Appendix N Wildfire Evacuation Memorandum Appendix N-1 Fire and Emergency Response Memorandum



Losh & Associates P.O. Box 171407 Holladay, UT 84117 707.540.2929

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Bibiana Sparks-Alvarez Project Manager Acorn Environmental 5170 Golden Foothill Parkway El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

Re: Shiloh Resort and Casino Project

Fire and Emergency Response Comments for the Shiloh Resort and Casino Project

The primary purpose of the fire code and other fire safety regulations and recommendations is to provide for the safety of life and property from the threats of fire. This document was prepared to summarize the fire risks, code requirements, and recommendations to reduce the threat of fire and loss of life and property.

# Experience

My recommendations contained in this document are based on over 45 years of experience in fire safety and emergency management.

A significant part of my duties included the development of fire codes and ordinances for several government agencies. In Sonoma County alone I was involved with several fire code adoptions that also included vegetation management guidelines and requirements of the Public Resources Code for all unincorporated Sonoma County.

Another part of my experience was conducting numerous plan reviews and site inspections for residential and commercial development insuring compliance with local, state, and federal regulations. This included an emphasis on wildland fire code compliance. Another responsibility was the investigation of all fires including structure, vehicle, and wildland incidents.

My emergency response history spans five decades. That history includes responding to hundreds of incidents involving structure fires and wildland emergencies. I have responded to major wildland urban interface incidents throughout Sonoma County and California as an engine Captain, Strike Team Leader responsible for multiple engines and crews, and incident command staff.

# Summary of Fire Risk and Recent Fire History

Having reviewed the available information for the Shiloh Resort and Casino Project, I offer the following comments:

Shiloh Resort and Casino Project is a proposed new development with access off Shiloh Road and Old Redwood Highway in unincorporated Sonoma County California. It lies within a moderate and high fire zone of the State Responsibility Area (SRA). It should be noted that Cal Fire's SRA Zones are under review and reported to be updated. The maps are now out for an internal Cal Fire review and should be available to the public sometime in calendar year 2023.

The proposed project site is located on approximately 68 acres and currently has an active vineyard operation, with fruit trees, a single-family dwelling, and miscellaneous outbuildings for the vineyard operation.

The proposed project has a total of 807,000 square feet of occupied space and a parking garage of 1.2 million square feet. The total allowable occupant load for the casino space is approximately 20,814. The total building code allowable occupant load for the casino and hotel space is approximately 20,814. The available parking spaces allow for 5,110 vehicles and nine bus parking spots. The parking spaces at 1.7 people per vehicle would indicate 8,687 customers and staff. The nine bus parking spots with 56 passenger buses would be approximately 504 customers and staff. These numbers do not account for bus and vehicle services that would bring customers to the facility.

Pruitt Creek runs through the middle of the property and the balance of the property is a vineyard. There is a very limited amount of flammable vegetation on the property due to the planted rows of grape vines.

Sonoma County has had its share of wildfire events. Several years of wildfire history reveals that numerous fires have occurred in or around the vicinity where the Tubbs Fire and Kincade Fire have burned. It is well documented that the Hanley Fire in 1964 burned an area like the Tubbs Fire, with final perimeter lines from both fires mirroring one another in some areas.

Similar circumstances have occurred with many fires, including the Atlas Peak fire in 1981, and the Atlas Fire in 2017, which burned simultaneously with the Tubbs Fire.

The development site is in an area that has seen recent significant fire activity, including the Tubbs Fire in October of 2017 and the Kincade Fire in October of 2019. The Tubbs and Kincade fires burned up near the northeast side of the property near the intersection of E. Shiloh Road and Faught Road. The fire stopped short of reaching the project property.

A few factors could have been in play to prevent the fire from reaching the project property. One could have been the active efforts of fire suppression forces in the area and using the roads as a fire break for their suppression actions. Another reason could have been the roads and vineyards served as a "fire break" with their natural limited flammable vegetation features.

The development of the casino and resort will only add to the fire resistive features of the area. The northeast area of the project is proposed to be a noncombustible parking structure, a hard surface parking area and the remaining area will continue to be a vineyard. There will be a 3.5-acre treatment area that will meet all local codes and standards for vegetation management. Pruitt Creek will be protected with vegetation management that is allowed within a riparian area. The actual potential flammable vegetation will be greatly reduced in this area.

The balance of the property will be the casino floor, event center, hotel, swimming pool, and covered parking drop off. This area will be bordered by the existing vineyards on the south, north, and west providing an additional flammable vegetation break.

## **Tubbs Fire**

By the time the Tubbs Fire had been extinguished, near the end of October 2017, it had become the third deadliest wildfire in California history (at that time – it is currently the fourth deadliest wildfire on record), killing 22 people. It also became the most destructive wildfire in California history (at the time-it is now the second most destructive wildfire on record). The Tubbs Fire burned 36,807 acres and 5,636 structures.

# **Kincade Fire**

The Kincade Fire also started on October 23 of 2019 at 9:24 pm at the Geysers north of the project site. This fire burned 77,758 acres. It destroyed 374 structures and damaged 60 others.

As stated previously, according to available fire mapping data neither fire reached the project site. Both fires did come down to Faught Road just east of the project site. The Tubbs Fire did cross over Faught Road north Shiloh Road and the project site.

2019 Kincade Fire Maps https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/3ea9e0ceb81042618f0de719b299d32d

https://sonomalandtrust.maps.arcgis.com/apps/TimeAware/index.html?appid=a5a88825d1604 40887a181bdd7009730

2017 Tubbs Fire Maps

https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/3ea9e0ceb81042618f0de719b299d32d

https://sonomalandtrust.maps.arcgis.com/apps/TimeAware/index.html?appid=a5a88825d1604 40887a181bdd7009730

# **Project Evacuation**

The hot summer and early fall weather in Sonoma County can be accompanied by strong winds coming from the north and northwest. These temperatures and winds fuel very destructive fires. The fast moving, early morning, wind driven Tubbs Fire in 2017 created a "no-warning" event in Sonoma County where many residents had little or no warning to evacuate.

Since the Tubbs Fire of 2017 the early warning and notification tools that provide information to the public in Sonoma County have vastly improved. This process included ways to increase, expand and improve on all public education messaging related to fires and disasters in the county. Some of public education steps include:

 <u>Red Flag Warnings</u>. A Red Flag Warning is the highest level of alert for critical weather related to wildfires. The county and most cities post information on fire weather and Red Flag Warnings on their web sites. Most fire stations in the county display messages or actual red flags during red flag days.

https://www.weather.gov/media/lmk/pdf/what is a red flag warning.pdf

- Fire Cameras. There are dozens of fire cameras now installed in the north bay that includes Sonoma County. The purpose of these cameras is to quickly discover, locate, and confirm a fires ignition. They assist first responders in providing response resources. This enhanced situational awareness will also assist with evacuations. These cameras are also available to be viewed by the public. <u>https://www.alertwildfire.org</u>
- <u>Alerts</u>. Sonoma County as significantly increased their public education efforts for emergency alerts for the residents and visitors of the county. Examples of those alerts are: SoCoAlert, Nixle, NOAA weather radio. These alerts work with mobile and home phones. The NOAA weather radio works independent of telephones and provides weather and emergency alerts <u>https://socoemergency.org/get-ready/sign-up/</u>
- 4. Evacuation Zone Maps. The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office and the Emergency Management Department have developed zones within the unincorporated area of Sonoma County to help manage any emergency evacuation. The unincorporated county is broken down into many zones. When disaster strikes and evacuations are needed county officials will use these zone maps. The specific areas needed to be evacuated will be provided information through the emergency alerts and local media outlets. This project is in Sonoma County Zone #SON-3C1. <u>https://socoemergency.org/get-ready/evacuation-map/</u>

The project developers are committed to provide a comprehensive evacuation plan for all occupants of the development. The components of the plan will allow for early evacuation of all occupants to lesson any impacts on neighboring properties. The guests, employees, and staff will

be made aware of the above early warning tools, specifically the emergency alerts. The plan will be further developed once the land is taken into trust and specific building plans and drawings are available. The plan will be completed prior to occupancy as required by the California Fire Code.

