

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Riverside Unit

2026 Fire Plan



UNIT CHIEF ROBERT FISH

Mission Statement

The CAL FIRE / Riverside County Fire Department is a public agency dedicated to protecting life, property and the environment through professionalism, integrity, and efficiency

Vision Statement

The CAL FIRE / Riverside County Fire Department is committed to exemplary customer service and will be a leader in fire protection and emergency services through continuous improvement, innovation, and the most efficient and responsible use of resources.

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SIGNATURE PAGE

Unit Fire Plan developed for the Riverside Unit:

This Plan is collaboratively developed. Interested parties, Federal, State, City, and County agencies within the Unit have been consulted and are listed in the plan. Identifies and prioritize pre-fire and post-fire management strategies and tactics meant to reduce the loss of values at risk within the Unit. It is intended for use as a planning and assessment tool only. It is the responsibility of those implementing the projects to ensure that all environmental compliance and permitting processes are met as necessary.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Fish", written over a horizontal line.

Unit Chief
(Robert Fish)

June 24, 2026

Date

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evan Bernardo", written over a horizontal line.

Pre Fire Engineer
(Evan Bernardo)

April 15, 2026

Date

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The CAL FIRE Riverside Unit operates within Riverside County and partners with numerous contract city and county fire departments to carry out CAL FIRE's mission to serve and safeguard the people, property, and natural resources of California. This mission is fulfilled through the protection of State Responsibility Areas (SRA), contracted cities, and public watershed throughout the Unit.

The 2026 Riverside Unit Fire Plan reflects the ongoing State of Emergency within Riverside County's SRA. Unit personnel, in coordination with the Riverside County Emergency Management Department, continue working diligently to develop strategies that reduce the potential for large, damaging wildfires and mitigate their impact on local communities.

Riverside County has experienced prolonged drought conditions and significant large-fire growth. Mountain communities such as Idyllwild, Garner Valley, and Pine Cove known for old-growth forests have been severely affected by invasive pests including the Bark Beetle and the Golden Spotted Oak Borer. These infestations have caused widespread mortality in mature timber stands as well as younger forest growth. Similarly, large fire events have converted vast areas of Western and Central Riverside County from chaparral dominated landscapes to fast burning grasslands.

Tribal communities within Riverside County have also been disproportionately impacted by destructive wildfires and tree mortality. The Golden Spotted Oak Borer remains a critical concern, particularly due to its threat to culturally and spiritually significant old-growth oak species. Adjacent federal lands converted to wilderness areas further complicate vegetation management and emergency access considerations.

Years of drought and repeated wildfire cycles have altered natural vegetation patterns, degrading fire adapted ecosystems and replacing them with landscapes prone to rapid fire spread. Historically, Riverside Unit Fire Plans emphasized the San Jacinto Mountain communities, where numerous pre-fire projects have been implemented within SRA lands. However, fuel-reduction priorities have shifted toward the expanding Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), where rapid housing development within SRA boundaries has increased community vulnerability.

The Riverside Unit and the Riverside County Fire Department continue to collaborate closely with private, tribal, local, state, federal, and county partners to develop and implement projects that address the needs of the public. Expansion of pre-fire initiatives into the Anza, Sage, Aguanga, and Lake Elsinore front country areas has begun, with an emphasis on evacuation routes and community defense zones. Several cooperative projects have already been completed, and many more are underway.

Fuel treatment efforts on Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Preserves and other SRA public lands have increased, enhancing habitat for wildlife and protecting threatened plant and animal species displaced by development. Collaborative work between CAL FIRE and the Preserves has contributed to the successful removal of the Stephens kangaroo rat from the endangered species list, demonstrating the ecological benefits of sustained fuels management and habitat stewardship.

SECTION I: UNIT OVERVIEW

UNIT DESCRIPTION

The Riverside Unit of CAL FIRE covers all Riverside County and is part of CAL FIRE's Southern Region. It shares borders with San Bernardino County to the north, Arizona to the east, San Diego and Imperial Counties to the south, and Orange County to the west. Riverside County is in Southern California and home to over 2.58 million people, making it the fourth-largest county in California and the 10th-largest in the country. It stretches over 7,200 square miles, reaching from the Los Angeles area all the way to the Arizona border. Riverside County is part of the Inland Empire a region that includes the cities of Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ontario. It's also linked to the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area.

Predominant Vegetation Types

- **Chaparral** – Dense, woody shrubs typical of Southern California foothills and mountains; highly flammable, especially in dry seasons.
- **Grasslands** – Annual and perennial grasses, often dry and cured by summer, providing fast-moving fire fuels.
- **Oak Woodlands** – Scattered trees with understory shrubs and grasses; moderate fire risk depending on fuel load.
- **Mixed Conifer and Pine Forests** – Found at higher elevations, with ladder fuels that can carry ground fires into the canopy.
- **Riparian and Urban-Interface Vegetation** – Includes ornamental landscaping, invasive species, and brush near homes and communities.

Condition of Vegetative Fuels

- High to extreme fire risk during the dry season due to prolonged drought, high temperatures, and low humidity. Cured grasses and dense chaparral create continuous fuel beds that can rapidly carry fire.
- Some areas are overgrown or under-managed, increasing the likelihood of high-intensity fires.
- Fuel conditions vary by microclimate, elevation, and recent management (e.g., fuel breaks or controlled burns).
- The Riverside Unit's fuels are predominantly chaparral, grass, and forested areas, with highly flammable conditions, especially in summer and fall, creating a significant wildfire hazard that requires proactive management.

General Topography

The Riverside Unit covers diverse terrain, including:

- Mountain ranges: San Jacinto, Santa Rosa, and portions of the San Bernardino Mountains.
- Hills and foothills: Transitional zones between urban areas and wildlands.
- Valleys and lowlands: Riverside Plain, Coachella Valley, and areas along the Santa Ana River.

- Desert areas: Eastern parts near Joshua Tree and the Coachella Valley. This rugged, varied terrain influences fire spread, complicates access for firefighters, and creates microclimates that can accelerate fire behavior.

Predominant Weather Patterns

- Hot, Dry Summer temperatures often exceed 90–110°F (32–43°C). Low humidity and drought conditions dry out vegetation, creating highly flammable fuels.
- Santa Ana Winds (Fall/Winter) Strong, dry, offshore winds originating from the northeast can rapidly spread fires, push flames into urban areas, and make containment extremely difficult.
- Occasional Winter and Spring Rain is sporadic, mainly in winter and early spring, promoting vegetation growth that later becomes cured fuel in summer.
- Temperature and Humidity Variability Mountain slopes and valleys create microclimates; high-elevation areas may retain more moisture, while lower deserts and foothills dry faster.

Impact on Fire Situation

- Fire behavior is extreme and unpredictable due to steep slopes, dense vegetation, and wind-driven conditions.
- Santa Ana winds combined with cured fuels can create rapid, high-intensity fires in populated and wildland-urban interface areas.
- Topography and wind patterns influence fire suppression tactics, evacuation planning, and resource deployment.
- Seasonal fuel growth from winter rains followed by dry summers creates a cyclical high-fire-risk environment across much of the county.

Fire History

Over the past 50 years, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Riverside Unit and surrounding portions of California have experienced numerous significant wildfires that reflect the region's persistent fire risk driven by hot, dry summers, Santa Ana winds, and readily ignitable vegetation:

- **2018**, the **Cranston Fire** burned about **13,139 acres** in southwest Riverside County, impacting communities like Idyllwild and Mountain Center and affecting recreation areas in nearby national and state forests.
- **2019**, the **Tenaja Fire** burned roughly **1,926 acres** near Murrieta, prompting evacuations and highlighting the role of wind driven fires even below the largest incident thresholds. The **Sandalwood Fire** destroyed **74 structures** and resulted in civilian fatalities in the Calimesa area, underscoring the vulnerability of urban interface neighborhoods to wildfire ignition.
- **2020** the **Apple Fire** (over **20,000 acres**) and localized brush fires near communities, have continued to challenge suppression resources and prompt evacuations.

- **2022**, the **Fairview Fire** grew rapidly under extreme heat and wind, burning over **28,000 acres**, destroying and damaging dozens of structures, and causing multiple fatalities—one of the most destructive recent fires in the Unit
- **2024**, the **Nixon Fire** burned more than **5,000 acres** in southwest Riverside County, triggering evacuations and structure losses.

Historically, the Riverside Fire Situation has seen other notable fires (e.g., major Santa Ana wind driven fires in the late 20th century) and a pattern of multiagency responses reflecting continued community exposure to wildfire.

These events illustrate decades of wildfire activity in the Riverside Unit, marked by rapid growth under extreme weather, repeated threats to wildland urban interface communities, structural losses, and often challenging suppression environments.

Priority Landscapes

The Riverside Unit Fire Plan identifies several priority landscapes and strategies specific to the Unit's wildfire risk profile and operational goals. These have been shaped through collaborative planning with local, county, state, federal, tribal, and stakeholder partners to focus efforts where they are most needed.

- **Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Areas:** Zones where residential and commercial development meets wildland vegetation are a high priority due to the elevated risk of wildfires spreading into communities. The Plan shifts pre-fire focus from just mountainous areas to include WUI zones such as those in Anza, Sage, Aguanga, and the Lake Elsinore front country, where rapid growth and dense fuels pose significant threats.
- **Mountain Communities and Watersheds:** The San Jacinto Mountains and surrounding watersheds continue to be a critical landscape due to severe drought history, dense fuels, and significant ecological and community values at risk. Efforts under the Mountain Area Safety Taskforce (MAST) aim to mitigate hazards in these areas.
- **Evacuation Safety Corridors and Routes:** Landscapes critical to evacuation (e.g., corridors in Sage Road, Box Springs Mountain, and Interstate access zones) have been identified to improve community safety and firefighter access during wildfire events.

Strategies Identified

- **Fuel Reduction & Vegetation Management:** The Plan emphasizes fuels management projects—such as mechanical thinning, chipping, and controlled burns—especially in high-risk WUI and mountainous areas to lower fire intensity and interrupt fire spread. These activities are tracked through tools like Cal Mapper and involve multiple treatment areas across the Unit.
- **Wildfire Protection Zones:** Creating and maintaining buffer zones along the wildland urban interface, especially between communities like Corona and

Temecula, helps reduce risk to people, properties, and firefighters, and supports safer initial attack.

- **Pre-Fire Management & Evacuation Planning:** The Plan calls for focused reviews of evacuation procedures, preattack readiness, and truck trail maintenance that support access, safety, and response effectiveness.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** It underscores working with fire safe councils, community groups, and various governments to develop and implement projects tailored to local priorities. Outreach and Firewise programs help educate residents on defensible space and other risk reduction measures.
- **Inspection and Code Compliance:** Regular hazardous vegetation inspections and enforcement, adoption of current fire code standards, and engagement in land use planning ensure that new development reduces ignition risk and enhances long term resilience.

Unit Priorities

The Riverside Unit Fire Plan prioritizes landscapes where human communities intersect with wildland fuels, critical evacuation and access routes, and ecologically sensitive zones that, if ignited, could have severe consequences. Strategies focus on reducing fuels, strengthening community preparedness, promoting interagency coordination, and enhancing pre-fire and protection planning to maximize safety and minimize wildfire losses.

The Riverside Unit Fire Plan prioritizes reducing wildfire risk **in** wildland-urban interface communities, protecting mountain and watershed areas, and establishing wildfire protection zones to buffer communities and infrastructure. It emphasizes maintaining evacuation corridors and access routes, implementing fuel reduction and vegetation management, and ensuring pre-fire readiness through hazard assessments and infrastructure maintenance. The Plan also focuses on community education and engagement, fostering interagency coordination, enforcing inspection and fire code compliance, and safeguarding critical assets including lives, homes, infrastructure, economic resources, and sensitive ecosystems. Together, these priorities provide a coordinated, proactive framework to reduce wildfire impacts and enhance safety and resilience across the Riverside Unit.

Planning and Improvements

- In 2008, after the devastating 2007 fire season, Riverside County developed a Strategic Contingency Plan to improve coordination across the southern and western parts of the county. This plan was updated in 2013 and is being expanded again.
- Two important programs are also being reviewed. These programs focus on evacuation planning, home inspections and fuel reduction efforts.
- Mountain Area Safety Task Force (MAST)
- Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council's CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan)

- One major goal is to create a fuel buffer—a cleared area to slow fire spread—from Corona in the north to Temecula in the south. Because this crosses multiple jurisdictions, it requires cooperation with many agencies, and those meetings are already underway.

Unit Preparedness and Firefighting Capabilities

Department Bureaus

Training Bureau

The CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department Training Bureau is responsible for the training and professional development of approximately 1,500 CAL FIRE personnel and 150 Riverside County Reserve Firefighters. Suppression personnel are trained to a level that enables them to provide full-service fire suppression in both municipal and wildland settings



Emergency Command Center

The CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department Emergency Command Center (ECC) provides dispatch and communication services for emergency incidents within the areas served by the CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department and serves as the Riverside Operational Area Coordination Center.

The ECC also maintains dispatch and communication agreements with the following agencies:

- Pechanga Fire Department
- City of Calimesa Fire Department
- Morongo Reservation Fire Department
- Idyllwild Fire Protection District
- Soboba Fire Department

- Riverside County Environmental Health
- Cahuilla Reservation Fire Department
- City of Canyon Lake Fire Department

Air Operations

The Hemet-Ryan Air Attack Base (HRAAB), located at Hemet-Ryan Airport in Hemet, California, serves as a CAL FIRE joint Fixed-Wing Air Attack and Heli-tack Base. It is the initial attack base for most of Riverside County, Orange County, and portions of San Diego, San Bernardino, and Los Angeles Counties.

Aircraft Inventory

- One OV-10 Bronco — Air Attack Platform
- Two S-2T Air Tankers
- One S-70i CAL FIRE HAWK Helicopter
- One Exclusive Use Type I Restricted Helicopter (typically contracted July–October)

Fixed-Wing Operations

Fixed-wing aircraft respond to wildland fires within the State Responsibility Areas (SRA) within 20 minutes. Their aggressive initial attack strategy and precise fire-retardant delivery aim to keep 95% of fires to 10 acres or less. They also aid Federal and Local partners with the same level of service.

Staffing

- Air Attack: 1 Fire Pilot (Amentum contractor), 1 CAL FIRE Air Tactical Group Supervisor
- Air Tankers: 1 Fire Pilot (Amentum contractor)
- Heli tack Operations
- Heli tack crews respond to wildland fires using helicopters for precise water drops, fire line construction, hot-spotting, and firing operations. The crews are NVG (Night Vision Goggles) capable of nighttime fire suppression. The CAL FIRE HAWK helicopter features a fixed external rescue hoist with 260 feet of cable and is staffed by a crew chief and rescuers.
- CAL FIRE HAWK Flight Crew: 1 Fire Pilot (CAL FIRE), 1 Front Seat Fire Captain, 1 Operations Supervisor
- Heli tack Crew: 1 Fire Captain, 6 Firefighters



Camp Program

CDCR Conservation Camp Program

The Conservation Camp Program is a vital partnership between CAL FIRE and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). It provides trained hand crews that support wildland fire suppression, pre-fire resource management, and other public service projects. Within the Riverside Unit, the program has the capacity to support up to 17 hand crews, though it currently operates with 7 active crews.

Camp Locations and Coverage

The Riverside Unit hosts two conservation camps strategically located to cover a broad geographic area:

- **Oak Glen Conservation Camp**, near the Banning-Beaumont Pass, supports central and eastern regions.
- **Bautista Conservation Camp**, located in the San Jacinto Mountains outside Hemet, supports mountainous and remote areas.

California Conservation Corps (CCC) Fire Crew Program

The Riverside Unit also benefits from the support of the California Conservation Corps (CCC) Fire Crew Program, which provides a trained workforce to supplement fire suppression and resource management efforts. The CCC Fire Crew Program recruit young adults (typically ages 18-25) for a rigorous training and service program focused on natural resource management, including wildland fire suppression and prevention. The program offers participants

valuable experience and training in firefighting, emergency response, and environmental stewardship.

Camp Location

- **Los Pinos Fire Center** in the Santa Ana Mountains near Lake Elsinore along Highway 74 supporting projects in Southwest Riverside County, and available for response county-wide.



Firefighting Capabilities

PERSONNEL AND STAFFING

During the Peak Staffing period, the Riverside Unit maintains a robust staffing level comprising 1,500 CAL FIRE uniformed personnel, 240 Riverside County support staff, and an additional 134 volunteer and reserve firefighters. This workforce is deployed to effectively staff and manage emergency response and prevention operations across the Unit.

Operational Facilities

The Unit operates a comprehensive network of fire stations and support facilities including:

- Ninety-three (93) Schedule A Fire Stations
- Eleven (11) Schedule B Fire Stations
- One (1) Air Attack / Airtanker / Heli-tack Base
- Two (2) Conservation Camps

- One (1) Fire Center / Los Pinos Conservation Camp Center (CCC)
- One (1) Fuels Reduction Crew

CAL FIRE Operational Equipment

Resources encompass a diverse fleet and specialized equipment:

- Eighteen (18) Battalion Chiefs
- Seventeen (17) Type III Engines (Frontline), with an additional five (3) reserve and three (2) camp engines
- Three (3) Type II Bulldozers
- One (1) OV-10 Bronco Air Attack Platform
- Two (2) S-2T Air Tankers
- One (1) S70i Fire Hawk Helicopter (Type 1)
- Four (4) CCC Hand Crew
- Six (6) CDCR Hand Crews
- One (1) Fuels Reduction Hand Crew

Riverside County Fire Department Resources

Contribute significant resources supporting wildfire and emergency response, including:

- Thirty-one (31) Battalion Chiefs
- Eighty-eight (88) Type I Engines
- Forty (40) Reserve Type I Engines
- Nine (9) Type III Engines
- Ten (10) Type VI Patrol Engines
- Eight (8) Truck Companies
- Six (6) Reserve Truck Companies
- Eleven (11) Water Tenders
- Five (5) Urban Search and Rescue Units
- Thirty-six (36) Rescue Squads
- One (1) Reserve Rescue Squad
- Seventeen (17) Medic Ambulances
- Nine (9) Reserve Medic Ambulances
- Three (3) Medic Patrols
- Two (2) Hazardous Materials Units
- Two (2) Reserve Hazardous Materials Units
- Two (2) Breathing Support Units
- One (1) Type II Bulldozer
- One (1) Excavator

Riverside Unit Aid Agreements

Automatic Aid Agreements

Riverside Unit maintains multiple Automatic Aid Agreements with adjacent jurisdictions and tribal entities to facilitate rapid and coordinated emergency

response along jurisdictional boundaries. These agreements enhance interoperability and resource sharing, optimizing response times and operational effectiveness. These agreements include, but are not limited to:

- Cabazon Band of Mission Indians (May 5, 1998)
- City of Hemet (September 2, 2008)
- City of Corona (Hazmat Responses) (October 10, 1995)
- Idyllwild Fire Protection District (May 23, 2000), with an associated Dispatch & Communications Services Agreement (May 10, 2011)
- City of Murrieta (March 25, 2008)
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians (December 21, 1999), with Dispatch & Communications Services Agreement (August 1, 2000)
- Orange County Fire Authority (June 1, 1999)
- Pechanga Band of Indians (November 1, 2001), with Dispatch & Communications Services Agreement (November 9, 2010)
- City of Palm Springs (September 6, 1978)
- City of Redlands (July 27, 2010)
- City of Yucaipa (December 10, 2019)
- City of Canyon Lake (December 14, 2021)
- San Diego County (July 7, 2020)
- City of Calimesa (December 12, 2017)
- City of Riverside (March 11, 2025)

Mutual Aid Agreements

To support large-scale emergencies and statewide incidents, Riverside Unit is a party to Mutual Aid Agreements with multiple agencies, ensuring broader cooperation and resource pooling. These agreements provide critical frameworks for mutual support during major incidents, enhancing the ability to respond effectively to emergencies beyond the Unit's immediate capabilities.

- California Rehabilitation Center (Norco) (November 20, 1984)
- Chuckwalla Valley State Prison Fire Department (December 3, 1991)
- City of Corona (Hazmat Responses) (October 10, 1995)
- Imperial Valley (August 13, 2001)
- Mutual Aid Pact between La Paz County, AZ; San Bernardino County; Riverside County; and Colorado River Indian Reservation (July 19, 1989)
- March Air Force Base (July 27, 2010)
- Niland Fire District (September 3, 1991)
- Soboba Indian Reservation (August 23, 2016)
- City of Riverside. Hazardous Materials Response (July 2, 2024)

SECTION II: COLLABORATION

Community, Agency, and Fire Safe Council Representation

The development of the Riverside Unit Strategic Fire Plan has been a collaborative process involving a broad cross-section of local, state, and federal stakeholders. These contributors represent communities, agencies, special districts, fire safe councils, conservation groups, and utility providers across the Riverside Unit. The participation of these diverse agencies and community representatives ensures that the Riverside Unit Strategic Fire Plan is both operationally sound and locally relevant. This collaborative foundation supports long-term fire prevention, fuels management, and community risk reduction strategies throughout the Unit.

The following table identifies the organizations and key representatives who actively participated in the strategic planning process:

Organization	Title / Representative
San Bernardino National Forest	Chief Sal Reyes
Cleveland National Forest	Chief Talbot Hayes
Bureau of Land Management	Chief Paul Gibbs
California Fish and Wildlife (Inland Deserts Region 6)	Heidi Calvert
CAL FIRE	Chief Robert Fish
California Department of Fish & Wildlife	Chuck Bonham
California Department of Parks & Recreation	Armando Quintero
California Department of Transportation	Kelly Cook
California Highway Patrol (Riverside Field Office)	Captain Erich Meeker
Riverside County Sheriff's Department	Sheriff-Coroner Chad Bianco
Riverside County Fire Department	Fire Chief Robert Fish
Riverside County TLMA	Director Rania Odenbaugh
Riverside County Parks & Recreation	Kyla Brown
City of Banning	City Manager Art Vela

Organization	Title / Representative
City of Beaumont	Interim City Manager Gus Romo
City of Calimesa	Fire Chief Tim O'Connell
City of Canyon Lake	Chief Jeff <u>Latrendresse</u>
City of Corona	City Manager Jacob Ellis or Fire Chief Brian Young
City of Desert Hot Springs	City Manager Doria Wilms
City of Eastvale	City Manager Carol Jacobs
City of Hemet	City Manager Mark Prestwich or Fire Chief Ryan Webb
City of Jurupa Valley	City Manager Rod Butler
City of Lake Elsinore	City Manager Jason Simpson
City of La Quinta	City Manager Jon McMillen
City of Menifee	City Manager Armando Villa
City of Moreno Valley	City Manager Brian Mohan
City of Murrieta	City Manager Justin Clifton or Fire Chief Bernard Molloy
City of Norco	City Manager Lisette Free
City of Palm Springs	City Manager Scott Stiles or Fire Chief Paul Alvarado
City of Perris	City Manager Clara Miramontes
City of Riverside	City Manager Mike Futrell or Fire Chief Steve McKinster
City of San Jacinto	City Manager Rob Johnson
City of Temecula	City Manager Aaron Adams
City of Palm Desert	City Manager Chris Escobedo
City of Wildomar	City Manager Chris Mann
Rubidoux Community Services District (CSD)	Manager Brian Laddusaw
Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council	Executive Director Callie Squires
Southwest Riverside County Fire Safe Council	President Susan Hurst
Habitat Conservation Groups	Regional Conservation Authority
Utility Companies	SCG (SoCal Gas), SGE (SoCal Edison), MWD (Metropolitan Water District), EMWD (Eastern Municipal Water District), EVMWD (Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District)

Mountain Area Safety Task Force (MAST)

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), in partnership with a coalition of agencies and stakeholders under the Mountain Area Safety Task Force (MAST), continues to address an ongoing emergency that threatens the forested mountain communities of Riverside County. The primary mission of MAST is to mitigate threats to life, property, watersheds, and ecosystems in the San Jacinto mountain communities. These efforts aim not only to protect communities and natural resources, but also to ensure the safety of firefighters, law enforcement officers, and other emergency responders who may be called upon during wildfires or large-scale evacuations in the region.

Participating Agencies and Stakeholders

- CAL FIRE
- U.S. Forest Service
- Idyllwild Fire Protection District
- Riverside County Sheriff's Department
- California Highway Patrol
- Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council
- Riverside County Fire Department
- San Jacinto Resource Conservation District
- Riverside County Emergency Management Department
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
- Pine Cove, Idyllwild, Fern Valley, and Lake Hemet Water Districts
- Pine Cove Property Owners Association

SECTION III: Values

Values

The CAL FIRE Riverside Unit encompasses the people, property, natural resources, infrastructure, and economic assets that are vulnerable to wildfire throughout Riverside County. Foremost among these values is life safety. The Riverside Unit contains a significant wildland-urban interface (WUI) where residential neighborhoods are interspersed with heavy vegetation, steep terrain, and limited access roads. These conditions create evacuation challenges and increase the risk to both civilians and firefighters during wind-driven wildfire events, particularly under Santa Ana conditions.

Structural and property values at risk include thousands of homes ranging from suburban tract developments to large custom residences, ranch properties, and rural communities. Many of these structures are located along foothills, canyons, and mountainous terrain where fuel continuity and topography contribute to rapid fire spread. Mobile home parks, multi-family housing, and isolated rural properties further increase vulnerability due to access limitations and exposure to ember cast during major fire events.

Natural resources are also a critical component of the Unit's values at risk. Watersheds and water supply systems such as Lake Perris and Lake Hemet are essential for domestic water, agriculture, and recreation, and can be significantly impacted by post-fire erosion and sedimentation. Sensitive habitats, native wildlife corridors, and riparian systems, including areas associated with the Santa Margarita River drainage—are vulnerable to ecological damage, invasive species intrusion, and long-term environmental degradation following wildfire.

Economic and agricultural assets represent another major value at risk. The Riverside Unit includes productive agricultural regions with avocado groves, vineyards, citrus, and ranching operations that contribute substantially to the local economy. Wildfire can cause direct crop loss, infrastructure damage, livestock impacts, and long-term soil and watershed degradation. Recreation and tourism are similarly affected, as fires can disrupt access to parks, open space areas, campgrounds, and trail systems that support local businesses and community quality of life.

Critical infrastructure throughout the Unit is also highly vulnerable.

Transportation corridors, utility transmission lines, communication systems, and water delivery infrastructure are essential for emergency response and community continuity. Damage to these systems during wildfire events can compound impacts by hindering evacuation, delaying suppression efforts, and disrupting essential services.

Collectively, the identification of these values at risk within the Riverside Unit Fire Plan guides mitigation priorities, fuels reduction efforts, defensible space enforcement, and community preparedness initiatives. Protecting life remains the highest priority, followed by the preservation of property, environmental resources, economic stability, and critical infrastructure throughout Riverside County

Communities

Statewide and nationally recognized communities in Riverside County at risk of wildfire:

<u>Aguanga</u>	Indio	Pinyon Pines
Anza	Juniper Flats	Quail Valley
Banning	La Quinta	Rancho Mirage
Beaumont	Lake Elsinore	Riverside
Cabazon	Lake land Village	<u>Romoland (Ethanac)</u>
Calimesa	Lakeview	Rubidoux (West Riverside)
Canyon Lake	March Air Force Base	Sage
Cathedral City	Mead Valley	San Jacinto
Cherry Valley	Mira Loma	<u>Sedco Hills</u>
Coachella	Moreno Valley	Snow Creek
Corona	Morongo Indian Reservation	Sun City
Desert Hot Springs	Mountain Center	Sunnyslope
East Hemet	Murrieta	Temecula
El Centro	Murrieta Hot Springs	Thomas Mountain
Gilman Hot Springs	Norco	Thousand Palms
Glen Avon	Nuevo	Torres Martinez Indian Reservation
Hemet	Palm Desert	Valle Vista
Highgrove	Palm Desert Country Club	White Water
Home Gardens	Palm Springs	Wildomar
Homeland	Pechanga Indian Reservation	Winchester
Idyllwild-Pine Grove	Pedley	Woodcrest
Indian Wells	Perris	

SECTION IV: PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Fire Prevention Programs

Defensible Space Inspections (LE100 Program)

The Riverside Unit conducts defensible space inspections using the LE100 program on structured parcels throughout the unincorporated areas of Riverside County. These inspections are carried out by both Defensible Space Inspectors and engine company personnel. The LE100 form incorporates relevant codes from the California Public Resources Code (PRC 4291) and Riverside County Ordinance 787, which adopts the California Fire Code, allowing for both state and local enforcement authority.

Hazard Abatement (Ordinance 695)

In addition to the LE100 program, the Riverside Unit enforces Riverside County Ordinance 695 on vacant parcels within both SRA and LRA jurisdictions. These inspections are conducted by County-funded staff within the Fire Prevention Bureau's Hazard Abatement Section. Property owners in violation who fail to abate their parcels are subject to forced abatement by county-contracted

vendors, with associated costs either billed directly or assessed through property taxes.

Currently, the primary focus is on western Riverside County, excluding High Fire Hazard Areas such as Sage and Anza due to funding limitations.

Expanding into these areas would require additional resources and support.

Implementation of mobile GIS and inspection tools would enhance program efficiency and allow for broader coverage. Notably, proactive abatement in the La Sierra area was credited with helping save structures during a fast-moving wildfire in 2010.

Orchard Inspections (Ordinance 772)

The Riverside Unit inspects dead, dying, and neglected orchards under Ordinance 772. As rising water costs and economic challenges have led to the abandonment of once-productive orchards, fire hazards have increased—especially near residential developments. If a parcel is deemed noncompliant, the owner is notified and given the opportunity to abate. If the hazard is not mitigated, county contractors complete the work, and the owner is billed or assessed accordingly. In 2020, eight orchards were inspected, with no properties requiring abatement action.

Railroad Right-of-Way Inspections (PRC 4296.5)

Since 2010, the Riverside Unit has conducted inspections along railroad rights-of-way using PRC 4296.5 and the Railroad Fire Prevention Guide. A five-year fire history revealed 30 railroad-related fires—10 in SRA and 20 in LRA. Due to ongoing coordination and inspection efforts, there were no violations or fire starts attributed to railroad operations in 2019.

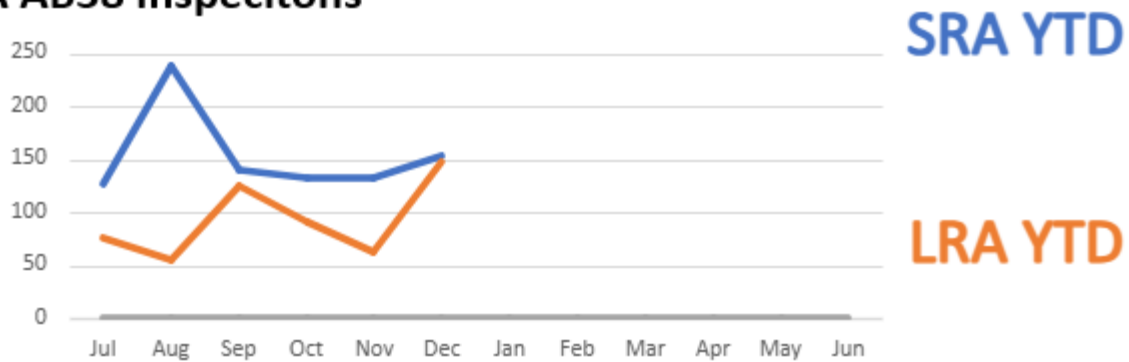
Open Burning Violations (CFC Section 307.1)

Illegal burning of debris and open fires without permits remains a challenge. In the Riverside Unit, permits are required for agricultural burns, tumbleweed disposal, and pit-style barbecues. Under California Fire Code Section 307.1, citations are issued for non-permitted burns. In 2020, three citations were issued. Continued enforcement, along with targeted public education—especially in Spanish—will be critical to reducing illegal burning and associated wildfires.

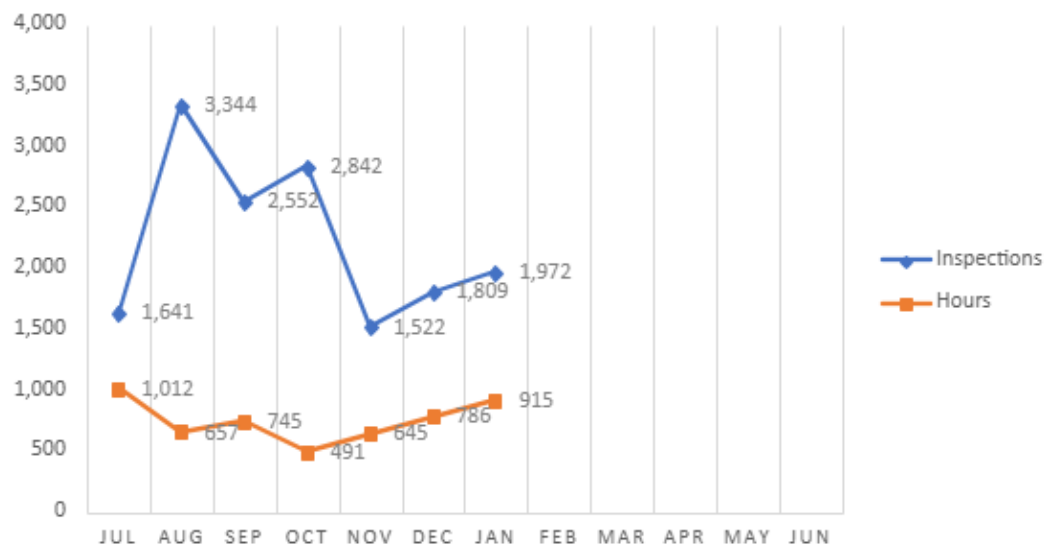
Fire Closure Area Enforcement

Fire closure areas are implemented seasonally in locations prone to human-caused ignitions, including Whitewater Canyon, Old Banning-Idyllwild Road, North Mountain, Indian Canyon, Ramona Bowl, Bautista Camp, Reinhardt Canyon, and Lakeview. These closures are enforced under Riverside County Ordinance 787.7. Signage is deployed annually, though signs are often destroyed or ignored. No citations were issued in 2025. Permanent signage and increased enforcement remain priorities to protect these sensitive areas.

SRA AB38 Inspections



Defensible Space Inspections



Engineering & Structure Ignitability

Fire Protection Planning and Land Use

The Riverside Unit has adopted the 2019 Edition of the California Fire Code, which outlines critical fire protection requirements for new development within Riverside County. Oversight of compliance with these codes falls under the Fire Protection Planning Section of the Riverside County Fire Department. This section ensures that all new construction in the wildland meets the applicable codes and standards, including:

- Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections 4290 and 4291
- Riverside County Ordinance 787.8
- 2019 California Building Code, Chapter 7A: Materials and Construction Methods for Exterior Wildfire Exposure

These regulations are designed to reduce structural vulnerability to wildfire and improve community resilience.

Coordination with Local Government and Land Use Authorities

With the implementation of Senate Bill 1241 (Government Code §65302.5), fire agencies—including the Riverside Unit—have become increasingly involved in land use planning and decisions. Beginning in January 2014, the bill's safety element mandates that fire hazard mitigation be considered in all development proposals within State Responsibility Areas (SRA) and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ). The Unit provides technical review and fire hazard planning input to help guide County and local agencies in reducing wildfire risk through smarter, more defensible development.

Information & Education

Public Affairs and Community Education Bureau

Play a critical role in ensuring the Riverside Unit maintains open, transparent, and effective communication with the public. Through a combination of outreach, education, and media engagement, the bureau promotes public safety awareness and builds community trust in the Department's mission.

Community Engagement & Daily Communications

The bureau is committed to highlighting the daily operations, achievements, and initiatives of the Riverside Unit. By providing accurate, timely, and consistent updates, we strive to maintain transparency and foster a sense of connection between the fire department and the communities we serve.

Communication efforts are delivered across a broad spectrum of platforms and events, including:

- **Community Events:** Providing fire safety materials, demonstrations, and direct engagement opportunities for residents.
- **Public Fairs:** Expanding public awareness through participation at county and city fairs.
- **Town Hall Meetings:** Offering open forums for two-way communication, answering questions, and addressing community concerns.
- **Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) Meetings:** Supporting local governance through presentations and discussions on fire prevention, preparedness, and department projects.
- **School Events:** Engaging the youth through educational programs designed to instill fire safety habits from an early age.
- **Social Media Platforms:** Delivering real-time updates, incident alerts, and educational content to a broad audience across multiple digital channels.

Fire Safety Education Programs

The Bureau oversees a suite of targeted fire safety education programs, customized to reach all age groups and promote life-long safety behaviors:

- **TK – 2nd Grade: “Fire Safety On, Accidents Gone!”**
Introduces young children to the basics of fire safety in a fun, interactive, and age-appropriate way.
- **Middle School / Junior High: “Don’t Challenge Fire”.** Educates pre-teens and adolescents about the real dangers of fire play and the risks associated with unsafe behavior, especially those influenced by viral online trends.
- **High School: “Cooking and Home Safety”.** Prepares teenagers for independence by teaching practical fire prevention strategies, safe cooking habits, and basic home safety principles.
- **Adults: “Ready, Set, Go!”.** A comprehensive preparedness program for adults, focusing on creating defensible space, evacuation planning, and how to prepare before, during, and after emergencies.

Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation

Community Risk Reduction

Community Engagement – Firewise & Fire Risk Reduction Communities

The Riverside Unit collaborates with local Fire Safe Councils and community stakeholders to educate residents on home hardening and defensible space best management practices. Two programs supporting this effort that the unit endorses are Firewise USA® and the Board of Forestry’s Fire Risk Reduction Community List (FRRCL) – designed to assist communities in becoming certified, giving these communities priority for CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant funding, and possible reduction in homeowner’s insurance rates.

LE100 defensible space inspection program

Carried out through the Defensible Space Inspection (DSI) program and at the fire station level, the program offers valuable one-on-one interaction between residents and fire personnel. These inspections provide a critical opportunity to engage homeowners directly, offering education on how to improve their property’s defensibility and increase survivability in the event of a wildfire.

Vegetation & Natural Resource Management

In January 1998, the Riverside Unit integrated its Vegetation Management and Pre-Fire Engineering Programs to form the Resource Management Division. This integration combines the strategic planning tools developed under the 1995 California Fire Plan with the resources of the Vegetation Management Program to implement community fire hazard mitigation efforts and fuel reduction projects effectively across Riverside County.

Vegetation management has been a critical and successful component in reducing fire hazards in the county. It utilizes fire weather data, fire history, and fuels information from the Fire Plan to justify focused allocation of limited

resources and staff time to the highest-risk areas. The program's main objectives include fire hazard and fuels reduction as well as ecological restoration. In Southern California, with the presence of numerous endangered species and critical habitats, prescribed burning is a valuable tool not only for habitat restoration but also for reducing fuel loads near vulnerable communities. As an alternative to prescribed fire, the program also employs mechanical methods like hand cutting, chipping & mastication to reduce fuels, especially in smoke-sensitive areas or where fire use poses too great a risk.

Two main types of fuel reduction project methods are utilized in the unit, including Landscape scale mosaic & Shaded fuel break. The main goal of landscape scale mosaic projects is to reduce fuels and enhance natural habitats using a mosaic (non-contiguous) pattern mimicking natural fire in the landscape. For these types of projects, a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) is the primary program tool utilized. The goal of shaded fuel breaks is to create a fuel reduction buffer strategically placed adjacent to communities, roadways or topographic features like ridge tops which greatly assist firefighters in slowing or stopping the spread of wildfire. For these types of projects, a VMP may be used, or a Hazardous Fuels Reduction (HFR) plan is used.

