

Award Announcement

2023 Southern California Edison Capacity Building Grants

\$170,000.00

Funding 2 projects in the Southern California Edison service area.

JANUARY 31, 2025



*Funding provided by Southern California Edison,
a subsidiary of Edison International.*

Funding Summary

\$170,000 | 2 Grants Awarded



Award Announcement

California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) is pleased to announce the grant awards for the 2023 Community Fire-Safe Capacity-Building Grant Program. Funding for this program is provided by CFSC from Edison International.

The CFSC awarded a combined total of \$170,000 in grant funds to Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council and Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council to improve their capacity to lead wildfire readiness initiatives in their respective counties.

“These organizations have demonstrated local and regional leadership preparing their communities for wildfire as well as excelled in our County Coordinator program for the past three years. We are confident that an investment in these organizations will greatly benefit Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties in their community wildfire mitigation goals.”

~ Jessica Martinez, Deputy Director, CFSC

Goals and Strategy

Edison International funding supports CFSC’s strategy of investing in community-based organizations to advance federal, state, and regional goals for wildfire resiliency. These local organizations are often essential partners and have a proven track record of mobilizing efforts to create fire-adapted communities by:

- Leading countywide collaborative planning, improving interagency coordination, and reducing duplication.
- Engaging the public in wildfire prevention and mitigation education programs and working to ensure equity in community safety.
- Securing funding for hazardous fuels reduction and maintenance and home hardening initiatives.
- Providing technical assistance to local partners working within the wildfire preparedness space.



The Awards

2023 Southern California Edison Capacity-Building Grants



Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council

Award Amount: \$85,000

Tracking # 487228



The Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council (SBCFSC) was formed in 1997 to unify public and private organizations in Santa Barbara County to educate, motivate and coordinate to minimize losses associated with wildfires. Since its founding, the SBCFSC has worked to promote wildfire safety throughout Santa Barbara County through education and action.



With collaboration as a pillar of their work, much of SBCFSC's efforts center around bringing neighborhood and agency resources together, assembling and sharing critical information, supporting planning processes and actively engaging new partners. Evidence of this is their involvement in developing the Regional Wildfire Mitigation Program (RWMP) - a holistic, cross-discipline approach to wildfire mitigation and regional resilience that addresses communities, landscapes, and the built environment.



The SBCFSC has experienced profound growth since 2021, going from a staff of one to a staff of six, and from managing one grant to managing eight grants with more than 10 associated programs. The 23 SCE Capacity Building Grant has been awarded to support SBCFSC's increasing fiduciary responsibility, to help them maintain a focus on collaboration, and to ensure leadership and staff are equipped with the knowledge and tools necessary for next-level impact. The grant will support SBCFSC's growth in the following areas:



- Staffing to support collaboration, outreach, and administration
- Staff training
- Leadership development
- Conference attendance to acquire actionable industry insights
- Board development, training, and meeting facilitation
- Community engagement and partner cultivation



The Awards

2023 Southern California Edison
Capacity-Building Grants



Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council

Award Amount: \$85,000

Tracking # 486577



The Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council (VRFSC) is a grassroots community-led nonprofit organization that mobilizes residents to protect their homes, communities, and environments from catastrophic wildfire, through collaborative planning, programs, mitigation and education.

As Ventura's only countywide Fire Safe Council, VRFSC is uniquely positioned to take a holistic, comprehensive approach to wildfire resilience across geographic, cultural, and economic boundaries. This includes working with a wide array of regional stakeholders, including leading the Ventura County Wildfire Collaborative.

VRFSC coordinates all wildfire mitigation efforts across numerous organizations throughout the county. This includes seeking funding to support the efforts of local FSCs, and providing technical assistance on financial systems, grant writing, and other challenging aspects of nonprofit management. At times these efforts span beyond Ventura County's borders.

VRFSC facilitates the creation of Firewise USA communities in Ventura County and coordinates a robust array of programs such as chipping, home wildfire assessments, and more.

To further strengthen the VRFSC's capacity to continue serving the wildfire planning and mitigation needs in Ventura County, the 23 SCE Capacity Building Grant has been awarded to support the following:

- FSC needs assessment
- Technical assistance services
- Operational costs
- Staffing and professional development
- Financial systems and processes
- Community outreach





Southern California Edison Wildfire Resilience Funding

Since 2018, the California Fire Safe Council has partnered with Edison International to provide more than \$737,000 in grants to organizations in the Southern California Edison service territory.

With grant funding from Edison International, the California Fire Safe Council has dispersed more than \$737,000 to 39 nonprofits and community-based wildfire mitigation organizations in the Southern California Edison region. The grants have helped build wildfire resilience by improving the recipients' capacity for leading, staffing, planning, organizing and implementing wildfire readiness within their communities.



“[An SCE capacity] grant has given us the ability to fully function as a Fire Safe Council and make lasting impacts on the communities of Kern County. We were also able to contract with experts in non-profits, accounting and information technology.”

~ Kern Fire Safe Council, former SCE Capacity Grant Recipient



Contact Us

CALIFORNIA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

730 I STREET #236
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

(916) 648-3600
INFO@CAFIRESAFECOUNCIL.ORG
WWW.CAFIRESAFECOUNCIL.ORG



Join us in creating a more wildfire resilient California!