(See recommendation #10 on evacuations below)

# **California Building and Fire Code Requirements**

With the increase in severity and intensity of wildfire activity across California over the past several years, fire researchers and data collection have revealed a great deal of information that was previously unknown. It is now widely known that embers, or fire brands, are the direct or indirect cause of many structure ignitions during a wildfire event. These embers are unburned pieces of vegetation or structural elements that are blown far in advance of the main fire front itself, igniting receptive fuel beds of dry vegetation, or structures themselves. We also know that historically, a future catastrophic event like the Tubbs Fire is somewhat predictable as to the direction it will travel. These types of "Foehn" wind events, known as Santa Ana Winds in Southern California, or Diablo Winds in Northern California, have always been pushed by high wind events that are moving from North to South, Northeast to Southwest, East to West, or some combination of these directional winds. Knowing this information allows us to address potential vulnerabilities on certain aspects of a structure, knowing some facades will face a higher impact of embers and other factors as the fire burns through. While there are no guarantees, it is possible to address these impacts by utilizing appropriate building materials, assembly details, and long-term maintenance to maximize the resistance of a structure from a potential ember ignition.

Wildfire resiliency and life safety issues are a high priority for the developers of this project. There are several wildfire codes and standards that will be applied to the construction of this development. They will include building materials themselves, but will also include landscaping, defensible space efforts, evacuation planning.

The entire project and in particular the exterior materials selected for this project will meet or exceed minimum standards required by California Building Code Chapter 7A, widely referred to as the "WUI Code," or Wildland Urban Interface Code. These requirements were first established in 2008 and continue to be updated and improved on with every adoption of the code by the State. All buildings will be required to have interior fire sprinklers. Fire sprinklers will contain any interior fire to the area of origin and reduce the risk of the fire spreading to other structures.

The exterior landscaping will be required to have a plan to be ignition resistant and have a maintenance component. A great deal of information is currently available regarding landscaping, and how decisions about plant selection and location can have direct impacts on how wildfires affect structures. This information has now been scientifically validated via research, in conjunction with observations from numerous wildfires over the past several years.

Another step toward ember resistance is now being widely accepted and has been recently adopted by the California State Board of Forestry. Flying embers are a significant cause of structure fires during a wildfire incident. Research shows that a non-combustible zone measuring 0-5 feet surrounding a structure can significantly reduce the likelihood of ember ignitions. There should be no vegetation or landscaping in the non-combustible zone, greatly reducing the ability for embers to ignite a structure significantly increasing wildfire resiliency. The structural hardening and vegetation management efforts will help prevent the ignition of fires from flying embers inside and outside of the structures.

# **Riparian Corridor Fire Safety**

As previously mentioned, Pruitt Creek runs through the project site. It starts in unincorporated Sonoma County northeast of the site and travels southwest into the town limits of Windsor. The creek is considered a riparian corridor. The Town of Windsor and the County of Sonoma have both developed wildfire fuel management plans for riparian corridors. The applicant will review these plans and other recommendations, regulations, and guidelines from state and federal agencies. The applicant will provide wildland fuels management and reduction as required in the riparian areas of the project.

The fuel reduction efforts will include annual and seasonal reduction of grass, shrubs, dead and dying plants and other overgrown vegetation. The efforts to reduce ground fuels will aid in preventing ground fires from spreading to other larger shrubs or trees. The separation of trees will reduce the tree to tree spread of fires in the riparian area. This work will aid in preventing fires form spreading to other areas of the project site.

# Fire and Life Safety Recommendations for the Project

Wildland fires tend to be driven by slope, terrain, topography and fuel type and concentration. Weather, specifically winds, temperature, fuel moisture and humidity also play a significant factor in fire spread and intensity.

This project site is relatively flat with very little change in slope or topography. Other than the area of Pruitt Creek the entire site is essentially free of any dense brush, hardwoods, or timber fuels that could intensify a wildland fire. As stated earlier, any remaining vegetation will fall under the vegetation management requirements of the California Fire Code. A wellexecuted vegetation management plan greatly reduces the impact of a potential wildfire. A vegetation management plan will be developed as required by the fire code.

This report identifies areas of vulnerability from a wildfire to this project. While the project proposal meets the minimum wildfire resistant requirements, there are several recommendations that can be taken to further bolster the resiliency and life safety of this project from a wildfire event and other fires within the project's property and structures.

# Recommendations

- 1. Ensure all construction materials meet the minimum or exceed the code requirements from Chapter 7A of the California Building Code, current edition.
- 2. The contractor must pay close attention to the installation of these materials, with special care taken to eliminate any openings at joints or other locations where embers could intrude and potentially ignite flammable material.
- A long-term maintenance plan should be created with annual maintenance to ensure fire resistive materials and construction details are maintained at their highest level to reduce ember impacts. This maintenance plan should remain in place for the life of the structure.
- 4. Develop an overall landscape management and maintenance plan. This vegetation management plan (VMP) should comply with requirements of the local and state fire agencies.
- 5. Maintain a landscape plan immediately around the structure to reduce the number of flammable materials within the 0 – 5-foot zone immediately surrounding the base of the structure. If any plants are placed in this zone, the plants should be highly fire resilient, and carefully located to avoid being placed in front of any door or window openings around the perimeter of the structure.
- 6. Create a detailed defensible space plan for the site, with special attention to the downhill slope at the rear of the structure. Grass should be kept mowed, ladder fuels on trees should be removed, and any shrubs should be spaced with appropriate distances to break the fuel continuity of the vegetation.
- 7. Develop a riparian corridor vegetation management plan. Use the plans developed by the Town of Windsor and Sonoma County as a guide for the plan. Sonoma County, Permit Sonoma 8-2-3 Guidelines for Fire Fuel Management in Riparian Corridors (July 2020), <a href="https://permitsonoma.org/policiesandprocedures/8-2-3guidelinesforfirefuelmanagementinripariancorridors">https://permitsonoma.org/policiesandprocedures/8-2-3guidelinesforfirefuelmanagementinripariancorridors</a>

Town of Windsor Riparian Corridor Wildlife Fuel Management Plan (June 2020), https://www.townofwindsor.com/DocumentCenter/View/24987/Riparian-Corridor-Wildfire-Fuel-Management-Plan---Final

- 8. A robust construction fire safety plan should be developed for use during construction.
- 9. Provide all staff and employees on-going fire safety and prevention training as stated in the California Fire Code.
- 10. A comprehensive evacuation plan is critical for the life safety of customers and the staff of this project. The project was provided evacuation planning recommendations by CAS Safety Consulting. I support the recommendations in their document.

Sincerely, Vern Losh

Vern Losh & Associates

Appendix N-2

**Evacuation Travel Time Assessment** 

# Fehr / Peers

# Memorandum

Subject:	Koi Nation Shiloh Resort & Casino Evacuation Travel Time Assessment
From:	lan Barnes, PE, and Grace Chen, Fehr & Peers
То:	Jennifer Wade and Bibiana Sparks, Acorn Environmental
Date:	January 31, 2024

WC23-4046

This technical memorandum documents the results of the evacuation travel time assessment for the proposed Shiloh Resort & Casino project in the unincorporated Larkfield-Wikiup area of Sonoma County, California. The project is located at a 68.6-acre site at 222 East Shiloh Road, and the proposed development includes a casino, hotel, ballroom/meeting space, event center, spa, and associated parking and infrastructure. While the project has multiple alternatives, this evacuation assessment is focused on the full buildout alternative (Alternative A, hereinafter referred to as the "Project").