The Resource Management Division within the unit is responsible for planning, development, and coordination of fuel reduction projects. Part of that process is evaluating each project and its potential for environmental impacts. This includes ensuring each project complies with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Depending on the complexity of each project, various levels of CEQA analysis are evaluated. This includes considering impacts to air quality, water quality, biological resources (habitats/species), cultural/tribal resources & agricultural/forestry resources to ensure their protection. The Resource Management division includes a Unit Forester & VMP forester with a registered professional license (RPF), Environmental Scientist, Fuels Battalion chief, & pre-fire engineer. All personnel play a critical role in every aspect of the vegetation management program.

In 2019, CAL FIRE added five new Fuels Reduction Crews statewide, including one based in the Riverside Unit. Each crew consists of a Fire Captain, Fire Apparatus Engineer, Forestry Assistant II, and nine Forestry Technicians. These crews play an essential role in meeting hazardous fuel reduction goals outlined in the 2019 & 2024 California Strategic Fire Plan.

Current Fuel Reduction Projects

Red Hill VMP

The unincorporated community of Pine Cove, located in the San Jacinto Mountains of Riverside County, is situated predominately on a western/southwest aspect of the San Jacinto Mountain range at 6200' elevation, surrounded by Lands owned and protected by the USDA Forest Service/San Bernardino National Forest and San Jacinto State Park. The vegetative community is comprised of mature chaparral with a mixed conifer forest over story. There is no recorded fire history since 1924; therefore, it is assumed the vegetative community is at least 75 years old. Red Hill Vegetation Management Plan is a 232 acre fuel reduction project spanning across several fuel modification plots creating a 200' – 300' shaded fuel break on SRA lands to the Northwest, West & Southwest of Pine Cove. Fuel reduction methods include thinning, piling, chipping, mastication and broadcast burning. The overall intent is to provide a buffer of protection to the communities of Pine Cove and Idyllwild by reducing fuel-loading levels and to provide an area to which fire suppression forces can safely act on an encroaching fire.

Point of Rocks Hazardous Fuel Reduction (HFR)

This project was designed to augment the Red Hill VMP as an additional 350 acre, 500 foot wide shaded fuel break on SRA lands to the North/Northeast perimeter of Pine Cove. In Idyllwild, CA. Fuel reduction methods include thinning, piling, chipping, mastication and pile burning. The project was initiated in 2019 and continues to be a high priority project for the unit. The project footprint is situated adjacent to the Red Hill VMP.

* Red Hill VMP & Point of Rocks HFR are part of a larger plan to tie several other fuel treatment projects together and thus provide a continuous fuel modification zone along the western edge of the San Jacinto Mountain communities. These projects have the potential to reduce the damage from wildland fires spreading into the community of Pine Cove, Idyllwild, and Fern Valley.

Astro Camp Hazardous Fuel Reduction (HFR)

This project was initiated in 2014 through an Emergency Exemption to remove DDD trees on 38 acres on both sides of Hwy 243, south of Marian Drive. In 2017 the project was re-entered and expanded to 85 acres with the intent to maintain the effectiveness of the previous treatment and help maintain Hwy 243 access at the south entrance to Idyllwild in the event of an uphill fuel-driven fire.

Oak Glen/Water Canyon (Current)

The Oak Glen/Water Canyon Hazardous Fuels Reduction (HFR) project initiated in 2019 is situated in the northern/central area of Riverside County. It consists of three treatment plots designed as 300' wide shaded fuel breaks totaling 636 acres. This project primarily uses mechanical fuel reduction methods in Water Canyon, Mias canyon near Oak Glen, a high-risk Wildland-Urban Interface

community near Beaumont. The goal is to reduce catastrophic fire threats to homes, watersheds, and infrastructure.

Lake Mathews/Estelle Mountain VMP (Current)

The Lake Mathews/Estelle Mountain Core Reserve, covering 11,232 acres in western Riverside County, was established under a 1996 Habitat Conservation Plan for the Stephens' kangaroo rat. The Reserve Management Committee includes representatives from federal and state wildlife agencies, the Bureau of Land Management, water districts, and local habitat conservation groups. Building on a 1993 fire management plan, an expanded fire management plan was completed in 1999. The primary treatment method is prescribed fire implementation over 5,770 acres divided into rotational burn units. These prescribed burns mimic the natural fire cycle, reduce fuel loads, and support native species regeneration.

Elsinore Front Country Fuel Break VTP (Current)

In 2021 the EFCFB project was approved through the Board of Forestry's Cal VTP program. The fuel break, situated in western Riverside County, encompasses a total of 1,200 project acres, designed as a 300-foot wide shaded fuel break at the base of the Ortega mountains stretching from Temescal Canyon to Wildomar (approximately 21 miles). The fuel break provides protection from wildfire threat to adjacent residents in Wildomar, Lakeland Village, Lake Elsinore, Horsethief Canyon Ranch, Temescal Valley and Trilogy communities. The Riverside County Fire Department has been the main lead on this project. They were awarded a CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention grant December 2022 to treat roughly 320 acres of the Elsinore Front Country Fuel Break (EFCFB). CAL FIRE crews from Los Pinos CCC camp & Norco CDC camp are also currently working on parcels near Wildomar and Lake Elsinore.

Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve VMP

This long-standing prescribed fire project located in southwest Riverside County is situated within an ecological preserve managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Nature Conservancy and Riverside County Parks & Open Space district. The intent of the project is to simulate natural fire cycles to sustain native plant communities and reduce wildfire intensity. Various burn units are treated with prescribed fire on a rotational basis every 5-7 years, treating 200-400 acres annually, with the goal to treat 4,100 total project acres. The program has improved native grass re-establishment and overall habitat health, as well as reduce grass fuel loads minimizing the chance for fast spreading wildfires to surrounding communities.

El Cariso Hazardous Fuels Reduction (HFR)

Located in southwest Riverside County, this project is a 42-acre fuel break around the community of El Cariso Village. The intent of this project is to create defensible space directly adjacent to homes, providing increased protection for the community in the event of catastrophic wildfire. The community is highly vulnerable to fires driven by Santa Ana winds. The project was initiated in 2014, and CAL FIRE crews re-enter for maintenance annually or bi-annually.

South Main Divide Hazardous Fuels Reduction (HFR)

Located in southwest Riverside County, this project is a 70-acre roadside fuel break along South Main Divide on is situated within the USFS Cleveland National Forest – Trabuco district. The USFS maintains the vast majority of this roadside fuel break on federal lands, however sections of the road traverse SRA parcels, therefore, CAL FIRE crews maintain the state/private portions. The Main Divide Road provides primary and emergency access for dispersed communities on the Santa Rosa Mountain range. Roadside fuel reduction maintenance helps enhance control for the spread of wildfire.

Lake Skinner MSR VMP

This 4,129-acre VMP is situated within a 15,000-acre multi-species habitat conservation preserve managed by Riverside County Parks & Open Space District, Metropolitan water district, and various conservation agencies to protect endangered species and watersheds near Lake Skinner and Diamond Valley Lake. Prescribed fire is one of the various management methods listed in the preserve's Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan. Since the inception of the Lake Skinner MSR VMP in 2007, utilization of prescribed fire among 11 burn units has shown enhancement to habitat & species within the entire preserve. The burn units are treated on a rotational basis determined by current ecosystem conditions. An additional benefit to rotational prescribed fire is enhanced fire protection for the adjacent communities of Temecula & Sage.

Planned Fuel Reduction Projects

Red Mountain VMP

Riverside Unit is in the planning stages of the Red Mountain VMP. The project area is approximately 765 acres West and south of Red Mountain, which is part of the San Jacinto Mountain range, approximately 15 miles east of the City of Temecula. The objective of this project is to create a shaded fuel break which will aid in slowing the spread of wildfire into the San Jacinto Mountains. Extending from Cactus Valley south through Reed Valley to Lake Riverside Estates, this 10-mile fuel break protects multiple unincorporated communities totaling over 500 structures. The area's chaparral vegetation requires continuous treatment to reduce fire risk. The project is part of a broader plan to safeguard the San Jacinto District wilderness and surrounding residential areas.

CDFW San Jacinto Wildlife Area – Davis Unit VMP

In cooperation with California Department of Fish & Wildlife, the Riverside Unit is in the planning stages of the Davis unit VMP. The project area is approximately 10,900 acres located in the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, East of Lake Perris State Recreation area. The objectives of this project are to use prescribed (Rx) fire to provide rehabilitation of habitat for various listed animal and botanical species. The use of Rx fire will also reduce potential for large uncontrolled fire negatively impacting adjacent communities, or historic/pre-historic sites in the project area.

SECTION V: PRE- FIRE MANAGEMENT TACTICS

Division / Program Plans – Riverside Unit

Battalion 1 – Perris

Communities: Perris–Moreno Valley–Lakeview–San Jacinto Valley interface

Fuels

Battalion 1 is dominated by light flashy fuels with pockets of heavier brush, typical of inland Southern California:

- Annual grasses (Fuel Model 1)
 - Cure early (often by late spring)
 - Support rapid rates of spread and high ignition probability
- Coastal sage scrub (Fuel Model 2)
 - Low to moderate fuel loading
 - Burns fast but with shorter flame lengths than chaparral
- Chaparral (Fuel Model 4 – heavier pockets)
 - Found in hills and drainages
 - Produces high intensity, long-duration fire behavior
- Riparian corridors (Santa Ana River / washes)
 - Mixed fuels: grasses, brush, trees, invasive species (e.g., bamboo)
 - Can act as continuous fuel beds

Battalion 1 fuels are wind-driven, flashy, and continuous, with occasional heavy brush that can escalate fire intensity quickly.

Weather

Weather is one of the primary drivers of fire behavior in Battalion 1:

- Hot, dry summers
 - Frequent temps 90–110°F inland
 - Very low relative humidity
- Santa Ana wind events (critical factor)
 - Strong offshore winds (often 30–60+ mph)
 - Cause explosive fire growth and long-range spotting

- Seasonal curing pattern
 - Fine fuels cure early long fire season
- Drought & below-average precipitation trends
 - Southern California often runs below normal rainfall, increasing fire risk

Fires in Battalion 1 are primarily wind-driven, with weather often overriding fuel and topographic limitations.

Topography

Battalion 1 terrain is moderately complex but very fire-prone:

- Rolling hills and valleys (Perris / Moreno Valley / San Jacinto Valley)
 - Allow rapid lateral fire spread
- Steep slopes and badlands (e.g., Box Springs, Lakeview hills)
 - Promote upslope runs and increased flame lengths
- Drainages and river bottoms
 - Act as chimneys for wind and fire spread
- Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI)
 - Dense interface with housing → high exposure risk

Topography channels wind and aligns with fuels, accelerating fire spread—especially during Santa Ana conditions.

Fire History

Fire history in Battalion 1 is characterized by frequent, repeat burning:

- High frequency of vegetation fires
 - Especially grass fires during early season
- Repeated burns fuel type conversion
 - Chaparral converting to annual grasses in some areas
- Large Wind-driven fires
 - Even light fuels can produce large incidents under wind
- Rapid fuel recovery cycle
 - Fuels can return to near pre-fire conditions within ~20 years if undisturbed

Recent example context:

- The Springs Fire (2026) near Lake Perris showed how wind + grass fuels can quickly push fires to thousands of acres.

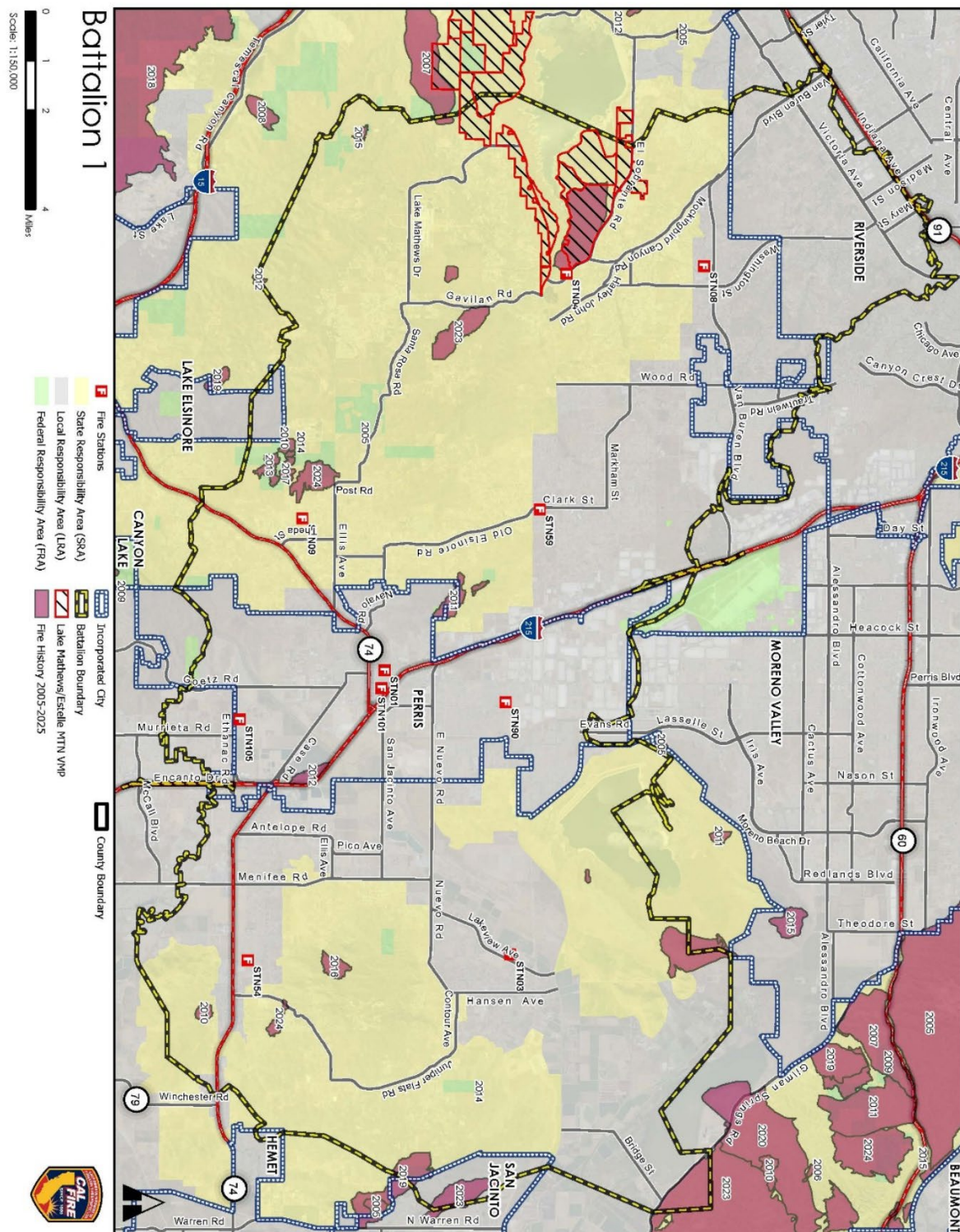
Priorities

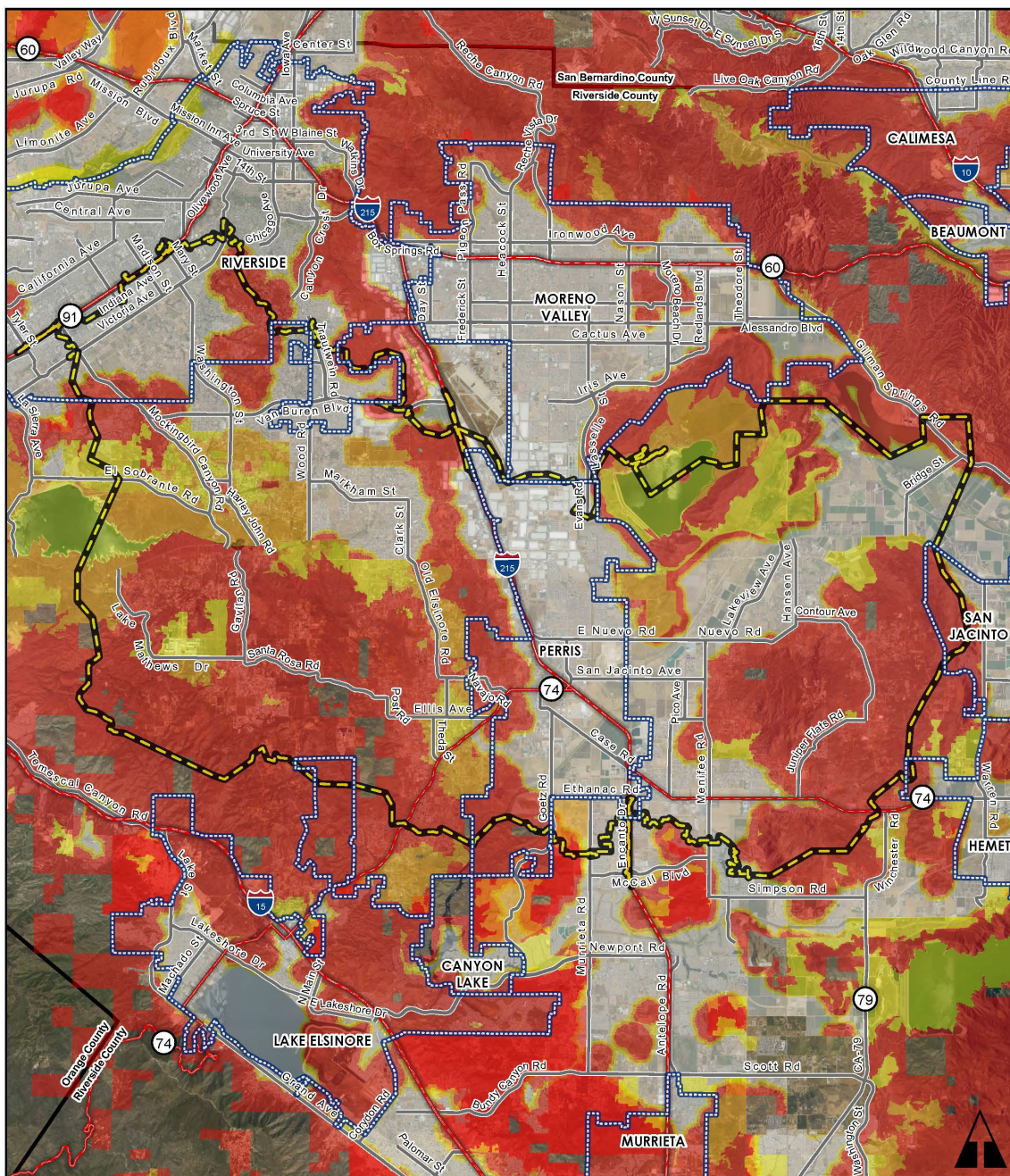
Fuel Reduction & Vegetation Management:

- Lake Mathews/Estelle Mountain VMP – hazardous fuel reduction for the communities of Lake Matthews & El Sobrante
- Lake Perris assist - hazardous fuel reduction for the communities of Perris, Moreno Valley, Lakeview & San Jacinto
- San Jacinto Wildlife area – Davis VMP planned project – hazardous fuel reduction for the communities of Perris, Moreno Valley, Lakeview & San Jacinto
- **Wildfire Protection Zones:** Perris, Moreno Valley, Lakeview, San Jacinto Valley. See attached Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) map.
- **Pre-Fire Management & Evacuation Planning**

- **Collaborative Partnerships:** cities of Perris, Moreno Valley, Lakeview, community of San Jacinto Valley, Riverside County Habitat Conservation Authority, Metropolitan Water District
- **LE 100 / 38 Inspections and Code Compliance**







Battalion 1

0 1 2 4 Miles
Scale: 1:200,000

Fire Hazard Severity Zones

- Moderate
- High
- Very High
- NonWildland

Incorporated City

- Incorporated City
- Battalion Boundary
- County Boundary



Battalion 2 – Lake Elsinore

Communities: Lake Elsinore, Wildomar, Canyon Lake, Lakeland Village, and the Ortega Mountain Range front country

Fuels

Battalion 2 has a sharp east–west fuel contrast, which is one of its defining characteristics:

- Annual grasses (Fuel Model 1)
 - Cure early (often by late spring)
 - Support rapid rates of spread and high ignition probability
- Coastal sage scrub (Fuel Model 2)
 - Low to moderate fuel loading
 - Burns fast but with shorter flame lengths than chaparral
- Chaparral (Fuel Model 4 – heavier pockets)
 - Found in hills and drainages
 - Produces high intensity, long-duration fire behavior

Riparian corridors: (San Jacinto River floodplain, Leach Canyon Creek, McVicker Canyon Creek Temescal Wash, Railroad Canyon drainage)

- Mixed fuels: grass, brush, trees, and other invasive species
- Can act as continuous fuel beds

Battalion 2 fuels are wind-driven, flashy, and continuous, with area of heavy brush in the foothills and mountainous areas that can escalate fire intensity quickly.

Weather

Weather in Battalion 2 is highly influential and often extreme:

Santa Ana Wind Influence: The Lake Elsinore area is highly impacted by northeast Santa Ana wind events, especially from October through January. These winds:

- In Alignment and funnel through Canyons and passes.
- Produces single digit Relative Humidity
- Create Red Flag warning conditions
- Causes rapid uphill and wind-driven fire spread
- Hot inland valley influence
 - High temps and low RH in the Lake Elsinore basin
- Marine influence (west side)
 - Slight moderation at times, but often overridden by offshore flow
- The Elsinore Effect
 - Referring to a meteorological phenomenon in Lake Elsinore Temescal Valley, Ortega Highway, and DeLuz/Fallbrook area of California, influencing local weather patterns and fire behavior, particularly during summer months.
 - localized afternoon wind reversals and terrain funneling can create unpredictable fire behavior near the lake basin and surrounding slopes.

- Extended fire season
 - Early grass curing + late-season wind events

This battalion is particularly vulnerable to fast moving and rapid initial attack fires during wind events because fires can quickly transition from light flashy fuels into heavy brush aligned with topography.

Topography

Topography is more complex and severe due to its alignment with local and specialized weather patterns:

- Santa Ana Mountains / Ortega corridor
 - Steep, rugged terrain with limited access
 - Narrow canyons that act as chimneys
- Lake Elsinore basin (east side)
 - Rolling hills transitioning into steep slopes
- Ridge-and-canyon alignment
 - Strong alignment with prevailing winds rapidly run uphill and through drainages
- Access challenges
 - Limited road systems in the front country
 - Heavy reliance on indirect tactics and air support

Terrain in Battalion 2 amplifies fire behavior, especially when aligned with wind and chaparral fuels.

Fire History

Battalion 2 is considered one of the higher fire-risk areas in Riverside County:

- Significant fire history in grass fuel types in the eastern portions of the Battalion
 - Frequent, repeated burns
- Mixed fire history in chaparral zones of the Ortega Mountainous front country.
 - Some areas were heavily burned, others with long-unburned fuel loading
- Large fire potential
 - Heavy chaparral + wind = extended attack incidents
- Fuel age variability
 - Mosaic of:
 - Recently burned grasslands
 - Mature chaparral (high hazard)

Recent example context: Airport Fire (2024), Tenaja Fire (2019), Holy Fire (2018)

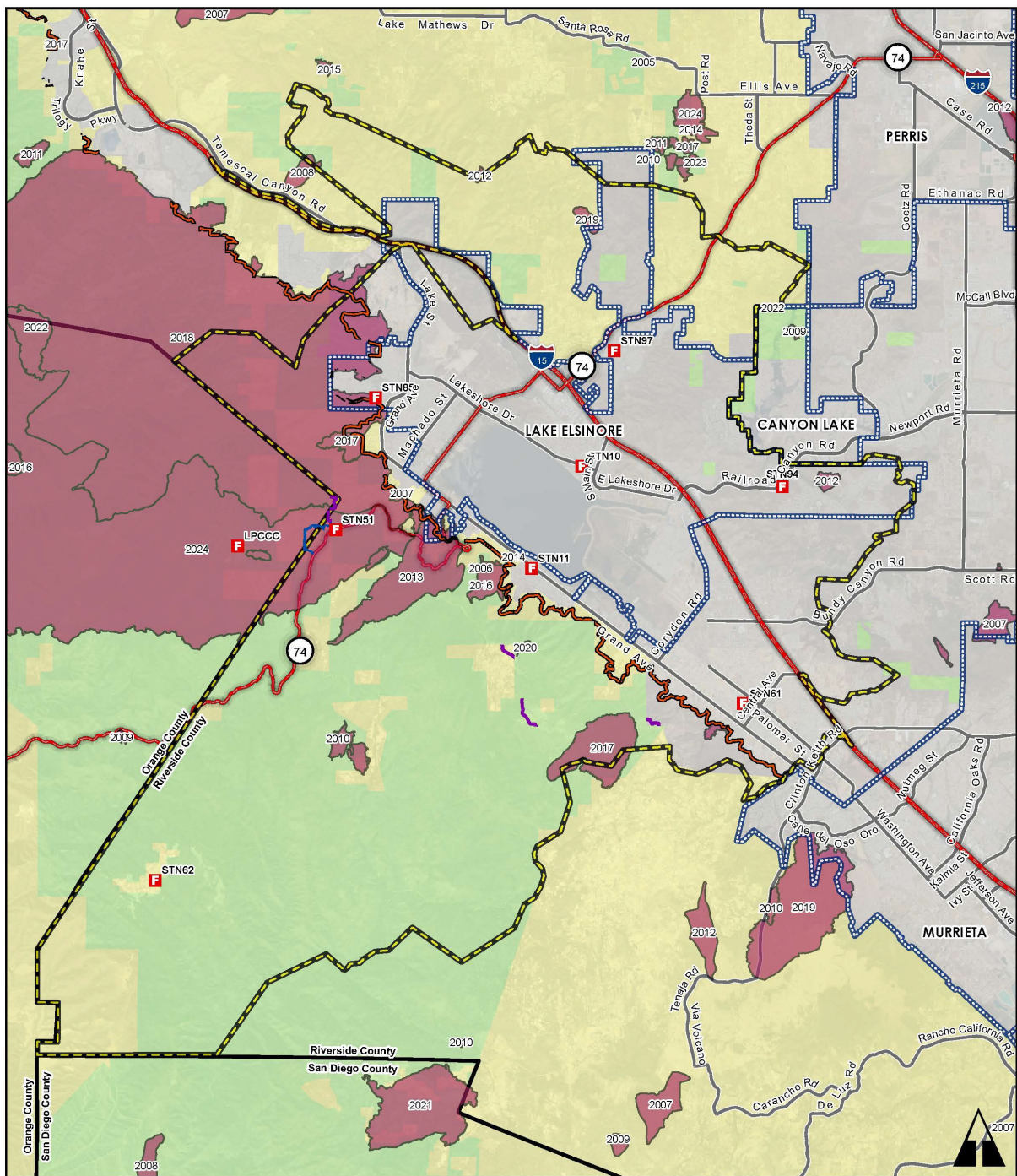
Priorities

Fuel Reduction and Vegetation Management

- Elsinore Front Country Fuel Break VTP - hazardous fuel reduction project located between Temecula to Corona

- El Cariso HFR - hazardous fuel reduction project located in and around the El Cariso Community
- Main Divide HFR - roadside fuel reduction along evacuation corridors.
- Truck Trails - roadside fuel reduction on trails that may be utilized as evacuation corridors.
- Cleveland National Forest Assist - fuel reduction on SRA lands dispersed within the USFS boundaries.
- **Wildfire Protection Zones:** Lake Elsinore, Wildomar, Canyon Lake, Lakeland Village and the Ortega Mountain communities and front country. See attached FHSZ map.
- **Pre-Fire Management & Evacuation Planning:** focuses on evacuation procedures, preattack readiness, and truck trail maintenance that support access, safety, and response effectiveness.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** Cities of Lake Elsinore, Wildomar, Canyon Lake, Lakeland Village, and Ortega Mountain communities and foothills.
- **LE 100 / 38 Inspections and Code Compliance**



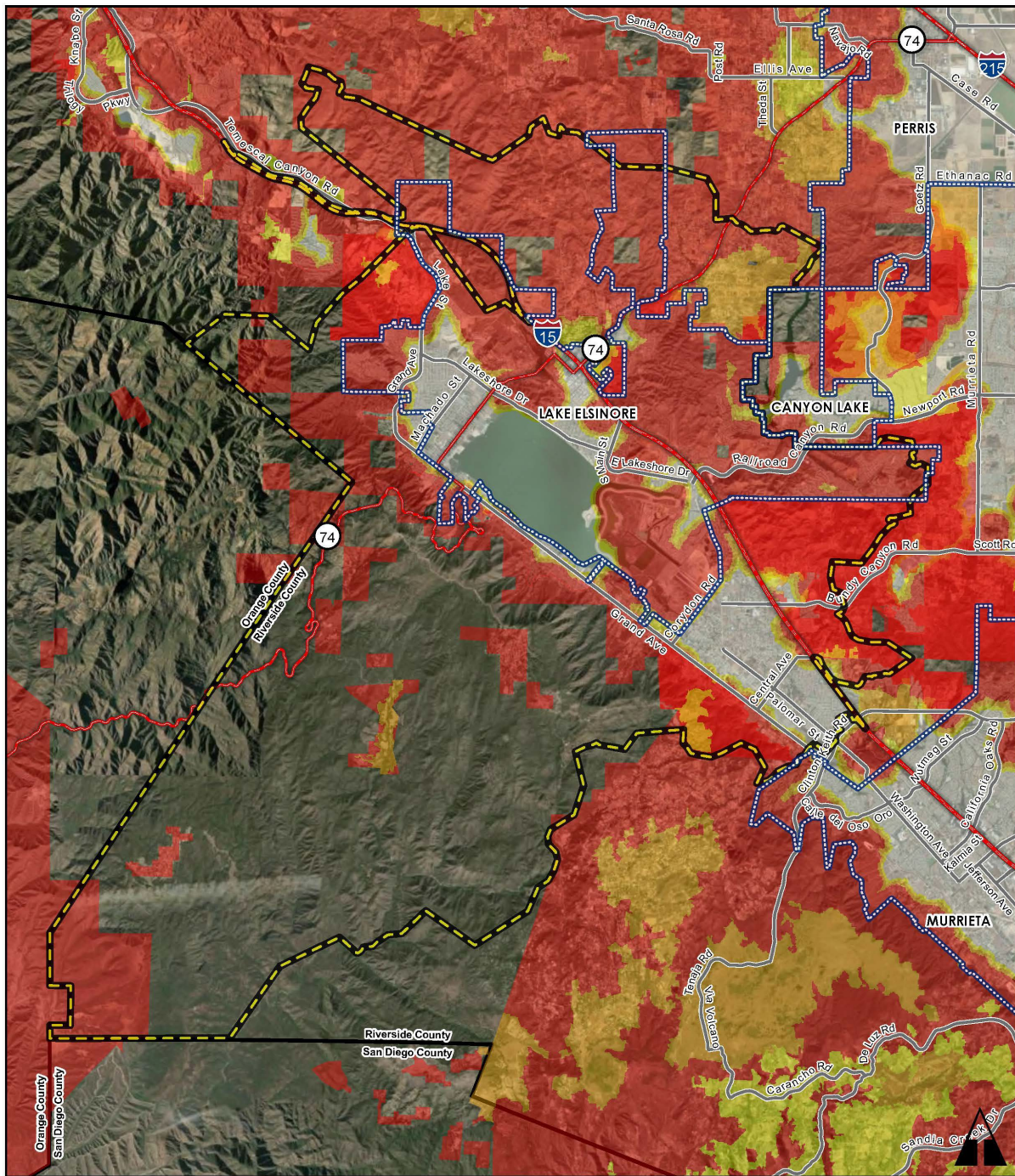


Battalion 2

0 0.8 1.5 3
Miles
Scale: 1:150,000

- F Fire Stations
- State Responsibility Area (SRA)
- Local Responsibility Area (LRA)
- Federal Responsibility Area (FRA)
- Incorporated City
- Battalion Boundary
- Elsinore VTP
- Main Divide HFR
- El Cariso FB
- Fire History 2005-2025
- County Boundary





Battalion 2

Fire Hazard Severity Zones

- Moderate
- High
- Very High
- NonWildland

- Incorporated City
- Battalion Boundary
- County Boundary



0 0.8 1.5 3
Miles
Scale: 1:150,000

Battalion 3 – San Gorgonio Pass

Communities: Banning, Beaumont, Cabazon, Poppet Flats, Twin Pines and the San Gorgonio Pass area.

Fuels

Battalion 3 has one of the most diverse fuel profiles in Riverside County due to its transition between coastal and desert environments:

- Annual grasses (Fuel Model 1)
 - Common on grazed rolling hills
 - Support rapid ignition and fast-moving fires
- Coastal sage scrub (Fuel Model 2)
 - Low to moderate fuel loading
 - Burns fast but with shorter flame lengths than chaparral
- Grass Oak woodland
 - Adds heavier dead/down component and ladder fuels
- Chaparral (Fuel Model 4)
 - Found in hills and drainages
 - Produces high intensity, long-duration fire behavior
- Desert transition fuels (east side)
 - Brittlebush / creosote scrub
 - Lower continuity but still capable of wind-driven spread

Battalion 3 fuels are highly variable, allowing fires to transition from fast grass runs to heavy chaparral torching within the same incident.

Weather

Weather is the dominant driver in Battalion 3:

- San Gorgonio Pass produces a major wind corridor
 - Among the strongest and most consistent winds in Southern California
 - Wind farms in the area reflect this constant airflow
- Bi-directional wind influence
 - Offshore (Santa Ana) winds north westward fire runs
 - Onshore winds eastward pushes into desert slopes
- Hot, dry conditions
 - Inland/desert influence low humidity and high temps
- Year-round fire potential
 - Unlike coastal areas, fires can occur at any time of year

Battalion 3 is extremely wind-driven, more so than any other battalion in Riverside County.

Topography

Topography in Battalion 3 is highly varied and complex:

- Elevation range: ~1,100 ft to 5,000+ ft
 - From Whitewater River mouth to Oak Glen highlands
- Rolling hills to steep escarpments
 - Gentle slopes transition quickly into rugged, rocky terrain

- Pass and canyon systems
 - Natural wind funnels that align with fire spread
- Interface zones
 - Communities like Beaumont, Banning, and Oak Glen sit in WUI transition areas

Topography amplifies wind effects, creating long, aligned runs through the pass and up slopes.

Fire History

Battalion 3 has a well-documented history of large, damaging fires:

- Known for large, intense fires
 - Fires in this battalion can occur any time of year and become destructive quickly
- Repeated burn areas
 - Some zones have burned multiple times in recent decades
- Type conversion
 - Chaparral converting to annual grasses after repeated fires
- Fuel recovery cycle
 - Fuels can return to near pre-fire conditions in 20 years if not reburned

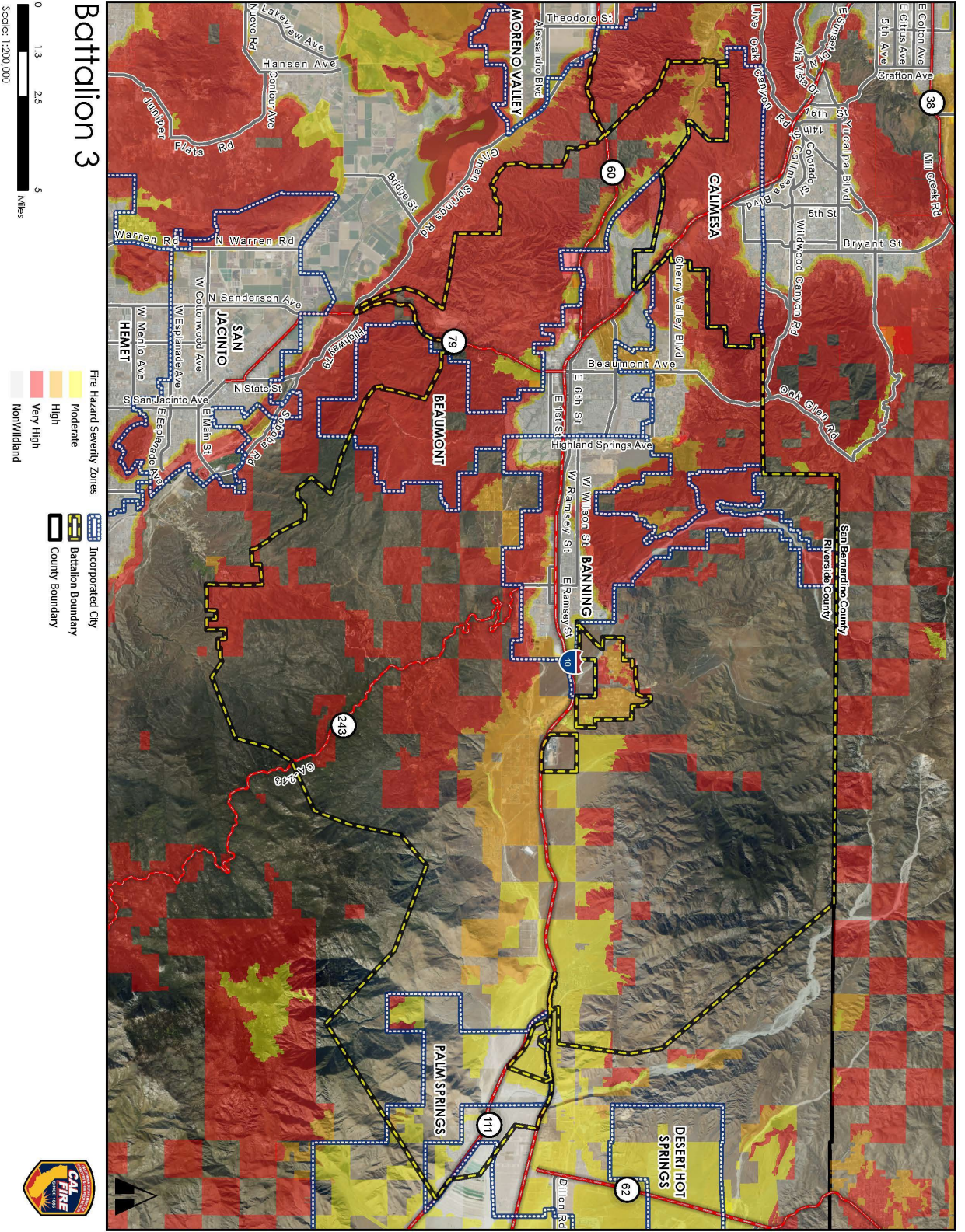
Battalion 3 combines frequent fire occurrence with the potential for large, wind-driven incidents, especially in the pass.

Recent example context: Edna Complex (1998), Esperanza Fire (2006), Silver Fire (2016), Apple Fire (2019), Wolf Fire (2025)

Priorities

- **Fuel Reduction & Vegetation Management:**
 - Truck Trails - roadside fuel reduction on trails that may be utilized as evacuation corridors which are located west of U.S. Highway 243 and south of the City of Banning and North of the City of San Jacinto.
 - Oak Glen/Water Canyon – Hazard fuels reduction project North of the City of Banning and the Community of Cherry Valley
- **Wildfire Protection Zones:** Banning, Beaumont, Cabazon, Poppet Flats, Twin Pines, and the San Gorgonio Pass. See attached FHSZ map.
- **Pre-Fire Management & Evacuation Planning:** focuses on evacuation procedures, preattack readiness, and truck trail maintenance that support access, safety, and response effectiveness.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** Banning, Beaumont, Cabazon, Poppet Flats, Twin Pines, and the San Gorgonio Pass Communities.

