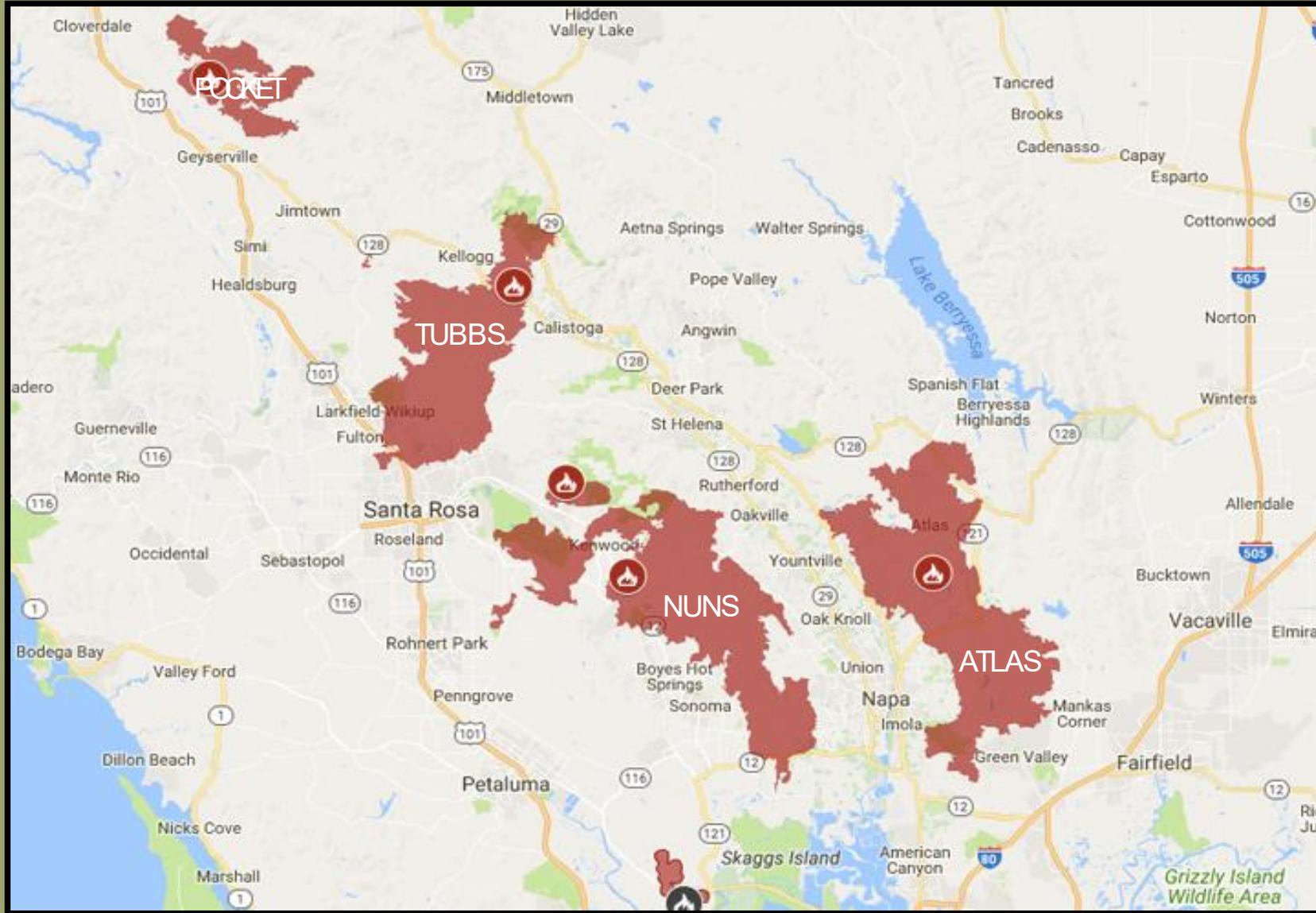


Sonoma County Complex Fires October 2017 Debris Management

TRISH PISENTI, INTERIM DEPUTY DIRECTOR
COUNTY OF SONOMA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS



Sonoma County Complex Wildfires



Sonoma County Aftermath

- 
- 6957 Structures Destroyed
 - 110,720 Acres
 - 24 Fatalities
 - 9 Medical Facilities Evacuated
 - 3 Mobile Home Parks
 - 2 Acute Care Hospitals Evacuated
 - 4 Schools Destroyed