The primary purpose of this evaluation is to document the effect of the proposed Project on evacuation times for the area surrounding the project (including the Town of Windsor) and other adjacent areas along the US 101 corridor during potential wildfire events, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality Guidelines for Implementing NEPA, and the BIA NEPA guidebook. As this is a new area of study under NEPA, few studies of this type have been completed for NEPA purposes, and as wildfire behavior is unpredictable, this analysis is not an exhaustive review of all potential wildfire and evacuation scenarios in the study area. Rather, the analysis was based on early evacuation recommendations and scenarios developed through conversations with the project team's local experts in wildfire behavior and evacuation history in the study area and provide a good faith effort at the disclosure of the Project's impacts on study area evacuation times for NEPA purposes.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> These experts include: Vern Losh at Losh & Associates (former head of the Sonoma County Department of Emergency Services); Robert Giordano (former Sonoma County Sheriff) and Clint Shubel (former Sonoma County Assistant Sheriff) at CAS Safety Consulting, LLC., who served as the Sonoma County Sheriff's Incident Commander during the 2017 Sonoma County Complex Wildfire Disaster.



# **Project Elements and Project Evacuation Demand**

The Project is expected to have about 5,110 passenger vehicle parking spaces, including a parking garage of 3,692 parking spaces, surface parking of 618 spaces, and an entry area parking of 800 spaces. It will also have nine spaces for bus parking. To be conservative, this study assumes maximum capacity of the passenger parking, and further increased demand loading by five percent (5%) to reach the conservative estimate of 5,367 vehicles that would need to evacuate from the Project site.

# Study Background, Study Area, and Study Scenarios

# Background

Sonoma County has undergone multiple wildfire evacuation events since 2017, including the 2017 Tubbs Fire in Santa Rosa and 2019 Kincade Fire near Geyserville. In the case of the Tubbs Fire, evacuations occurred with little warning as the Tubbs Fire was driven by high winds. In the case of the Kincade Fire, evacuations in other communities like Windsor and Santa Rosa occurred with some warning time as the Kincade Fire had started near Geyserville a few days prior and eventually spread through Sonoma County. These fire events show that some events result in evacuations with "no notice" and some events result in evacuations "with notice."

# Study Area

During an evacuation event, key bottlenecks<sup>2</sup> in the circulation system can develop due to a combination of through-traffic demand and demand from evacuating vehicles. Based on the large geographic range of the bottlenecks, the experts on the project team recommended a study area for the Shiloh Resort analysis generally bound by the following:

- US 101/Healdsburg Avenue-Old Redwood Highway interchange in the north
- US 101 at the northern Santa Rosa city limit in the south
- The Russian River and Laguna de Santa Rosa in the west
- The intersection of Mark West Springs Read/Porter Creek Road/Leslie Road in the east

This study area includes the Town of Windsor. It does not include land uses within the City of Santa Rosa, other land uses that would primarily evacuate south along Calistoga Road or Wallace Road into the City of Santa Rosa, or other land uses taking access along Porter Creek Road or along Chalk Hill Road north of Jacobson Road; these areas in and around Santa Rosa would use roadways and/or the City of Santa Rosa street grid system where Shiloh Resort evacuation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Traffic engineers use the term "bottlenecks" to describe potential congestion points. Others use the term "choke points". These two terms are synonymous.



demand is anticipated to have little effect on evacuation times (due to the spread of vehicle demand along numerous roadways).

Based on the wildfire history in the Project area, the locations of key bottlenecks, and the need to understand the benefits of early evacuation of the Project site (should conditions provide an opportunity for early evacuation), the project team and its experts defined the following study scenarios for the analysis of the Shiloh Resort's effect on evacuation times. Each scenario is analyzed for the Project opening year (2028) and buildout year (2040) conditions, both with and without the Project.

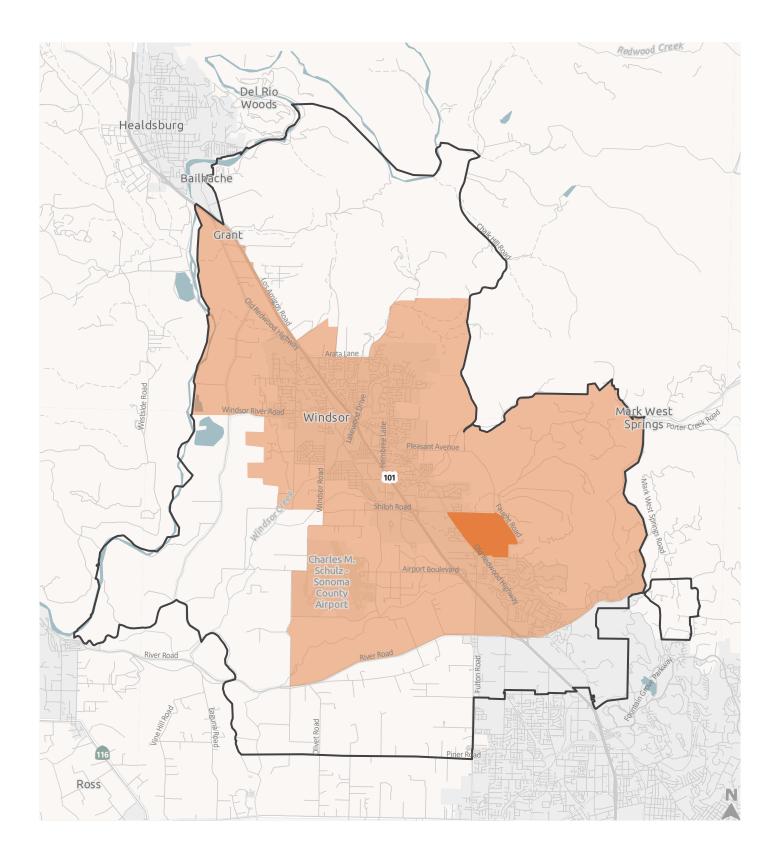
### **Scenarios**

### "No Notice" Scenario (Tubbs Fire-inspired)

In the No Notice scenario, it is assumed that a rapidly spreading wildfire requires the simultaneous evacuation of all land uses within the entire study area without notice; this is a reasonable worst-case scenario event based on expert opinion. These zones are shown in **Figure 1**. As noted by the local experts, such no notice evacuation scenarios are unlikely to happen in the future given the current fire detection and alert technologies. To maximize the Project's potential to impact evacuation times, Fehr & Peers assumed that an evacuation order would be issued at 4:30 PM (the afternoon peak hour of typical travel) on the Friday before Labor Day (when wineries are in the harvest period, and the Friday before a major holiday weekend). This scenario has a theoretical maximum background utilization of the study area's roadway network, with limited remaining capacity to accommodate the Project's evacuation demand.

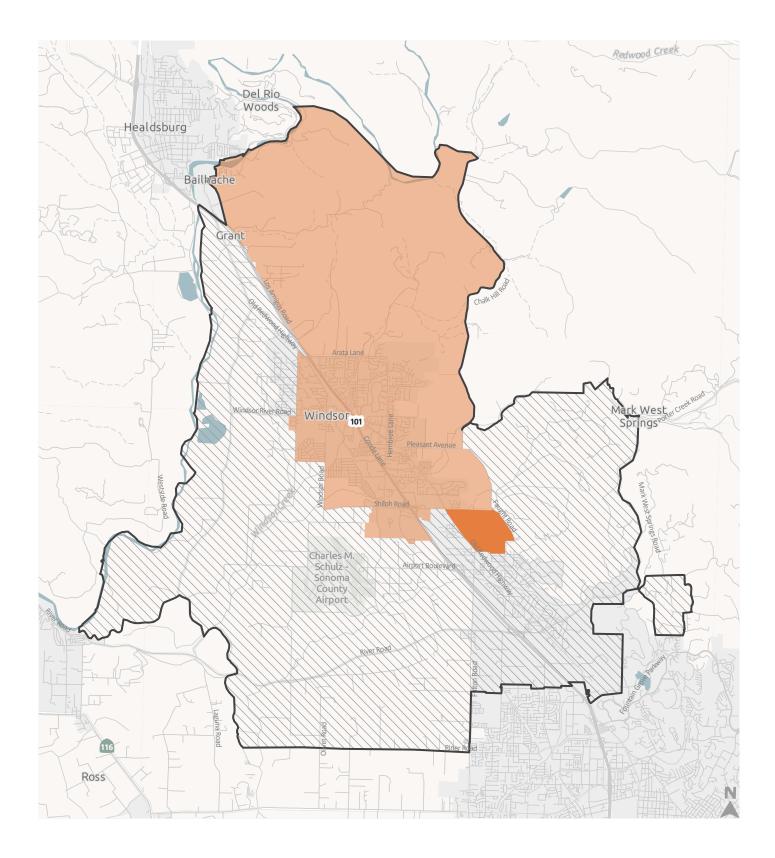
#### "With Notice" Scenario (Kincade Fire-inspired)