LE 100 / 38 Inspections and Code Compliance: Annual hazardous vegetation inspections, enforcement, and engagement in land use planning ensure that new development



Battalion 4 – Corona

Communities: Corona, Norco, Riverside, El Cerrito, Home Gardens, Temescal Valley, and the southeastern portions of Chino Hills.

Fuels

Battalion 4 is dominated by light flashy fuels with continuous river-bottom vegetation: Battalion 4 fuels are light, flashy, and highly continuous, especially in the river bottom allowing rapid wind-driven fire-spread.

- Annual grasses (Fuel Model 1)
 - Common on grazed rolling hills
 - Support rapid ignition and fast-moving fires
- Coastal sage scrub (Fuel Model 2)
 - Low to moderate fuel loading
 - Burns fast but with shorter flame lengths than chaparral
- Chaparral (Fuel Model 4)
 - Found in hills and drainages
 - Produces high intensity, long-duration fire behavior

Weather

Weather is a major driver of large fires in Battalion 4:

- Santa Ana wind events (primary factor)
 - Strong offshore winds push fires west toward Orange County
 - Fires can rapidly move into areas like Yorba Linda/Carbon Canyon
- Hot, dry inland climate
 - High temps + low RH during summer and fall
- Wind-dominated fire behavior
 - Light fuels mean fires are almost entirely wind-driven

Under normal conditions, fires are manageable but during Santa Ana events, Battalion 4 becomes a rapid large-fire environment with cross-county spread potential.

Topography

Topography in Battalion 4 is less extreme than Battalion 2 or 3, but still influential:

- Santa Ana River drainage
 - Broad river bottom with steep bluffs on both sides
 - Limited access difficult suppression operations
- Rolling hills (Chino Hills / Corona)
 - Promote fast lateral fire spread
- Canyon systems (Carbon Canyon, Temescal)
 - Channel winds and fire into aligned runs
- Foothill interface
 - Transition into steeper terrain toward Cleveland National Forest

Topography doesn't create extreme fire behavior alone, but when combined with wind, it channels fire rapidly through corridors and into WUI areas.

Fire History

Battalion 4 has a long history of repeated, wind-driven fires:

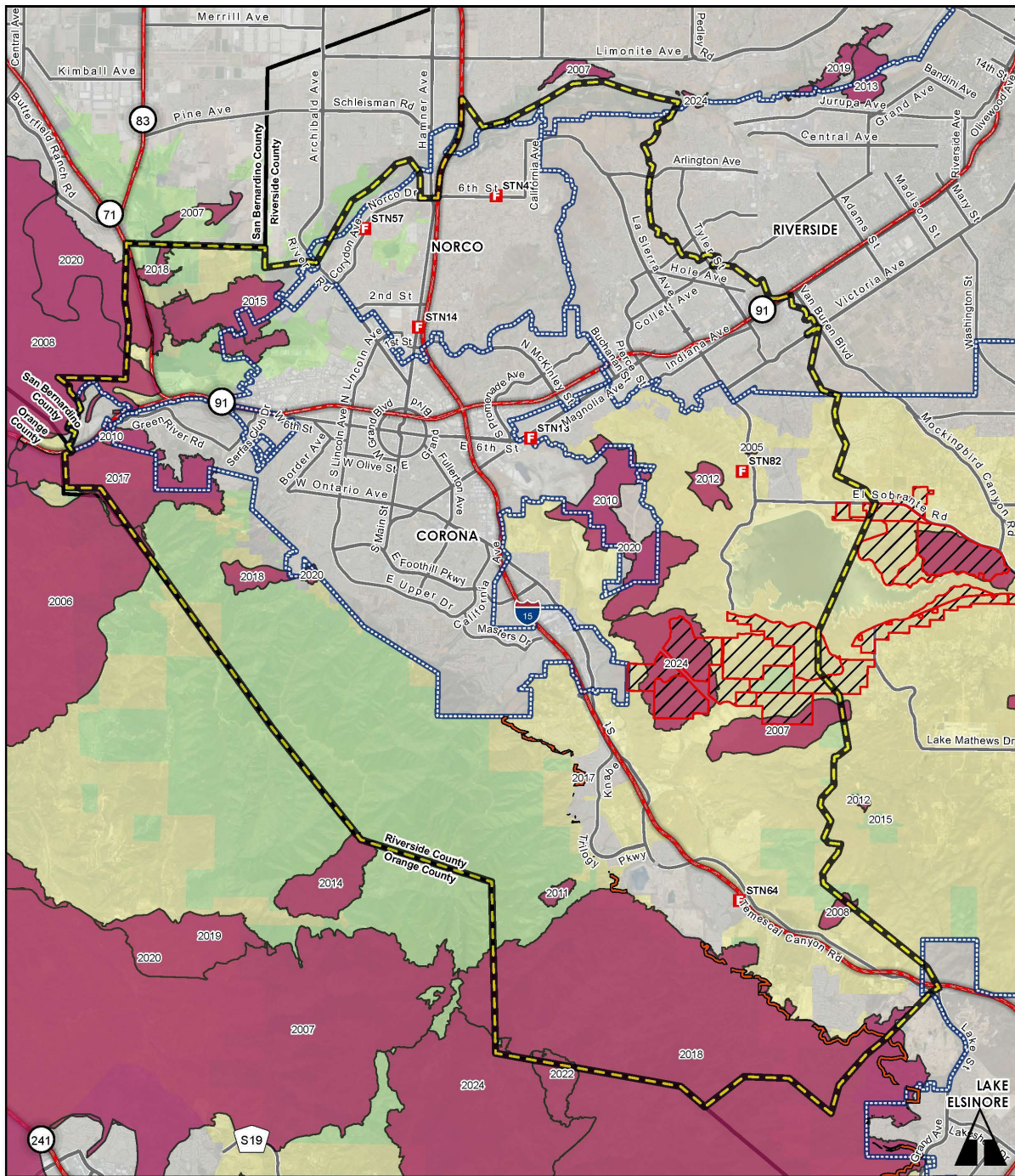
- Frequent reburns in grass-dominated areas
 - Hills have burned numerous times over many years
- Light fuels = fast-moving fires
 - Fires typically spread quickly but may have lower residence time
- Wind-driven large fire potential
 - Major fires occur during Santa Ana conditions
 - Can rapidly extend into Orange County WUI areas
- River bottom fire risk
 - Dense fuels with access issues create challenging incidents with exposure risk

Battalion 4 combines frequent fire occurrence with the potential for large, wind and topography driven incidents, especially along the Interstate 15 and Highway 91 Corridors

Recent example context: Holy Fire (2018), Airport Fire (2024), Bain Fire (2026)

Priorities

- **Fuel Reduction & Vegetation Management:**
 - Cleveland National Forest Assist - fuel reduction on SRA lands dispersed within the USFS boundaries.
 - Truck Trails - roadside fuel reduction on trails that may be utilized as evacuation corridors such as fire roads established in the front country areas from communities into the Cleveland National Forest.
- **Wildfire Protection Zones:** Corona, Norco, Riverside, El Cerrito, Home Gardens, Temescal Valley, and the southeastern portions of Chino Hills. See attached FHSZ map.
- **Pre-Fire Management & Evacuation Planning:** Focusing on evacuation procedures, preattack readiness, and truck trail maintenance that support access, safety, and response effectiveness.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** Corona, Norco, Riverside, El Cerrito, Home Gardens, Temescal Valley, and the southeastern portions of Chino Hills.
- **LE 100 / 38 Inspections and Code Compliance:** Annual hazardous vegetation inspections, enforcement, and engagement in land use planning ensure that new development reduces ignition risk and enhances long term resilience

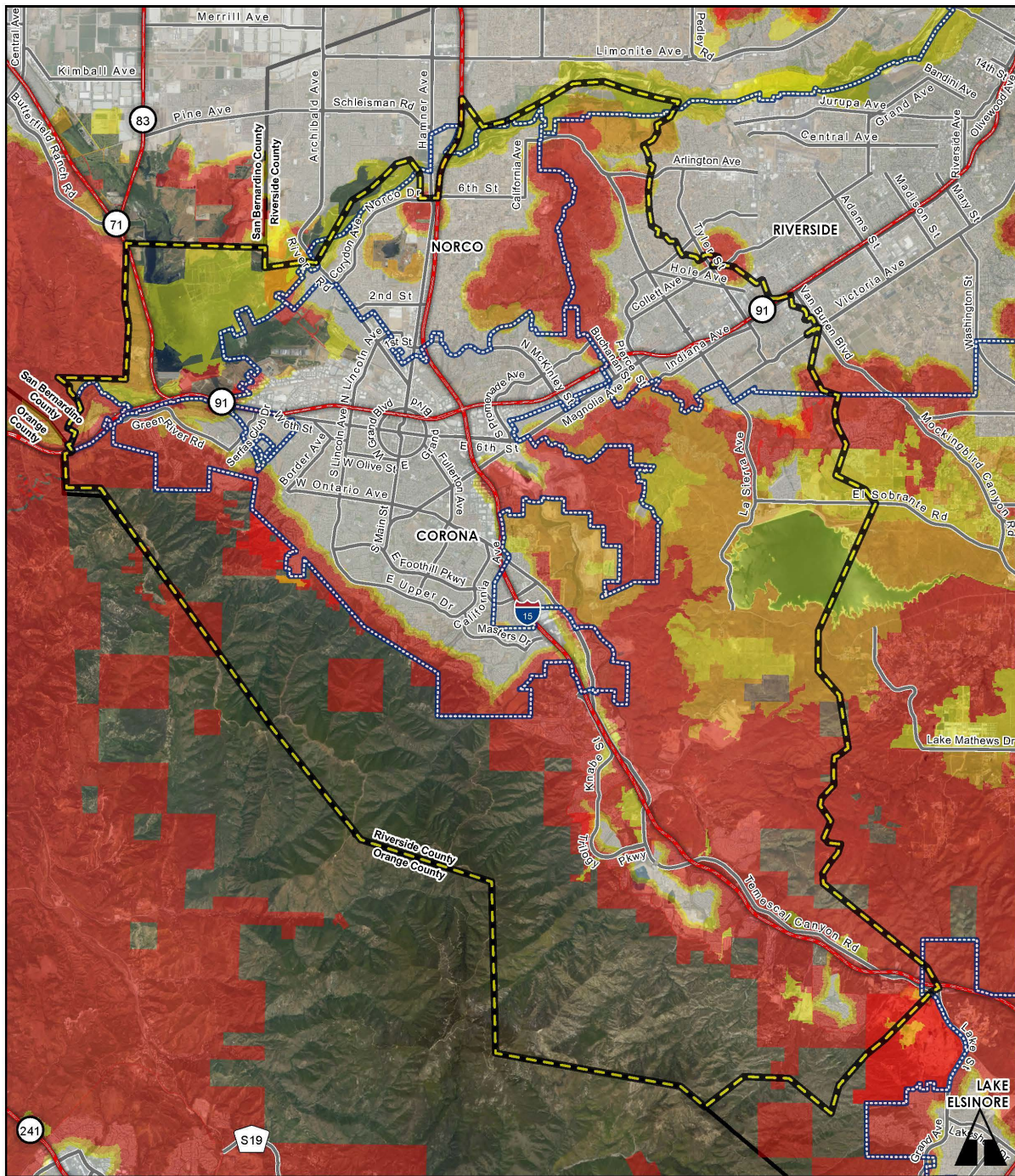


Battalion 4

0 0.8 1.5 3
Miles
Scale: 1:145,000

- F Fire Stations
- State Responsibility Area (SRA)
- Local Responsibility Area (LRA)
- Federal Responsibility Area (FRA)
- Incorporated City
- Battalion Boundary
- Elsinore VTP
- Lake Mathews/Estelle MTN VMP
- Fire History 2005-2025
- County Boundary





Battalion 4

Fire Hazard Severity Zones

- Moderate
- High
- Very High
- NonWildland

- Incorporated City
- Battalion Boundary
- County Boundary



Battalion 5 – San Jacinto

Communities: Winchester, San Jacinto, Hemet, Soboba Indian Reservation, and the foothills of the San Jacinto Mountains.

Fuels

Battalion 5 has a clear elevation-driven fuel transition, which strongly influences fire behavior:

- Below 2,000 ft
 - Dominated by annual grasses and coastal sage scrub (Fuel Model 2)
 - Fast curing high ignition potential and rapid spread
- Above 2,000 ft
 - Fuel type depends on time since last fire:
 - <20 years since burn: grass + medium brush (Fuel Model 6)
 - >20 years since burn: heavy mixed chaparral (Fuel Model 4)
- Mature chaparral condition
 - High dead-to-live fuel ratio due to drought
 - Leads to increased intensity and resistance to control

Battalion 5 fuels transition from fast, flashy grass fires in the valley to high-intensity chaparral fires in the foothills and mountains.

Weather

Weather in Battalion 5 reflects both inland valley heat and mountain influences:

- Hot, dry summers (valley-dominated)
 - High temperatures and low relative humidity
- Santa Ana wind influence
 - Offshore winds push fire downslope and toward populated areas
- Diurnal slope winds
 - Upslope during the day, downslope at night
- Extended fire season
 - Early grass curing + persistent drought conditions

While not as consistently windy as Battalion 3, Battalion 5 still sees wind-aligned runs during Santa Ana events, especially from the mountains into the valley.

Topography

Topography in Battalion 5 is transitional and highly influential on fire spread:

- San Jacinto Valley (Hemet / San Jacinto)
 - Broad, relatively flat basin
 - Supports fast-moving grass fires
- Foothills and Soboba area
 - Rolling hills transitioning to steep slopes
 - Alignment with wind → rapid uphill runs
- San Jacinto Mountains interface
 - Steep, rugged terrain with limited access in places
 - Drainages act as chimneys for fire spread

Battalion 5's terrain allows fires to start in the valley and quickly run upslope into heavier fuels, increasing complexity.

Fire History

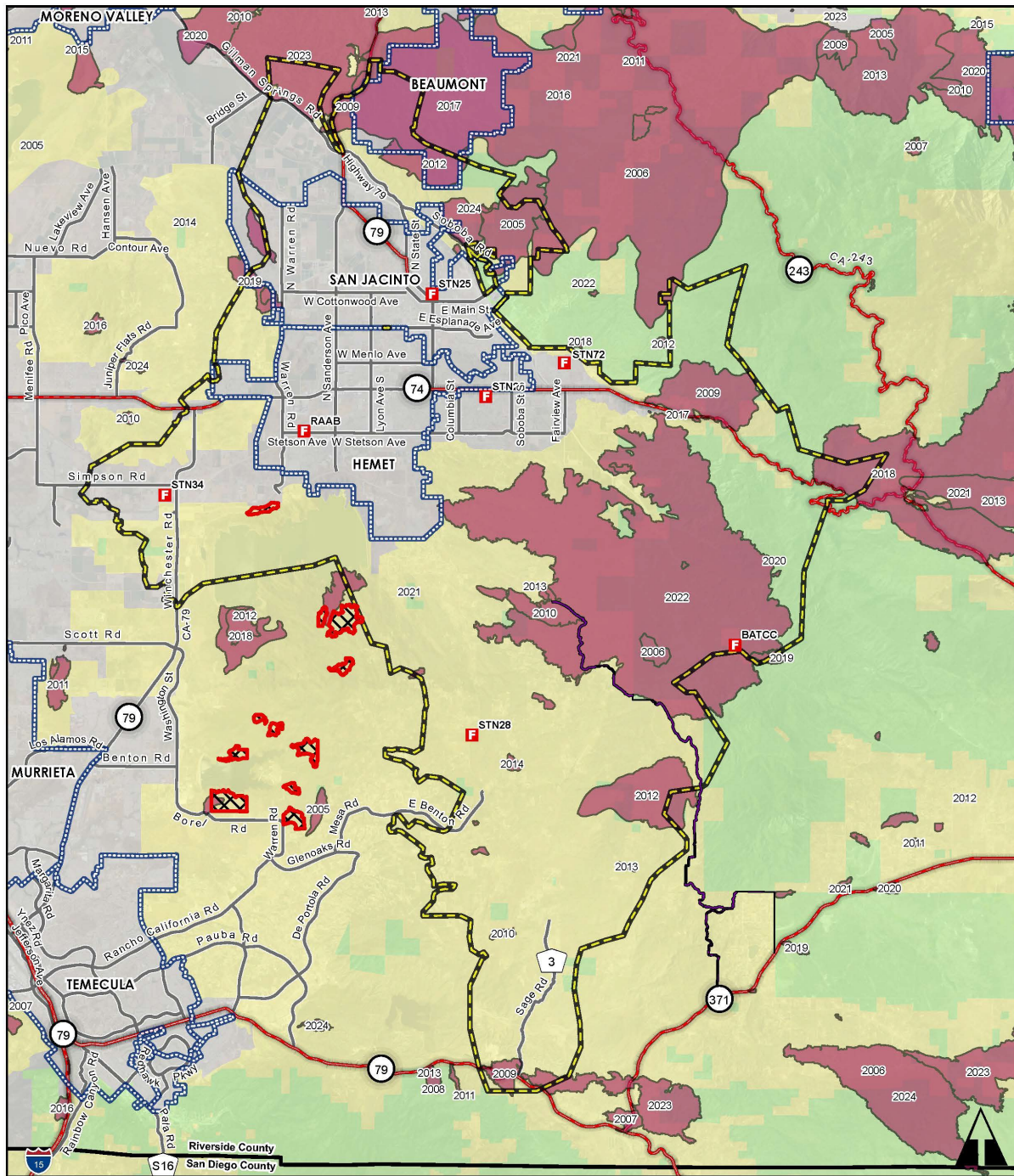
Fire history in Battalion 5 reflects a mixed-frequency fire regime:

- Frequent fires in lower elevations
 - Grass and light fuels repeated ignitions and reburn
- Variable fire history in chaparral zones
 - Some areas recently burned
 - Others have long-unburned, heavy fuel loading
- Fuel-driven variability
 - Time since last fire directly affects:
 - Fuel model
 - Fire intensity potential
- Drought effects
 - Increased dead material more extreme fire behavior potential

Recent example context: Bee Canyon Fire (2018), Cranston Fire (2018), Fairview Fire (2022)

Priorities

- **Fuel Reduction & Vegetation Management:**
 - Red Mountain Fuel Break - Extending from Cactus Valley south through Reed Valley to Lake Riverside Estates, this 10-mile fuel break protects multiple unincorporated communities totaling over 500 structures. The area's chaparral vegetation requires continuous treatment to reduce fire risk. The project is part of a broader plan to safeguard the San Jacinto District wilderness and surrounding residential areas.
 - Truck Trails - roadside fuel reduction on trails that may be utilized as evacuation corridors north and east of San Jacinto and Soboba Indian Reservation.
- **Wildfire Protection Zones:**
- Winchester, San Jacinto, Hemet, Soboba Indian Reservation, and the foothills of the San Jacinto Mountains. See attached FHSZ map.
- **Pre-Fire Management & Evacuation Planning:** Focuses on evacuation procedures, preattack readiness, and truck trail maintenance that support access, safety, and response effectiveness.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** Winchester, San Jacinto, Hemet, Soboba Indian Reservation, and the foothills of the San Jacinto Mountains.
- **LE 100 / 38 Inspections and Code Compliance:** Annual hazardous vegetation inspections, enforcement, and engagement in land use planning ensure that new development reduces ignition risk and enhances long term resilience

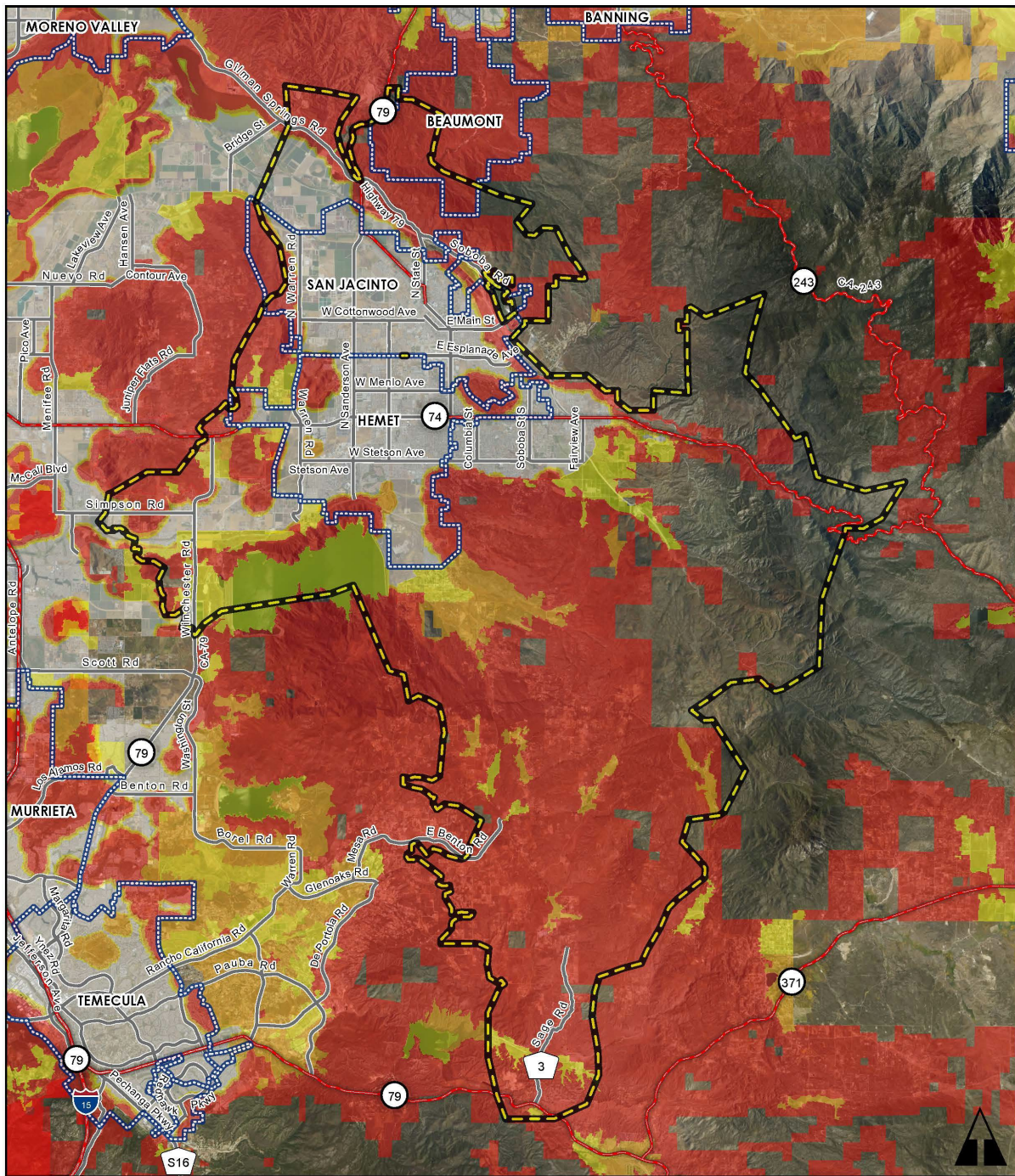


Battalion 5

0 1.3 2.5 5
Miles
Scale: 1:225,000

- F Fire Stations
- State Responsibility Area (SRA)
- Local Responsibility Area (LRA)
- Federal Responsibility Area (FRA)
- Incorporated City
- Battalion Boundary
- MSR Lake Skinner VMP
- Red Mountain VTP (Planned Project)
- Fire History 2005-2025
- County Boundary





Battalion 5

Fire Hazard Severity Zones

- Moderate
- High
- Very High
- NonWildland

- Incorporated City
- Battalion Boundary
- County Boundary

0 1.3 2.5 5 Miles
Scale: 1:225,000



Battalion 6 – Coachella Valley

Communities: La Quinta, Coachella, Thermal, Mecca, Oasis, North Shore, and other communities of the Eastern Coachella Valley and eastern Salton Sea shoreline.

Fuels

Battalion 6 fuel profile is very different from western Riverside County. Fire behavior is dominated by desert vegetation, agricultural interfaces, flashy annual grasses, and riparian corridors rather than continuous chaparral including:

- **Desert scrub fuels** (Fuel Model 2)
 - Creosote, Brittlebush, Palo Verde, Ironwood
 - Typically, **discontinuous fuels**, which can limit spread under normal conditions
- **Invasive annual grass** (Fuel Model 1)
 - After wet years, invasive grasses can create **continuous flashy fuels**
 - This can dramatically change behavior from **patchy desert fire** to **rapid wind-driven runs**
- **Riparian corridor fuels** (Fuel Model 6)
 - Along drainages and river-influenced areas:
 - Tamarisk (salt cedar)
 - Mesquite
 - Dense riparian brush
 - Can produce **higher intensity and prolonged burning**

Weather

Weather is the **dominant driver** in Battalion 6:

- **Extreme heat**
 - Summer temperatures often exceed **100°F–115°F**
- **Very low relative humidity**
 - Mostly single digit RH throughout the calendar year.
- **Strong winds**
 - Desert winds create a strong influence and alignment throughout the Coachella Valley
- **Long fire season / near year-round potential**
 - Fine fuels can cure early and remain available, Battalion 6 is heavily **weather-driven**, where wind and heat can outweigh normally sparse fuels.

Topography

Topography is generally **less steep than mountain battalions**, but still influences behavior:

- **Broad basins and open desert**
 - Can support **long unobstructed wind-driven runs**

- **Washes and drainages**
 - Funnel both wind and fire
- **Rocky hills / badland terrain (localized)**
 - Can support upslope runs
- **Remote access issues**
 - Large travel distances can affect response time and resource concentration

Topography often matters less than wind, but **washes and open alignment can support rapid fire spread over long distances.**

Fire History

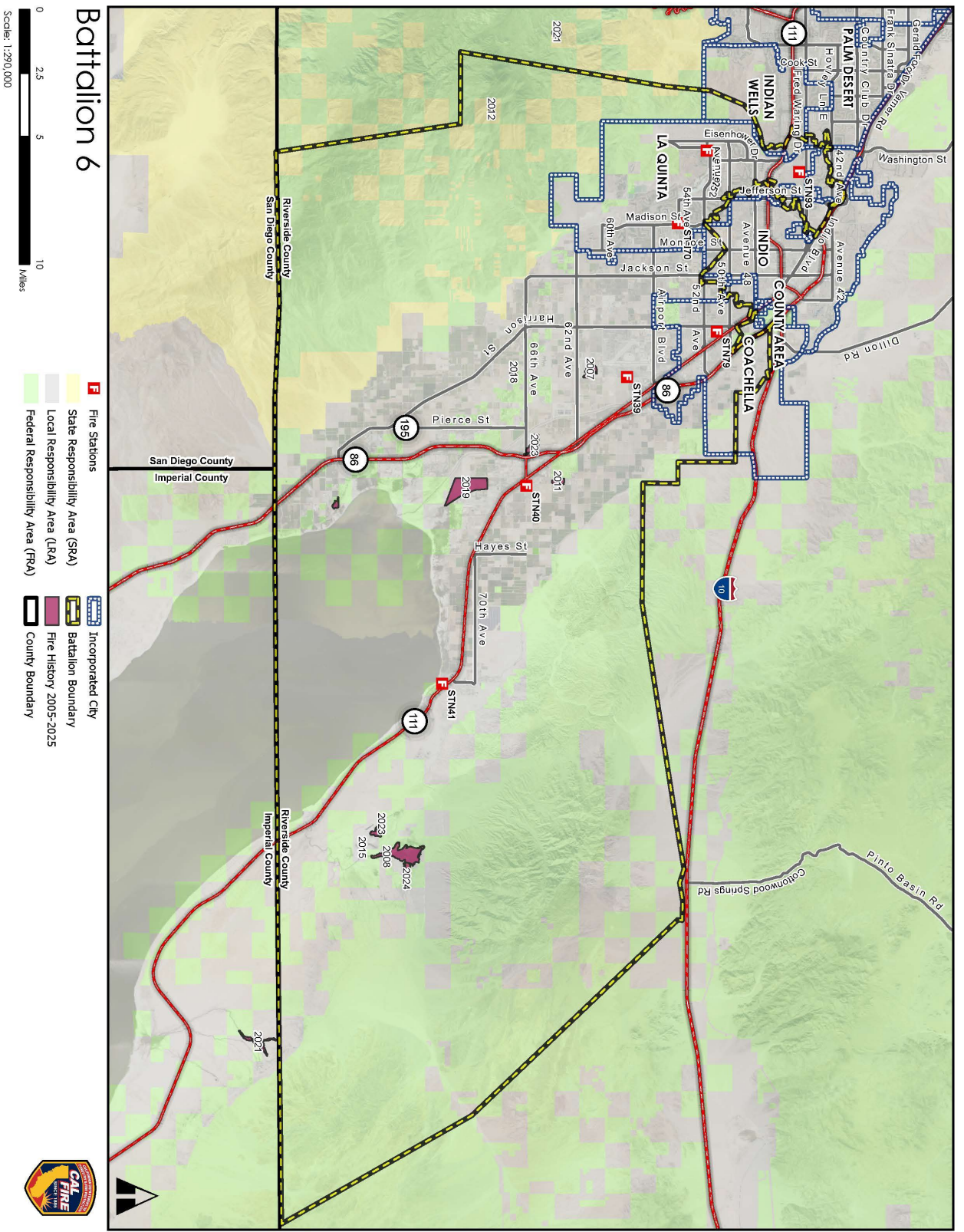
Fire history in Battalion 6 is often described as **lower frequency but potentially high consequence:**

- **Historically lower natural fire frequency**
 - Due to sparse fuels
- **High fire occurrence in**
 - Invasive grass has increased continuity and fire potential
- **Human-caused starts remain important**
 - Transportation routes such as State Route 86 corridor, interstate 10 east valley corridor, state Route 111 corridor, Salton Sea shoreline interface, agricultural interface and open desert fuels throughout eastern Coachella Valley.
- **High consequence due to remoteness**
 - Long response distances can allow fires more time to grow

While fires may be less frequent than west county grass battalions, when fuels align with weather, large desert fires can occur.

Priorities

- **Fuel Reduction & Vegetation Management:** Currently there are no planned or ongoing projects in this Battalion.
- **Wildfire Protection Zones:** La Quinta, Coachella, Thermal, Mecca, Oasis, North Shore, and other communities of the Eastern Coachella Valley and eastern Salton Sea shoreline. See attached FHSZ map.
- **Pre-Fire Management & Evacuation Planning:** focuses on evacuation procedures, preattack readiness that support access, safety, and response effectiveness.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** La Quinta, Coachella, Thermal, Mecca, Oasis, North Shore, and other communities of the Eastern Coachella Valley and eastern Salton Sea shoreline.
- **LE 100 / 38 Inspections and Code Compliance:** Annual hazardous vegetation inspections, enforcement, and engagement in land use planning ensure that new development reduces ignition risk and enhances long term resilience.



Battalion 7 – Indio

Communities: City of Indio

Fuels

Battalion 7 fuel profile is very different from western Riverside County. Fire behavior is dominated by desert vegetation, agricultural interfaces, flashy annual grasses, and riparian corridors rather than continuous chaparral including:

- **Desert scrub fuels (Fuel Model 2)**
 - Creosote, Brittlebush, Palo Verde, Ironwood
 - Typically, **discontinuous fuels**, which can limit spread under normal conditions
- **Invasive annual grass (Fuel Model 1)**
 - After wet years, invasive grasses can create **continuous flashy fuels**
 - This can dramatically change behavior from **patchy desert fire** to **rapid wind-driven runs**
- **Riparian corridor fuels (Fuel Model 6)**
 - Along drainages and river-influenced areas:
 - Tamarisk (salt cedar)
 - Mesquite
 - Dense riparian brush

Weather

Weather is typically a major driver:

- **Extreme heat**
 - Summer temperatures can be severe
- **Very low RH**
 - Frequently supports receptive fuels
- **Strong winds / outflow events**
 - Can rapidly increase spread rates
- **Long fire season**
 - Fine fuels can remain available for long periods

Like other desert battalions, Battalion 7 is often **weather-driven**, with strong wind and heat influencing behavior.

Topography

Topography is generally **open but operationally significant**:

- **Broad basins/open terrain**
 - Can support long wind-driven runs
- **Washes and drainages**
 - Channel wind and fire spread
- **Rocky foothills / broken terrain**
 - Can support upslope runs in localized areas
- **Remote access considerations**
 - Distance and sparse access can affect response times

Terrain may not be as steep as mountain battalions, but **wind alignment and remoteness can create operational challenges.**

Fire History

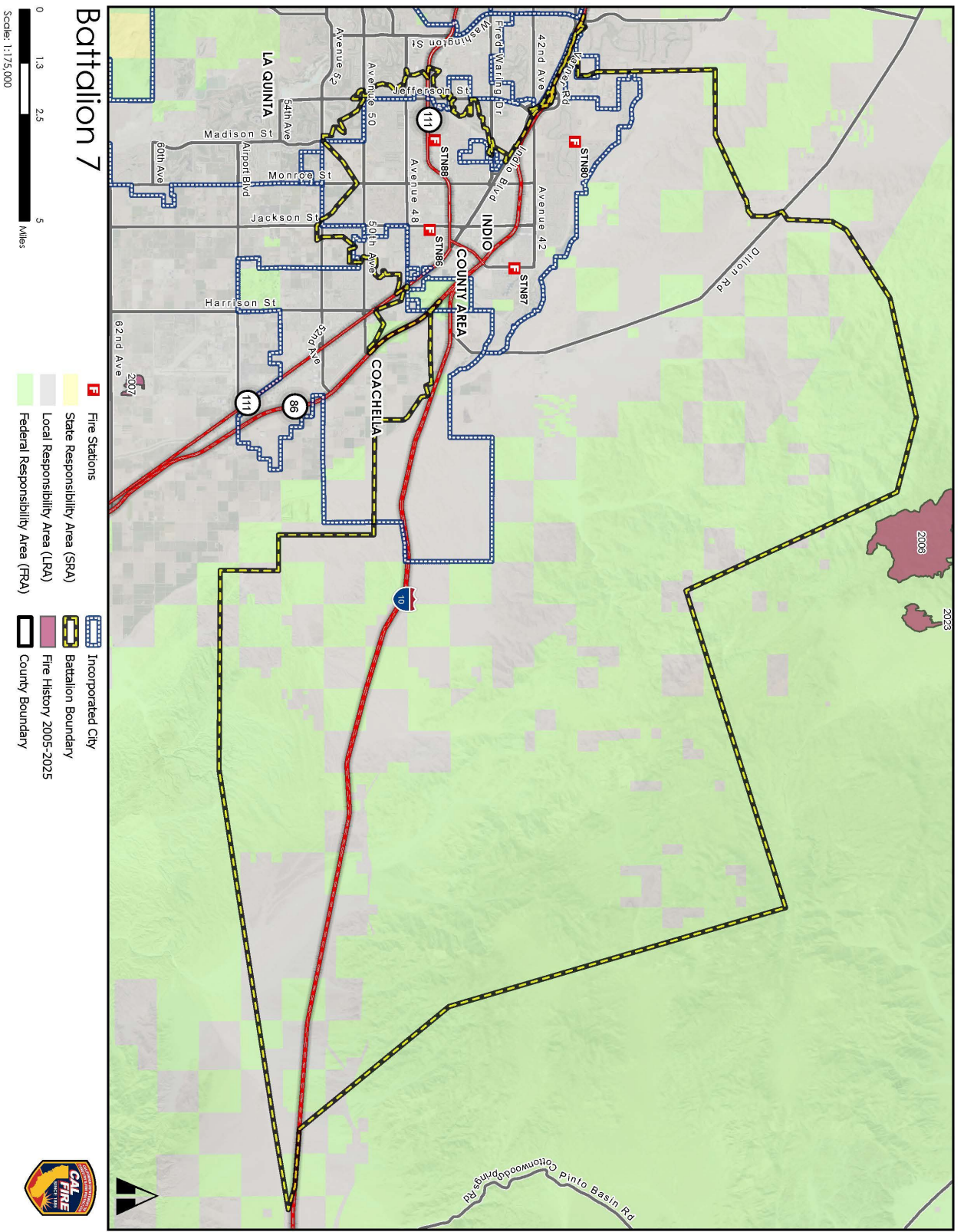
Fire history is generally described as:

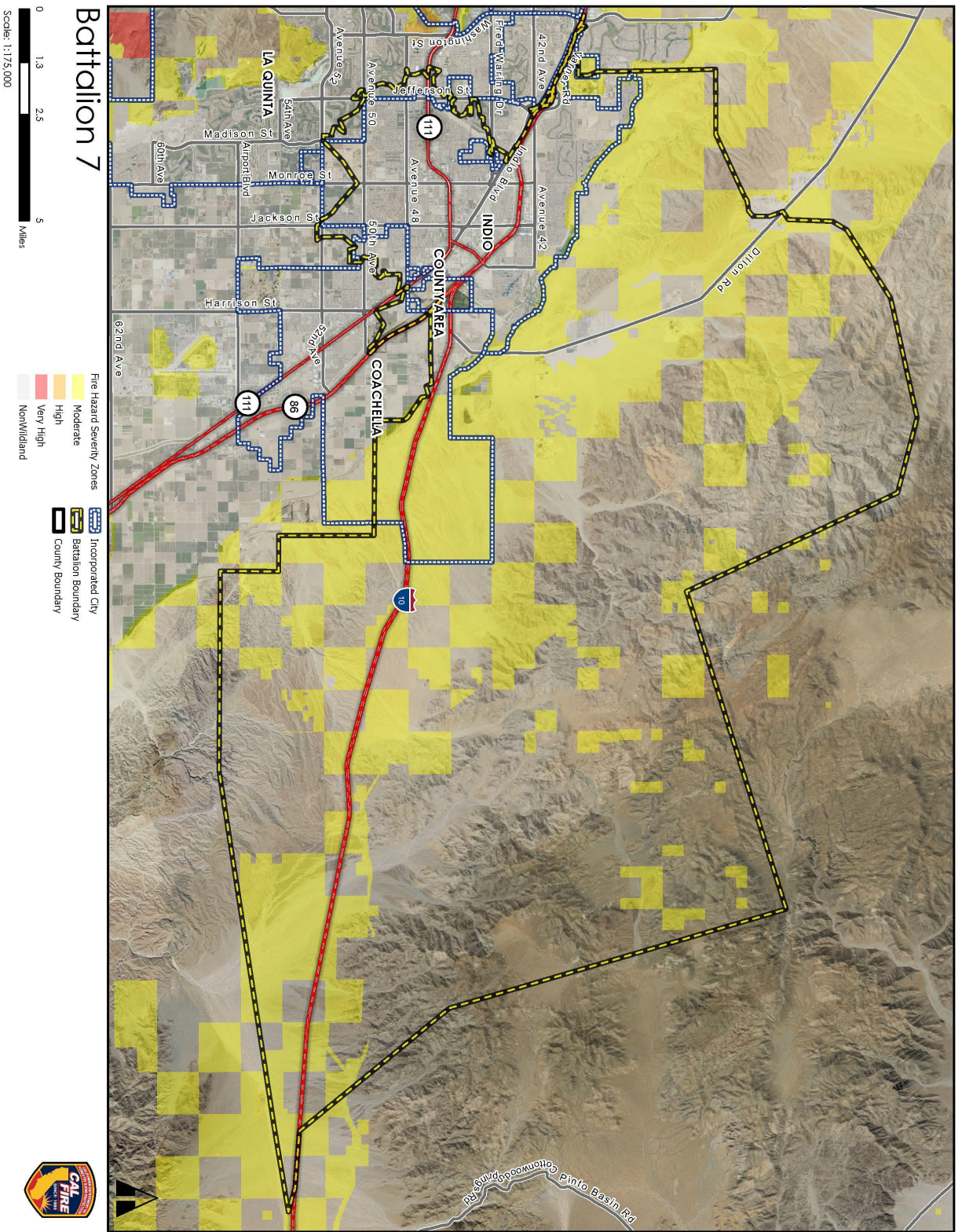
- **Historically lower frequency than west county grass battalions**
- **Potential for larger fires when invasive grasses align with wind**
- **Human-caused ignitions remain a factor**
 - Transportation routes such as State Route 86 corridor, interstate 10 east valley corridor, state Route 111 corridor, foothills of the Joshua Tree National Park, agricultural interface, and open desert fuels throughout eastern Coachella Valley.
- **Higher consequence due to remoteness**
 - Longer than normal response times and distances allow the fires to grow before heavy resource concentration arrives

Fire history is different than west Riverside County because it is driven less by continuous chaparral and more by wind alignment, flashy annual fuels, agricultural interfaces, riparian corridors, and desert vegetation. Fires are commonly smaller in size but tend to be fast moving with structure exposure concerns rather than long duration fire in the western portion of Riverside County.

