



*"To provide education, exchange information and foster emergency preparedness, fire prevention and safety in and around the East Orange County foothill and canyon communities."*

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## **FIRE SAFE COUNCIL EAST ORANGE COUNTY CANYONS AWARDED WILDFIRE FUEL REDUCTION GRANT**

SILVERADO, CALIFORNIA – The Fire Safe Council East Orange County Canyons, a recognized Firewise Community, has received grant funding to help perform fuel reduction work along Santiago Canyon Road SR-18. Funding for this project is being provided by a grant from the Cooperative Fire Program of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture Pacific Southwest Region through the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC). CFSC received 139 applications of which 51 projects were awarded, totaling approximately \$4,422,086.

Formed as an independent organization in 2012, Fire Safe Council East Orange County Canyons (FSCEOCC) is proud to have received funding to help with this project. During the Santiago Fire of 2007, eucalyptus trees along Santiago Canyon Road caught fire, resulting in a canyon-wide evacuation, loss of homes in Williams and Modjeska Canyons, and the need by 12 Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) firefighters to quickly deploy fire shelters to save their lives.

These non-native eucalyptus trees planted years ago to block the view of a sand-and-gravel quarry are under a 220-kilovolt transmission line, which is also of concern. This grant will help improve fire safety for the canyon communities; secure a robust power grid for Southern California; and improve the view for travelers along Santiago Canyon Road. FSCEOCC intends to partner with Southern California Edison and Orange County Parks to best define the work plan to take place over a 24-month period including compliance with applicable federal, state and local regulations.

The Fire Safe Council East Orange County Canyons includes the foothill and canyon communities from the 241 toll road south beyond Trabuco. The FSCEOCC is a 501(c)3 organization open to all local residents and stakeholders. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Tax-deductible donations will help to support community services.

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For more information about Fire Safe Council East Orange County Canyons or to schedule an interview, please contact FSCEOCC President Mary Schreiber by sending an email to [mary@fsceocc.org](mailto:mary@fsceocc.org)