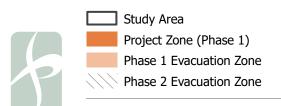
The With Notice scenario assumes a wildfire scenario similar to the 2019 Kincade Fire. In this scenario, there would be some knowledge of a wildfire burning in the direction of the study area before an evacuation order or warning was issued. A time-shifted version of the Kincade Fire Evacuation Warning and Order timeline was used as a basis for this scenario, which is included in **Appendix A.** Using the designated evacuation zones in the Kincade Fire timeline and maintaining the same mandatory evacuation time differences, two evacuation phases have been created: phase 1 zones evacuating at 4:30 PM, and phase 2 zones evacuating at 1:00 AM, as shown in **Figure 2**. In this analysis, the Project zone is assumed to evacuate at the same time as the phase 1 zones. The With Notice scenario evaluates if the evacuation demand from the phase 1 land use and the proposed Project completely exits the southern and western bounds of the study area prior to the phase 2 evacuation order goes into effect. Like the No Notice scenario, the With Notice scenario assumes that an evacuation order would be issued at 4:30 PM on the Friday before Labor Day.



Study Area Project Zone Evacuation Zone

# Figure 1 Evacuation Zone for No Notice Scenario





# Figure 2 Evacuation Zone for With Notice Scenario



# Assumptions

The following key assumptions were used in the development of background and evacuation traffic demand. All assumptions follow typical traffic engineering practice or were verified as appropriate by the project team's experts.

# **Background Traffic**

- Background traffic data was based on outputs from the SCTA travel demand model from the traffic study for the Project. Adjustments were made using location-based services "Big Data" <sup>3</sup> for locations along US 101 to establish an evacuation scenario baseline condition that more closely aligns with critical fire season in Sonoma County.
- As noted by the Project team's experts, background traffic demand on US 101 and other key regional routes remained throughout the analysis period. However, trips into the evacuation area are excluded starting 4:30 PM, as it is unlawful to enter an area under an Evacuation Order. Trips leaving the evacuation area were configured to represent evacuation demand.
- Year 2040 background traffic demand was developed based on applying a 1.4% per year straight-line growth factor to base traffic volumes. The growth factor was developed using information from the SCTA travel demand model.

# **Evacuation Demand**

Evacuation loading has the following distribution by time period:

- 30% evacuating from 4:30 PM to 4:45 PM
- 60% evacuating from 4:45 PM to 5:00 PM
- 10% evacuating from 5:00 PM to 5:15 PM

# **Evacuation Destination Patterns**

In the No Notice scenario, the evacuating traffic zones have the following distribution:

- 15% evacuating north (via US 101 and Healdsburg Avenue)
- 10% evacuating west (via Eastside Road and River Road)
- 75% evacuating south (via Laguna Road, Olivet Road, Fulton Road, Barnes Road, US 101, Old Redwood Highway, and Cross Creek Road)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> LBS data is provided from devices, primarily smart phones, which run applications and connect to cellular, WiFi, and/or GPS networks. LBS data is carrier-neutral and uses multiple location technologies, providing few gaps in coverage and high spatial precision.



In the With Notice scenario, the evacuating traffic zones have the following distribution:

- 5% evacuating west (via Eastside Road and River Road)
- 95% evacuating south (via Laguna Road, Olivet Road, Fulton Road, Barnes Road, US 101, Old Redwood Highway, and Cross Creek Road)

# Methodology

# EVAC+ Tool

The wide geographic range of both scenarios would result in a large-scale evacuation which would affect multiple bottlenecks in the study area. Evacuation demand was modeled using the EVAC+ tool developed by Fehr & Peers. The EVAC+ tool uses socioeconomic data from the U.S. Census and other data from the SCTA travel demand model such as number of households, population, vehicle ownership, and employment to forecast the number of vehicles that would be generated during an evacuation event. The number of visitor evacuation trips was estimated according to a Sonoma County tourism report in 2023.<sup>4</sup>

The 2028 opening year analysis scenario was interpolated from the 2019 and 2040 scenario years of the SCTA travel demand model as the basis for the travel demand forecasts. A 2040 far-term analysis was also analyzed using data from the SCTA travel demand model; future year land use information from the SCTA travel demand model was used as the basis for the EVAC+ analysis, and SCTA model growth rates were used to inform the process of growing Year 2019 background traffic volumes to arrive at background Year 2040 volumes. The Year 2028 and 2040 analyses also include the proposed Shiloh Terrace residential development and Shiloh Crossing and Clearwater mixed-use developments that are to be built near the Shiloh Resort site by 2028, using publicly available data for the three projects.

# **Dynamic Traffic Assignment**

The background traffic demand and EVAC+ evacuation demand was input into a dynamic traffic assignment (DTA) model, which uses the SCTA travel demand model network capacities to route the travel demand between origin points (Project site, residential areas, etc.) to evacuation gateways at the boundary of the study area (e.g., US 101 just north of Santa Rosa). When traffic demand exceeds capacity, vehicles are stored on the roadway (i.e., vehicles are stuck in traffic) between time intervals in the model. Thus, one of the key outputs of the DTA is how long it takes to evacuate the study area given the amount of development in the study area and the capacity of the roadway system. A comparison of the No Project and Plus Project DTA outputs indicates the Project's effect on evacuation times for the study area.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See 2023 Quick Facts, Sonoma County Tourism – Visitor Profile Highlights, Sonoma County Tourism (SCT). https://www.sonomacounty.com/sites/default/files/2023\_quick\_facts\_sonoma\_county\_tourism.pdf.



Roadway capacities were determined from the SCTA travel demand model, but with a 15% reduction in capacity to account for the various incidents that may occur during a wildfire event that might limit or reduce the capacities of these roadways (i.e. presence of debris, lowered visibility due to smoke, or other hazards). The free-flow speeds of roadways were set as their speed limits, with special attention paid to base operating speed on US 101 to reflect congestion patterns. For this analysis, evacuation elapsed time was considered as ended when the network returned to an uncongested state (all links with 15-minute volume to capacity ratio of 0.75 or less).

# Results

# No Notice Scenario

As noted previously, the No Notice scenario assumes a mass evacuation of the entire study area concurrent with a theoretical peak in background through traffic associated with Labor Day holiday and harvest season traffic. This evacuation was considered by the experts on the project team to be a reasonable worst-case wildfire evacuation scenario.

As expected, given the large geographic scale of the evacuation event, the EVAC+ DTA model runs indicate substantial congestion in the study area in the event of a mass evacuation. In the Plus Project scenario, the following vehicle demand would be added to the key bottlenecks in the study area:

- Southbound Old Redwood Highway and Faught Road towards westbound Airport Boulevard
- US 101 on-ramps at Airport Boulevard, River Road, and Windsor River Road
- Southbound US 101 corridor between Windsor and Santa Rosa (corridor is already congested with afternoon peak hour traffic)

The results of the evacuation travel time analysis are presented below in **Table 1**. The results of the analysis indicate the modeled amount of time to clear the study area of evacuation demand under the No Project and Plus Project scenarios. It is noted that the estimates are based on assumptions (as previously described) and, given the unpredictable nature of fire behavior, should not be taken as an evacuation time standard for the study area.