Priorities

- **Fuel Reduction & Vegetation Management:** Currently there are no planned or ongoing projects in this Battalion.
- **Wildfire Protection Zones:** City of Indio. See attached FHSZ map.
- **Pre-Fire Management & Evacuation Planning:** focuses on evacuation procedures, preattack readiness that support access, safety, and response effectiveness.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** City of Indio. Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Bureau of Land Management
- **LE 100 / 38 Inspections and Code Compliance:** Annual hazardous vegetation inspections, enforcement, and engagement in land use planning ensure that new development reduces ignition risk and enhances long term resilience





B Battalion 8 – Blythe

Communities: Blythe, Ripley, Palo Verde, Mesa Verde, Desert Center

Fuels

Battalion 8 is generally characterized by **light, discontinuous desert fuels**, with behavior changing significantly when fuel continuity increases.

- **Primary fuels**
 - Desert scrub fuels (Fuel Model 2)
 - Creosote, White Bursage, Desert Saltbush, Brittlebush, and Ocotillo
 - Generally Discontinuous fuel beds
- **Invasive annual grass** (Fuel Model 1)
 - After wet years, grass can create continuous flashy fuel beds
 - This can shift fire behavior toward rapid wind-driven runs
- **Localized riparian fuels**
 - Washes and drainages may contain:
 - Tamarisk
 - Mesquite
 - Dense brush pockets
 - These corridors often support the highest fire intensity within the Battalion.
- **Foothill transition areas (localized)**
 - Light brush or sage in transition zones can increase fuel loading

Under normal conditions, fuels may be sparse; when invasives connect the landscape, Battalion 8 can behave much more like a **fast-moving grass-fire battalion**.

Weather

Weather is typically the **primary driver of fire behavior**:

- **Extreme heat**
 - Prolonged periods of very high temperatures
- **Very low relative humidity**
 - Frequently creates receptive burning conditions
- **Strong wind events**
 - Desert winds and outflow events can rapidly increase spread rates
- **Long fire season**
 - Fine fuels may be available for much of the year

Like Battalion 10, Battalion 8 is largely **weather-driven**, with **wind + heat** often controlling fire behavior more than fuel loading alone.

Topography

Topography is generally open, but still operationally important:

- **Broad basins / open terrain**
 - Can support **long wind-aligned fire runs**
- **Washes and drainages**
 - Funnel wind and fire spread
- **Rocky hills / badlands (localized)**

- Can support upslope runs
 - **Remote access considerations**
 - Travel distances can affect response times and concentration of resources
- Topography may be less dramatic than mountain battalions, but **open alignment and remoteness can still create rapid spread and access challenges.**

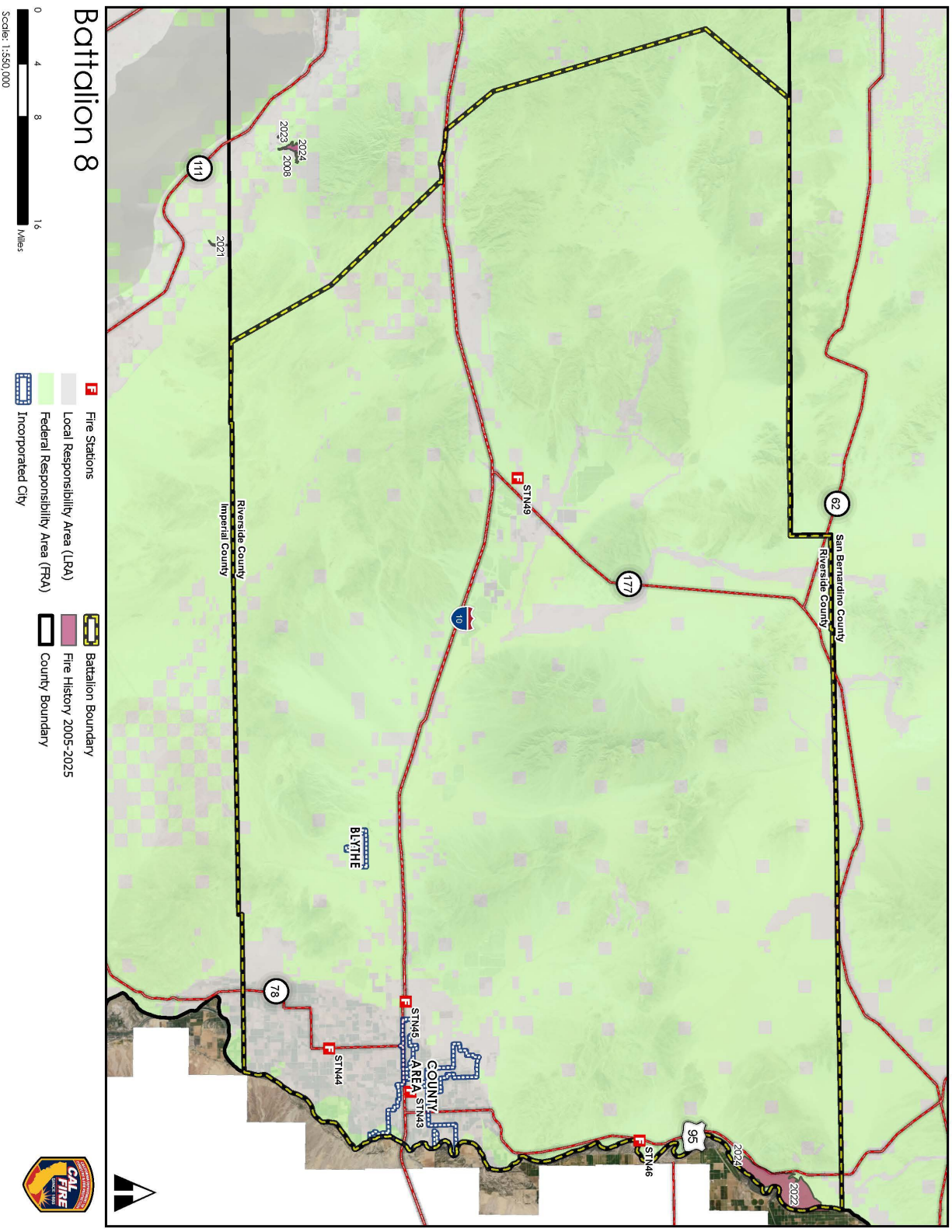
Fire History

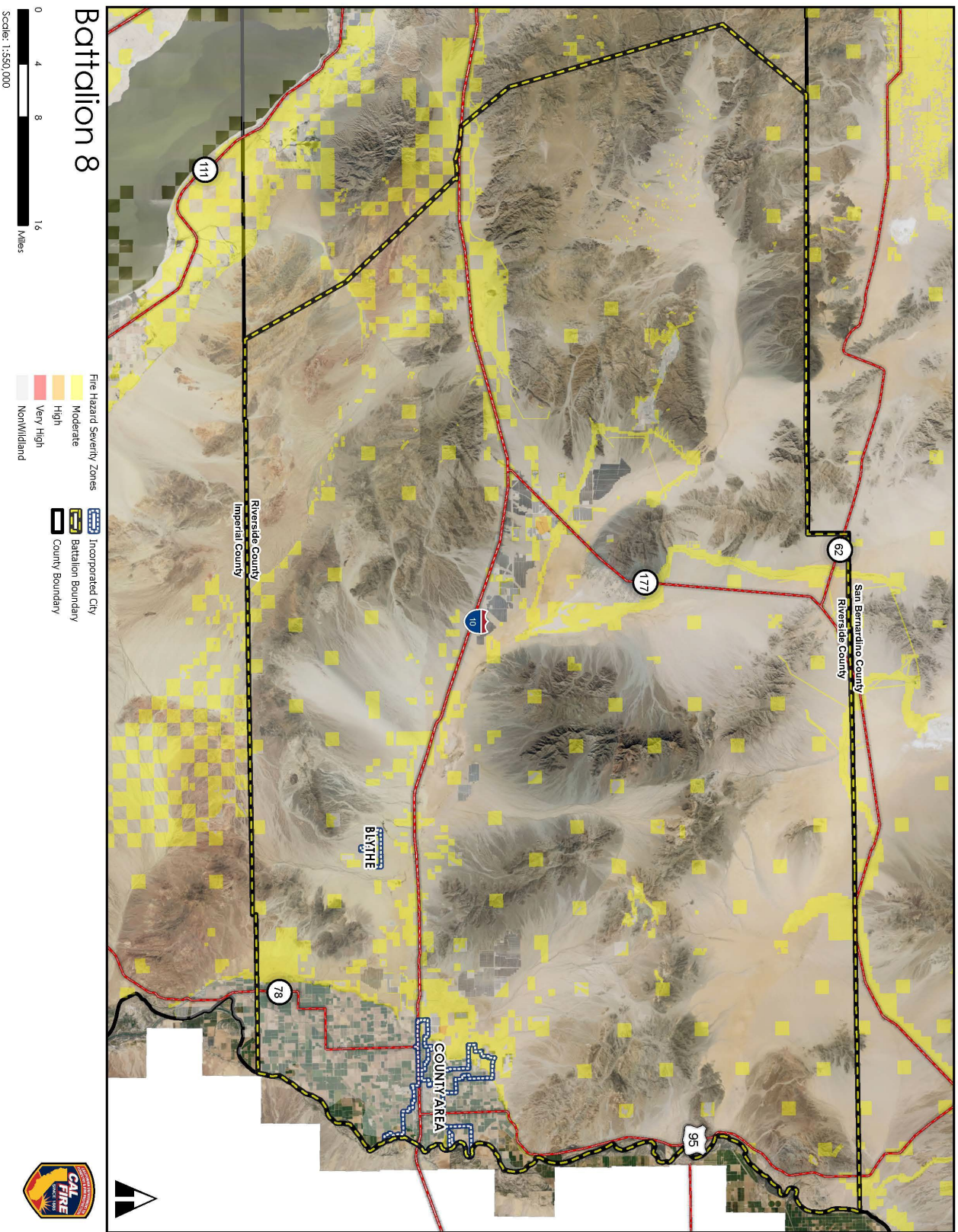
Fire history is generally characterized by:

- **Historically lower frequency than west county grass battalions**
 - **Sparse fields and irrigated agriculture farm fields usually contribute to lower potential of fire activity.**
- **Increasing fire potential where invasive grasses have expanded**
 - Along riparian corridors such as the Colorado River and other flood channels are the main contributing factors to fast moving and larger fire spread.
- **Human-caused ignitions along travel corridors remain important**
 - Recreational off roading, boating, and farming along access routes of the Colorado river cause significant issues with fire starts and delays suppression efforts.
- **High-consequence incidents possible due to remoteness and access**
 - Interstate 10, California Highway 95, and numerous farm / ranch roads damper suppression efforts due to long response times to incidents.

Priorities

- **Fuel Reduction & Vegetation Management:** Currently there are no planned or ongoing projects in this Battalion.
- **Wildfire Protection Zones:** Blythe, Ripley, Palo Verde, Mesa Verde, Desert Center See attached FHSZ map.
- **Pre-Fire Management & Evacuation Planning:** focuses on evacuation procedures, preattack readiness that support access, safety, and response effectiveness.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** : Blythe, Ripley, Palo Verde, Mesa Verde, Desert Center
- **LE 100 / 38 Inspections and Code Compliance:** Annual hazardous vegetation inspections, enforcement, and engagement in land use planning ensure that new development reduces ignition risk and enhances long term resilience





Battalion 9-Moreno Valley

Communities: City Moreno Valley, Reche Canyon, San Timoteo Canyon, and the Gilman Springs Road area.

Fuels

Battalion 9 is primarily dominated by light flashy fuels with pockets of heavier brush, typical of inland Southern California:

- Annual grasses (Fuel Model 1)
 - Cure early (often by late spring)
 - Support rapid rates of spread and high ignition probability
- Coastal sage scrub (Fuel Model 2)
 - Low to moderate fuel loading
 - Burns fast but with shorter flame lengths than chaparral
- Chaparral (Fuel Model 4 – heavier pockets)
 - Found in hills and drainages
 - Produces high intensity, long-duration fire behavior
- Riparian corridors (Santa Ana River / washes)
 - Mixed fuels: grass, brush, trees, invasive species (e.g., bamboo)
 - Can act as continuous fuel beds

Battalion 9 fuels are wind-driven, flashy, and continuous, with occasional heavy brush that can escalate fire intensity quickly.

Weather

Weather in Battalion 9 is hot, dry, and wind-influenced:

- Hot inland climate
 - High summer temperatures
 - Very low relative humidity
- Santa Ana wind influence
 - Offshore winds push fire west and southwest
 - Strong alignment with canyons and slopes
- Canyon wind effects
 - Reche Canyon & San Timoteo Canyon act as wind funnels

Fires in Battalion 9 are typically wind and topography driven and mostly fast-moving, especially during Santa Ana conditions.

Topography

Topography is a major factor in fire behavior and access challenges:

- Moreno Valley basin (~1500 ft elevation)
 - Flat valley floor supports rapid grass fire spread
- Surrounding terrain features
 - Box Springs Mountain (NW)
 - Badlands (north/east) steep, rocky, dissected terrain
 - Lake Perris area (south)

- Canyon systems
 - Reche Canyon & San Timoteo Canyon
 - Provide wind alignment and limited access routes

Terrain creates a bowl effect. Fire can start in the valley and run upslope into steeper, more complex terrain.

Fire History

Fire history in Battalion 9 reflects a high-frequency grass fire environment:

- Significant fire history in surrounding hills and canyons
- Repeated ignitions
 - Grass fuels promote frequent fires and year to year reburn potential.
- Type conversion potential
 - Repeated fires maintain dominance of annual grasses
- WUI exposure
 - Fires threaten:
 - Homes
 - Recreation areas (Lake Perris)
 - Critical infrastructure (Box Springs communication sites)

Battalion 9 experiences frequent, fast-moving fires, with recurring burns reinforcing a grass-dominated fire regime.

Recent Example Context: Spring Fire (2026), Reche Fire (2019), San Tim fires (2003, 2005)

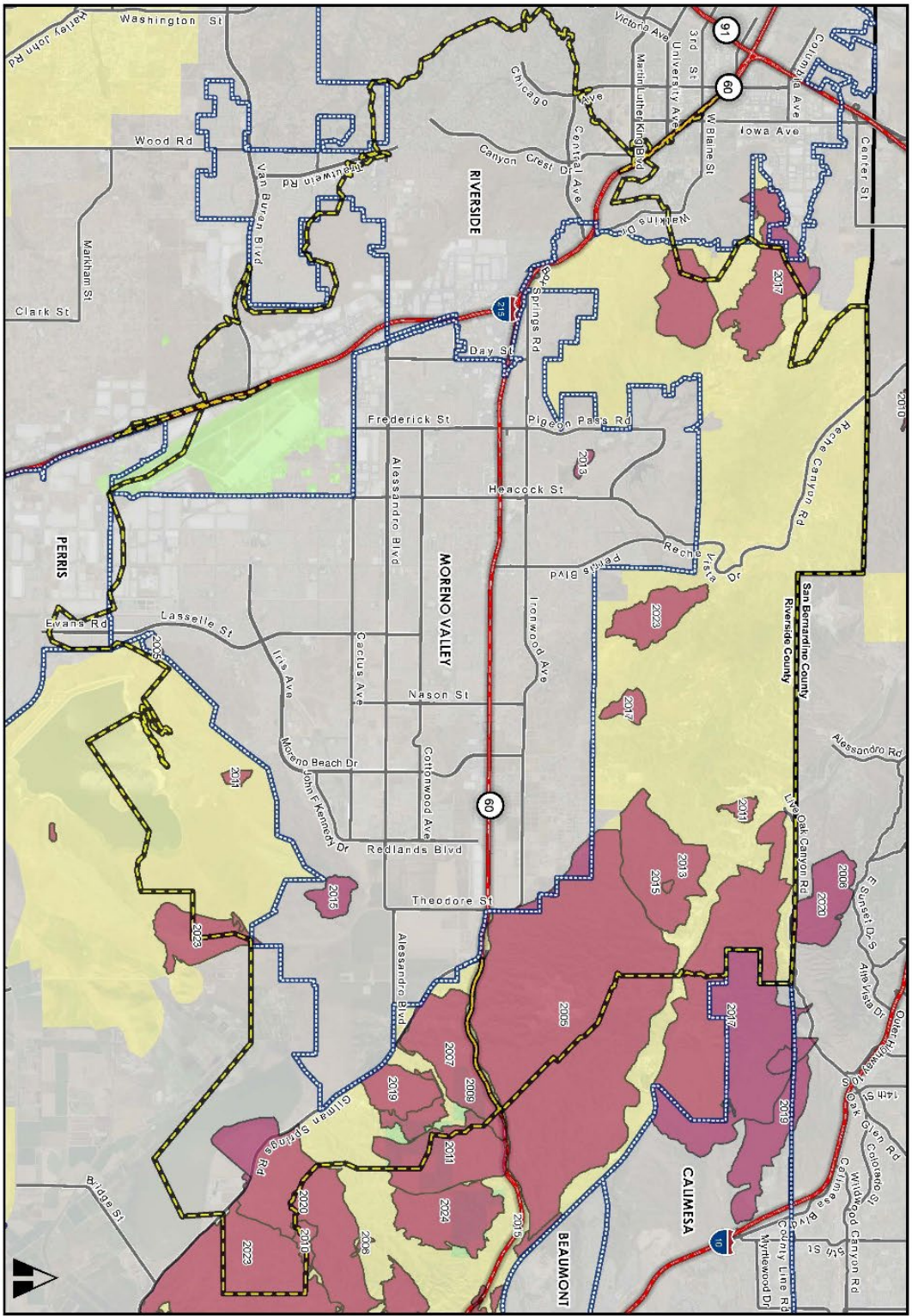
Priorities

- **Fuel Reduction & Vegetation Management:**
 - Lake Perris VMP - Located northeast of Lake Perris in western Riverside County, this 500-acre project uses prescribed fire to restore native grasslands and improve habitat for the endangered Stephens' kangaroo rat. The project targets removal of non-native annual grasses and mustard species to promote native forbs and grasses. Burns occur on a rotational basis to simulate natural fire cycles.
 - Truck Trails – roadside fuel reduction on trails that may be utilized as evacuation corridors.
 - Planned VMP Project consists of the Davis Unit VMP roughly 10,000 acres of planned broadcast or prescribed fire burning with a yearly goal of 500 to 1500 acres burned per year.
- **Wildfire Protection Zones.** City Moreno Valley, Reche Canyon, San Timoteo Canyon, and the Gilman Springs Road area See attached Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) map.
- **Pre-Fire Management & Evacuation Planning**
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** City Moreno Valley, Reche Canyon, San Timoteo Canyon, and the Gilman Springs Road area
- **LE 100 / 38 Inspections and Code Compliance:** Annual hazardous vegetation inspections, enforcement, and engagement in land use planning ensure that new development reduces ignition risk and enhances long term resilience.

0 0.8 1.5 3
Miles
Scale: 1:115,000

Battalion 9

- Fire Stations
- State Responsibility Area (SRA)
- Local Responsibility Area (LRA)
- Federal Responsibility Area (FRA)
- Incorporated City
- Battalion Boundary
- Fire History 2005-2025
- County Boundary

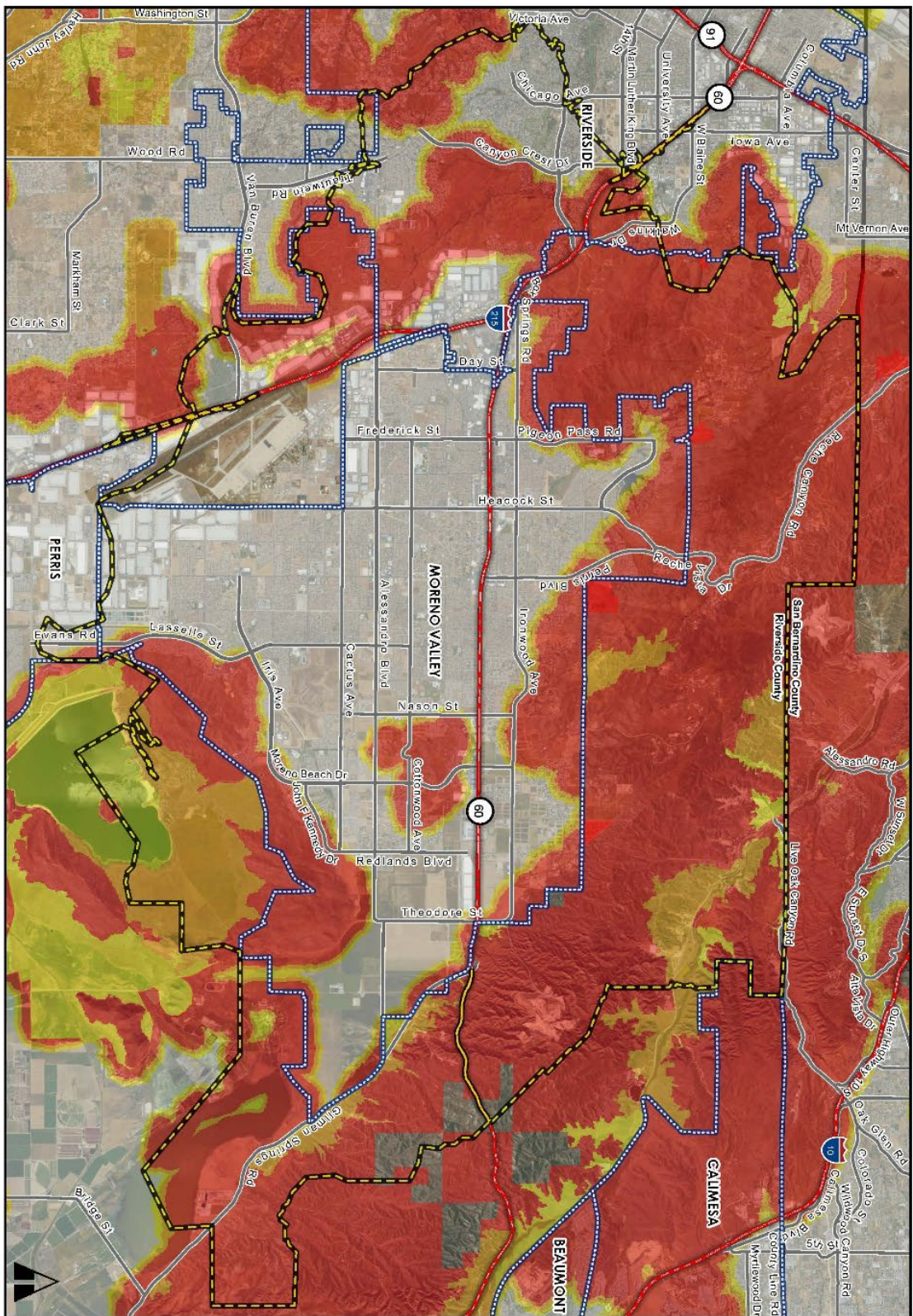


Battalion 9

0 0.8 1.5 3
miles

Scale: 1:115,000

- Fire Hazard Severity Zones
- Moderate
 - High
 - Very High
 - NonWildland
- Incorporated City
- Battalion Boundary
- County Boundary



Battalion 10 – Desert Hot Springs

Communities: Desert Hot Springs, Sky Valley, North Palm Springs, Thousand Palms, Whitewater, and Snow Creek

Fuels

Battalion 10 fuel profile is very different from western Riverside County. Fire behavior is dominated by desert vegetation, agricultural interfaces, flashy annual grasses, and riparian corridors rather than continuous chaparral including:

- **Desert scrub fuels** (Fuel Model 2)
 - Creosote, Brittlebush, Palo Verde, Ironwood
 - Typically, **discontinuous fuels**, which can limit spread under normal conditions
- **Invasive annual grass** (Fuel Model 1)
 - After wet years, invasive grasses can create **continuous flashy fuels**
 - This can dramatically change behavior from **patchy desert fire** to **rapid wind-driven runs**
- **Riparian corridor fuels** (Fuel Model 6)
 - Along drainages and river-influenced areas:
 - Tamarisk (salt cedar)
 - Mesquite
 - Dense riparian brush
 - Can produce **higher intensity and prolonged burning**

Weather

Weather is the **dominant driver** in Battalion 10:

- **Extreme heat**
 - Summer temperatures often exceed **100°F–115°F**
- **Very low relative humidity**
 - Mostly single digit RH throughout the calendar year.
- **Strong winds**
 - Desert winds create a strong influence and alignment throughout the Coachella Valley
- **Long fire season / near year-round potential**
 - Fine fuels can cure early and remain available, Battalion 10 is heavily **weather-driven**, where wind and heat can outweigh normally sparse fuels.

Topography

Topography is generally **less steep than mountain battalions**, but still influences behavior:

- **Broad basins and open desert**
 - Can support **long unobstructed wind-driven runs**
- **Washes and drainages**
 - Funnel both wind and fire
- **Rocky hills / badland terrain (localized)**

- Can support upslope runs
- **Remote access issues**
 - Large travel distances can affect response time and resource concentration

Topography often matters less than wind, but **washes and open alignment can support rapid fire spread over long distances.**

Fire History

Fire history in Battalion 10 is often described as **lower frequency but potentially high consequence**:

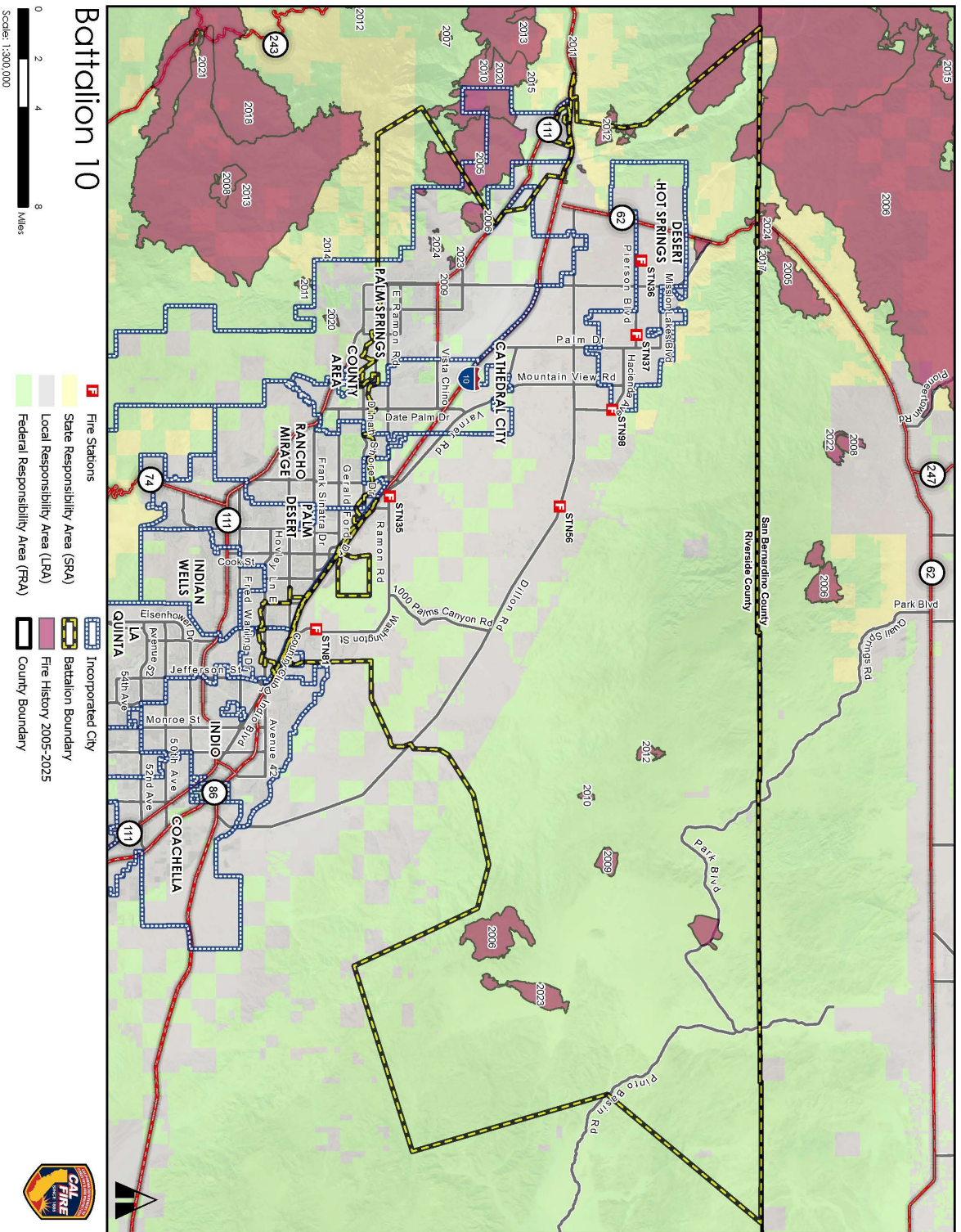
- **Historically lower natural fire frequency**
 - Due to sparse fuels
- **High fire occurrence in**
 - Invasive grass has increased continuity and fire potential
- **Human-caused starts remain important**
 - Transportation routes such as State Route 86 corridor, interstate 10 east valley corridor, state Route 111 corridor, Salton Sea shoreline interface, agricultural interface and open desert fuels throughout eastern Coachella Valley.
- **High consequence due to remoteness**
 - Long response distances can allow fires more time to grow

While fires may be less frequent than west county grass battalions, when fuels align with weather, large desert fires can occur and be a high-frequency ignition environment where extreme wind events drive rapid corridor fires along Interstate 10, Whitewater Canyon, and the San Gorgonio Pass, resulting in repeated fast-moving incidents with significant transportation and wildland–urban interface exposure.

Recent Example Context: Eastern portion of the Apple Fire (2020), Heart Mallard Fire (2006),

Priorities

- **Fuel Reduction & Vegetation Management:** Currently there are no planned or ongoing projects in this Battalion.
- **Wildfire Protection Zones:** Desert Hot Springs, Sky Valley, North Palm Springs, Thousand Palms, Whitewater, and Snow Creek. See attached FHSZ map.
- **Pre-Fire Management & Evacuation Planning:** focuses on evacuation procedures, preattack readiness that support access, safety, and response effectiveness.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** Desert Hot Springs, Sky Valley, North Palm Springs, Thousand Palms, Whitewater, and Snow Creek
- **LE 100 / 38 Inspections and Code Compliance:** Annual hazardous vegetation inspections, enforcement, and engagement in land use planning ensure that new development reduces ignition risk and enhances long term resilience



Battalion 10

0 2 4 8
Miles

Scale: 1:300,000

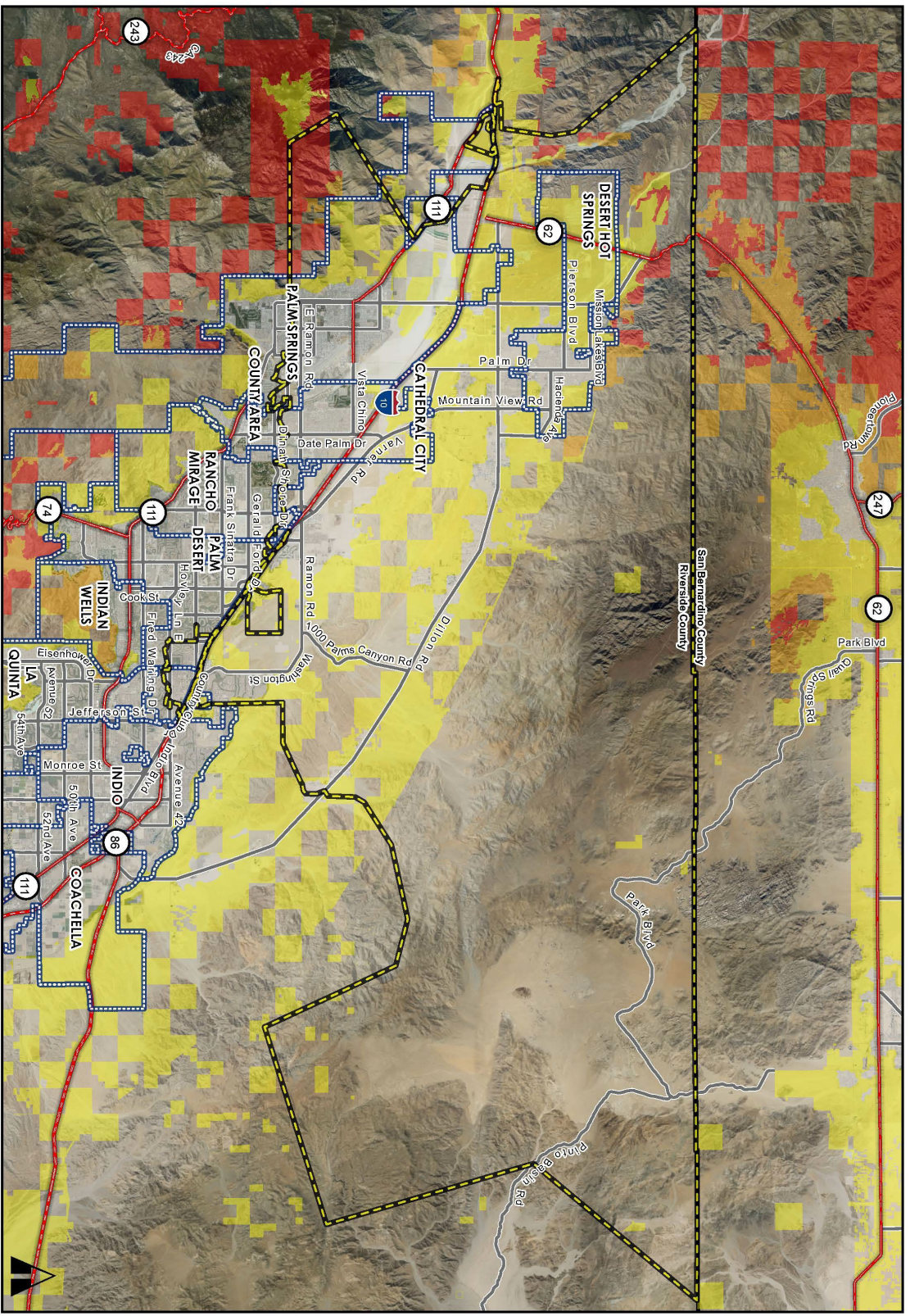
Fire Hazard Severity Zones

Moderate
High
Very High
Nonwildland

Incorporated City

Battalion Boundary

County Boundary



Battalion 11 – Mountain

Communities: Idyllwild / Pine Cove / Mountain Center / Anza / Pinyon / Garner Valley / Aguanga / Lake Riverside

Fuels

Battalion 11 contains the heaviest and most complex fuels in Riverside County:

- Annual Grasses (Fuel Model 1)
 - Valley bottoms and open grasslands
 - Common in portions of Anza and scattered throughout Pinyon
 - Supports rapid rates of spread under wind alignment
- California Chaparral (Fuel Model 4)
 - Dominant throughout mature brush fields and mountain slopes
 - Characterized by heavy chaparral with high intensity and long flame lengths
 - Common in Idyllwild transition zones, Anza, and Pinyon
- Closed Timber Litter (Fuel Model 8)
 - Occurs in denser mixed conifer stands around Idyllwild and Pine Cove
 - Primarily surface fire through compact litter beds
- Timber with Heavy Dead / Down and Understory
 - Present in drought-impacted conifer areas and locations with accumulated dead loading
 - Highest potential for torching, spotting, and crown fire development

Weather

Weather in Battalion 11 is complex and highly variable due to elevation:

- Santa Ana wind influence (critical)
 - Offshore winds drive downslope, high intensity runs
- Mountain weather variability
 - Cooler temps than valleys, but still low RH during fire season
- Poor fuel moisture conditions
 - Drought, insect kill, and disease have caused widespread tree mortality
- Thunderstorm potential
 - Lightning-caused fires possible in summer

Even with slightly cooler temps, wind + dry heavy fuels = extreme fire behavior, including crown fire and long-duration burning.

Topography

Topography is steep, rugged, and operationally challenging:

- Steep slopes and rugged terrain
 - Promote rapid uphill fire spread and alignment
- Deep drainages and canyons
 - Act as chimneys for fire and wind
- Limited access
 - Narrow, winding mountain roads

- Difficult ingress/egress for resources and evacuations
 - WUI in forested terrain
 - Communities embedded in heavy fuels (Idyllwild, Pine Cove, Anza)
- Topography significantly limits suppression options and contributes to extreme fire behavior and complexity.

Fire History

Battalion 11 has experienced repeated wildfire activity that has significantly influenced current fuel conditions, community risk, and pre-fire management priorities.