Emergency Declarations

- Local Emergency Proclamation (10/9/2017)
- Joint Proclamation of Health Emergency (10/10/2017)
- Health Officer Order (10/23/2017)
- Emergency Ordinance for Private Cleanup
- Multiple LEA Waivers
- Emergency Debris Management Permitting Process (established by Regional Water Quality Control Board)



Transition To Recovery



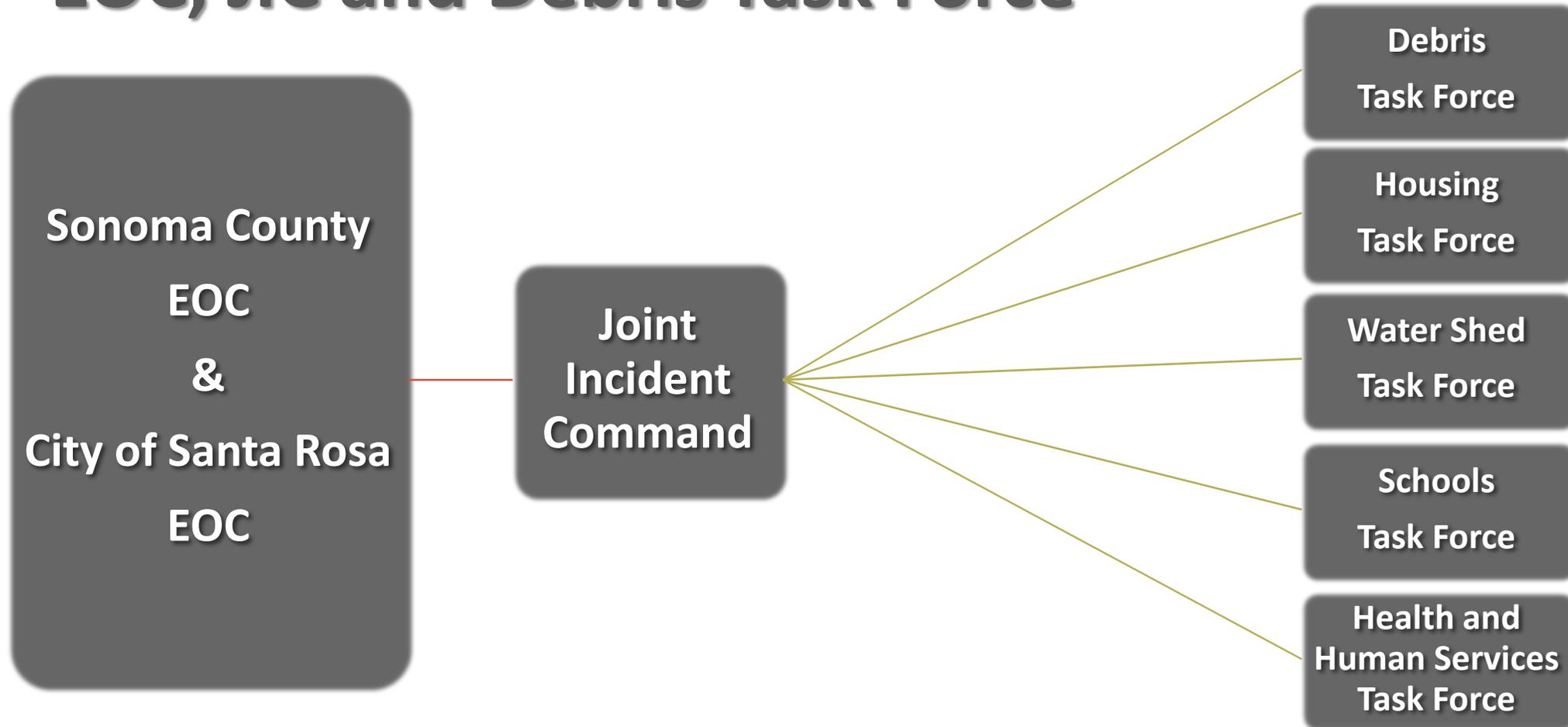
Organizing Chaos

- Multiple agencies to coordinate
- FEMA, CAL OES, USEPA, USACE, County of Sonoma, City of Santa Rosa
- Conflicting meetings, limited meeting rooms, and announced meetings



Transition To Recovery

EOC, JIC and Debris Task Force



Transition to Recovery

Debris Task Force

- Who to include, lead agency decision makers
- Coordination between four leads (Federal, State, County, & City,)
- Role of local government