Connerio Voor	Total Elapsed Time to Evacuate Study Area (min)			
Scenario Year	No Project	Plus Project	Delta	
2028	210	270	+29%	
2040	315	420	+33%	

#### Table 1: No Notice Scenario Evacuation Time Results

Source: Fehr & Peers, 2024.

### With Notice Scenario

As noted previously, the With Notice scenario assumes an evacuation pattern similar to that of the 2019 Kincade Fire. The scenario setting remains at 4:30 PM on the Friday before Labor Day as the background traffic level. In this analysis, the project employees and visitors evacuate with the phase 1 evacuation zones.

The results of the evacuation travel time analysis are presented below in **Table 2**. The results of the analysis indicate the modeled amount of time to clear the study area of phase 1 evacuation demand under 2028 and 2040 conditions is less than 8.5 hour (510 minutes), which is the time difference between phase 1 and phase 2 zones receiving the evacuation orders. The key bottlenecks in this scenario are:

- Southbound Old Redwood Highway and Faught Road towards westbound Airport Boulevard
- US 101 on-ramps at Airport Boulevard, River Road, and Shiloh Road
- Southbound US 101 corridor between Windsor and Santa Rosa (corridor is already congested with afternoon peak hour traffic)

	Total Elapsed Time to Evacuate Study Area (min)			
Scenario Year	No Project	Plus Project	Delta	
2028	195	300	+54%	
2040	345	360	+4%	

#### **Table 2: With Notice Scenario Operations Analysis Results**

Source: Fehr & Peers, 2024.

It is noted that, while the calculation summarized in **Table 2** is based on several conservative assumptions, the results of the analysis indicate that the phase 1 zones and the Project site would be able to fully evacuate before phase 2 zones would have to evacuate.



#### Project-Site-Only Evacuation Time

To mitigate the impact of the Project on evacuation times in the area, a possible provision is that the Project can evacuate early. This means that the employees and visitors on the Project would evacuate when a nearby evacuation zone receives an evacuation warning or an evacuation order, prior to the project's evacuation zone receiving an evacuation order, should a wildfire event allow for sufficient warning ahead of time. Thus, the Project-site-only evacuation time is modeled while maintaining the rest of the With Notice scenario assumptions, such as the level of background traffic and the evacuation destinations.

The results of this Project-only evacuation travel time analysis show that in 2028 and 2040, the Project vehicles would need a maximum of 52 and 54 minutes, respectively, to evacuate study area. Thus, with early evacuation, the vehicle demand generated by the Project would have exited the study area before neighboring evacuation zones are ordered to evacuate, if the Project began evacuating about one hour ahead of other zones.

# Conclusion

The results of the No Notice scenario indicate that the Project would have a 29%-33% (60 to 105 minute) effect on the overall time to clear the study area of evacuation demand. It is noted that the No Notice scenario represents a mass evacuation that experts indicate is far larger than what would be reasonably expected in the future, and thus represents a worst-case scenario based on analysis of historic events. The results of the With Notice scenario indicate that the Project would have a 4%-54% (15 to 105 minutes) effect on the overall time to clear the study area of phase 1 and Project evacuation demand. An additional Project-only evacuation analysis shows that the Project's early evacuation procedure under a 2019 Kincade Fire scenario would result in all project-related evacuation demand destined towards Santa Rosa or west of the Town of Windsor clearing the study area within an hour.

This completes our evacuation travel time assessment for the proposed Shiloh Resort & Casino project in Sonoma County, California. Please call Grace Chen at (707) 582-0039 with any questions.

Appendix A Kincade Fire Evacuation Warning/Order Pattern



Date	Time	Mandatory Evacuation Zones	<b>Evacuation Warning Zones</b>	Open Zones
October 23, 2019	11:34 PM	<b>Community of Geyserville</b> (Census Designated Area) <b>Population: 874</b>	N/A	N/A
October 26, 2019	10:00 AM	<b>Zones:</b> 1, 2, 3 <b>Population: 44,131</b>	<b>Zones:</b> 4, 5 <b>Population: 14,459</b>	N/A
October 26, 2019	6:30 PM	<b>Zones:</b> 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 <b>Population: 83,764</b>	<b>Zones:</b> 6, 8 <b>Population: 41,668</b>	N/A
October 27, 2019	4:30 AM	<b>Zones:</b> 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 <b>Population: 186,651</b>	N/A	N/A
October 27, 2019	12:45 PM	<b>Zones:</b> 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 <b>Population: 186,651</b>	Zone: 21 Population: 6,256	N/A
October 28, 2019	2:00 PM	<b>Zones:</b> 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8A, 9, 10 <b>Population: 136,148</b>	<b>Zones:</b> 7, 8B, 21 <b>Population: 56,804</b>	N/A
October 28, 2019	6:00 PM	<b>Zones:</b> 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8A, 9, 10 <b>Population: 136,148</b>	Zones: 7, 8B, 21, 31 Population: 58,681	N/A
October 29, 2019	2:00 PM	<b>Zones:</b> 1, 2, 3, 4B, 5, 6, 8A, 9, 10 <b>Population: 133,740</b>	<b>Zones:</b> 4A, 7, 8B, 21, 31, 32, 33, 34 <b>Population: 65,046</b>	N/A



Date	Time	Mandatory Evacuation Zones	Evacuation Warning Zones	Open Zones
October 30, 2019	1:00 PM	<b>Zones:</b> 1B, 2, 3C, 5B <b>Population: 3,381</b>	<b>Zones:</b> 1A, 3A, 3B, 5A, 6 (original revised to remove City of Santa Rosa), 21, 31, 32, 33, 34 <b>Population:</b> 64,860	Zones: 4A, 4B, 7, 8A, 8B, 9, 10, Unnamed (portion of original Zone 6 that was within the City of Santa Rosa) Population: 130,544
October 31, 2019	2:00 PM	<b>Zones:</b> 1B, 2, 3C, 5B <b>Population: 3,381</b>	<b>Zones:</b> 1A, 3A, 3B, 5A, 6 (original revised to remove City of Santa Rosa) <b>Population: 52,770</b>	<b>Zones:</b> 4A, 4B, 7, 8A, 8B, 9, 10, 21, 31, 32, 33, 34, Unnamed (portion of original Zone 6 that was within the City of Santa Rosa) <b>Population: 142,634</b>
November 1, 2019	1:00 PM	<b>Zones:</b> 1B (original reduced to remove a portion of Dry Creek Rancheria), 2, 3C, 5B <b>Population: 3,376</b>	N/A	<b>Zones:</b> 1A (original expanded into 1B to include a portion of Dry Creek Rancheria), 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 5A, 6 (original revised to remove City of Santa Rosa), 7, 8A, 8B, 9, 10, 21, 31, 32, 33, 34, Unnamed (portion of original Zone 6 that was within the City of Santa Rosa)