- **High fuel loading and fuel continuity**
 - Large areas of mature chaparral (Fuel Models 4 and 6), mixed conifer timber, and localized dead-and-down accumulation continue to support high-intensity fire behavior.
 - Regenerated brush within historical fire footprints have increased horizontal continuity in portions of the battalion.
- **Drought stress, mortality, and ladder fuel development**
 - Persistent drought effects and vegetation stress have contributed to increased dead fuel loading and ladder fuel development within timber and chaparral stands, increasing the potential for torching and crown fire behavior.
- **Wind-driven fire potential**
 - Seasonal Santa Ana wind events, terrain-driven upslope and downslope winds, and localized alignment through canyons and drainages continue to create conditions favorable for rapid fire growth, spotting, and long-range ember cast.
- **Wildland Urban Interface Exposure**
 - Communities remain vulnerable due to dispersed development patterns, narrow road networks, limited ingress and egress, overhead utilities, and proximity of structures to heavy fuels.
 - Camps, recreation facilities, ranch properties, and tourism infrastructure further increase values at risk.
- **Recent fire activity reinforcing current risk**
 - Recent incidents in the greater mountain corridor continue to demonstrate the ability for fires to establish and spread in steep terrain under moderate to heavy brush conditions, requiring aggressive initial attack and extended operations when conditions align.
- Long-duration incidents
 - Fires here tend to be extended attack / campaign fires, not quick IA

Recent example Context:

- Mountain Fire (2013), Cranston Fire (2018)

Priorities

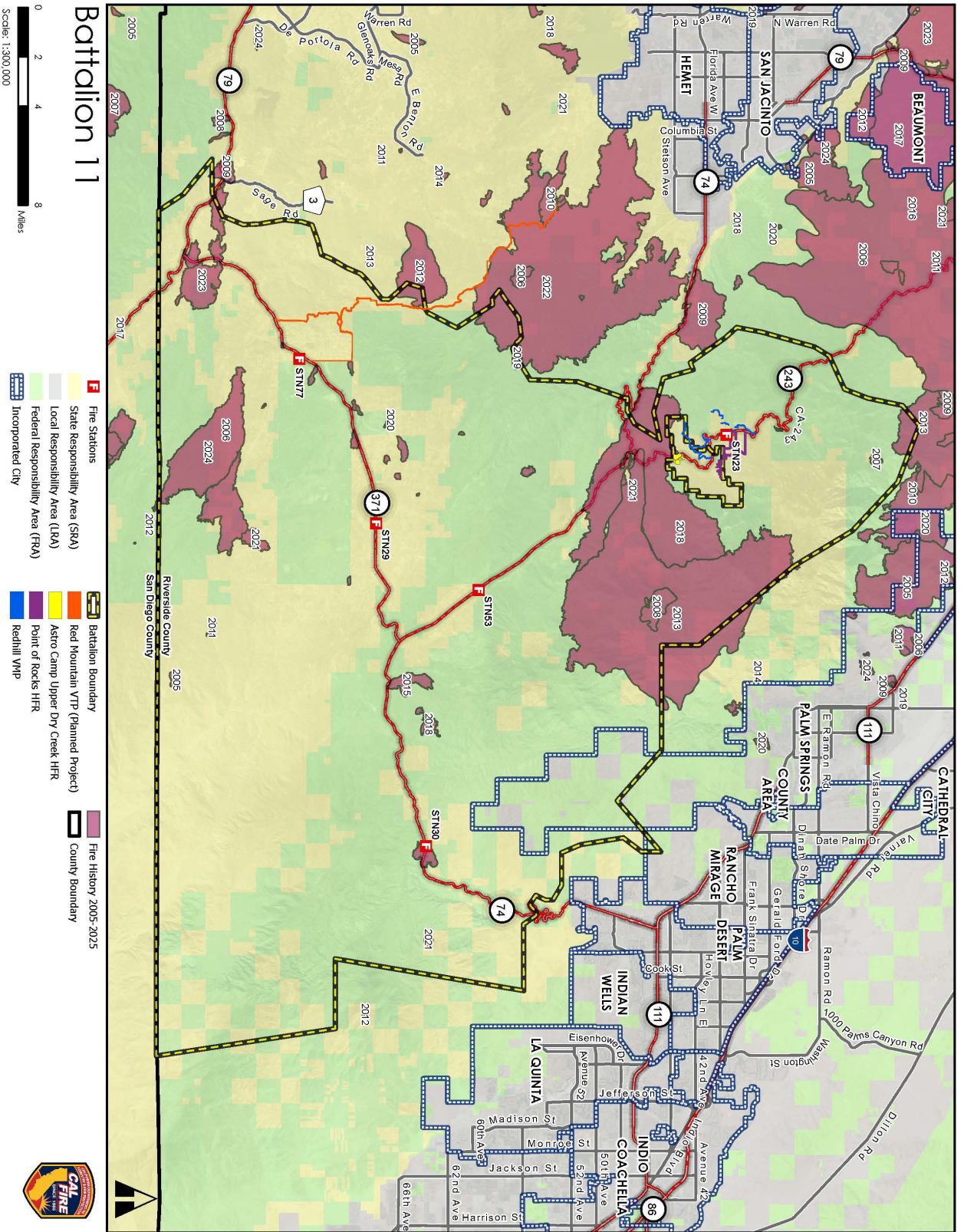
- **Fuel Reduction & Vegetation Management:**
 - Red Hill VMP - hazardous fuel reduction for the communities of Idyllwild and Pine Cove

- Point of Rocks HFR - hazardous fuel reduction for the communities of Idyllwild and Pine Cove
- Red Mountain VMP – Planned hazardous fuel reduction project for the communities of Anza, Lake Riverside, and Aguanga

Wildfire Protection Zones: Idyllwild / Pine Cove / Mountain Center / Anza / Pinyon / Garner Valley / Aguanga / Lake Riverside

- See attached FHSZ map.
- **Pre-Fire Management & Evacuation Planning:** The Plan calls for focused reviews of evacuation procedures, preattack readiness, and truck trail maintenance that support access, safety, and response effectiveness.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** Idyllwild / Pine Cove / Mountain Center / Anza / Pinyon / Garner Valley / Aguanga / Lake Riverside
- **Inspection and Code Compliance:** Regular hazardous vegetation inspections and enforcement, adoption of current fire code standards, and engagement in land use planning ensure that new development reduces ignition risk and enhances long term resilience.
- **LE 100 / 38 Inspections and Code Compliance:** Annual hazardous vegetation inspections, enforcement, and engagement in land use planning ensure that new development reduces ignition risk and enhances long term resilience





Battalion 11

0 2 4 8
Miles

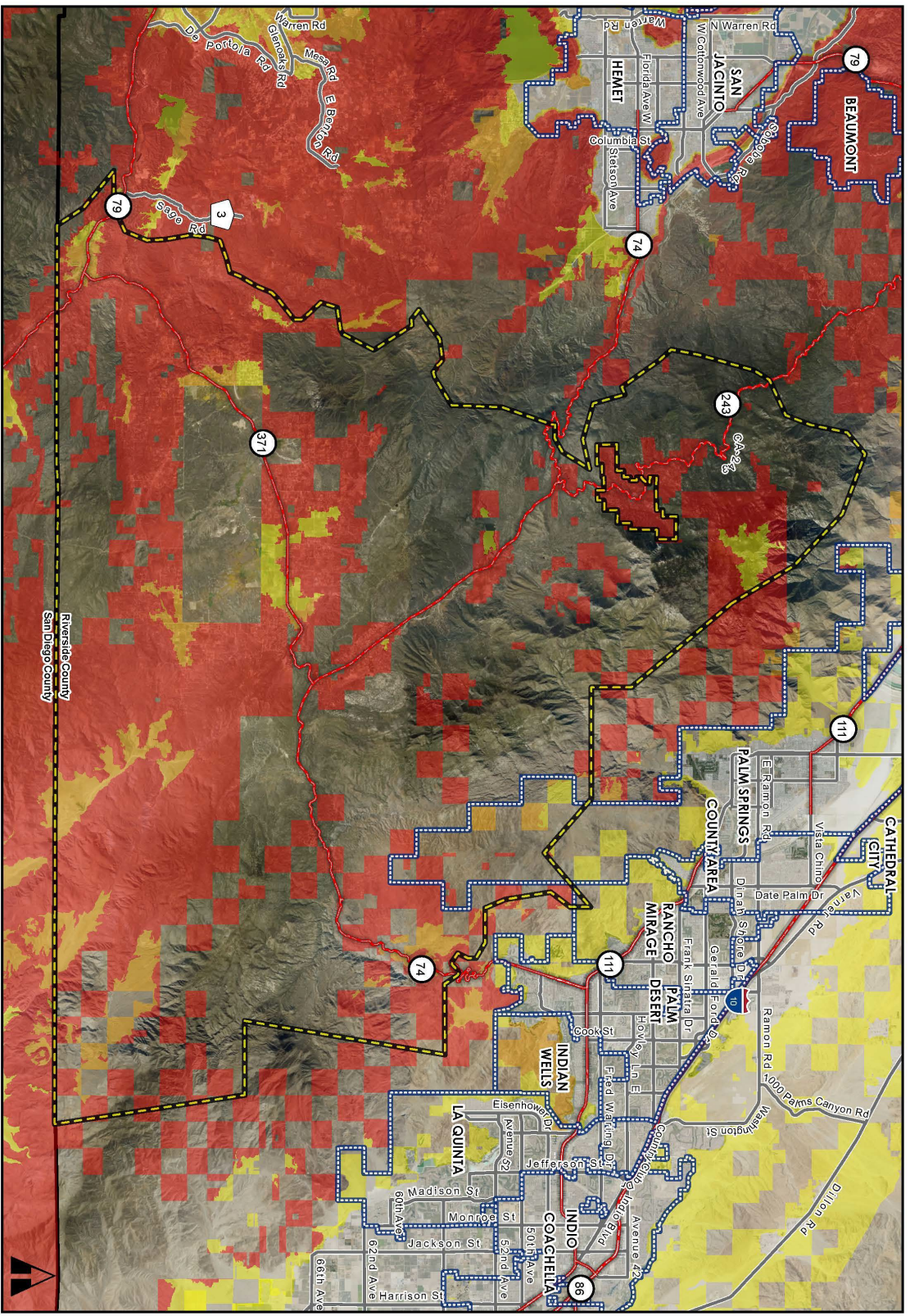
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Fire Hazard Severity Zones

Moderate
High
Very High
NonWildland

Legend

Incorporated City
Battalion Boundary
County Boundary



Battalion 12 – The Coves

Communities: Palm Desert / Indian Wells / Rancho Mirage

Fuels

Battalion 12 is characterized by a **desert fuel complex** consisting primarily of annual grasses, desert scrub, agricultural vegetation, and riparian fuel beds.

- **Desert scrub fuels** (Fuel Model 2)
 - Creosote, Brittlebush, Palo Verde, Ironwood
 - Typically, **discontinuous fuels**, which can limit spread under normal conditions
- **Invasive annual grass** (Fuel Model 1)
 - After wet years, invasive grasses can create **continuous flashy fuels**
 - This can dramatically change behavior from **patchy desert fire** to **rapid wind-driven runs**
- **Riparian corridor fuels** (Fuel Model 6)
 - Along drainages and river-influenced areas:
 - Tamarisk (salt cedar)
 - Mesquite
 - Dense riparian brush
 - Can produce **higher intensity and prolonged burning**

Weather

Weather is the **dominant driver** in Battalion 12:

- **Extreme heat**
 - Summer temperatures often exceed **100°F**
- **Very low relative humidity**
 - Mostly single digit RH throughout the calendar year.
- **Strong winds**
 - Desert winds create a strong influence and alignment throughout the Desert Coves
- **Long fire season / near year-round potential**
 - Fine fuels can be cured early and remain available, Battalion 12 is heavily **weather-driven**, where wind and heat can outweigh normally sparse fuels.
 - Fine fuels may remain available for long periods

Like Battalion 10, Battalion 12 is largely weather-driven, where wind and heat can outweigh normally sparse fuel loading.

Topography

Topography is generally open but still important:

- Broad basin terrain
 - Can support long wind-driven runs
- Alluvial fans and washes
 - Funnel wind and fire spread

- Foothill transitions
 - Areas near mountain interfaces can support upslope runs
- Urban access vs remote edge conditions
 - Some areas have strong access
 - Others at desert edges can become more complex

Topography often amplifies wind alignment and exposure patterns, even if it is less rugged than mountain battalions.

Fire History

Fire history is generally characterized by:

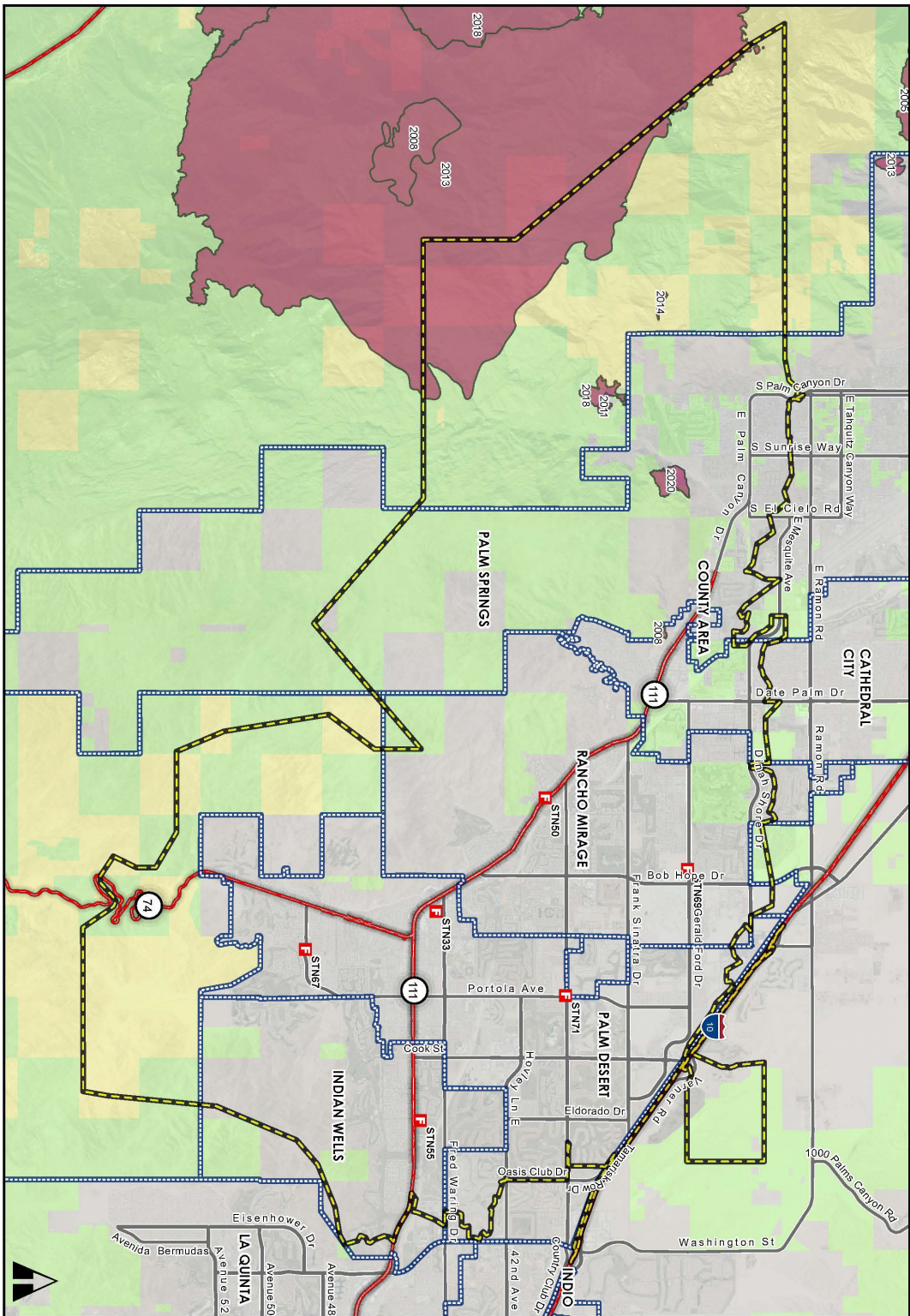
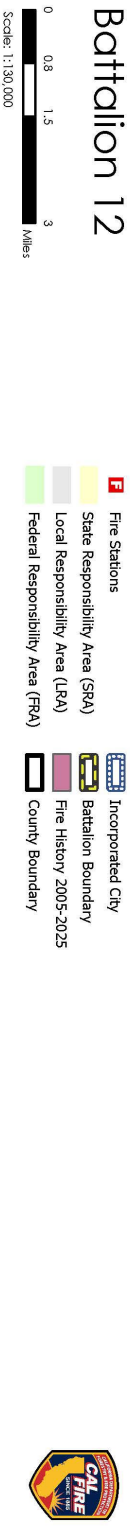
- Historically lower frequency than west county grass battalions, due to desert fuels
- Increasing fire potential tied to invasive grasses
- Human-caused ignitions remain important, especially transportation and development corridors
- High-consequence potential due to WUI exposure, even where total acres burned may be lower

These patterns align with broader concerns about weather-driven fire behavior in lighter fuels.

Battalion 12 may not have the frequent reburn pattern of Battalions in the western county, but fires can still become significant when wind, fuels, and exposure align.

Priorities

- **Fuel Reduction & Vegetation Management:** Currently there are no planned or ongoing projects in this Battalion.
- **Wildfire Protection Zones Palm Desert / Indian Wells / Rancho Mirage**
- See attached FHSZ map.
- **Pre-Fire Management & Evacuation Planning:** focuses on evacuation procedures, preattack readiness that support access, safety, and response effectiveness.
- **Collaborative Partnerships: Palm Desert / Indian Wells / Rancho Mirage**
- **LE 100 / 38 Inspections and Code Compliance:** Annual hazardous vegetation inspections, enforcement, and engagement in land use planning ensure that new development reduces ignition risk and enhances long term resilience



Battalion 12

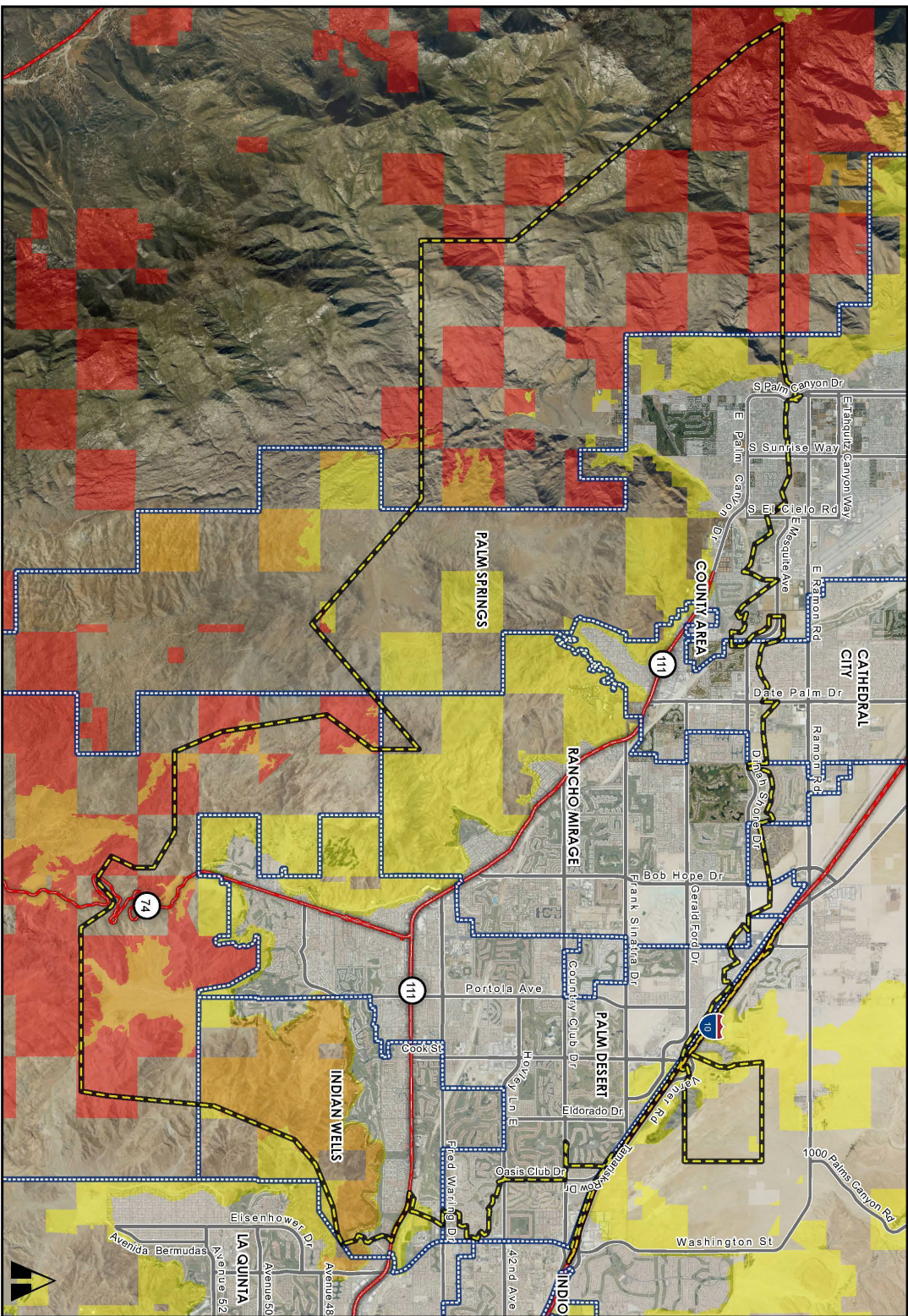
0 0.8 1.5 3
Miles

Scale: 1:130,000

Fire Hazard Severity Zones

 Moderate
 High
 Very High
 NonWildland

 Incorporated City
 Battalion Boundary
 County Boundary



Battalion 13 - Meniffee

Communities: Meniffee / Winchester / Romoland

Fuels

Battalion 13 is dominated by light flashy fuels with pockets of heavier brush, typical of inland Southern California:

- Annual grasses (Fuel Model 1)
 - Cure early (often by late spring)
 - Support rapid rates of spread and high ignition probability
- Coastal sage scrub (Fuel Model 2)
 - Low to moderate fuel loading
 - Burns fast but with shorter flame lengths than chaparral
- Chaparral (Fuel Model 4 – heavier pockets)
 - Found in hills and drainages
 - Produces high intensity, long-duration fire behavior
- Riparian corridors (Santa Ana River / washes)
 - Mixed fuels: grass, brush, trees, invasive species (e.g., bamboo)
 - Can act as continuous fuel beds

Battalion 13 fuels are wind-driven, flashy, and continuous, with occasional heavy brush that can escalate fire intensity quickly.

Topography

Topography is moderate but still important to fire spread:

- Rolling hills and valleys
 - Typical of Meniffee/Winchester area
 - Allow rapid lateral fire spread
- Localized steeper terrain
 - South of Scott Road and near hill systems
 - Can support upslope runs into heavier fuels
- WUI layout
 - Large housing developments adjacent to open land
 - Creates high exposure risk with relatively easy access for fire spread

Terrain is not extreme, but it supports fast-moving fires and strong WUI exposure.

Fire History

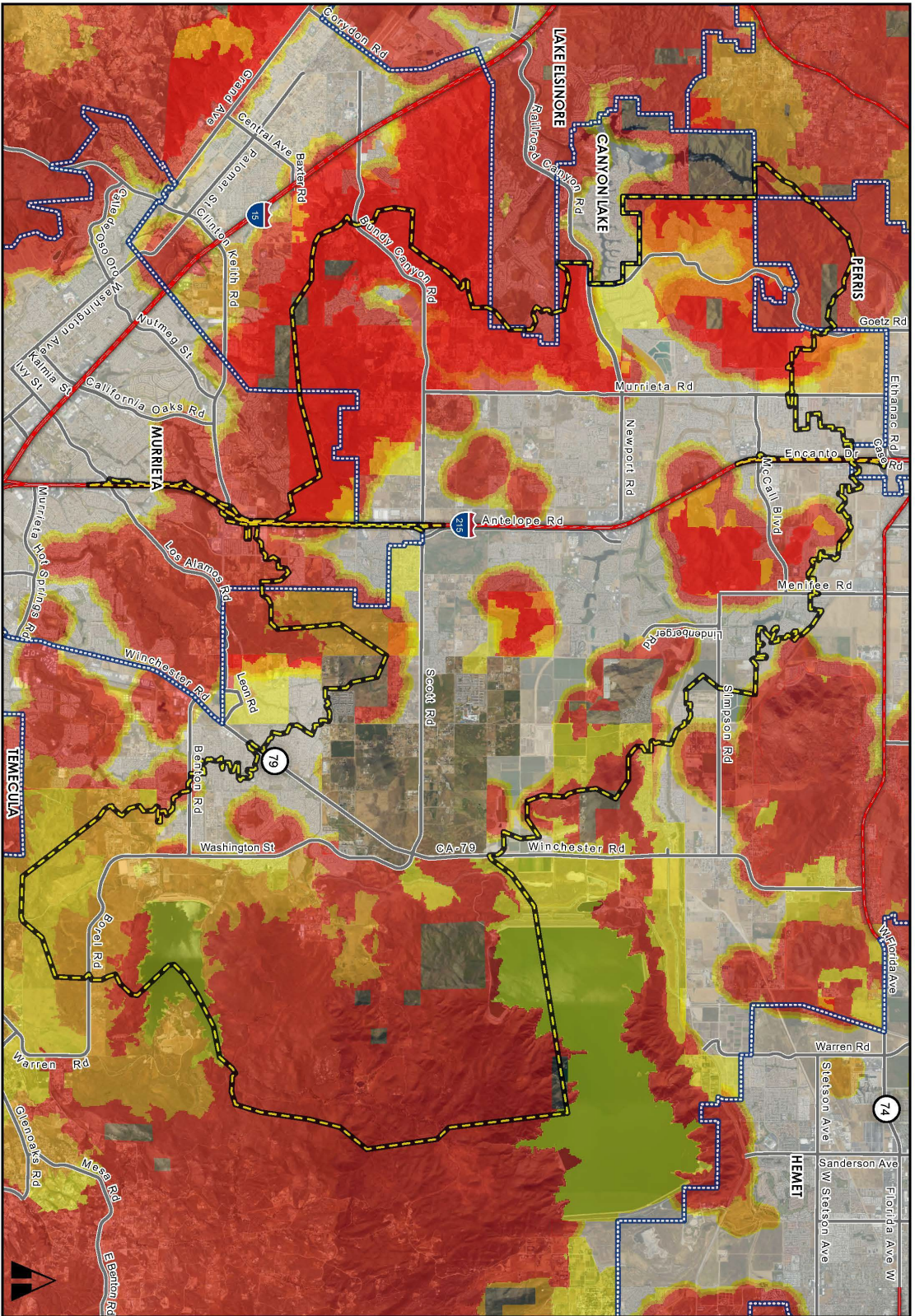
Fire history in Battalion 13 is characterized by frequent, repeat burning:

- High frequency of vegetation fires
 - Especially grass fires during early season
- Repeated burns fuel type conversion
 - Chaparral converting to annual grasses in some areas
- Large Wind-driven fires
 - Even light fuels can produce large incidents under wind
- Rapid fuel recovery cycle
 - Fuels can return to near pre-fire conditions within ~20 years if undisturbed

Priorities

- **Fuel Reduction & Vegetation Management:** Currently there are no planned or ongoing projects in this Battalion.
- **Wildfire Protection Zones:** Meniffee / Winchester / Romoland See attached FHSZ map.
- **Pre-Fire Management & Evacuation Planning:** focuses on evacuation procedures, preattack readiness that support access, safety, and response effectiveness.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** Meniffee / Winchester / Romoland
- **LE 100 / 38 Inspections and Code Compliance:** Annual hazardous vegetation inspections, enforcement, and engagement in land use planning ensure that new development reduces ignition risk and enhances long term resilience





Battalion 14 – Jurupa Valley

Communities: West Riverside / Jurupa Valley / Rubidoux / Glen Avon / Highgrove / Box Springs interface

Fuels

Battalion 14 is characterized by a light-to-moderate fuel loading system dominated by annual grasses, riparian vegetation, and scattered chaparral and woodland patches.

- **Annual Grass**
 - Dominant across open river bottom areas, vacant land, and disturbed soils
 - Primary carrier of fast-moving fire runs during wind events
 - Highly seasonal (flashy curing in late spring–summer)
- **Annual Grass with Shrub Component (Fuel Model 2)**
 - Transitional zones between river bottom and developed areas
 - Common in unmanaged open space and drainage margins
- **Light Chaparral / Sage Scrub (Fuel Model 4,5)**
 - Jurupa Hills and Indian Hills foothill slopes
 - Includes sage scrub, light chamise, buckwheat, and mixed shrub fields
 - Moderate flame lengths with rapid uphill runs in wind

Battalion 14 is a fast-moving, light-fuel battalion, with river-bottom continuity and brush pockets increasing intensity potential.

Weather

Weather is a primary driver of fire behavior in Battalion 14:

- Hot, dry inland climate
 - High temps and low RH through most of the fire season
- Santa Ana wind events (critical)
 - Strong offshore winds push fires:
 - Across Box Springs Mountain
 - Through the Santa Ana River corridor
 - High potential for rapid WUI impact
- Wind alignment
 - River bottom and canyons act as wind funnels

Like Battalions 4 and 9, Battalion 14 is highly wind-driven, with fire behavior escalating rapidly during Santa Ana conditions.

Topography

Topography is moderate but strategically important:

- Valley floor (Jurupa / Rubidoux / Highgrove)
 - Flat to gently rolling → supports rapid grass fire spread
- Box Springs Mountain
 - Steep slopes with limited access and evacuation challenges

- Jurupa Mountains
 - Rocky, dissected terrain with brush pockets
- Santa Ana River drainage
 - Acts as a natural corridor for fire spread and wind alignment

Topography doesn't create extreme fire behavior alone, but combined with wind and fuels, it channels fire quickly into populated areas.

Fire History

Fire history in Battalion 14 reflects a frequent fire, WUI-driven environment:

- Repeated burns
 - Many areas (especially hills) have burned multiple times over the years
 - Maintains grass-dominated fuel model
- Light fuels but high risk
 - Even with lighter fuels, fires can be destructive due to WUI density
- Documented risk areas
 - Box Springs Mountain
 - Jurupa Mountain range
 - Santa Ana River interface
- Evacuation challenges
 - Limited access routes (e.g., Pigeon Pass area) increased risk during fires

Recent Example Context: Bain Fire (2026), Pyrite Fire (2025)

Priorities

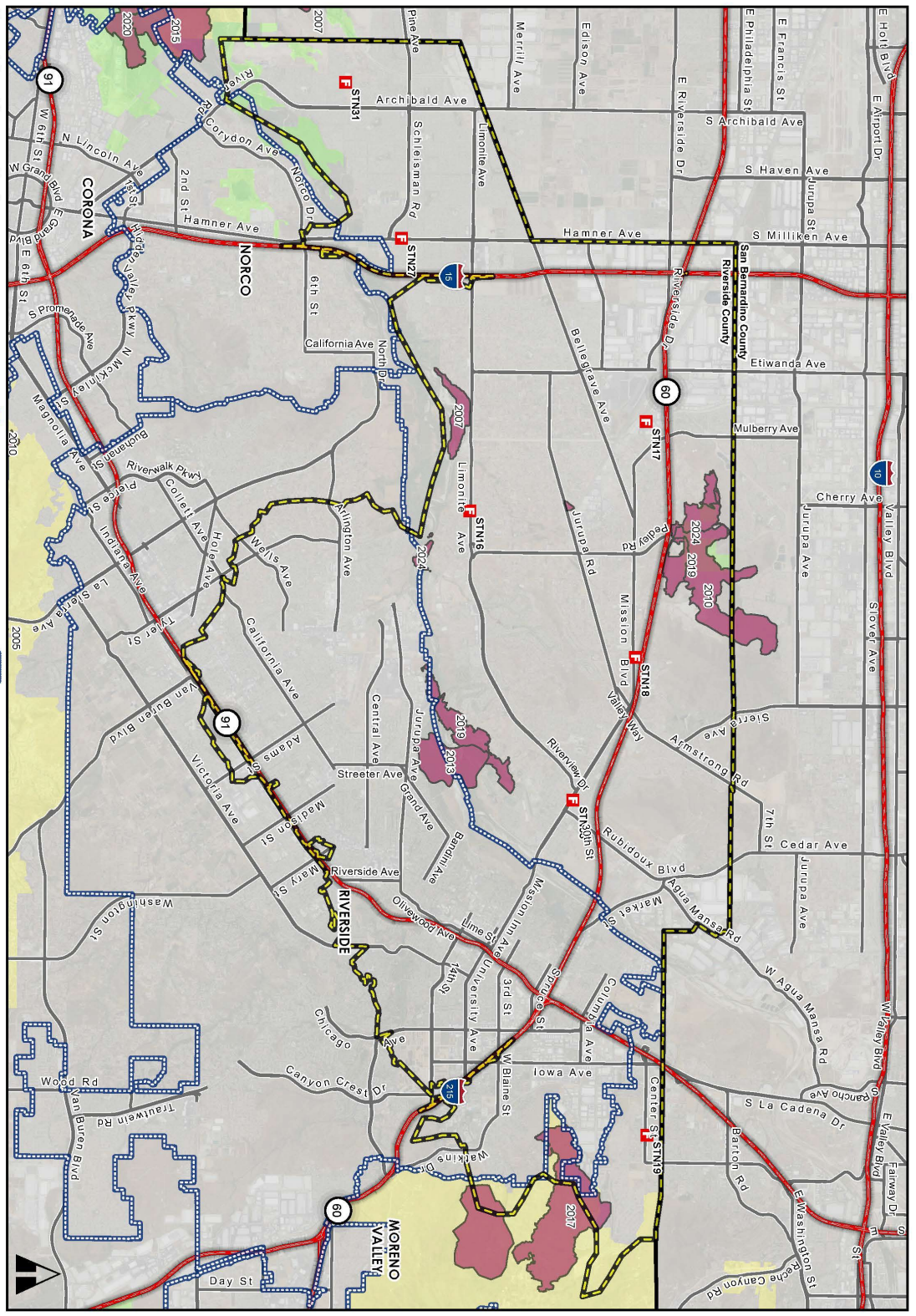
- **Fuel Reduction & Vegetation Management:** Currently there are no planned or ongoing projects in this Battalion.
- **Wildfire Protection Zones:** West Riverside / Jurupa Valley / Rubidoux / Glen Avon / Highgrove / Box Springs interface See attached FHSZ map.
- **Pre-Fire Management & Evacuation Planning:** focuses on evacuation procedures, preattack readiness that support access, safety, and response effectiveness.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** West Riverside / Jurupa Valley / Rubidoux / Glen Avon / Highgrove / Box Springs interface
- **LE 100 / 38 Inspections and Code Compliance:** Annual hazardous vegetation inspections, enforcement, and engagement in land use planning ensure that new development reduces ignition risk and enhances long term resilience

Battalion 14

0 0.8 1.5 3
Miles

Scale: 1:120,000

- Fire Stations
- State Responsibility Area (SRA)
- Local Responsibility Area (LRA)
- Federal Responsibility Area (FRA)
- Incorporated City
- Battalion Boundary
- Fire History 2005-2025
- County Boundary



Battalion 15 – Temecula

Communities: Temecula / Murrieta / La Cresta / Tenaja / Santa Margarita drainage.

Fuels

Battalion 15 is a moderate-to-heavy fuel battalion with strong chaparral dominance, especially toward the Cleveland National Forest:

- Primary fuels
 - Annual Grass (Fuel Model 1)
 - Dominant in valley floors, disturbed lands, vacant parcels, and open space edges
 - Primary carrier of fast-moving wind-driven fires
 - Highly seasonal; becomes critical during late spring through fall curing cycle
 - Often the ignition and initial spread layer for large incidents
- Annual Grass with Shrub Component (Fuel Model 2)
 - Transitional fuels between open grasslands and foothill brush
 - Common along drainages, river corridors, and interface zones
 - Supports faster fire spread than grass alone due to added shrub continuity
- Chaparral (Fuel Model 4)
 - Dominant in surrounding foothills (De Luz, Pechanga, Santa Margarita River canyon systems)
 - High fuel loading with continuous shrub canopy
 - Produces long flame lengths, spotting, and extreme fire behavior under wind alignment
- Timber Litter (Fuel Model 8)
 - Limited oak woodland and riparian tree stands
 - Surface fire behavior with occasional torching in wind events
 - Found along riparian corridors and scattered foothill drainages
- Fuel Model 10 – Timber with Heavy Dead and Down (Localized)
 - Minimal but present in isolated riparian woodland and stressed vegetation stands
 - Highest potential for torching and short crown runs where fuel loading exists

Battalion 15 fuels shift from light grass in valleys to heavy, continuous chaparral, creating high intensity potential and difficult suppression conditions.

Weather

Weather in Battalion 15 is influenced by both coastal and inland conditions:

- Santa Ana winds (critical factor)
 - Offshore winds drive rapid fire spread through canyons and ridgelines
- Coastal influence
 - Marine layer can bring slightly higher humidity at times

- Often short-lived and overridden by offshore winds
- Hot, dry inland periods
 - Summer and fall produce low RH and elevated fire danger
- The Elsinore Effect
 - During the summer, the combination of topography and temperature differences can cause winds to shift direction, often resulting in **down-slope movement of air**. This phenomenon can lead to fires burning downhill, contrary to typical fire behavior where flames usually rise
 - Firefighters in the area are particularly aware of this effect, as it can complicate firefighting efforts and increase the risk of spreading wildfire into populated areas.

Battalion 15 can shift quickly from moderate fire conditions to extreme, wind-driven behavior, especially during Santa Ana events.

Topography

Topography is a major factor and one of the biggest challenges in Battalion 15:

- Santa Margarita River drainage
 - Deep, rugged drainage system
 - Limited access → difficult initial attack success
- La Cresta / Tenaja
 - Steep hills and ridges
 - Large-lot WUI (5+ acre parcels) with limited ingress/egress
- Cleveland National Forest interface
 - Rugged, remote terrain
 - Requires indirect tactics and air support

Topography creates access problems, wind alignment, and long-duration fire potential, especially in drainages

Fire History

Fire history in Battalion 15 is unique compared to other battalions:

- High frequency of vegetation fires
 - Especially grass fires during early season
- Repeated burns fuel type conversion
 - Chaparral converting to annual grasses in some areas
- Large Wind-driven fires
 - Even light fuels can produce large incidents under wind
- Rapid fuel recovery cycle
 - Fuels can return to near pre-fire conditions within ~20 years if undisturbed

Recent example context: Canyon, De Luz, and Pala Interface Fires (Recurring), I-15 Corridor Fires

Battalion 15 may not burn as frequently as grass battalions, but it has high potential for large, destructive fires due to heavy fuels and limited access.