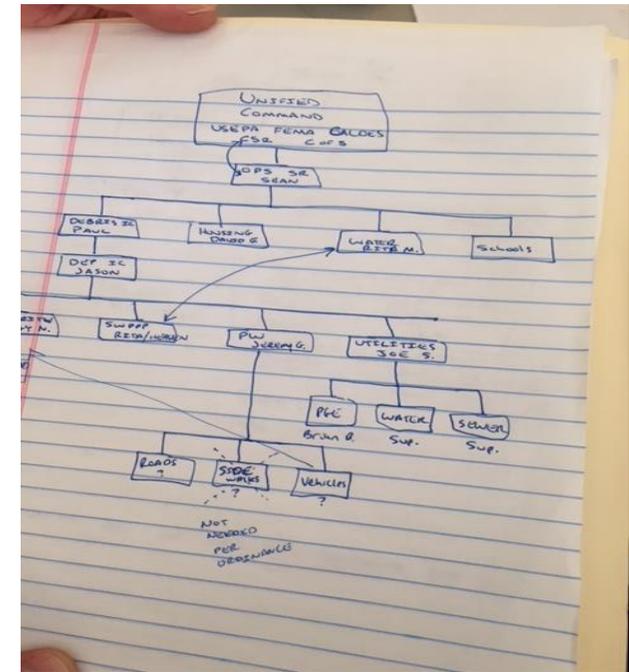


Debris Task Force

Met 7 days a week, multiple times a day at the beginning

Our purpose:

- Set goals for fast recovery and environmental protection
- Track action items
- Make decisions
- Hold people accountable



Debris Task Force



Debris Task Force

Community Outreach

Joint Information Center used for fire, transitioned to recovery and supported Debris Task Force

- Town Hall & Community Meetings (over 100), FAQs, Website
- www.sonomacountyrecovers.org
- Complexity of incident created messaging challenges (information and direction changing hourly/daily).
- All forms, applications & guidance documents
- Media/Press Releases
- USACE Debris Removal Hotline



Debris Task Force

Local Implementation

Phase 1 – HHW

- Mutual Aid Requests for CUPA & EHS Staff
- US EPA to provide HHW clean up to all parcels
- Pesticides, batteries, paint, car parts, appliances, etc.
- Asbestos, heavy metals, PCBs, etc.
- Right -of- Entry Form (ROE) not required for HHW



Debris Task Force

Local Implementation

Phase 2 – Fire Debris Removal

- Either Public or Private – But pursuant to a single standard
 - 3,700 Public Program Participants
 - Right of Entry Form required
 - 1,200 Private Cleanups
 - Opting in & out timelines
 - GIS used to manage cleanup status