Population: 195,409

# Kincade Fire Evacuation Orders



Date	Time	Mandatory Evacuation Zones	Evacuation Warning Zones	Open Zones
November 1, 2019	3:00 PM	<b>Zones:</b> 1C, 2, 3C, 5B	Zone: 1B (original reduced to	Zones: 1A (original expanded into 1B to
		Population: 2,608	remove a portion of Dry Creek	include a portion of Dry Creek Rancheria),
			Rancheria; further reduced to	3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 5A, 6 (original revised to
			remove new Zone 1C)	remove City of Santa Rosa), 7, 8A, 8B, 9,
			Population: 768	10, 21, 31, 32, 33, 34, Unnamed (portion
				of original Zone 6 that was within the City
				of Santa Rosa)
				Population: 195,409
November 2, 2019	3:00 PM	Zones: 1C (original reduced to remove	<b>Zones:</b> 1D, 3D	Zones: 1A (original expanded into 1B to
		new Zone 1D), 2, 3C (original reduced	Population: 1,324	include a portion of Dry Creek Rancheria),
		to remove new Zone 3D), 5B (original		1B (original reduced to remove a portion
		reduced to remove new Zone 5C)		of Dry Creek Rancheria; further reduced
		Population: 978		to remove new Zone 1C), 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B,
				5A, 5C, 6 (revised to remove City of Santa
				Rosa), 7, 8A, 8B, 9, 10, 21, 31, 32, 33, 34,
				Unnamed (portion of original Zone 6 that

was within the City of Santa Rosa) Population: 196,483



Date	Time	Mandatory Evacuation Zones	Evacuation Warning Zones	Open Zones
November 3, 2019	3:00 PM	N/A	Zones: 1C (original reduced to	Zones: 1A (original expanded into 1B to
			remove new Zone 1D), 2, 3C	include a portion of Dry Creek Rancheria),
			(original reduced to remove new	1B (original reduced to remove a portion
			Zone 3D), 5B (original reduced to	of Dry Creek Rancheria; further reduced
			remove new Zone 5C)	to remove new Zone 1C), 1D, 3A, 3B, 3D,
			Population: 978	4A, 4B, 5A, 5C, 6 (revised to remove City
				of Santa Rosa), 7, 8A, 8B, 9, 10, 21, 31,
				32, 33, 34, Unnamed (portion of original
				Zone 6 that was within the City of Santa
				Rosa)
				Population: 197,807

Kincade Fire Evacuation Orders



Date	Time	Mandatory Evacuation Zones	Evacuation Warning Zones	Open Zones
November 4, 2019	3:00 PM	N/A	N/A	Zones: 1A (original expanded into 1B to
				include a portion of Dry Creek Rancheria),
				1B (original reduced to remove a portion
				of Dry Creek Rancheria; further reduced
				to remove new Zone 1C), 1C (original
				reduced to remove new Zone 1D), 1D, 2,
				3A, 3B, 3C (original reduced to remove

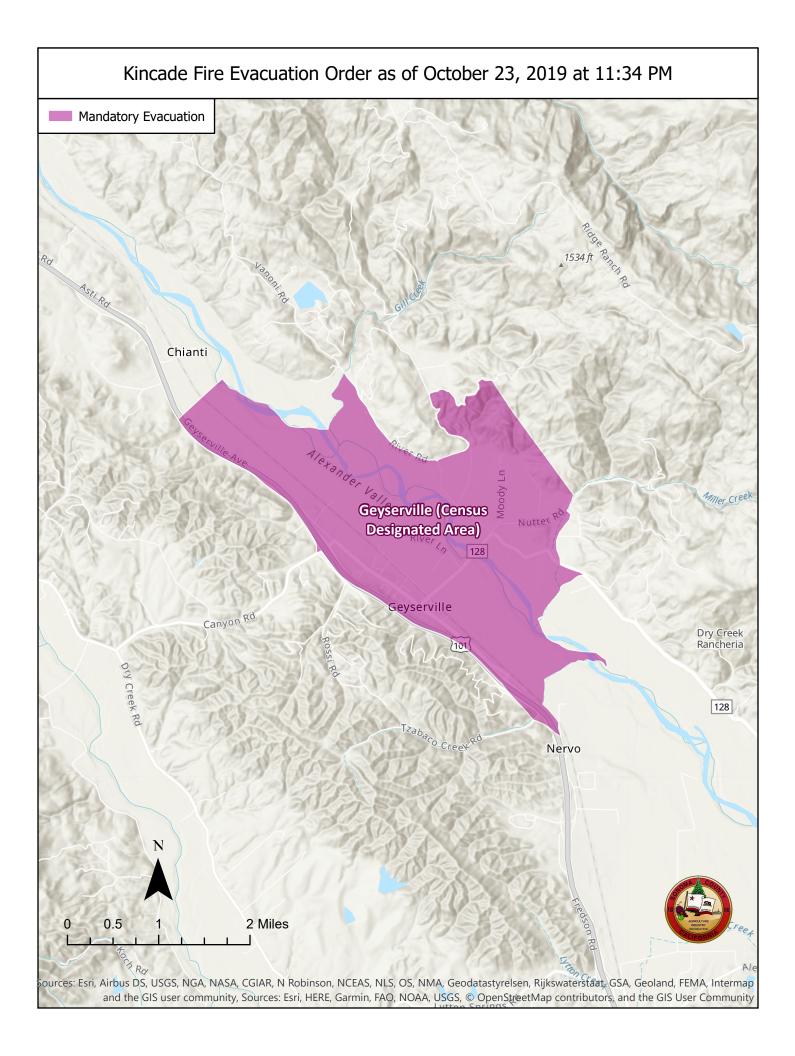
new Zone 3D), 3D, 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B (original reduced to remove new Zone 5C), 5C, 6 (revised to remove City of Santa Rosa), 7,

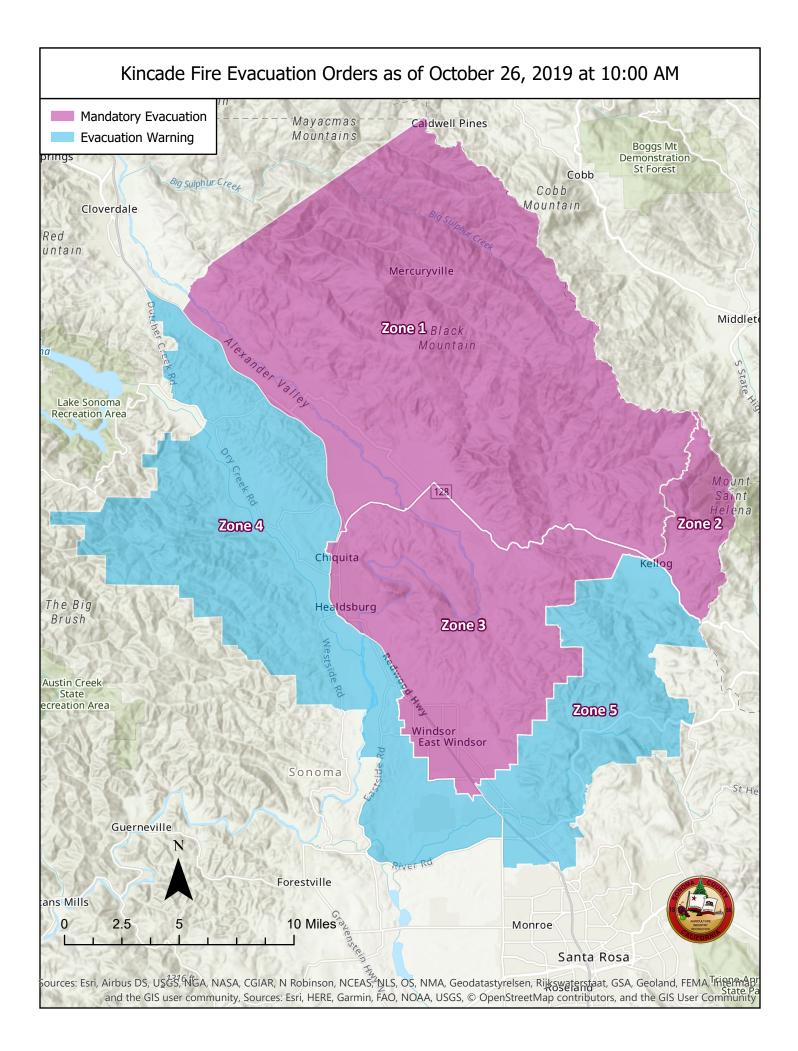
Unnamed (portion of original Zone 6 that

