Post-Fire Effects at Calabazas Creek
Open Space Preserve and District Mark West Properties
Assessing burn severity in the field

- Amount of organic material consumed and changes to soil structure
- Correlation with vegetation mortality depends on species
- Identifying erosion potential and tracking vegetation response

- Substrate and Vegetation
  - 1) scorched
  - 2) lightly burned
  - 3) moderately burned
  - 4) heavily burned
Moderate severity fire in conifer forest
High severity fire in conifer forest
Moderate burn severity in chaparral

• Average burn interval ~70 years (but highly variable)

• Fires typically stand replacing

• Shrub species well adapted to periodic fire
High burn severity in chaparral
Chaparral resprouting after fire
Calabazas Creek Preserve: moderate fire in chaparral
Moderate fire in grasslands
Low-severity understory fire near riparian zone
Cresta/McCullough: moderate fire in mixed hardwood and chaparral, moderate to high-severity fire in mixed conifer forest
Low to moderate-severity fire in mixed oak and oak savannah