Debris Task Force

Local Implementation

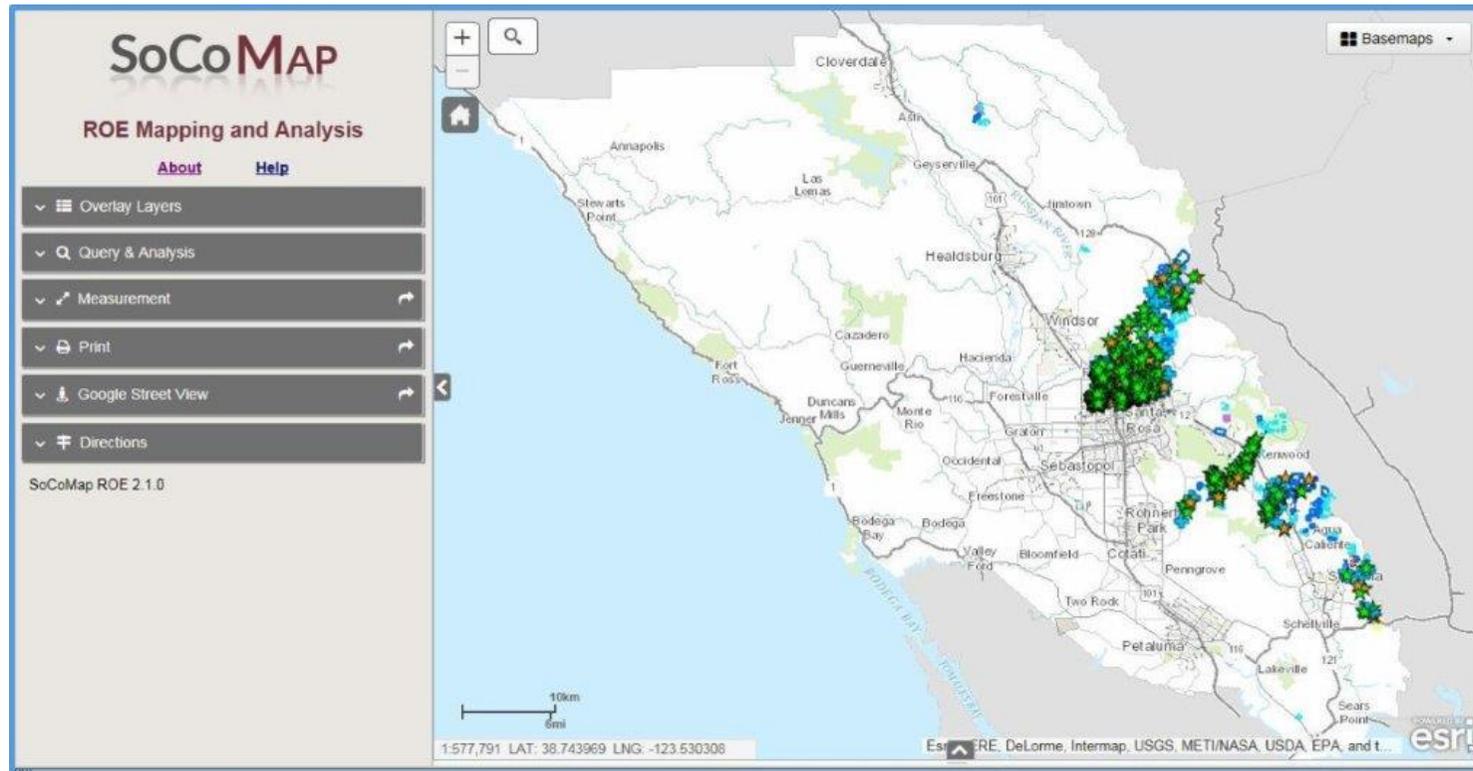
- ROE Processing Center opened October 25th
- Open 7 days a week (9am – 6pm)
- Staffing Requirement (additional 20-40 days)
- 5,000 ROE Processed
- 1,200 Private opt outs processed by City and County (Residential and Commercial)