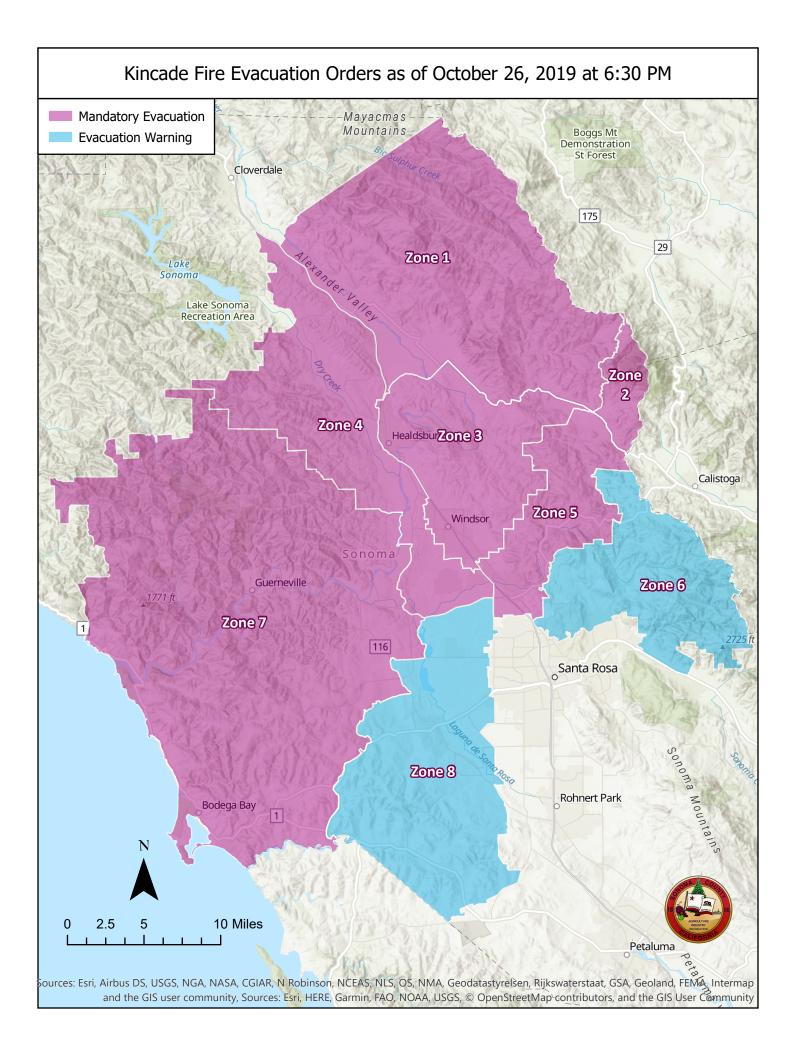
8A, 8B, 9, 10, 21, 31, 32, 33, 34,

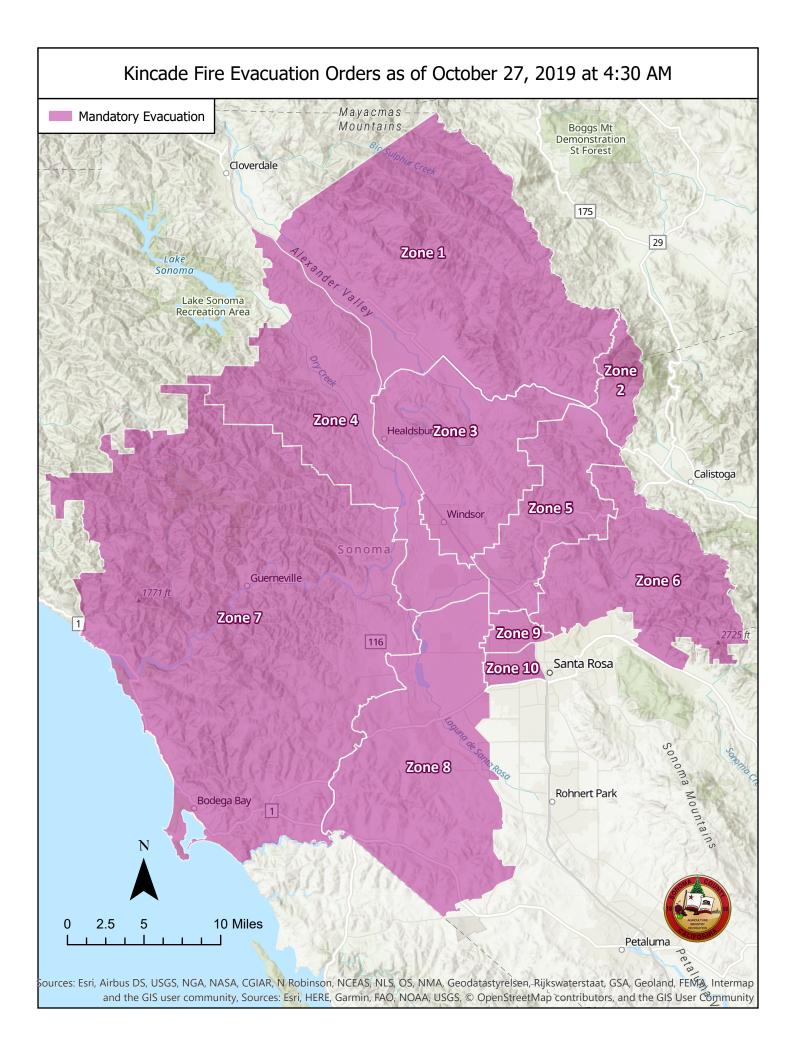
was within the City of Santa Rosa)

