWRP) represents the efforts and cooperation of several local, state, and federal organizations and agencies working together to address wildfire risks, and improve wildfire preparedness in San Benito County.

**How is this work funded?**

In 2023, a block grant was awarded to the State Coastal Conservancy through the California Department of Conservation. This has funded the development of the CWPP, RPP, and capacity building initiatives for University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), San Benito Resource Conservation District (SBRCD), and San Benito Agricultural Land Trust (SBALT).

**What work are we doing?**

SBWRP has updated and developed the following key fire prevention initiatives utilizing public input from the community:

**Update of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)-** Last updated in 2010, this living document will serve as a roadmap for assessing wildfire hazards and identifying mitigation strategies in San Benito County.

The CWPP outlines high-priority strategies such as enhancing community education, collaborating with Tribes on cultural burns, reducing hazardous fuels, constructing and maintaining fuel breaks, managing invasive species, and supporting post-fire ecosystem recovery. It emphasizes both immediate risk reduction and long-term landscape resilience, with an emphasis on community involvement.



Community meeting held to gather input for the CWPP in 2024.

**Developing a Regional Priority Plan (RPP)-** This strategic regional plan will identify, prioritize, and map out wildfire risk reduction efforts aimed at protecting natural resources and communities. The RPP will not only list projects, but also define implementation leads, funding strategies, and track implementation readiness. Having an RPP is a key requirement for continuing and expanding the county's eligibility for funding of wildfire mitigation related projects.