Debris Task Force

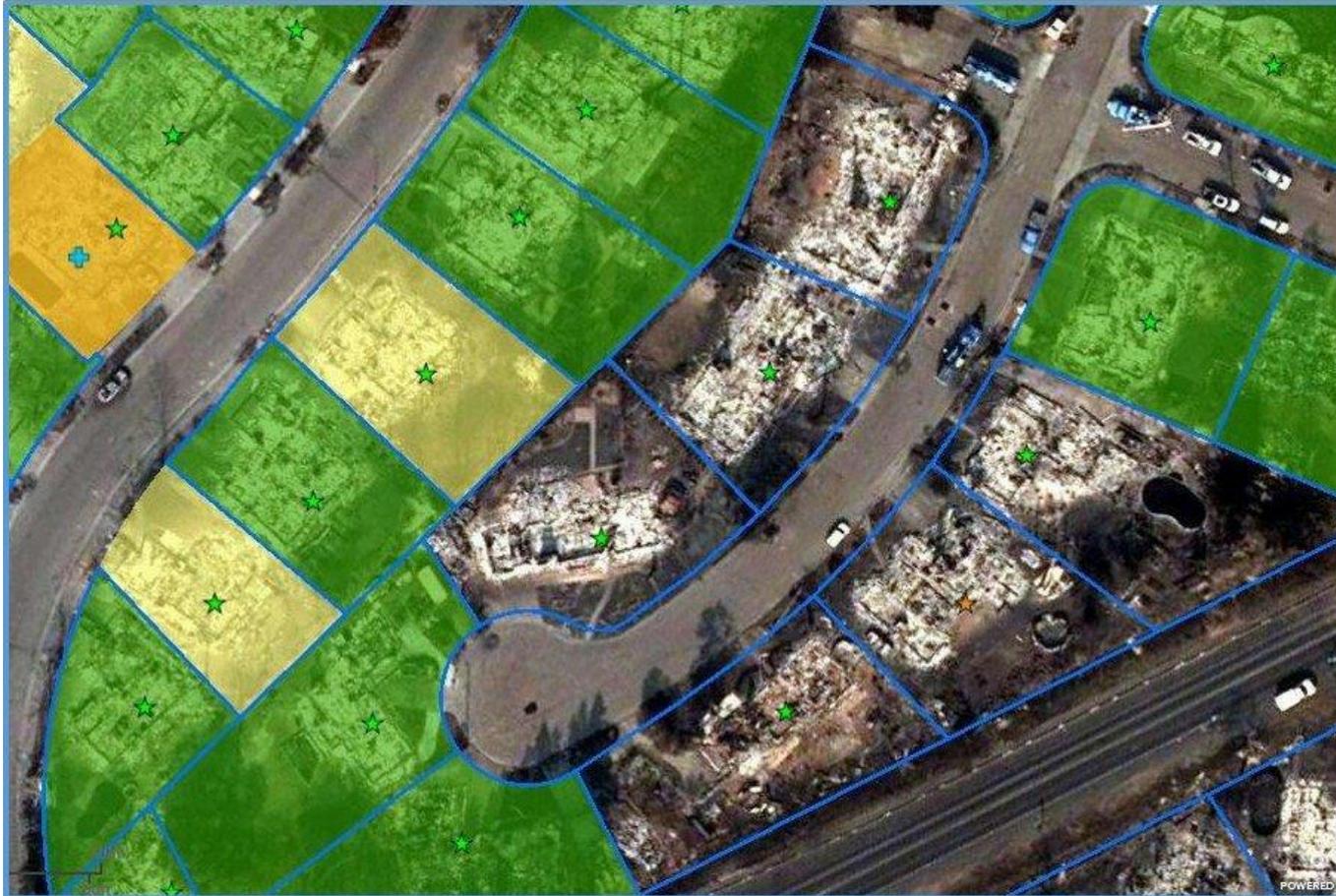
Local Implementation

Internal web based mapping app to display data related to processing and clean up of structures within Sonoma County



