

CITY OF VENTURA

NEWS RELEASE

501 Poli Street
Ventura, CA 93001

For Immediate Release

February 1, 2018

Contact: Joe Yahner, (805) 652-4558

Erosion Control and Fire-Safe Landscaping Class, February 7

The City of Ventura Public Works Department is hosting an Erosion Control and Fire-Safe Landscaping Class on February 7, 2018, from 7-9pm in the Wright Event Center at Ventura College, 4667 Telegraph Road, Ventura. This free class will help property owners make informed decisions about erosion and sediment control implementation as well as fire-safe landscape planning post-Thomas Fire.

Residents are encouraged to attend and learn about post-fire best management practices and important factors to consider when managing wildfire impacted landscapes. Featured speakers Rich Casale and Sabrina L. Drill, Ph.D. will provide information on the best techniques for handling soil erosion, how to prepare for coming rains, and fire-safe landscape practices. The presentation will also include a question and answer period to address individual issues or concerns.

High intensity wildfires such as the Thomas Fire can cause extremely high erosion rates and the effects can be felt for a long time. Residents are encouraged to plan ahead and keep your home and property safe from potential debris flows and erosion that could occur this winter.

Free parking for the class is available on the streets surrounding the College; attendees can also park in the East and West Lots of Ventura College for \$2.00.

***Rich Casale** is a recently retired United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employee who served as a NRCS natural resource conservationist for nearly 43 years in California. Rich is a Certified Professional Erosion and Sediment Control Specialist. He has extensive erosion and sediment control planning and on-the-ground experience having assisted thousands of land users with their needs on a wide variety of land uses including the 2017 Sonoma County Fires.*

***Sabrina L. Drill Ph.D.** is the Natural Resources Advisor for University of California Cooperative Extension in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Her current areas of research and education include fire ecology in the wildland/urban interface, conservation of aquatic habitats, restoration of urban streams, invasive species, and watershed/land use planning and habitat conservation.*

This release is available on the City of Ventura website at www.cityofventura.ca.gov.###