Priorities

- **Fuel Reduction & Vegetation Management:**
 - Lake Skinner MSR VMP- hazardous fuel reduction for the communities of Temecula
 - Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve VMP - hazardous fuel reduction for the communities Temecula and La Cresta
- **Wildfire Protection Zones:** Temecula / Murrieta / La Cresta / Tenaja / Santa Margarita drainage. See attached FHSZ map.
- **Pre-Fire Management & Evacuation Planning:** focuses on evacuation procedures, preattack readiness, and truck trail maintenance that support access, safety, and response effectiveness.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** Temecula / Murrieta / La Cresta / Tenaja / Santa Margarita drainage.
- **LE 100 / 38 Inspections and Code Compliance:** Annual hazardous vegetation inspections, enforcement, and engagement in land use planning ensure that new development reduces ignition risk and enhances long term resilience



Battalion 15

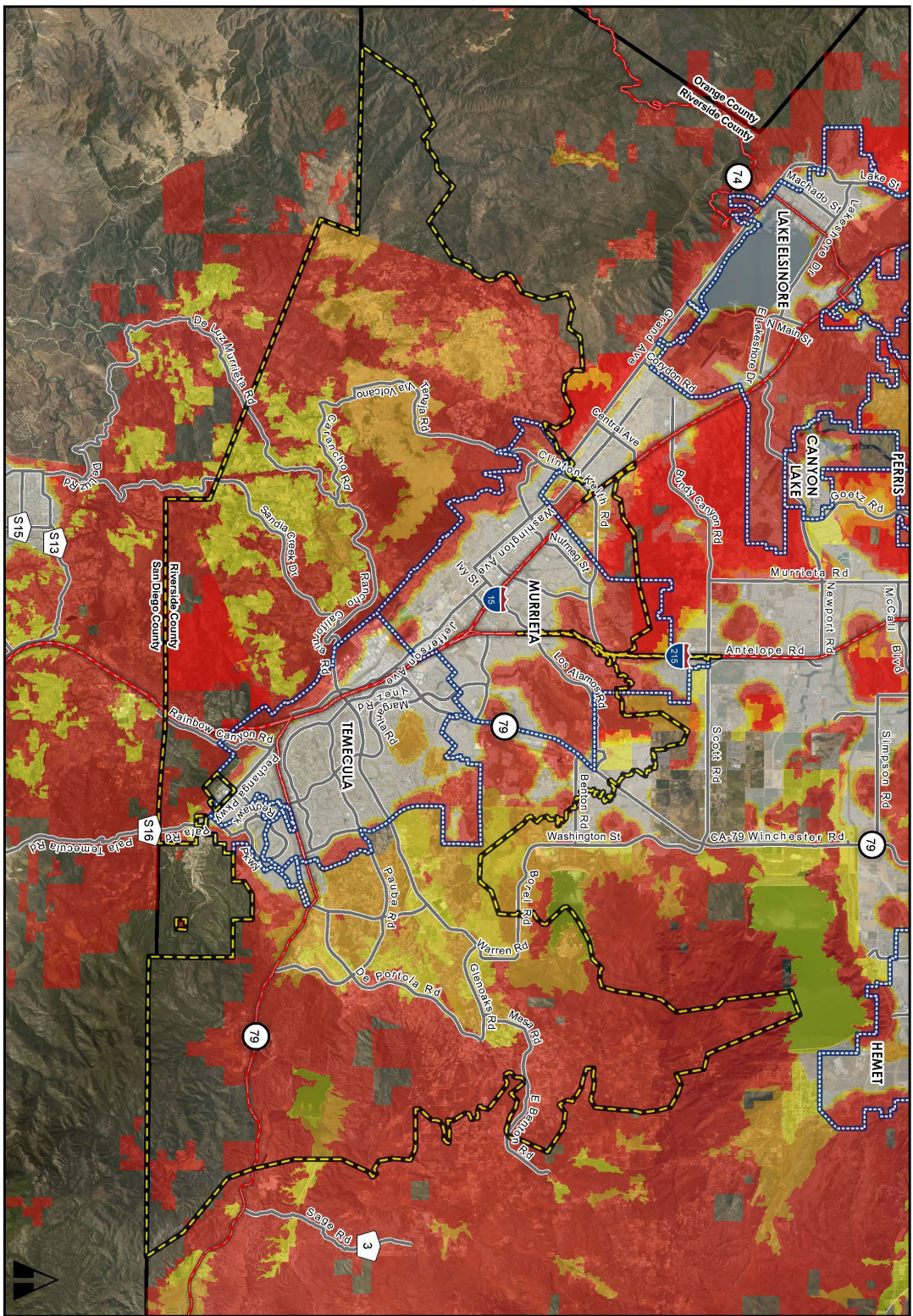
0 1.5 3 6
Miles

Scale: 1:210,000

Fire Hazard Severity Zones

Moderate
High
Very High
NonWildland

Incorporated City
Battalion Boundary
County Boundary



Fuels Management

Fuel Break Construction and Maintenance

Continue development and maintenance of strategic fuel breaks along high-risk WUI boundaries, including the Elsinore Front Country, South Main Divide, and El Cariso areas. These projects serve as critical barriers between communities and wildland fuels.

Vegetation Management Programs (VMPs)

Collaborate with state, federal, tribal, and non-profit partners to implement VMPs aimed at reducing fuel loads, removing invasive species, and restoring native plant communities.

Truck Trail Maintenance

Inventory and maintain truck trails used for emergency response and fire suppression. Coordinate with Riverside County Parks, USFS, BLM, and other partners to repair and improve access routes.

Preserve Partnerships

Continue working with land management agencies (e.g., CNLM, RCA, BLM, DFW, State Parks) to manage open space preserves. Focus efforts on invasive species removal and restoration of native vegetation to reduce fuel loading and fire intensity.

Special Focus Areas

Evacuation Safety Corridors

Identify, construct, and maintain evacuation corridors in high-risk areas with limited ingress/egress. Ensure roadside vegetation clearance and signage to support safe evacuations.

Critical Infrastructure Protection

Coordinate with utilities and infrastructure operators (e.g., Southern California Edison, Caltrans, railroads) to ensure access roads are secured, fuel reduced, and fire starts minimized near power lines, highways, and railways.

Cultural and Environmental Preservation

Support fuel reduction efforts near sensitive ecological and cultural sites such as the Motte-Rimrock Reserve, Lake Perris State Park, and other significant reserves, balancing habitat protection with fire resilience.

Wildfire Prevention in High-Use Areas

Target enforcement and education in areas prone to illegal activities such as unauthorized off-road vehicle use, shooting ranges, and transient encampments. Work with local law enforcement and landowners to mitigate ignition sources.

Pre-Fire Planning and Preparedness

Pre-Fire Attack Plans

Develop and maintain pre-fire plans for historically high fire-risk areas. Include identification of roads, water sources, heli-spots, staging areas, evacuation decision points, and potential incident base locations.

Strategic Contingency Planning

Review and update evacuation, pre-attack, and initial attack portions of the Riverside County Strategic Contingency Plan. Incorporate recent fire behavior trends, population growth, and infrastructure changes.

Interagency Collaboration

Unified Command Coordination

Strengthen partnerships with cooperating agencies including USFS, BLM, tribal fire departments, and local municipalities. Jointly develop pre-fire attack plans, enforce defensible space codes, and coordinate large-scale prescribed fire efforts.

Shared Boundaries

Enhance mutual aid agreements and operational readiness across jurisdictional boundaries, particularly in areas adjacent to the Cleveland National Forest, San Bernardino National Forest, and urban fringe communities.

Community Risk Reduction

Public Education and Outreach

Expand public awareness campaigns through school programs, town halls, and partnerships with local organizations. Develop and distribute bilingual materials to reach diverse communities.

Fire Prevention Signage

Install and maintain fire prevention signs at key ingress points, trailheads, and community entrances throughout the unit to increase public awareness and compliance.

Collaboration with Fire Safe Councils

Support and coordinate with established Fire Safe Councils for LE-100 compliance, community chipping programs, and educational outreach.

Defensible Space Inspections

Continued and expanded implementation of the LE-100 and LE-95 programs in all State Responsibility Areas (SRA), with a focused effort in high-risk WUI zones. Prioritizing public education, compliance inspections, and enforcement actions were necessary

APPENDIX A: PRE- FIRE PROJECTS

		Pre-Fire Projects Riverside Unit (RRU) 01/01/2025 through 12/31/2026	
Program	Project Name	Project Status	Total Acres
Fire Plan	Davis Unit VMP	Planning	10,000
Fire Plan	Red Mountain VMP	Planning	765
Fire Plan	El Cariso HFR	Active	153
Fire Plan	EFCFB	Completed	80
Fire Plan	Lake Mathews VMP	Active	5770
Fire Plan	Lake Skinner VMP	Active	1430
Fire Plan	Oak Glen Water Canyon HFR	Active	636
Fire Plan	Point of Rocks HFR	Active	345
Fire Plan	RRU Truck Trail <u>Maint.</u> HFR	Ongoing	481
Fire Plan	Red Hill VMP	Active	222
Fire Plan	Santa Rosa Plateau VMP	Ongoing	4101
Fire Plan	South Main Divide HFR	Active	70
Fire Plan	Astro Camp HFR	Active	85

Status Guide: A = Active, P = Planning, C = Completed, O = Ongoing, M = Maintenance.

APPENDIX B: UNIT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

2026 Riverside Unit Strategic Goals

1. Advance Pre-Fire Projects

- Continuing development and implementation of all ongoing and planned Pre-Fire Management and Vegetation Management Program (VMP) projects across the Unit.

2. Secure and Prioritize Project Funding

- Identify and pursue funding opportunities to support "in maintenance" fuel reduction projects.
- Establish a priority system to ensure effective resource allocation.

3. Resume and Maintain Strategic Infrastructure

- Resume maintenance of historic truck trails, fuel breaks, and water tanks critical to fire suppression operations.
- Complete GIS geodatabase updates for Unit truck trail inventory and integrate data into Mobile Data Computers (MDCs) for field access.

4. Protect Critical Infrastructure and Communities

- Maintain fuel breaks around key infrastructure assets such as communication sites.
- Focus efforts on high-risk residential interface areas to reduce wildfire vulnerability.

5. Address Forest Health Threats

- Continue suppression and eradication efforts for the Gold Spotted Oak Borer (GSOB).
- Monitor dead, dying, and diseased trees and pursue funding for their removal to reduce hazard and improve forest health.

6. Develop Fire Risk Reporting Tools

- Design and deploy a Fire Risk Assessment Report (FRAR) field application to streamline data collection and reporting for field personnel.

7. Clarify SRA/DPA Boundaries

- Conduct a focused review of State Responsibility Area (SRA) and Direct Protection Area (DPA) boundaries to ensure clarity and operational efficiency.

8. Promote Grant-Funded Fire Prevention Projects

- Continue to support, promote, and implement grant-funded fuel mitigation and fire prevention initiatives throughout the Unit.

9. Participate in High Hazard Zone Review

- Actively engage in the initial review process of High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZs) within Riverside County.

10. Update 5-Year SRA Plan

- Develop, update, and complete the comprehensive 5-Year Review Plan for SRA lands within the Unit.

11. Complete Planning for Davis and Potrero VMPs

- Finalize planning stages for the Davis and Potrero Vegetation Management Program and prepare for future implementation.

12. Achieve LE100 Program Compliance

- Strive for a minimum of 80% compliance across the Unit for the Defensible Space Inspection (LE100) program.

APPENDIX C: EXHIBIT MAPS

Figure A: Unit Fire Closure Map/North Mountain-Indian Canyon

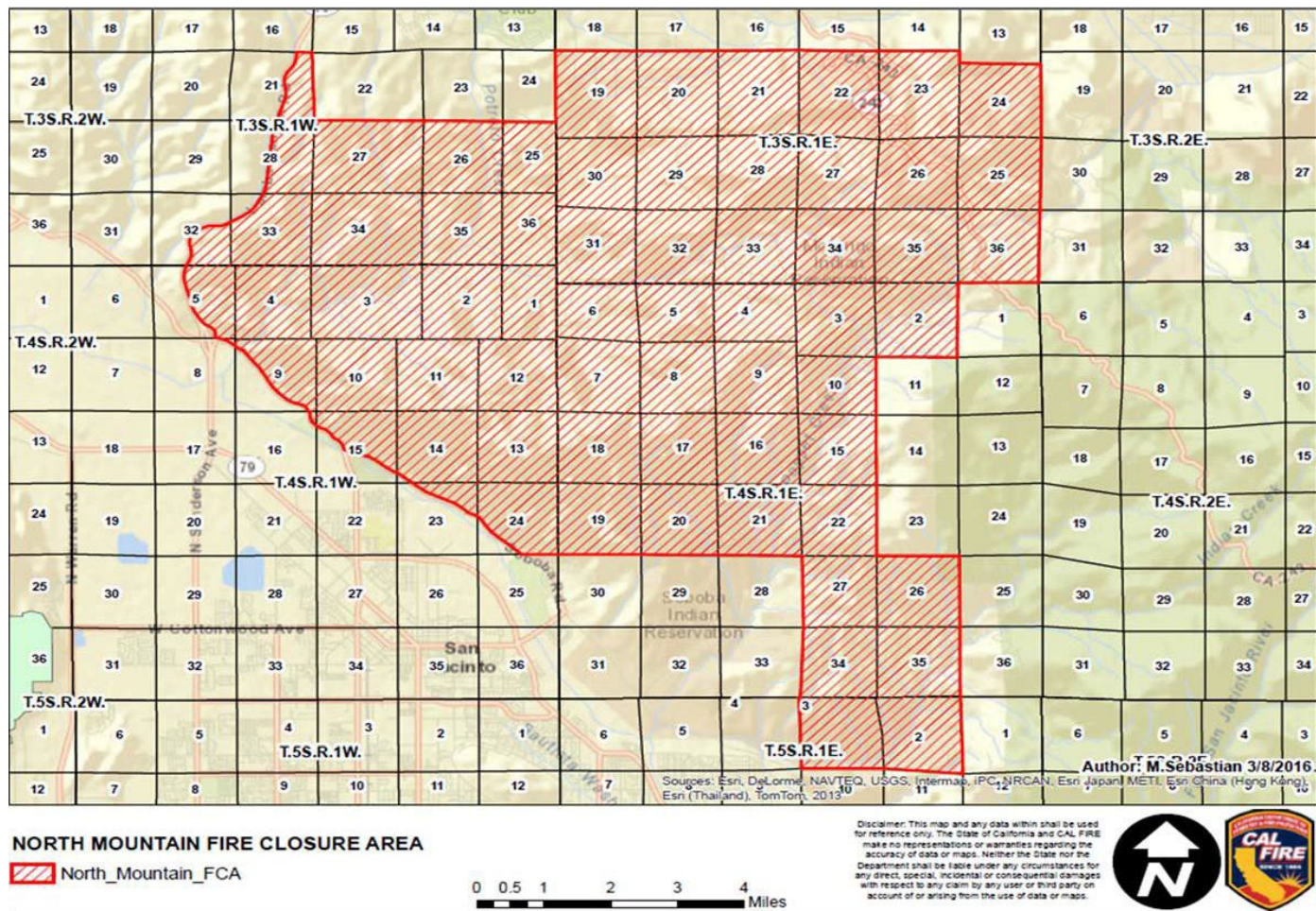


Figure B: Unit Fire Closure Map/Ramona Bowl-Bautista Canyon

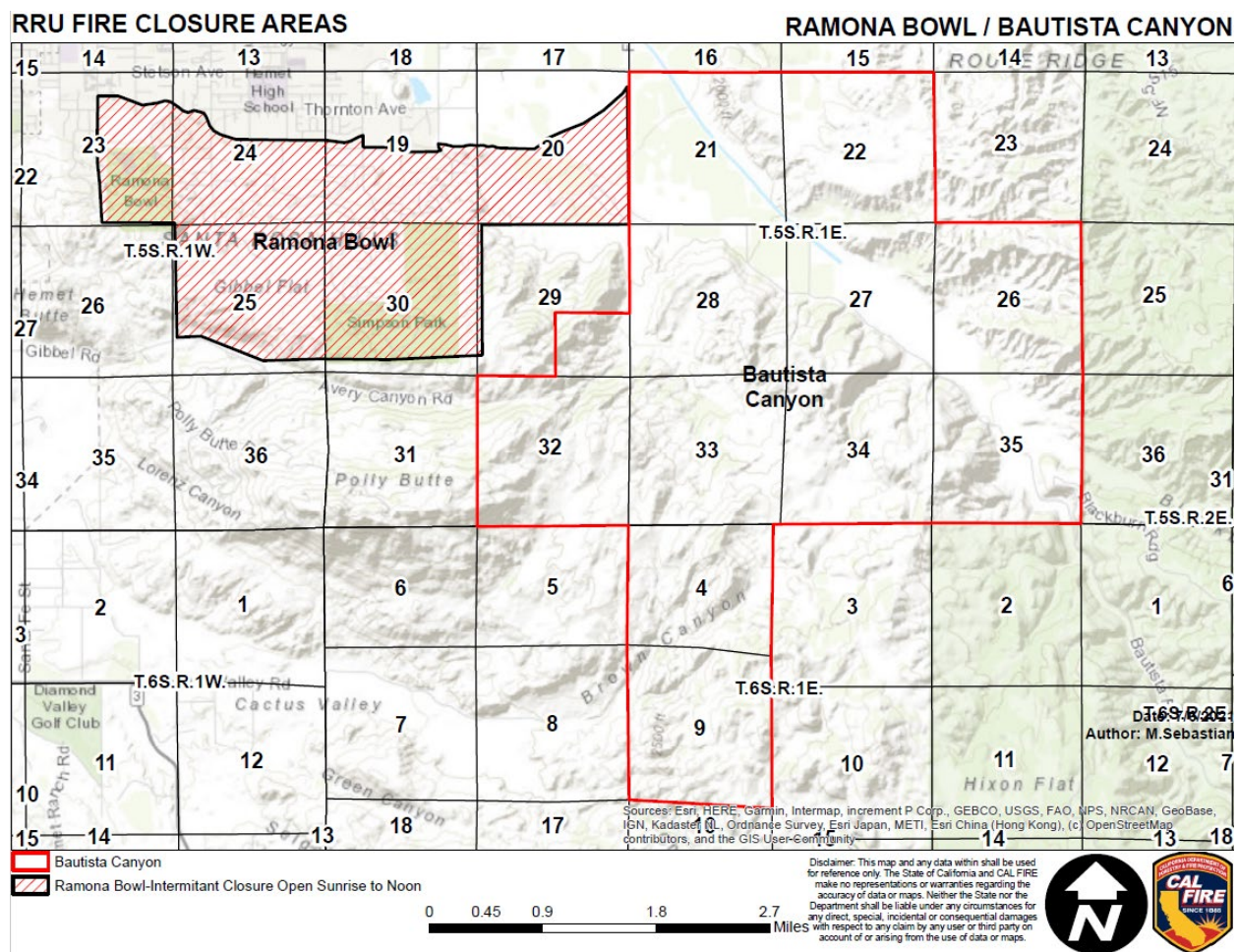


Figure C: Unit Fire Closure Map/Reinhardt Canyon

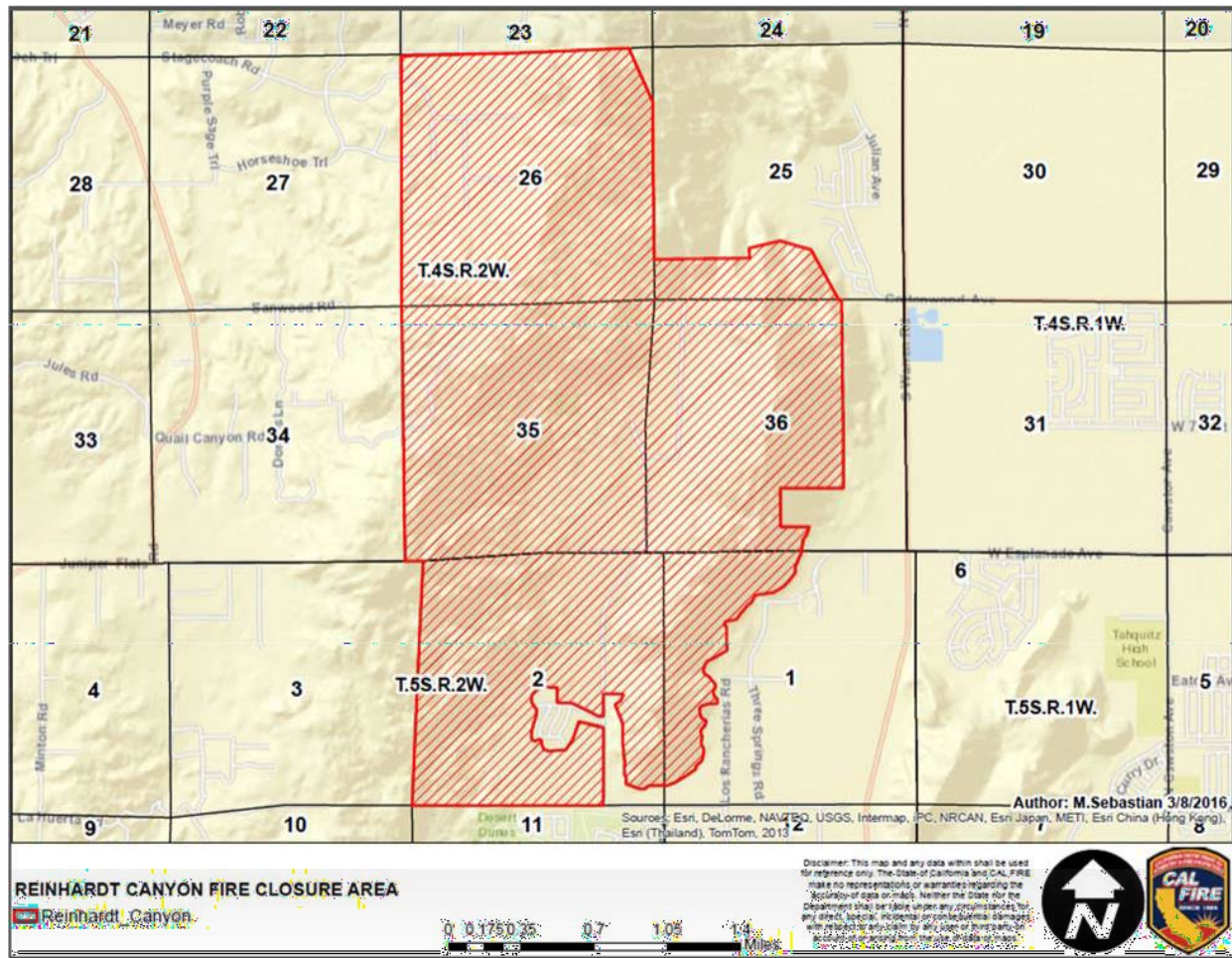


Figure D: Unit Fire Closure Map/Lakeview

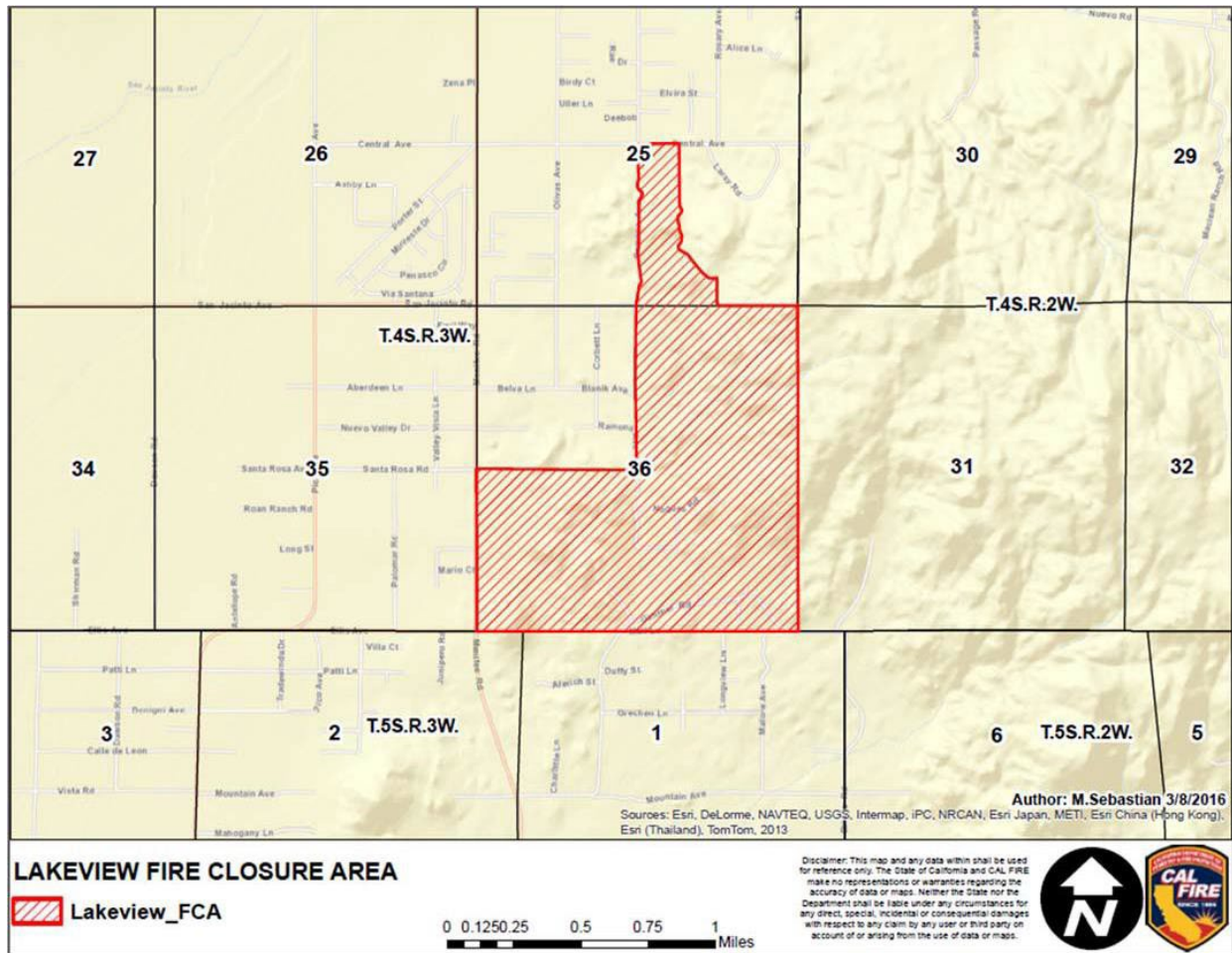


Figure E: Unit Fire Closure Map/Eagle Canyon-Tin Mine

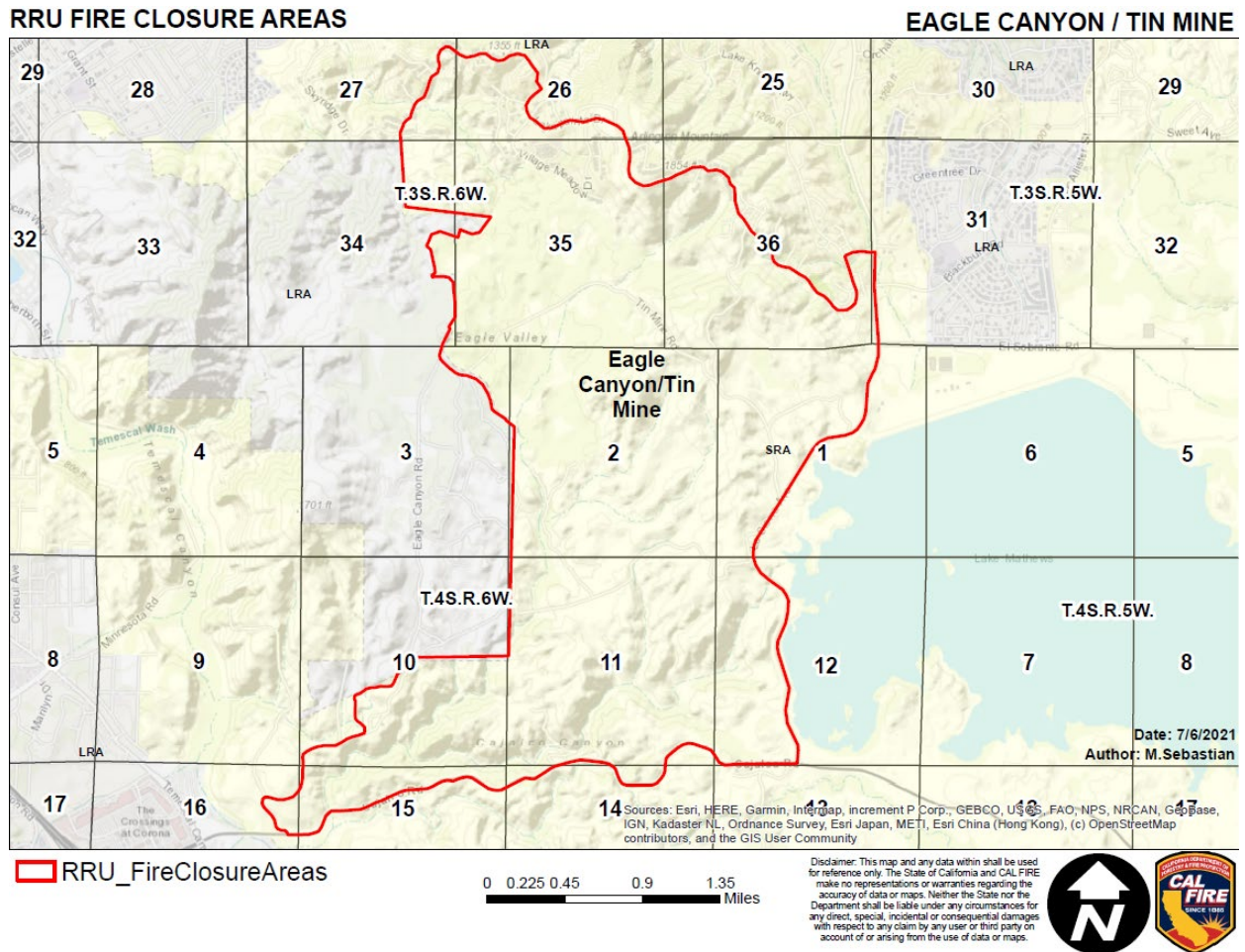


Figure F: Unit Fire Closure Map/Whitewater Canyon

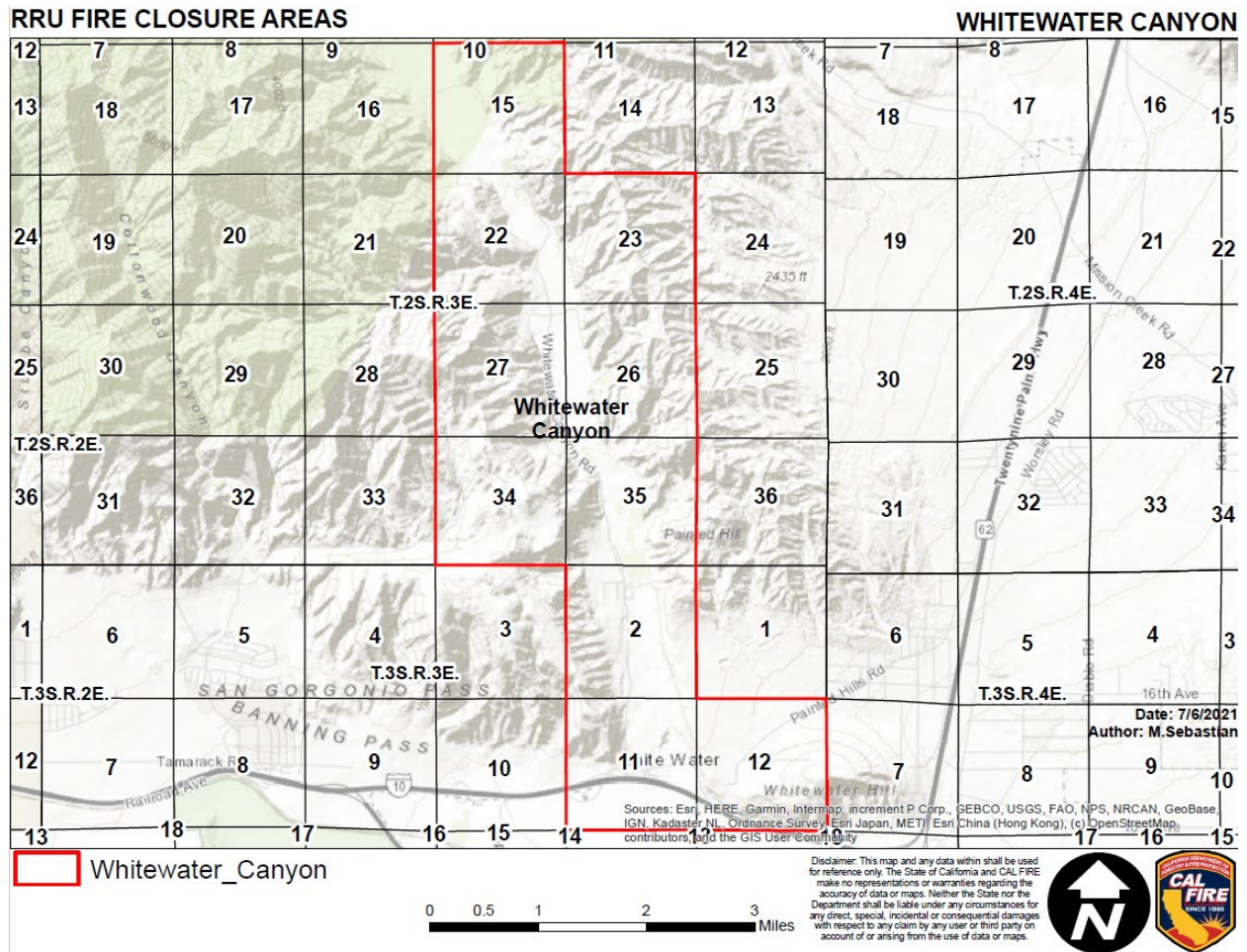


Figure G: Unit Fire Closure Map/Steele Peak

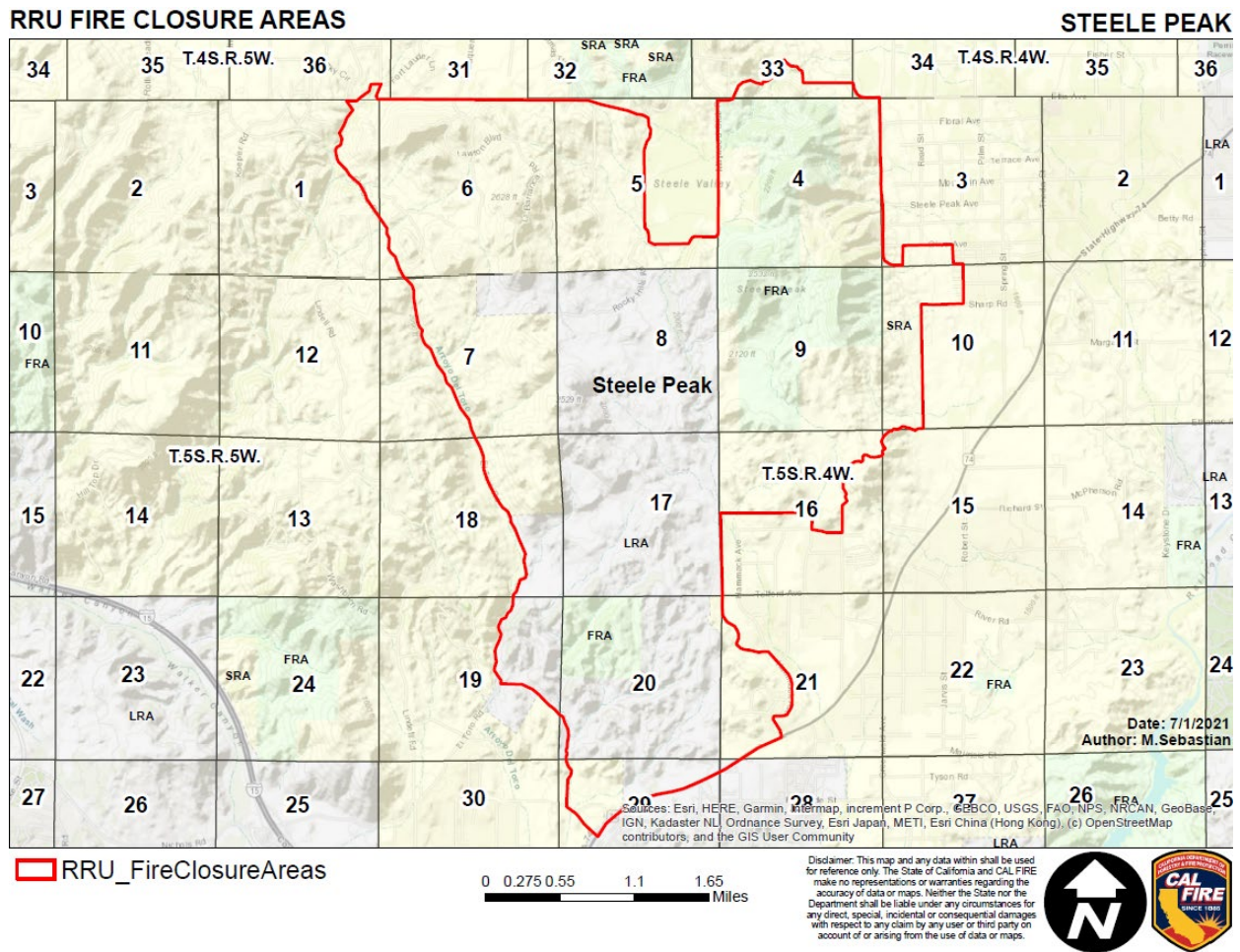
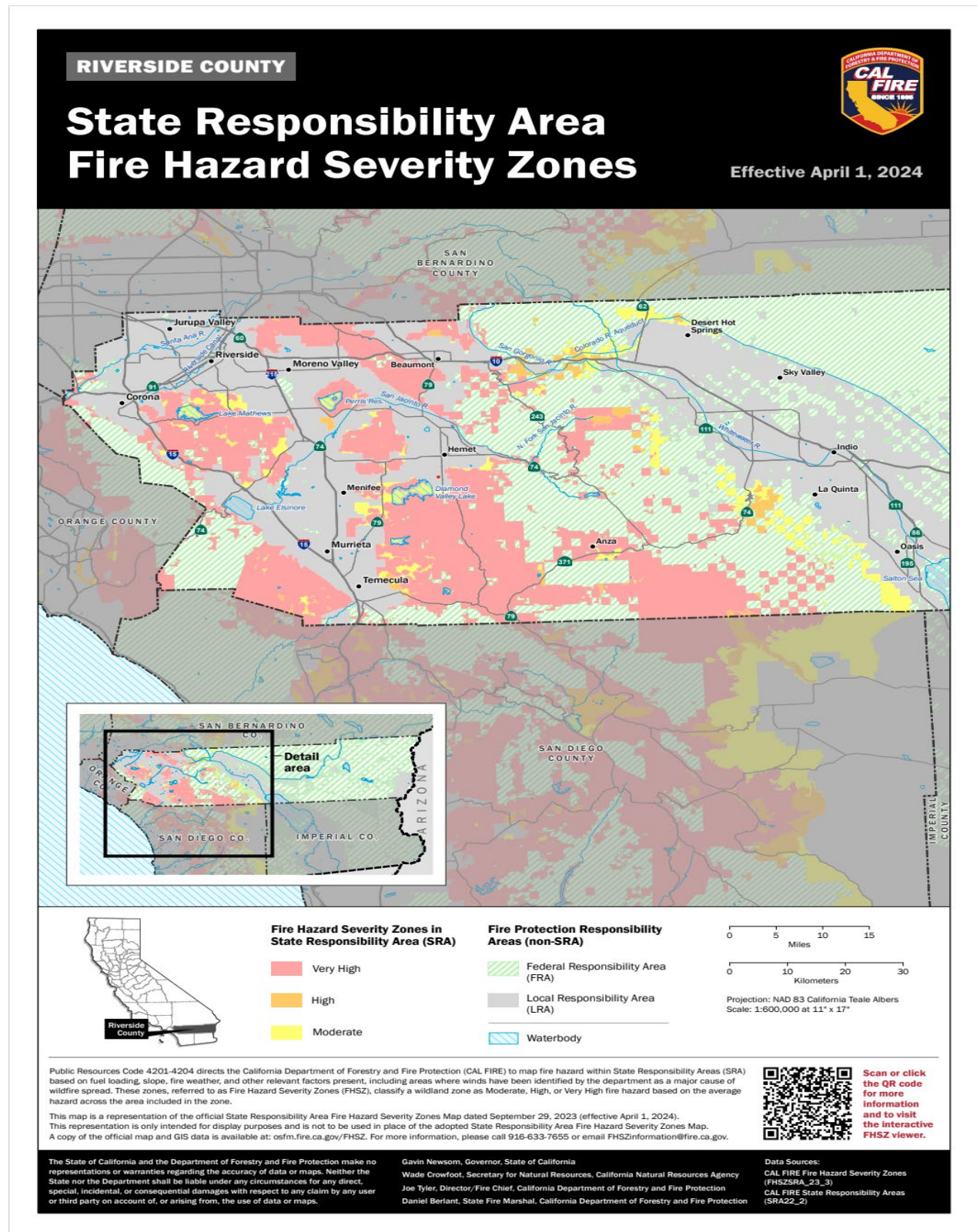