Debris Task Force

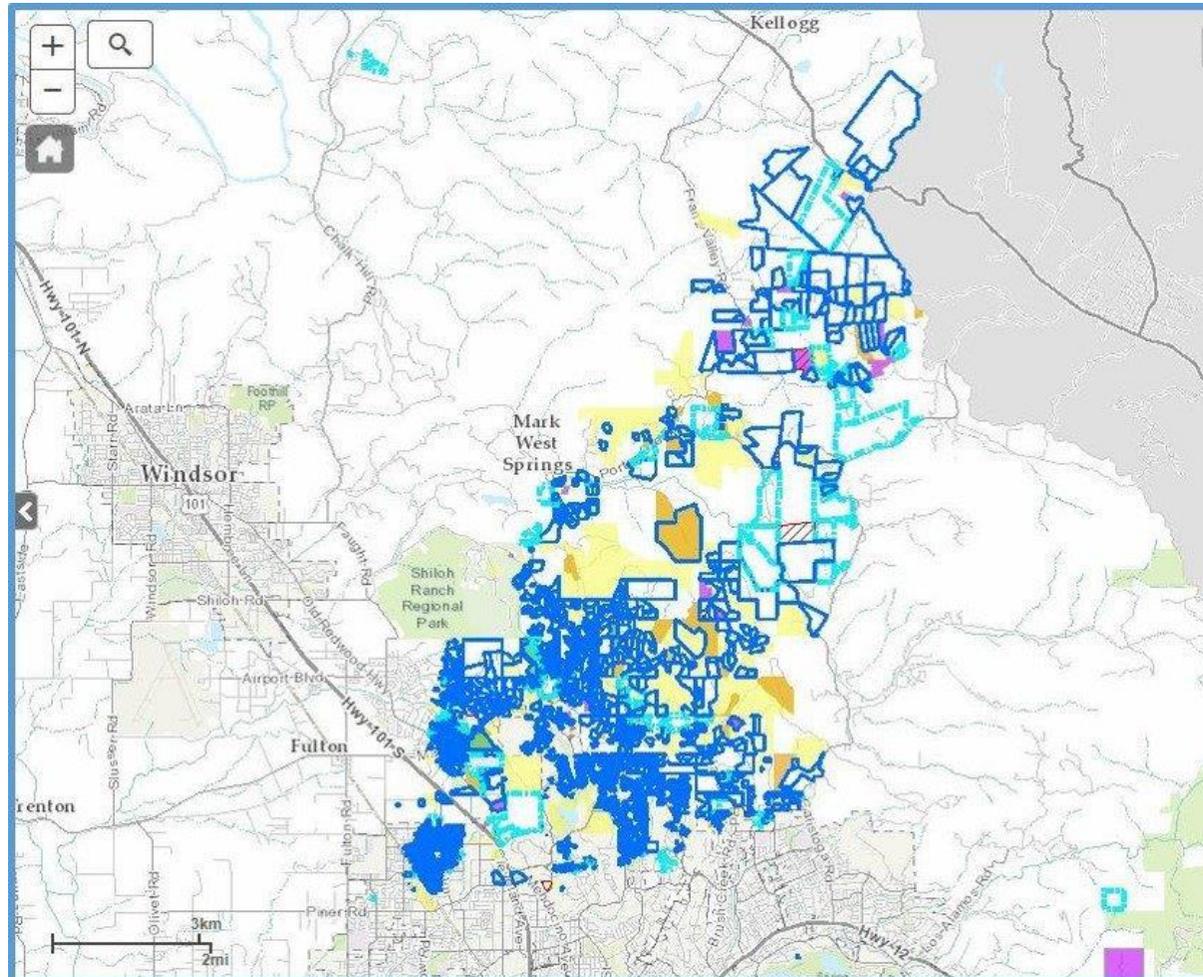
Local Implementation



An app allows the user to view parcel status on cleanup, as well as aerial photos taken after the fire and CalFire Damage Assessment layers.

Debris Task Force

Local Implementation



ROE Status

- ROE Completed Applications
 - Non Qualified ROE
 - Qualified ROE
- No ROE or OptOut Application
 -
- Opt Out Cleared Parcels
 -
- Opt Out ROE Applications
 -
- USACE Cleared Parcels
 -
- Exempt Parcels
 -
- Court Abatement Proceedings (Parcels)
 -
- Canceled Qualified ROE With No OptOut Submitted
 -



Debris Task Force Challenges

- Wildfires are not new to California
- Complexity of Sonoma County fires
- Two weeks of destruction
- Density
- Largest debris operations mission in California history



Debris Task Force Challenges

Vehicles

- 4,000-5,000 vehicles
- Contracts to remove vehicles from right of way
- Multiple law enforcement agencies
- Staging areas for vehicles
- Public Works coordination to clear debris fields
 - Street sweeping after vehicles removed



Debris Task Force

Challenges

Ash, Concrete, Metals and Soils

- 2.2 million tons of fire debris removed and taken to local landfills or recycling facilities
- Approximately 20% of fire debris was recycled (concrete, metals, & soils)



Debris Task Force

Challenges

Green Waste

- 5,000 plus properties
 - Everyone needs their trees removed
 - Chipper Programs
- Hazardous Tree Removals
 - Firefighting, repopulation, utility needs, water shed, TPW, debris removal
 - Sonoma County TPW \$1.2M tree and debris removal and erosion control
 - Airport closed landfill used for staging green waste



Debris Task Force

Challenges

- Landfill Capacity
- Vehicle Permitting – 600 trucks
- Multiple Waivers



Debris Task Force

Issues

- Best Management Practices (BMPs), installing, maintenance, replacement, complaints, and non-profits
- 1,400 Locations in Santa Rosa alone



Debris Task Force

Issues

- Street cleaning, sweeping, identifying responsible parties, complaints, fire debris...



Debris Task Force

Complaint Handling

- City – mysantarosa app
- County – web based portal
- USACE Debris Hotline
- Elected Officials (City County, Board of Supervisors)
 - Correctly routing complaints to Debris Task Force
- Debris Task Force handling daily (Mon-Fri)



Debris Task Force

Lessons Learned

- There's a need for a Rapid Response Team similar to an Incident Management Team, but specific to helping the CUPA, Environmental Health and others know what they need to start thinking about.
- Update disaster debris management plan.
- Update on-call procurement contracts.
- Local government involvement with planning and contracting services.
- Aggressive goals impacted quality control, safety, and cost.



Debris Task Force

Current Status & Ongoing Activities

- Debris Task Force continues to meet weekly
- County Hotline established
- Over Excavation Project
- Unresolved issues from property owners
- Sonoma County currently contracting tree removal along county roads – 1,000 trees deemed extreme and high risk
- 9,700 trees deemed moderate risks to county roads