Figure H: Unite State Responsibility Area FHSZ Map



RRU FUEL MODELS AND INCORPORATED CITIES



Figure J: Local Responsibility Area / Fire Hazard Severity Zones

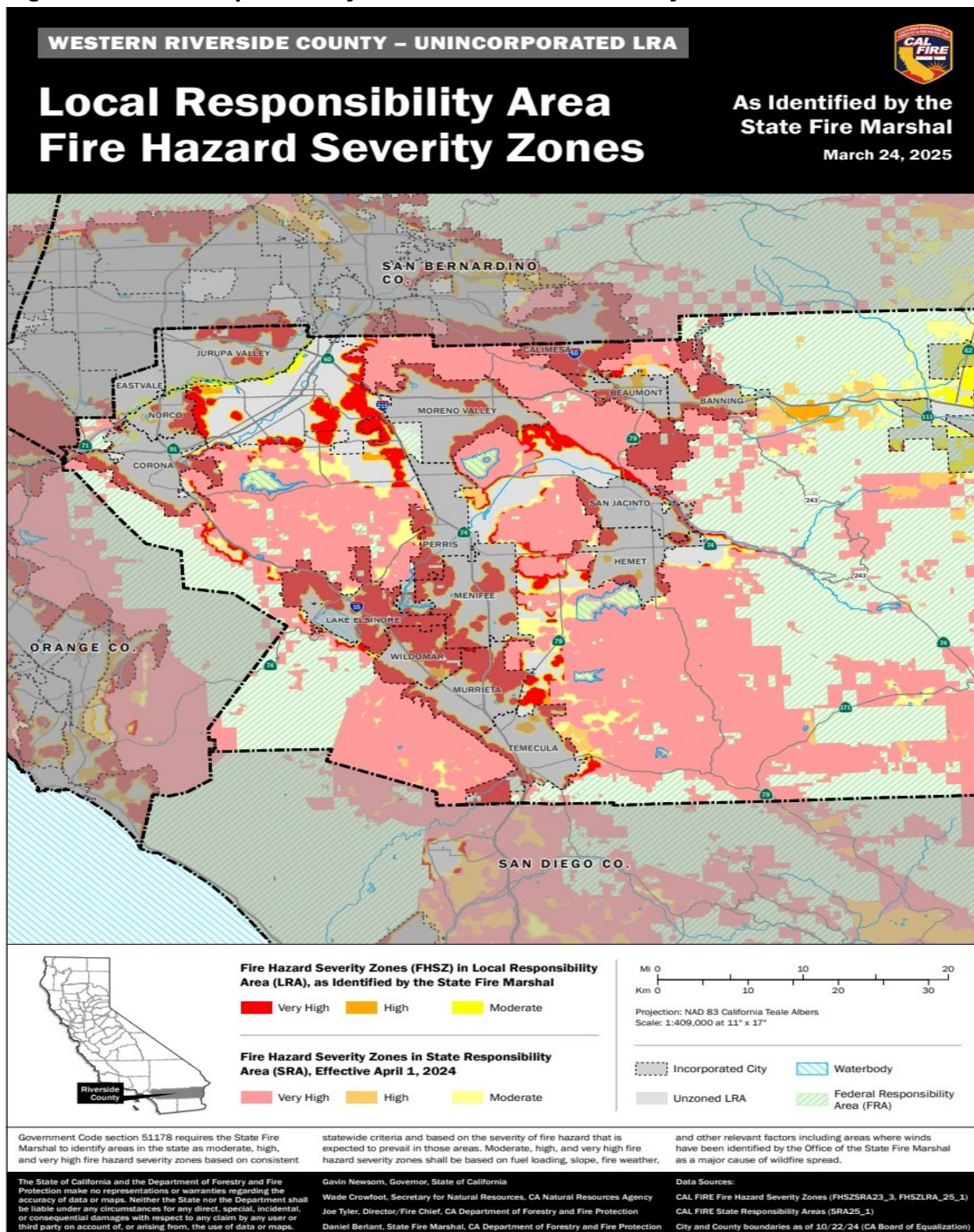


Figure K: Local Responsibility Area/Fire Hazard Severity Zones

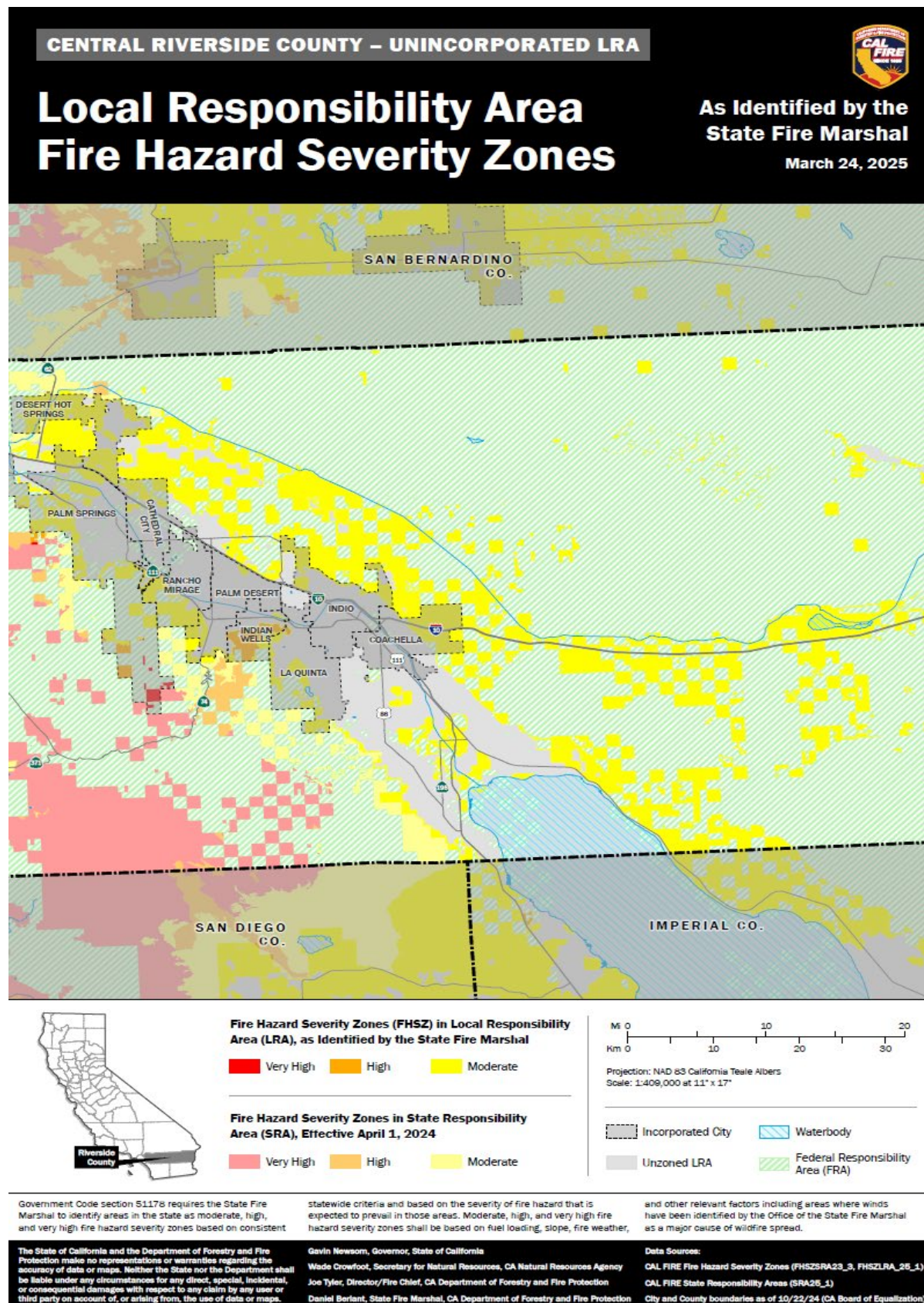
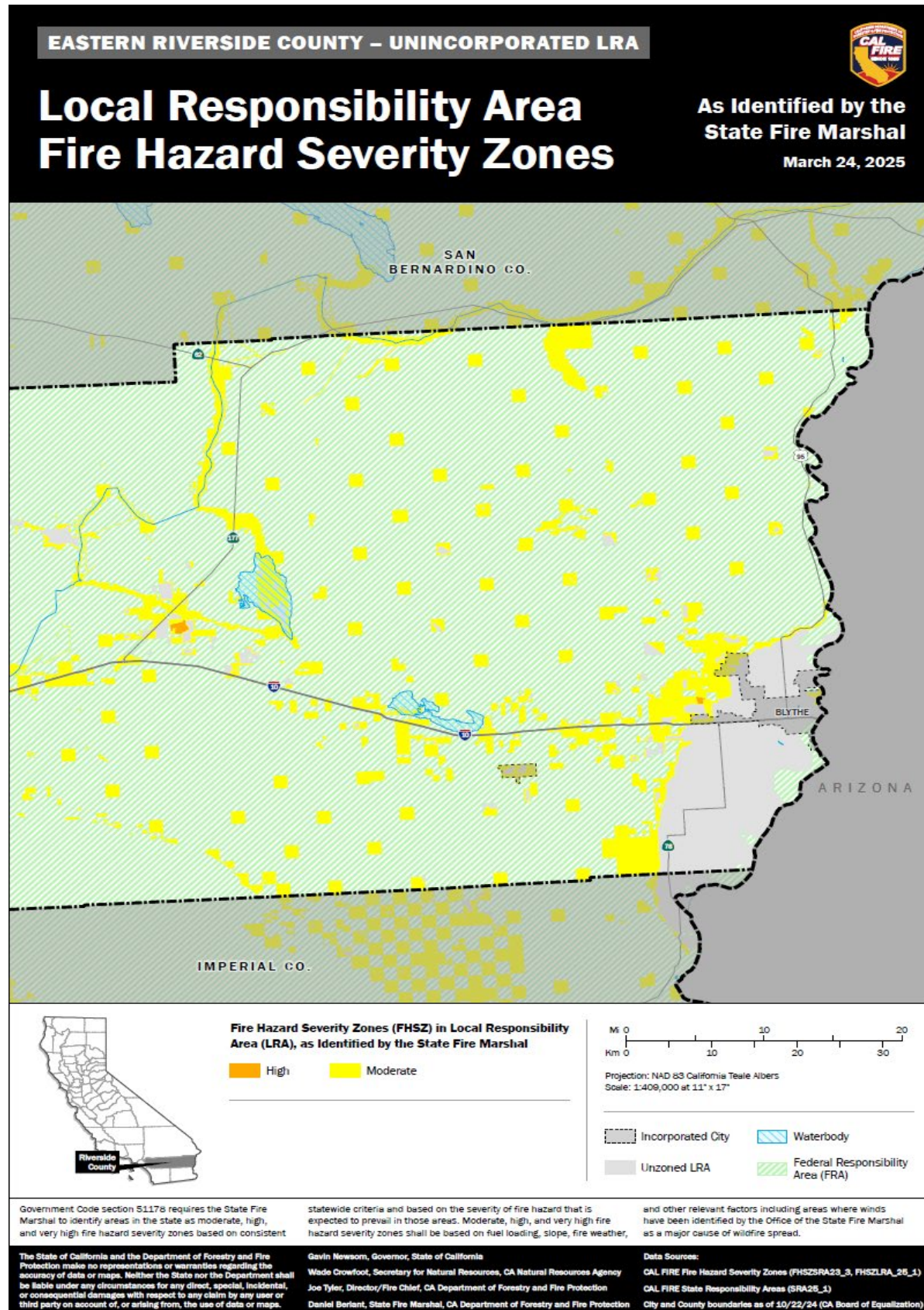


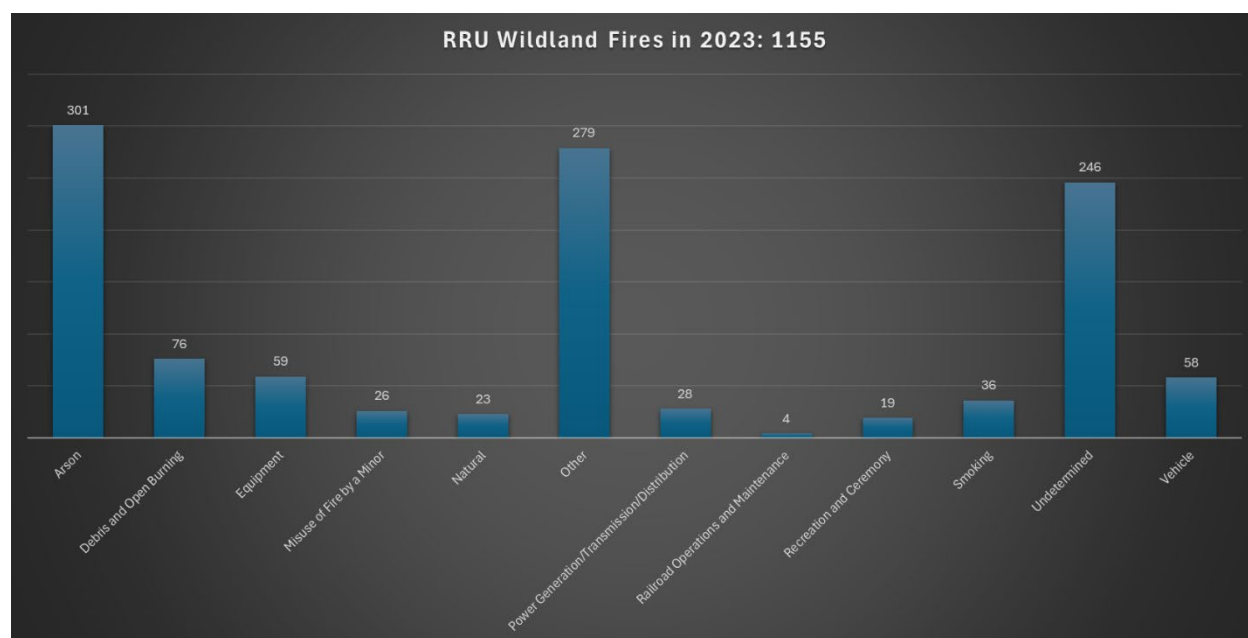
Figure L: Local Responsibility Area/Fire Hazard Severity Zones

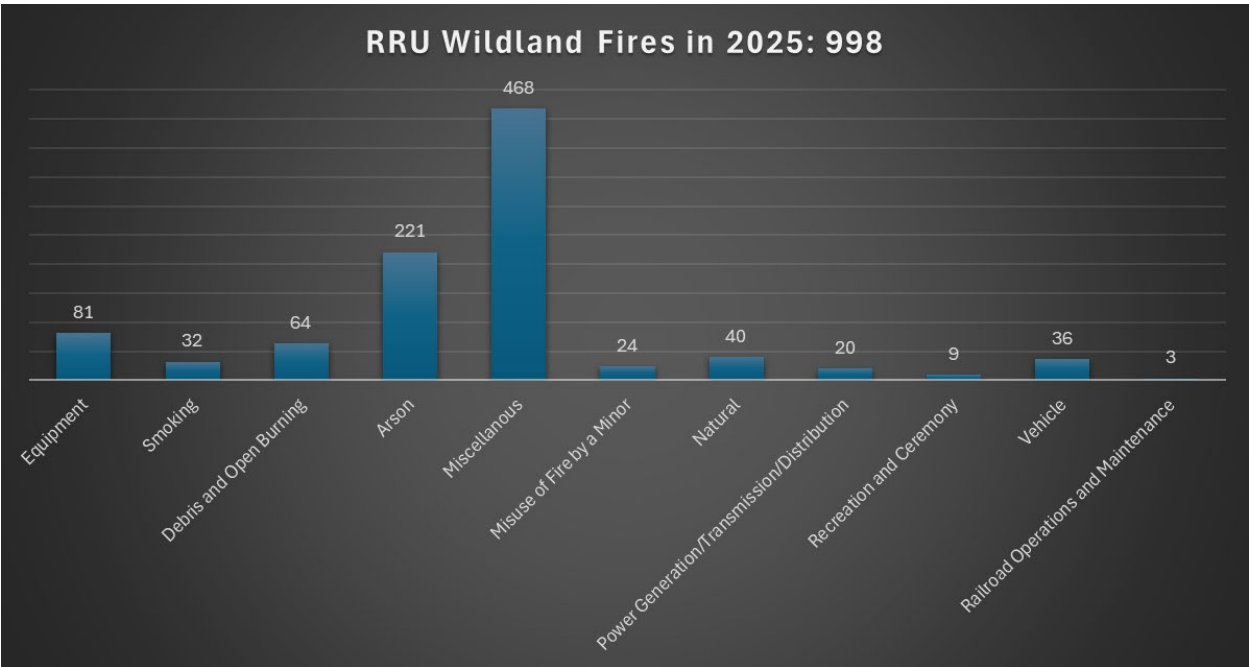
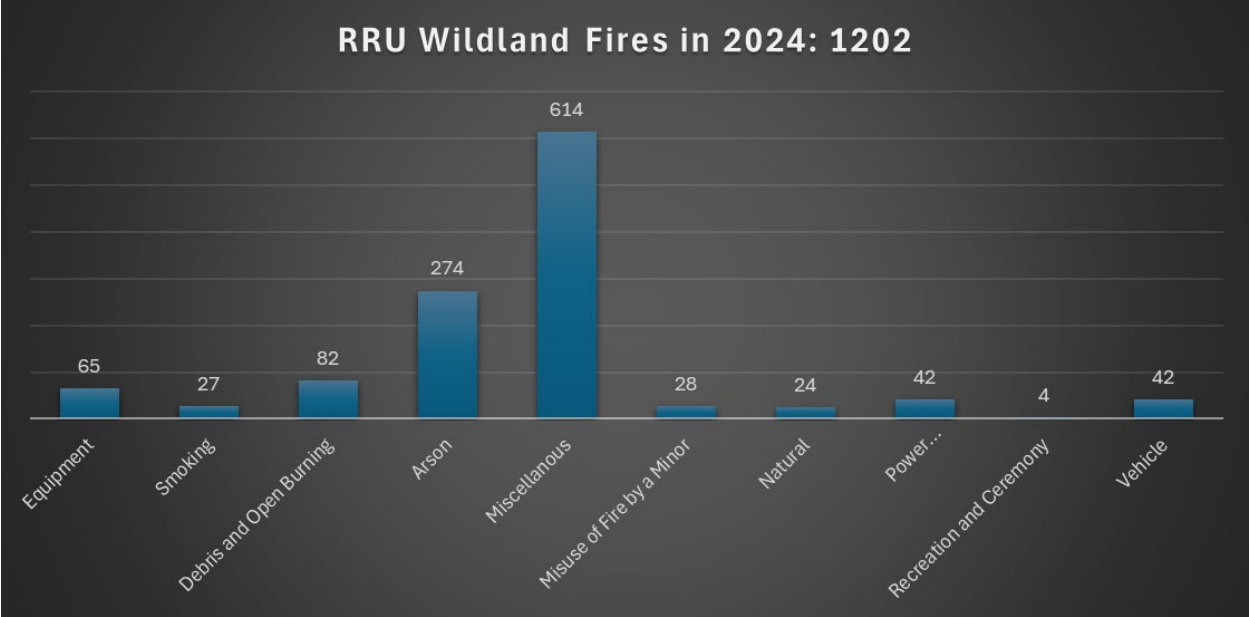


APPENDIX D: RIVERSIDE UNIT INGNITION DATA

Wildland Fire Data

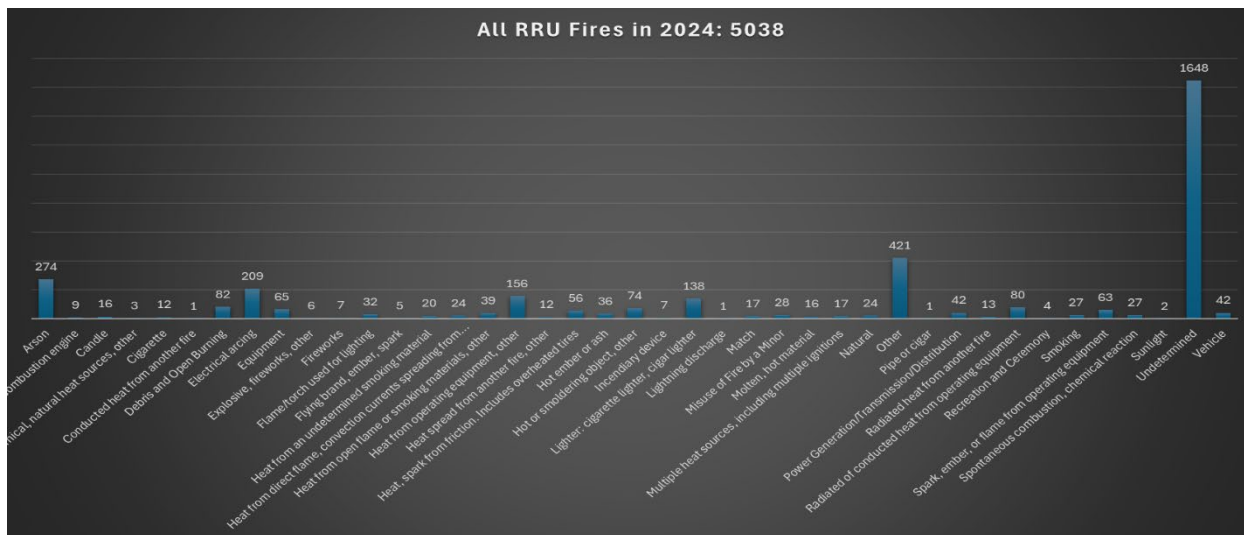
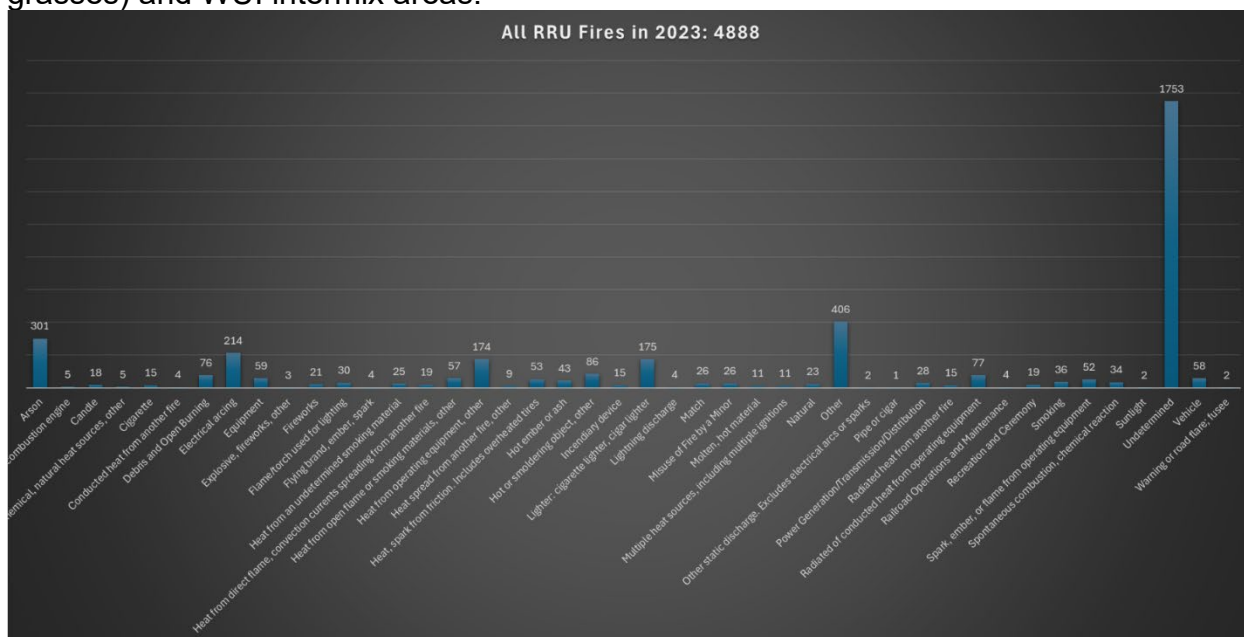
The Riverside Unit was analyzed for a 3-year period (2023-2025) to evaluate ignition trends and problems within the Unit. The Wildland Fire dataset includes an identification of fire cause. The tables represent the ignitions for 2023 - 2025 classified by fire cause. The 3-year history for the Riverside Unit identifies trends in ignition type, with many ignition causes classified as arson, miscellaneous or undetermined. Arson emerges as a significant ignition source within the Unit. Spatial analysis of ignition sources reveals a direct correlation between ignitions and roads/transportation corridors. High density of ignitions is also observable within and adjacent to urban areas. These concentrations of ignitions along transportation corridors and in urban areas emphasize the importance of public education and fire prevention activities, including road-side fuel treatments and strategic management of flashy fuels (e.g., grasses) and WUI intermix areas.

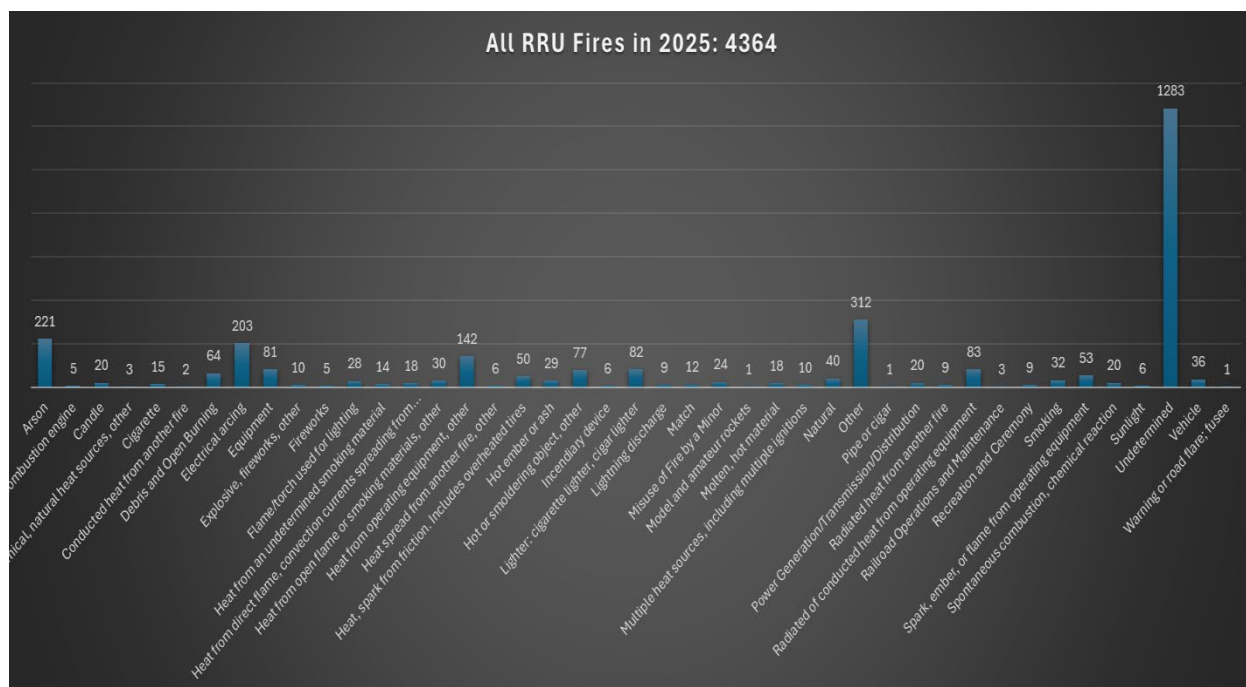




All Fire Ignition Data

The Riverside Unit was analyzed for a 3-year period (2023-2025) to evaluate ignition trends and problems within the Unit. The dataset includes an identification of fire cause. These tables represent all ignitions for 2023 - 2025 classified by fire cause. The 3-year history for the Riverside Unit identifies trends in ignition type, with many ignition causes classified as arson, miscellaneous or undetermined. Equipment use and Vehicle also emerge as significant ignition sources within the Unit. Spatial analysis of ignition sources reveals a direct correlation between ignitions and roads/transportation corridors. High density of ignitions is also observable within and adjacent to urban areas. These concentrations of ignitions along transportation corridors and in urban areas emphasize the importance of public education and fire prevention activities, including road-side fuel treatments and strategic management of flashy fuels (e.g., grasses) and WUI intermix areas.





APPENDIX E: FIRE DANGER OPERATING PLAN

This plan provides a structured approach for applying the **National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS)** at the Riverside County unit level. It serves as a guide for agency administrators, fire managers, dispatchers, coordinators, and firefighters to make consistent, informed decisions by using accurate scientific and historical fire and weather data.

Key decisions related to dispatch levels and staffing will be based on an integrated assessment of vegetation conditions, climate factors, and topography, all supported by NFDRS modeling.

Riverside County is divided into two Fire Danger Rating Areas (FDRAs):

Mountain FDRA

Valley FDRA

Each area has distinct fuel types, climate patterns, and terrain features, which this plan specifically addresses.

The Fire Danger Operating Plan offers decision support by quantifying critical elements that influence agency planning and response levels. It also outlines procedures for conducting seasonal risk analyses and establishing fire severity decision points to guide operational readiness.

<http://www.rvcfire.org/Pages/default.aspx>

APPENDIX F: Heli-Hydrant Locations

Heli-Hydrant sites

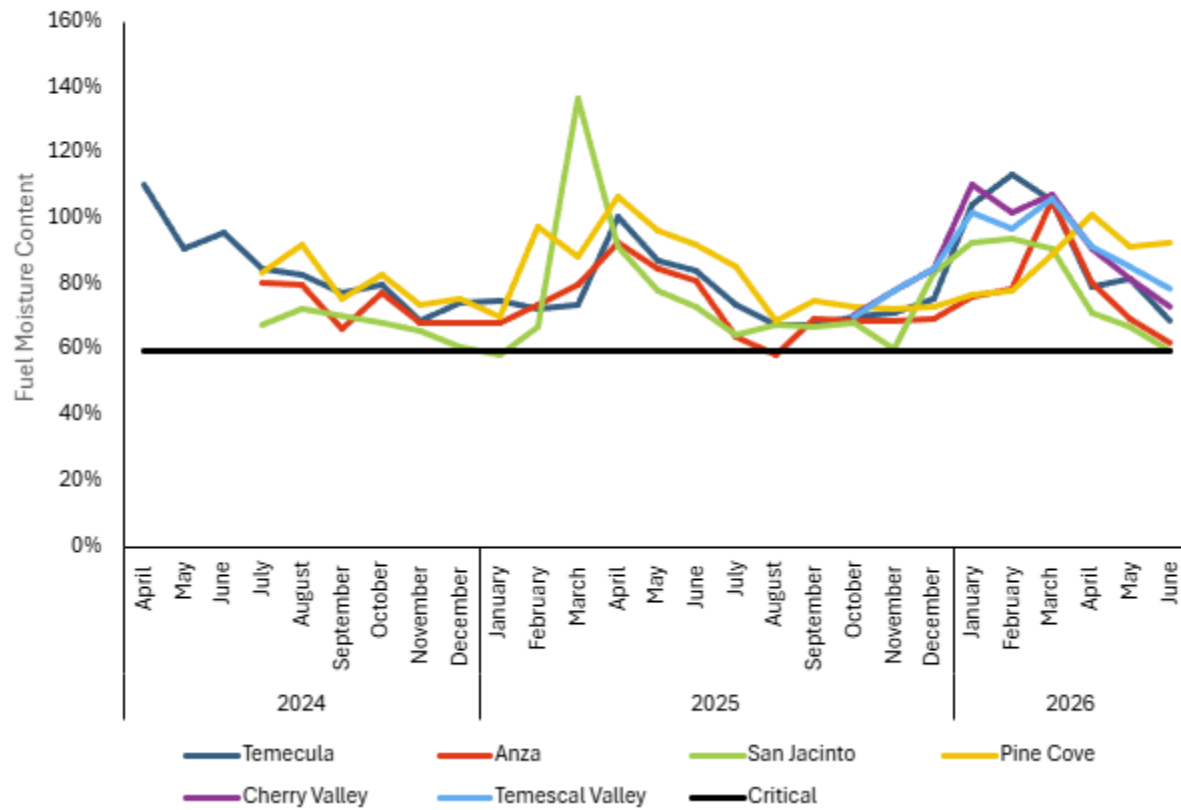
Radio Channel VHF 118 325 - 3 Clicks Activate, 5 Clicks Deactivate Blue inservice , Green in process , White Future							
#	COUNTY	CITY	Aircraft LAT / LONG	Site Name	Who Owens	Person to contact	Phone
1	Orange	Yorba Linda	33° 53.646'N / 117° 44.614'W	Marcantonio	Yorba Linda Water District	Fred Ojeda	714-482-5209
2	Orange	Yorba Linda	33° 53.619'N / 117° 42.423'W	Wells Fargo	Yorba Linda Water District	Fred Ojeda	714-482-5209
3	San Diego	Fallbrook	33° 20.892'N / 117° 10.688'W	Pala Mesa	Rainbow Municipal Water District	Robert Gutierrez	760-468-0217
4	Los Angeles	La Habra Heights	33° 57.605' N / 117° 55.283' W	Skyline Drive	La Habra Heights City	Ed Martin	562-889-4772
5	San Diego	San Pasqual Valley	33° 6.191'N / 117° 0.097'W	Safari Park	San Diego Zoo Safari Park	Tyler Burtis	619-804-3032
6	Orange	La Habra	33° 54.398' N / 117° 57.761' W	West Ridge	City of La Habra Public Works	Brian Jones	909-576-3057
7	Riverside	Glen Avon	34° 1.341'N / 117° 30.246'	CFDs	Jurupa Community Services District	Jaime Godaoy	909-702-5518
8	Riverside	Cabazon	33° 55.540'N / 116° 47.303'W	Little Foot	Cabazon Water District	Michael Pollack	951-644-9456
9	Riverside	Cabazon	33° 53.546'N / 116° 45.249'W	Jensen Creek	Cabazon Water District	Michael Pollack	951-644-9456
10	Los Angeles	Industry	34° 1.292'N / 117° 49.328'W	Walnut	Walnut Valley Water District	Thomas Monk	909-821-3749
11	Riverside	Poppet Flats	33° 51.552'N / 116° 51.603'W	Poppet	High Valley Water District	Stan Houghton	951-675-8200
12	Riverside	Esperanza	33° 52.360'N / 116° 49.153'W	Esperanza	High Valley Water District	Stan Houghton	951-675-8200
13	Orange	Yorba Linda	33° 54.580'N / 117° 49.286'W	Diemer	Metropolitan Water District	Nikki Duran Aubrecht	714-577-5032
14	Los Angeles	Whittier	33° 58.854'N / 118° 1.115'W	Whittier	Whittier City Public works	Mohammad Bayat	562-567-9513
15	Riverside	Calimesa	34° 0.097'N / 117° 4.251'W	Calimesa	South Mesa Water District	Dave Armstrong	951-805-0861
16	Riverside	Beaumont	33° 57.622'N / 116 58.846	Brookside	San Geronio Pass Water Agency	Matt Howard	760-885-7844
17	Riverside	Eastvale		ECP	Jurupa Community Services District	Jaime Godaoy	909-702-5518
18	Riverside	Jurupa Valley		Benedick	Jurupa Community Services District	Jaime Godaoy	909-702-5518
19	Riverside	Jurupa Valley		Jurupa	Jurupa Community Services District	Jaime Godaoy	909-702-5518
20	Riverside	Banning		Banning	Banning Heights Mutal Water		
21	San Bernardino	Chino Hills					
22	River Side	Norco					
23	Los Angeles	Rowland Heights					

Heli-Hydrant sites

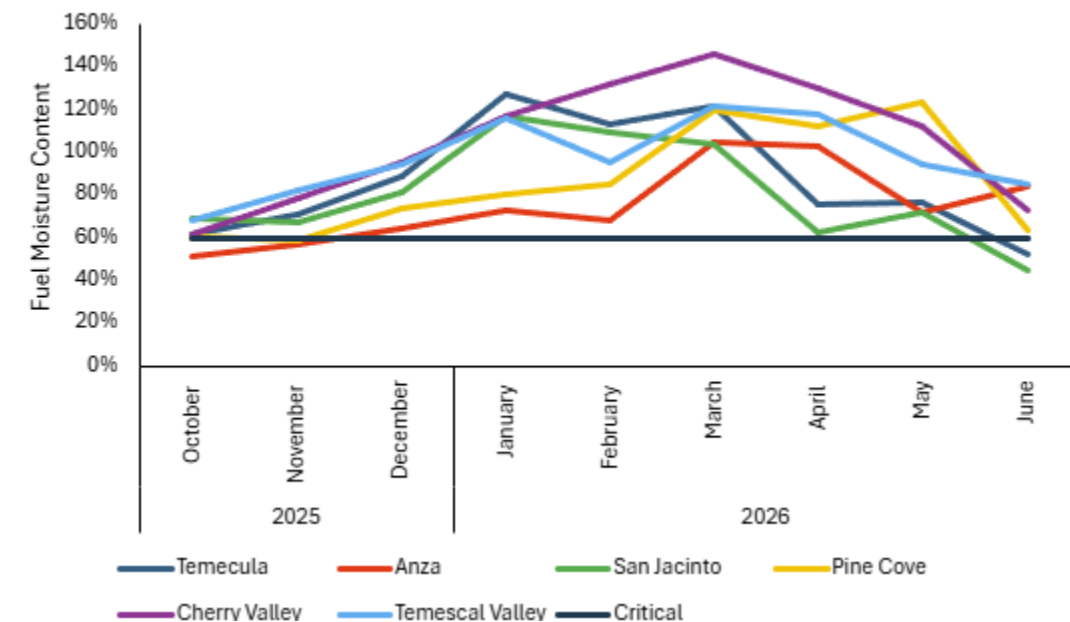
If an agency has a name, for a dip site, please advise.								Pad size	refill
#	Refill Rate	CAL FIRE	OCFA Name	LAC Name	Site Name	Date Inservice	Heli-Pad	Pad Size	
1	1200 GPM		DS-53-B		Marcantonio	10/7/2020	NO		
2	700 GPM		DS-53-C		Wells Fargo	7/3/2021	YES	Type 1	
3	900 GPM				Pala Mesa	9/14/2021	YES	Type 1	
4	400 GPM			P192Y	Skyline Drive	12/17/2021	NO		
5	900 GPM				Safari Park	12/22/2023	NO		
6	400 GPM			P194Z	West Ridge	12/15/2023	NO		
7	1000 GPM				CFDs	9/5/2024	NO		
8	1100 GPM				Little Foot	5/5/2025	NO		
9	700 GPM				Jensen Creek	5/22/2025	NO		
10	900 GPM			P120X	Walnut	5/26/2025	NO		
11	800 GPM				Poppet	9/25/2025	NO		
12	800 GPM				Esperanza	9/23/2025	NO		
13	1000 GPM				Diemer	10/5/2025	YES	Type 1	
14				P28Z	Whittier	2025	NO		
15					Calimesa	2025	NO		
16					Brookside	2025	YES	Type 1	
17					ECP	2025	NO		
18					Benedick	2025	NO		
19					Jurupa	2025	NO		
20					Banning	2025	NO		
21						2025			
22									
23									

APPENDIX G: CAL FIRE / RRU Live Fuel Moistures

CAL FIRE RRU Live Fuel Moisture Program Chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*)



CAL FIRE RRU Live Fuel Moisture Program California Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*)



ANNUAL REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING 2025

Fire Planning: Priority fuels projects reflected in the Unit Fire Plan were identified and submitted, for Grant funding opportunities in which the Elsinore Front Country Fuel Break was funded through 2024. The Red Mountain Fuel Break continued with the planning/environmental phase, and a grant application process.

Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering: Riverside Truck Trail Maintenance continues and is currently under repairs and maintenance. Public education signs are being constructed and put in place for public information in strategic areas within the SRA.

Education and Information:

The CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department Public Affairs and Community Education Bureau continue to meet the demands of an ever-evolving media and information environment. As of February 2026, the Department maintains a strong digital presence with approximately 111,800 followers on X (formerly Twitter), 121,000 on Facebook, 45,500 on Instagram, and 12,100 on YouTube. Timely and relevant fire safety and incident-related messaging is shared daily to increase public awareness and engagement across all platforms. In 2025, the Department responded to nearly 206,000 incidents, averaging 564 calls per day. Of those incidents, the Public Affairs and Community Education Bureau were dispatched to or notified of 1,130 incidents, averaging approximately three incidents per day for a staff of eight. These incidents require timely coordination, gathering information, and dissemination to ensure accurate and consistent communication with the public and media. In addition to digital outreach, the Public Affairs and Community Education Bureau supported more than 100 public safety and community education events, reaching over 656,000 people. These efforts involved 196 staff members and accounted for approximately 1,400 hours of outreach and engagement. Events included school assemblies, community fairs, air shows, career days, and other public-facing opportunities designed to educate, inform, and strengthen community trust and preparedness.

Vegetation Management/ Fuel Reduction Activity Reporting (FRAR): Fuels treatments continued in Battalions 1, 2, 3, 4, 11, and 15. Broadcast burning also continued at Lake Matthews and assisted at Lake Perris, totaling 310 acres. The Red Hill VMP, Elsinore Front Country Fuel Break VTP, Oak Glen & Water Canyon, and Point of Rocks projects also progressed, with a combined 230 acres treated. Community chipping programs continued throughout the Unit in the communities of Poppet Flats, Silent Valley, Pinon, and La Cresta in coordination with their respective Fire Safe Councils.

Fire Hazard Severity Mapping and Mitigation: In cooperation with the University of California Riverside Extension biologists, a collaborative effort is underway involving hatching studies, identification, ground and aerial mapping, removal, and spraying application efficiency



Robert Fish
RRU Unit Chief

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING 2024

Fire Planning: Priority fuels projects reflected in the Unit Fire Plan were identified and submitted, for Grant funding opportunities in which the Elsinore Front Country Fuel Break was funded through 2024. The Red Mountain Fuel Break continued with the planning/environmental phase, and a grant application process.

Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering: Riverside Truck Trail Maintenance continues and is currently under repairs and maintenance. Public education signs are being constructed and put in place for public information in strategic areas within the SRA.

Vegetation Management/ Fuel Reduction Activity Reporting (FRAR): Fuels treatments continued in Battalions 2, 3, 5, 11, 13, and 15. Broadcast burning also continued at Lake Skinner and pile burning at Stone Creek for 276 and 42.5 acres respectively. The Red Hill VMP, Astro camp & Upper Dry Creek, Oak Glen & Water Canyon, Tanaja, South Main Divide, and El Cariso projects also progressed, with a combined 181.86 acres treated. Community chipping programs continued throughout the Unit in the communities of Poppet Flats, Silent Valley, Pinon, and La Cresta in coordination with their respective Fire Safe Councils.

Fire Hazard Severity Mapping and Mitigation: In cooperation with the University of California Riverside Extension biologists, a collaborative effort is underway involving, hatching studies, identification, ground and aerial mapping, removal, and spraying application efficiency.

X *Bill Weiser*

Bill Weiser

RRU Unit Chief

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING 2023

Fire Planning: Priority fuels projects reflected in the Unit Fire Plan were identified and submitted, for Grant funding opportunities in which the Elsinore Front Country Fuel Break was funded through 2023. The Red Mountain Fuel Break continued with the planning/environmental phase, and a grant application process.

Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering: Riverside Truck Trail Maintenance continues and is currently under repairs and maintenance. Public education signs are being constructed and put in place for public information in strategic areas within the SRA.

Education and Information: "Public Information and Community Education Bureau: The CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department Public Affairs and Community Education Bureau, continues to meet the demands of the ever-evolving social media culture. As of December 2023, we now have 103,500 Twitter followers, 94,200 Facebook followers, 28,600 Instagram followers, and 9,100 YouTube followers. Relevant and daily fire safety messages are posted to raise awareness in hopes of being "retweeted" and increase following. Incident call volume averages between 500 and 600 calls per day which lends itself to posting an increasing the number of social media posts on our platforms and creating significant incident fact sheets to the www.rvcfire.org website 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Over 36,000 Fire Prevention/Fire Safety Education contacts were made by grant-funded education specialists between January 2023 and December 2023. This was all possible with distance learning, zoom meetings and a full-scale video production, "Fire Safety ON, Accidents GONE", targeting fire safety education for Pre-K through 2nd grade students. Funding from the CCI grant also allowed the creation and purchase of new hazardous fire area signs that will be posted in seven areas throughout the County as the Fire Chief closes these areas due to the high risk of wildland fires annually.

Vegetation Management/ Fuel Reduction Activity Reporting (FRAR): Fuels treatments continued in Battalions 1, 2, 3, 11, and 15, Broadcast Burning also continued at Lake Matthews, Santa Rosa Plateau and Lake Skinner for a total of over 375 acres The Red Hill VMP, Oak Glen/Water Canyon VMP, Point of Rocks, Upper Dry Creek, Main Divide, and Tenaja Road projects were either started or re-entered with a total of 1480 acres treated. Community chipping programs continued throughout the Unit in the communities of Poppet Flats, Silent Valley, Pinyon and La Cresta in association with their specific Fire Safe Councils.

Fire Hazard Severity Mapping and Mitigation: GSOB control continued throughout the year with 128 GSOB confirmed Black Oak trees identified and/or removed and transferred to local grinding facility in Romoland to date. In cooperation with the University of California Riverside Extension biologists, a collaborative effort is underway involving hatching studies, identification, ground and aerial mapping, removal, and spraying application efficiency.

X *Bill Weiser*

Bill Weiser

RRU Unit Chief

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING 2022

Fire Planning: Priority fuels projects reflected in the Unit Fire Plan were identified and submitted, for Grant funding opportunities in which the Elsinore Front Country Fuel Break was funded through 2022. The Red Mountain Fuel Break continued with the planning/environmental phase, and a grant application process.

Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering: The Riverside Unit Truck Trail system was surveyed, road repair and vegetation clearing were completed on 7 miles under Local Unit funding.

Education and Information: "Public Information and Community Education Bureau: The CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department Public Affairs and Community Education Bureau, amid COVID-19 restrictions continues to meet the demands of the ever-evolving social media culture. As of December 2022, we now have 79,000 Twitter followers, 75,000 Facebook followers and 18,000 Instagram followers. Our subscription numbers are also increasing on the Riverside County Fire Department YouTube page. Relevant and daily fire safety messages are posted to raise awareness in hopes of being "retweeted" and increase following. Incident call volume averages between 500 and 600 calls per day which lends itself to posting an increasing the number of social media posts on our platforms and creating significant incident fact sheets to the www.rvcfire.org website 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Over 38,000 Fire Prevention/Fire Safety Education contacts were made by grant-funded education specialists between January 2020 and March 2021. This was all possible with distance learning, zoom meetings and a full-scale video production, "Fire Safety ON, Accidents GONE", targeting fire safety education for Pre-K through 2nd grade students. Funding from the CCI grant also allowed the creation and purchase of new hazardous fire area signs that will be posted in seven areas throughout the County as the Fire Chief closes these areas due to the high risk of wildland fires annually.

Vegetation Management/ Fuel Reduction Activity Reporting (FRAR): Fuels treatments continued in Battalions 1, 2, 3, 11, and 15, Broadcast Burning also continued at Lake Matthews, Santa Rosa Plateau and Lake Skinner for a total of 258 acres The Red Hill VMP, Oak Glen/Water Canyon VMP, Point of Rocks, Upper Dry Creek, Main Divide, and Tenaja Road projects were either started or re-entered with a total of 973 acres treated. Community chipping programs continued throughout the Unit in the communities of Poppet Flats, Silent Valley, Pinyon and La Cresta in association with their specific Fire Safe Councils.

Fire Hazard Severity Mapping and Mitigation: GSOB control continued throughout the year with 118 GSOB confirmed Black Oak trees identified and/or removed and transferred to local grinding facility in Romoland to date. In cooperation with the University of California Riverside Extension biologists, a collaborative effort is underway involving hatching studies, identification, ground and aerial mapping, removal, and spraying application efficiency.

 *Bill Weiser*

Bill Weiser

RRU Unit Chief

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING 2021

Fire Planning: Priority fuels projects reflected in the Unit Fire Plan were identified and submitted, for Grant funding opportunities in which the Elsinore Front Country Fuel Break was funded through 2022. The Red Mountain Fuel Break continued with the planning/environmental phase, and a grant application process.

Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering: Pre-Fire has nearly finalized a remote field Unit based Fuel Reduction Activity Reporting (FRAR) application which will provide real time fuel reduction reporting from field crews. The new RAWs unit was delivered and is operational near Anza which will provide useful additional data to the Unit Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP) which was updated by the Unit in 2021. The Resource Management Staff has completed Part 107 Authorization to be Unmanned Air Systems Pilots (UAS). The ability to utilize drones will enable real time data collection, help the staff enter areas hard to reach by vehicle and by foot.

Education and Information: "Public Information and Community Education Bureau: The CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department Public Affairs and Community Education Bureau, amid COVID-19 restrictions continues to meet the demands of the ever-evolving social media culture. As of December 2020, we now have 62,000 Twitter followers, 51,000 Facebook followers and 12,000 Instagram followers. Our subscription numbers are also increasing on the Riverside County Fire Department YouTube page. Relevant and daily fire safety messages are posted to raise awareness in hopes of being "retweeted" and increase following. Incident call volume averages between 500 and 600 calls per day which lends itself to posting an increasing number of social media posts on our platforms and creating significant incident fact sheets to the www.rvcfire.org website 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Over 32,000 Fire Prevention/Fire Safety Education contacts were made by grant-funded education specialists between January 2020 and March 2021. This was all possible with distance learning, zoom meetings and a full-scale video production, "Fire Safety ON, Accidents GONE", targeting fire safety education for Pre-K through 2nd grade students. Funding from the CCI grant also allowed the creation and purchase of new hazardous fire area signs that will be posted in seven areas throughout the County as the Fire Chief closes these areas due to the high risk of wildland fires annually.

Vegetation Management/ Fuel Reduction Activity Reporting (FRAR): Fuels treatments continued in Battalions 1, 2, 11 and 15, Broadcast Burning also continued at Lake Matthews, Santa Rosa Plateau and Lake Skinner for a total of 322 acres. The Red Hill VMP, Oak Glen/Water Canyon VMP, Point of Rocks, Upper Dry Creek, Main Divide, and Tenaja Road projects were either started or re-entered with a total of 973 acres treated. Community chipping programs continued throughout the Unit in the communities of Poppet Flats, Silent Valley, Pinyon and La Cresta in association with their specific Fire Safe Councils.

Fire Hazard Severity Mapping and Mitigation: GSOB control continued throughout the year with 132 GSOB confirmed Black Oak trees identified and/or removed and transferred to the grinding facility in Idyllwild and Romoland to date. In cooperation with the University of California Riverside Extension biologists, a collaborative effort is underway involving hatching studies, identification, ground and aerial mapping, removal, and spraying application efficacy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Weiser". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first letter "B" is large and stylized, and the "W" is also prominent. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Bill Weiser

RRU Unit Chief

ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING 2020

Fire Planning: Priority fuels projects reflected in the Unit Fire Plan were identified and submitted, for Grant funding opportunities in which the Elsinore Front Country Fuel Break was funded through 2022. The Red Mountain Fuel Break continued with the planning/environmental phase, and a grant application process.

Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering: Pre-Fire has nearly finalized a remote field Unit based Fuel Reduction Activity Reporting (FRAR) application which will provide real time fuel reduction reporting from field crews. The new RAWS unit was delivered and is operational at the Lake Skinner Multi-Species Reserve which will provide useful additional data to the Unit Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP) which was updated by the Unit in 2020.

Education and Information: "Public Information and Community Education Bureau: The CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department Public Affairs and Community Education Bureau, amid COVID-19 restrictions continues to meet the demands of the ever-evolving social media culture. As of December 2020, we now have 62,000 Twitter followers, 51,000 Facebook followers and 12,000 Instagram followers. Our subscription numbers are also increasing on the Riverside County Fire Department YouTube page. Relevant and daily fire safety messages are posted to raise awareness in hopes of being "retweeted" and increase following. Incident call volume averages between 500 and 600 calls per day which lends itself to posting an increasing the number of social media posts on our platforms and creating significant incident fact sheets to the www.rvcfire.org website 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Over 32,000 Fire Prevention/Fire Safety Education contacts were made by grant-funded education specialists between January 2020 and March 2021. This was all possible with distance learning, zoom meetings and a full-scale video production, "Fire Safety ON, Accidents GONE", targeting fire safety education for Pre-K through 2nd grade students. Funding from the CCI grant also allowed the creation and purchase of new hazardous fire area signs that will be posted in seven areas throughout the County as the Fire Chief closes these areas due to the high risk of wildland fires annually.

Vegetation Management/ Fuel Reduction Activity Reporting (FRAR): Fuels treatments continued in Battalions 1, 2, 11 and 15, Broadcast Burning also continued at Lake Matthews, Santa Rosa Plateau and Lake Skinner for a total of 322 acres The Red Hill VMP, Oak Glen/Water Canyon VMP, Point of Rocks, Upper Dry Creek, Main Divide, and Tenaja Road projects were either started or re-entered with a total of 973 acres treated. Community chipping programs continued throughout the Unit in the communities of Poppet Flats, Silent Valley, Pinyon and La Cresta in association with their specific Fire Safe Councils.

Fire Hazard Severity Mapping and Mitigation: GSOB control continued throughout the year with 132 GSOB confirmed Black Oak trees identified and/or removed and transferred to the grinding facility in Idyllwild and Romoland to date. In cooperation with the University of California Riverside Extension biologists, a collaborative effort is underway involving hatching studies, identification, ground and aerial mapping, removal and spraying application efficacy.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Weiser". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "X" at the beginning.

Bill Weiser

RRU Unit Chief

ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING 2019

Fire Planning: Priority fuels projects reflected in the Unit Fire Plan were identified and submitted, for Grant funding opportunities in which the Elsinore Front Country Fuel Break was funded through 2022. The Red Mountain Fuel Break continued with the planning/environmental phase. The El Cariso Fuel Break was re-entered and completed. The Main Divide Fuel break started with three complete plots.

Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering: The Riverside Unit Truck Trail system was surveyed, and road repair and vegetation clearing was completed on 2 miles under Local Unit funding. The RRU Fire Danger Operating Plan was completed and implemented with the purchase an additional RAWS.

Education and Information: “Public Information and Fire Safety Education: The CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department Public Affairs Bureau continues to meet the demands of the ever-evolving social media culture. In December 2018, the Department’s “Twitter” social media site increased from 9,000 followers in 2013 to over 20,000 followers. Relevant and daily fire safety messages are posted to raise awareness in hopes of being “retweeted” and increase following. This will be particularly important as we enter the 2018 fire season. Incident call volume has grown to well over 400 calls per day; and increasing the number of Significant Incident Fact Sheets that are posted and updated on the www.rvcfire.org website 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Nearly 18,000 Fire Prevention/Fire Safety Education contacts were made by Department Personnel in 2016. The bureau’s County-funded Fire Captain Position was unfunded due to budget constraints and is now filled and funded by utilization of the State Fire Prevention Fee. SRA funding was approved for mass printing of “Ready, Set, Go!” handouts as well approval to erect nearly 20 road signs with the “Ready, Set, Go!” fire safety message. These signs will be strategically placed throughout SRA and WUI areas within Riverside County.”

Vegetation Management: Fuels treatments continued in Battalions 1, 2, 15 and 11, including Orchard Lake Mathews and the Santa Rosa Plateau. The Red Hill VMP and Oak Glen/Water Canyon VMP were stated, and community chipping programs continued throughout the Unit in the communities of Poppet Flats, Silent Valley and Pinyon.

Fire Hazard Severity Mapping and Mitigation: GSOB control continued throughout the year with 82 GSOB confirmed Black Oak trees identified and/or removed and transferred to the grinding facility in Idyllwild and Romoland to date. In cooperation with the University of California Riverside Extension biologists, a collaborative effort is underway involving hatching studies, identification, ground and aerial mapping, removal and spraying application efficacy.

Other Fire Prevention Projects in SRA: Re-entries were made into the Astro Camp and Upper Dry Creek, and Tenaja Road, resulting in 1,874 acres of fuel reduction completed in the Unit.



5/8/2019

ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING 2018

Fire Planning: Priority fuels projects reflected in the Unit Fire Plan were identified and submitted, for Grant funding opportunities in which the Elsinore Front Country Fuel Break was funded through 2022. The El Cariso Fuel Break was re-entered and completed. The Main Divide Fuel break started with two plots completed.

Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering: The Riverside Unit Truck Trail system was surveyed, and road repair and vegetation clearing was completed on 2 miles under Local Unit funding. The RRU Fire Danger Operating Plan was completed and implemented with funding being sought for an additional RAWS.

Education and Information: “Public Information and Fire Safety Education: The CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department Public Affairs Bureau continues to meet the demands of the ever-evolving social media culture. In December 2018, the Department’s “Twitter” social media site increased from 9,000 followers in 2013 to over 20,000 followers. Relevant and daily fire safety messages are posted to raise awareness in hopes of being “retweeted” and increase following. This will be particularly important as we enter the 2018 fire season. Incident call volume has grown to well over 400 calls per day; and increasing the number of Significant Incident Fact Sheets that are posted and updated on the www.rvcfire.org website 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Nearly 18,000 Fire Prevention/Fire Safety Education contacts were made by Department Personnel in 2016. The bureau’s County-funded Fire Captain Position was unfunded due to budget constraints and is now filled and funded by utilization of the State Fire Prevention Fee. SRA funding was approved for mass printing of “Ready, Set, Go!” handouts as well approval to erect nearly 20 road signs with the “Ready, Set, Go!” fire safety message. These signs will be strategically placed throughout SRA and WUI areas within Riverside County.”

Vegetation Management: Fuels treatments continued in Battalions 1, 2, 15 and 11, including Orchard Lake Mathews and the Santa Rosa Plateau. Community Chipping Programs continued throughout the Unit providing landowners brush disposal in the communities of Poppet Flats, Silent Valley and Pinyon.

Fire Hazard Severity Mapping and Mitigation: GSOB control continued throughout the year with 82 GSOB confirmed Black Oak trees identified and/or removed and transferred to the grinding facility in Idyllwild and Romoland to date. In cooperation with the University of California Riverside Extension biologists, a collaborative effort is underway involving hatching studies, identification, ground and aerial mapping, removal and spraying application efficacy.

Other Fire Prevention Projects in SRA: Re-entries were made into the Astro Camp and Upper Dry Creek projects treating 45 acres in the Community of Idyllwild.



5/10/2019

ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING 2017

Fire Planning: Priority fuels projects reflected in the Unit Fire Plan were identified and submitted, for Grant funding opportunities in which the Maxwell Fuel Break was funded through 2017. The El Cariso Fuel Break was re-entered and completed. The Main Divide Fuel break started with two plots completed.

Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering: The Riverside Unit Truck Trail system was surveyed, repaired and vegetation clearing was completed on 33 miles under Local Unit funding. The RRU Fire Danger Operating Plan was completed and implemented.

Education and Information: “Public Information and Fire Safety Education: The CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department Public Affairs Bureau continues to meet the demands of the ever-evolving social media culture. In December 2017, the Department’s “Twitter” social media site increased from 9,000 followers in 2013 to over 20,000 followers. Relevant and daily fire safety messages are posted to raise awareness in hopes of being “retweeted” and increase following. This will be particularly important as we enter the 2017 fire season. Incident call volume has grown to well over 400 calls per day; and increasing the number of Significant Incident Fact Sheets that are posted and updated on the www.rvcfire.org website 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Nearly 18,000 Fire Prevention/Fire Safety Education contacts were made by Department Personnel in 2016. The bureau’s County-funded Fire Captain Position was unfunded due to budget constraints and is now filled and funded by utilization of the State Fire Prevention Fee. SRA funding was approved for mass printing of “Ready, Set, Go!” handouts as well approval to erect nearly 20 road signs with the “Ready, Set, Go!” fire safety message. These signs will be strategically placed throughout SRA and WUI areas within Riverside County.”

Vegetation Management: Fuels treatments continued in Battalions 1 and 15, including Orchard Lake Mathews and the Santa Rosa Plateau for a total of 1,425 acres. Community Chipping Programs continued throughout the Unit providing landowners brush disposal in the communities of Poppet Flats, Silent Valley and Pinyon.

Fire Hazard Severity Mapping and Mitigation: GSOB control continued throughout the year with 116 GSOB confirmed Black Oak trees identified and/or removed and transferred to the grinding facility in Idyllwild and Romoland to date. In cooperation with the University of California Riverside Extension biologists, a collaborative effort is underway involving hatching studies, identification, ground and aerial mapping, removal and spraying application efficacy.

Other Fire Prevention Projects in SRA: Two SRA/FPF projects were started, continued or completed. A reentry into the El Cariso HFT was continued into January by the California Conservation Corps to treat 40 acres. The Main Divide Fuel Break treated 25 acres.



Unit Chief: John Hawkins

5/10/2018

ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING 2016

Fire Planning: Priority fuels projects reflected in the Unit Fire Plan were identified and submitted, for Grant funding opportunities in which the Maxwell Fuel Break was funded through 2017. Tenaja and Rancho Carrillo Road Right of Way Hazardous Fuel Reduction were funded and completed.

Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering: The San Jacinto State Park/Stone Creek Truck Trail system was surveyed and road repair and vegetation clearing on the Poppet Flats Truck Trail was completed on 3.7 miles under a Fire Prevention Fee Grant. The RRU Fire Danger Operating Plan was completed, and implementation is set for Spring 2017

Education and Information: "Public Information and Fire Safety Education: The CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department Public Affairs Bureau continues to meet the demands of the ever-evolving social media culture. In December 2016, the Department's "Twitter" social media site increased from 9,000 followers in 2013 to over 20,000 followers. Relevant and daily fire safety messages are posted to raise awareness in hopes of being "retweeted" and increase following. This will be particularly important as we enter the 2016 fire season. Incident call volume has grown to well over 400 calls per day; and increasing the number of Significant Incident Fact Sheets that are posted and updated on the www.rvcfire.org website 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Nearly 18,000 Fire Prevention/Fire Safety Education contacts were made by Department Personnel in 2016. The bureau's County-funded Fire Captain Position was unfunded due to budget constraints and is now filled and funded by utilization of the State Fire Prevention Fee. SRA funding was approved for mass printing of "Ready, Set, Go!" handouts as well approval to erect nearly 20 road signs with the "Ready, Set, Go!" fire safety message. These signs will be strategically placed throughout SRA and WUI areas within Riverside County."

Vegetation Management: Fuels treatments continued in Battalions 2, 15 and 11, including El Cariso, Rancho Carrillo, Tenaja and Stone Creek State Park. Community Chipping Programs continued throughout the Unit providing landowners brush disposal in the communities of Poppet Flats, Silent Valley and Pinyon.

Fire Hazard Severity Mapping and Mitigation: GSOB control continued throughout the year with 205 GSOB confirmed Black Oak trees identified and/or removed and transferred to the grinding facility in Idyllwild and Romoland to date. In cooperation with the University of California Riverside Extension biologists, a collaborative effort is underway involving hatching studies, identification, ground and aerial mapping, removal and spraying application efficacy.

Other Fire Prevention Projects in SRA: Four SRA/FPF projects were started, continued, or completed. The Ernie Maxwell Trail HFT continued in the treatment of 36 acres, The Rancho Carrillo Rd HFR in cooperation with OCFA treated 21 acres of Right of Way, also 32 acres of Right of Way fuels were treated along Tenaja Road as part of the Tenaja HFR. Lastly a reentry into the El Cariso HFT was started in November by the California Conservation Corps to treat 40 acres.



Unit Chief: John Hawkins

5/5/2017

ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING 2015

Fire Planning: Priority fuels projects reflected in the Unit Fire Plan were identified and submitted, for Grant funding opportunities in which the Maxwell Fuel Break was funded through 2017. Tenaja and Rancho Carrillo Road Right of Way Hazardous Fuel Reduction are awaiting Funding.

Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering: The RRU Truck Trail Database was identified in need of complete editing and the process of updating GIS accuracy was initiated to a total of 175 truck trails. The North Mountain Truck Trail system was surveyed and road repair and vegetation clearing on the Poppet Flats Truck Trail was completed on 4.8 miles under a Fire Prevention Fee Grant.

Education and Information: "Public Information and Fire Safety Education: The CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department Public Affairs Bureau continues to meet the demands of the ever-evolving social media culture. In December 2015, the Department's "Twitter" social media site increased from 9,000 followers in 2013 to over 14,500 followers. Relevant and daily fire safety messages are posted to raise awareness in hopes of being "retweeted" and increase following. This will be particularly important as we enter the 2016 fire season. Incident call volume has grown to well over 400 calls per day; and increasing the number of Significant Incident Fact Sheets that are posted and updated on the www.rvcfire.org website 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Nearly 18,000 Fire Prevention/Fire Safety Education contacts were made by Department Personnel in 2015. The bureau's County-funded Fire Captain Position was unfunded due to budget constraints and is now filled and funded by utilization of the State Fire Prevention Fee. SRA funding was approved for mass printing of "Ready, Set, Go!" handouts as well approval to erect nearly 20 road signs with the "Ready, Set, Go!" fire safety message. These signs will be strategically placed throughout SRA and WUI areas within Riverside County."

Vegetation Management: Fuels treatments continued in Battalions 2, 15 and 11, including Camp Maranatha, Dark Canyon and Stone Creek State Park. Community Chipping Programs continued throughout the Unit providing landowners' brush disposal in the communities of Tenaja, La Cresta, El Cariso, Poppet Flats, Silent Valley and Pinyon.

Fire Hazard Severity Mapping and Mitigation: GSOB control continued throughout the year with 105 GSOB confirmed Black Oak trees identified and/or removed and transferred to the grinding facility in Idyllwild and Romoland. In cooperation with the University of California Riverside Extension biologists, a collaborative effort is underway involving hatching studies, identification, ground and aerial mapping, removal and spraying application efficacy.

Other Fire Prevention Projects in SRA: Three SRA/FPF Projects were completed in 2015, The El Potrero GSC Project removed dead and down vegetation on 68 acres in the Community of Morrell Canyon, The RRU Cistern Rehabilitation Project provided funding to remove hazardous vegetation around the cisterns, locate and dig out valve boxes for access and identify repair needs with was accomplished at the Unit level, lastly the RRU Fire Preparedness Community Sign Project provided funding to construct and install public information signage at numerous communities in the WUI



Unit Chief: John Hawkins
4/11/2016

ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING 2014

Fire Planning: Priority fuels projects reflected in the Unit Fire Plan were identified and submitted, for Grant funding opportunities in which the Maxwell Fuel Break was funded through 2017. This project is and continues to be a high priority to the Unit and the citizens and communities of Idyllwild and Pine Cove.

Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering: A focused Unit wide SRA Review was conducted again this year resulting in the addition of nearly 8,000 acres of LRA lands reverting to SRA. The State of California Facilities data layer was reviewed, and corrections made at the Unit level for FRAP.

Education and Information: “Public Information and Fire Safety Education: The CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department Public Affairs Bureau continues to meet the demands of the ever-evolving socialmedia culture. In December 2014, the Department’s “Twitter” social media site increased from 9,000 followers in 2013 to over 11,000 followers. Relevant and daily fire safety messages are posted to raise awareness in hopes of being “retweeted” and increase following. This will be particularly important as we enter the 2015 fire season. Incident call volume has grown to well over 400 calls per day; and increasing the number of Significant Incident Fact Sheets that are posted and updated on the www.rvcfire.org website 24 hours a day, seven days a week. During recent years, the bureau’s County-funded Fire Captain Position was unfunded due to budget constraints and is now filled and funded by utilization of the State Fire Prevention Fee. SRA funding was approved for mass printing of “Ready, Set, Go!” handouts as well approval to erect nearly 20 road signs with the “Ready, Set, Go!” fire safety message. These signs will be strategically placed throughout SRA and WUI areas within Riverside County.”

Vegetation Management: Fuels treatments continued in Battalions 2, 15 and 11, including Camp Maranatha, Dark Canyon and Stone Creek State Park. Community Chipping Programs continued throughout the Unit providing landowners’ brush disposal in the communities of Tenaja, La Cresta, ElCariso, Poppet Flats, Silent Valley and Pinyon.

Fire Hazard Severity Mapping and Mitigation: GSOB control continued throughout the year with 62 GSOB confirmed Black Oak trees identified and/or removed and transferred to the grinding facility in Idyllwild and Romoland. In cooperation with the University of California Riverside Extension biologists, a collaborative effort is underway involving hatching studies, identification, ground and aerial mapping, removal and spraying application efficacy.

Other Fire Prevention Projects in SRA: Two Fire Prevention Fee funded fuels reduction projects were completed. The El Cariso Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project was a 42-acre fuel break surrounding the community of El Cariso. The other was the Red Hill North Fuel Reduction Project; this was a 41-acre shaded fuel break buffering Highway 243 protecting the western edge of the community of Pine Cove.



Unit Chief: John Hawkins

4/30/2015

ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING 2013

Fire Planning: Instituted a Battalion Chief SRA/CalMapper training and reporting program, a major component of this program is the establishment of a tracked Fuels Project submission process from Operations through Resource Management. A rewrite of the 2012 Fire Plan will reflect the many operational and administrative changes and improvements within the Riverside Unit.

Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering: Updated Geodatabase file management at the Mountain Resource Center. Quarterly CalMapper updates were submitted to FRAP.

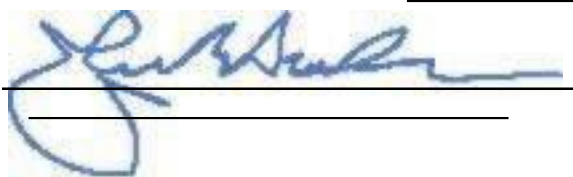
Education and Information: Since February 2011, when CAL FIRE/Riverside Unit implemented a “Twitter” social networking account that now has nearly 9,000 followers in 2013. The site is used to post relevant fire safety information, community events and serves as a conduit that links the “follower” back to our website to be informed of significant incidents that may affect the follower’s community – always with an attached safety message regarding wildland fire preparedness, evacuation information, brush clearance requirements, hazard mitigation information, or a myriad other regional or seasonal message.

Vegetation Management: Fuels treatments continued in the San Jacinto Range completing the AstroCamp and Upper Dry Creek projects. The Clay Hill Plot on the Santa Rosa Ecological Preserve was successfully burned in conjunction with the Cal Fire Intermediate Firing Class. Mountain Fire, damaged tree removal completed in the SRA portions of the Bonita Vista community of Apple Canyon.

Fire Hazard Severity Mapping and Mitigation: GSOB control continued throughout the year with 30 GSOB confirmed Black Oak trees removed and transferred to the grinding facility in Idyllwild.

Other Fire Prevention Projects in SRA: Continued fuel reduction and pile burning in cooperation with California State Parks on the Stone Creek project within the San Jacinto Range.

Unit Chief
John Hawkins
Date
4/30/2014



ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING 2012

The Riverside Unit Strategic Fire Plan sets forth a vision to identify and evaluate Wildland fire hazards and recognize life, property and natural resources at risk, including watershed, habitat, social and other values of functioning ecosystems. In 2012, the Riverside Unit made great strides in fostering inter-agency relations, collaboration, and abiding by the goals and objectives set forth in the Strategic Fire Plan for California

In 2012, the Riverside Battalions were successful in providing 4291 Public Resource Code inspections, fire prevention and fuel reduction education to communities. The Battalions collectively completed 11,213 LE-100 inspections, with 1,638 Violations. The engine companies completed 2,123 Fire Prevention public contacts with a total of 558 Prevention hours.

As part of the collaborative California Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement (CFMA) process, the 2012 review identified that a Direct Protection (DPA) adjustment was necessary to realign the DPA to the mission of each agency. The mission of the Federal agencies is to manage and protect national forest and public lands and to protect lands under cooperative agreement with other wild land fire agencies. The mission of CAL FIRE is to protect the state, private and federal lands under the cooperative agreement and, where appropriate, provide local government fire protection services. As a result of this review, CAL FIRE Riverside Unit assumed DPA for 25,690 acres in the San Jacinto Mountain area. This additional acreage was assumed in the Riverside Unit without additional budget/staffing increase. The realignment of the DPA will not impact the level of response to Wildland fires. The response to Wildland fires will continue to be immediate, decisive and aggressive. Resource Management continues to make progress in fuel reduction in the Riverside Unit, utilizing the Healthy Forest Treatment 1 and 2 grant funded programs. Additionally, the Forest Care program, which is funded through a cooperative grant of the USDA Forest Service, successfully completed, 240 single tree removals covering 201 acres. The Riverside Unit conducted several Vegetation Management burns totaling 280 acres in cooperation with Federal, State and Local land managers.

CO-OP: is a joint program with the Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) in which county grant funds are used to perform abatement work (PRC 4291) within 100 feet of structures in the mountain communities. The program spent \$221,315, treated 81.4 acres, and produced 343.1 tons of biomass, while servicing 101 landowners. Time and Material is a fuel reduction program based on the lowest cost bidder's rates for their equipment and labor. This program allows for a broader type of fuel reduction that single tree removal does not. It covers fuel brake rehabilitation, log and slash pile removal, protection of evacuation routes, brush removal, and proper clearing of shelter-in-place areas. This program spent \$168,922, treated 80 acres, and produced 299.75 tons of biomass that was safely disposed of. There were 20 projects completed, helping 12 landowners.

The new Department resource, Cal Mapper, has been instrumental in collecting data, tracking, fiscal reporting, emergency response, planning, and assessment, for fuel reduction projects in the Riverside Unit. In the Riverside Unit a total of 17 projects with 39 treatments areas are either active, in maintenance, or completed.

The CAL FIRE Riverside Unit is collaboratively working with communities and stakeholders to stop the movement of the Gold Spotted Oak Borer (GSOB) through firewood transportation. The gold spotted oak borer (GSOB) has been detected in recently killed California black oak trees in the Riverside County Mountain community of Idyllwild. This new detection of GSOB represents the first long-distance movement of the borer from its known area of infestation in San Diego County, 40 miles to the south. It is believed to have made the jump from San Diego to Idyllwild through the movement of infested firewood. The Riverside Unit is actively engaged in the education of various local mountain community volunteer groups, Fire Safe Councils and the MAST (Mountain Area Safety Taskforce) members to help in the identification of affected trees.

ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING 2011

Completed CWPP for the Southwest Fire Safe Council

Completed approximately 662 acres of broadcast burning.

Completed approximately 15 acres of pile burning.

Completed approximately 46 acres of fuel reduction.

Completed approximately 18 acres of fuel reduction for repeater sites.

Completed 2 new VMPs.

Remove many tons of hazardous fuels from the communities of Pinyon, Poppet Flats and the Southwest Fire Safe Council area through the community chipping program.

Treated 25 parcels for 19.5 acres and 103 tons of biomass removed in the San Jacinto Mountain area with the CO-OP project between the Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council and Cal Fire/Riverside County Fire.

Conducted live wildland fire training for Anaheim City, the City of Orange and Orange County Fire Authority at Clark Training Center.

Single tree contract: removed 71 trees, treating 51 acres.

Time and materials contract: removed 276 tons biomass, treating 47 acres.

UNIT FIRE PLAN AMENDMENTS

Date	Section Updated	Page Numbers Updated	Description Of Update	Updated By
6-20-12	Unit Prep	9	Statistics	M. Barr
6-20-12	Red Hill VMP	28	Fuel Break Maintenance	M. Barr
6-20-12	Lake Perris VMP	30	Planned Burns	M. Barr
6-20-12	Multi-Species VMP	30	Habitat Experiments	M. Barr
6-20-12	Johnson VMP	31	VMP Renewal	M. Barr
6-20-12	Wood House VMP	31	New VMP	M. Barr
6-20-12	2012 Projects	32	Listed 2012 projects	M. Barr
6-20-12	Projects List	49	Wood House VMP added	M. Barr
3-18-20	Supplement	63	Unit Accomplishments	M. Barr
4-1-14	Cover Page		Update	M. Sebastian
3-18-20	Executive Summary	2	Update	M. Sebastian
4-1-18	Unit Overview	4	Fire Situation	M. Sebastian
4-1-18	Vegetative Fuels	6	Perris – Beaumont	M. Sebastian
4-1-18	Vegetative Fuels	7	Jurupa- San Jacinto	M. Sebastian
4-1-18	Vegetative Fuels	8	Moreno Valley	M. Sebastian
4-1-18	Vegetative Fuels	9	Garner Valley - Meniffee	M. Sebastian
4-1-19	Unit Preparedness	11	CERT-Resource Management	M. Sebastian
4-1-19	Collaboration	14	Contacts	M. Sebastian
4-1-18	Sec. III/Values at Risk	18	Perris- Lake Elsinore	M. Sebastian
4-1-18	Sec. III/Values at Risk	19	Beaumont	M. Sebastian
4-1-18	Sec. III/Values at Risk	19,20	San Jacinto-Moreno Valley	M. Sebastian
4-1-18	Sec. III/Values at Risk	20,21	Battalion 11	M. Sebastian
4-1-18	Sec. III/Values at Risk	21	Battalion 14	M. Sebastian
3-18-20	Sec. IV/Fire Prevention	24	LE-100	M. Sebastian
3-18-20	Sec. IV/Fire Prevention	25	Ord. 695 – Railroad Inspections	M. Sebastian
3-18-20	Sec. IV/Fire Prevention	25	Power line Inspections	M. Sebastian
4-1-14	Engineering/Ignitability	28	Update	M. Sebastian
4-1-18	Public Information	29,30	Update	M. Sebastian
4-1-18	Vegetation Management	33	Redhill North	M. Sebastian
4-1-18	Vegetation Management	36	El Cariso HFR	M. Sebastian
4-1-14	Vegetation Management	39	2014 Project List	M. Sebastian
4-1-14	Sec. V/ Pre-Fire Tactics	43	Battalion 9	M. Sebastian
4-1-14	Sec. V/ Pre-Fire Tactics	44	Northwest Division	M. Sebastian
4-1-14	Sec. V/ Pre-Fire Tactics	49,50	Battalion 2	M. Sebastian
3-18-20	Appendix A	54	Pre-Fire Projects	M. Sebastian
3-18-20	Appendix C	56	Unit Goals	M. Sebastian
3-18-20	Ignition Data	59,60	Update	M. Sebastian

3-18-20	Ignition Data/Maps/App A/C/D		Update	M. Sebastian
4-29-22	Annual revision of the Unit Fire Plan	Entire Document	Update	C. Matthews
3/24/23	Annual revision of the Unit Fire Plan	Entire Document	Update	C. Matthews
02/01/24	Annual revision of the Unit Fire Plan	Entire Document	Update	M. Escandel
05/15/26	Annual revision / rewrite of the Unit Fire Plan	Entire Document	Update	E. Bernardo