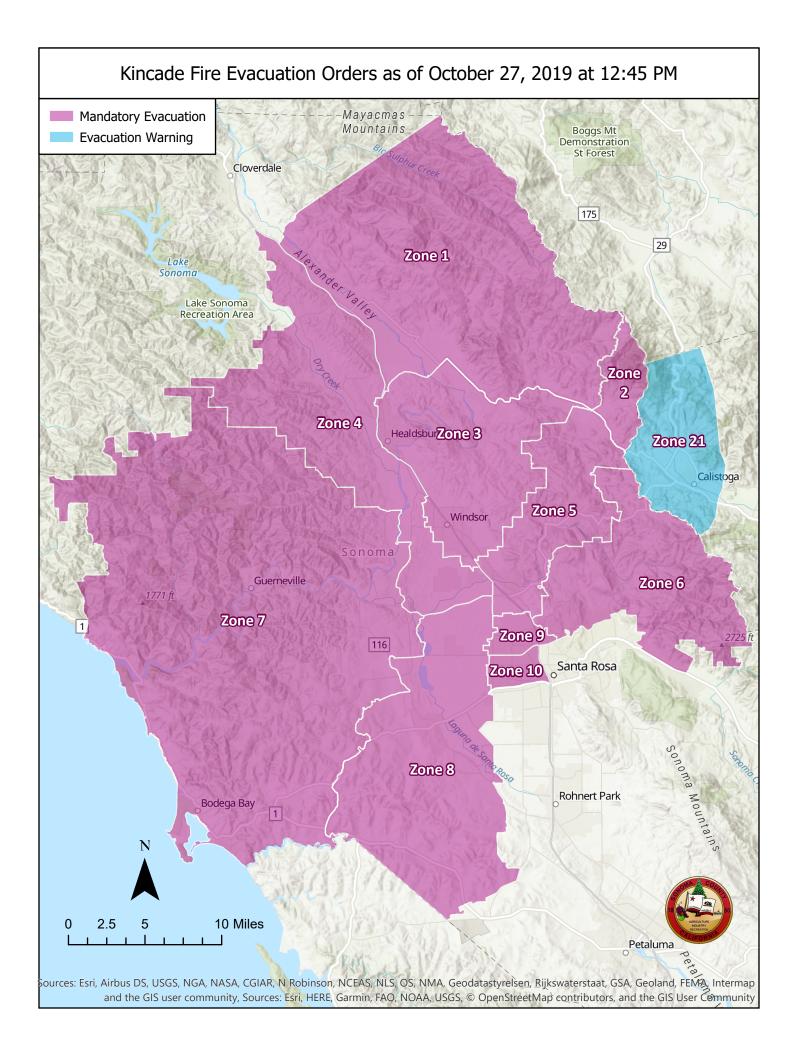
Population: 198,785

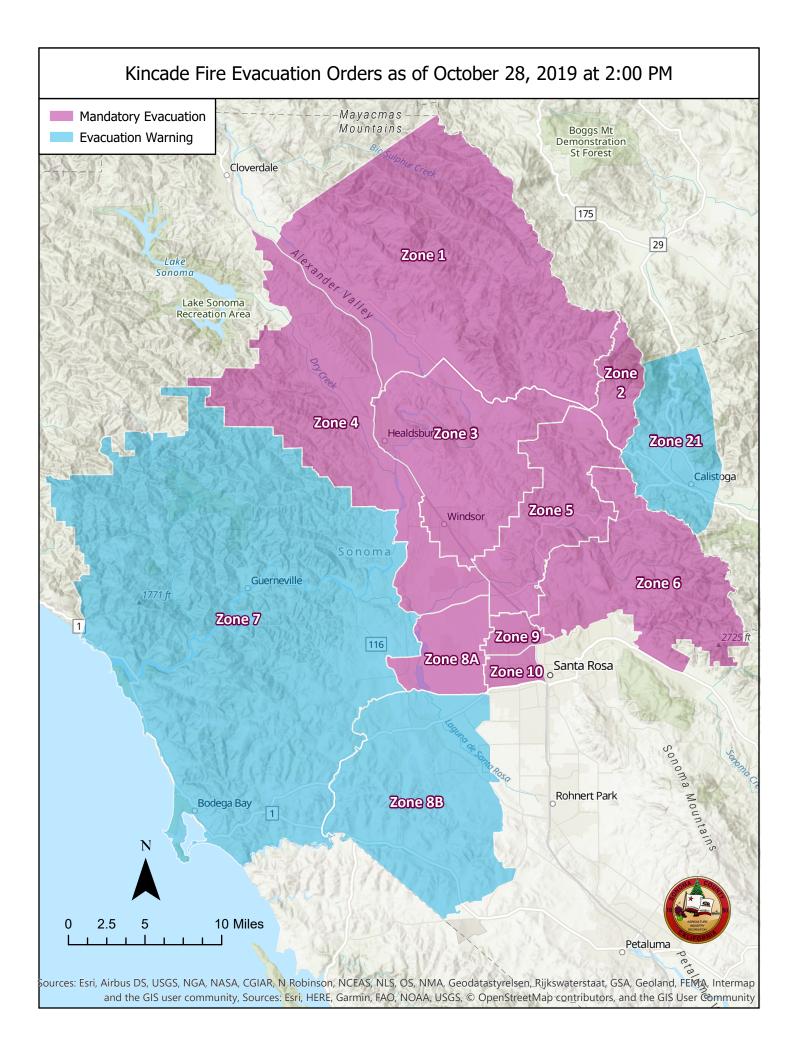


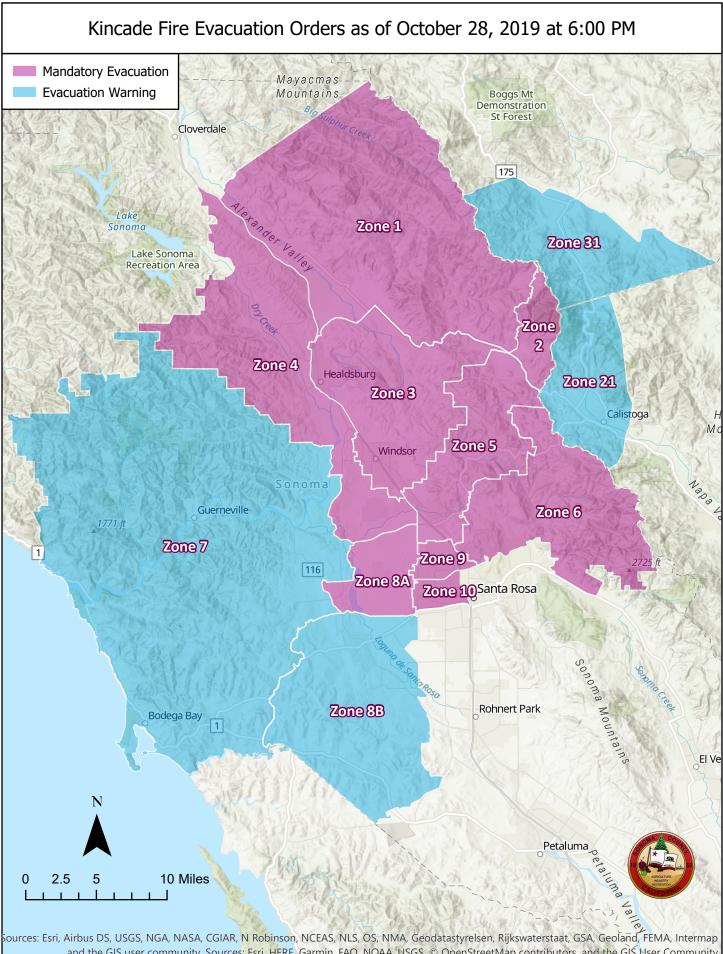




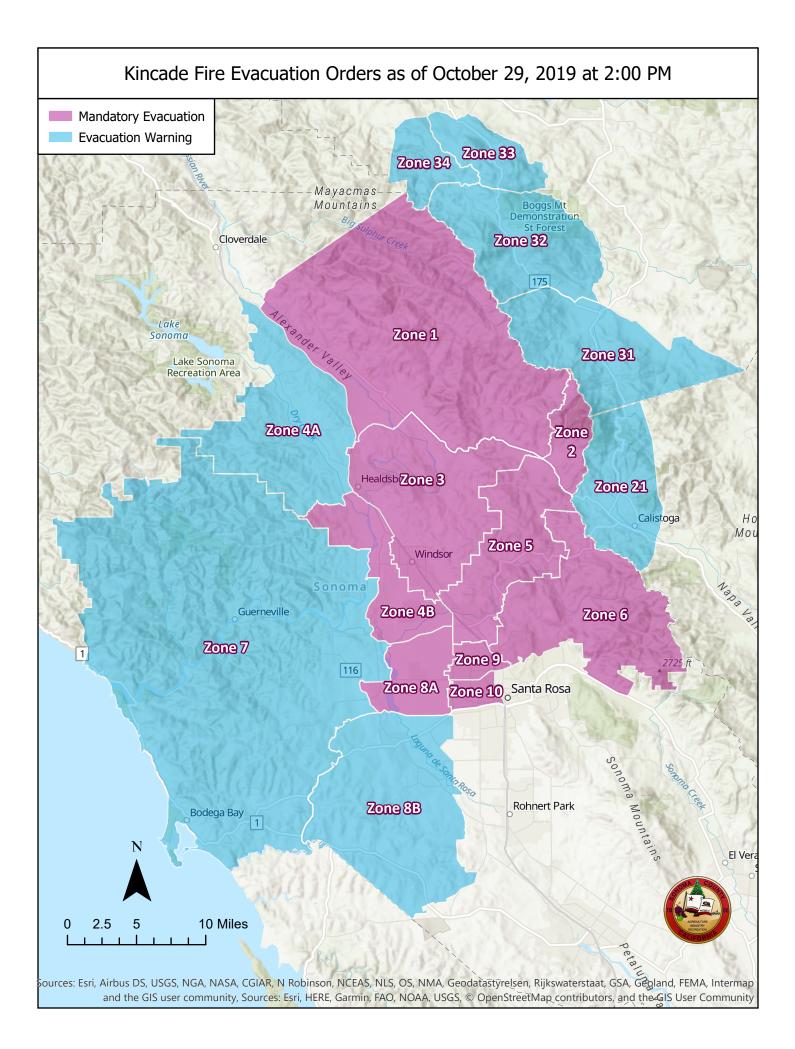


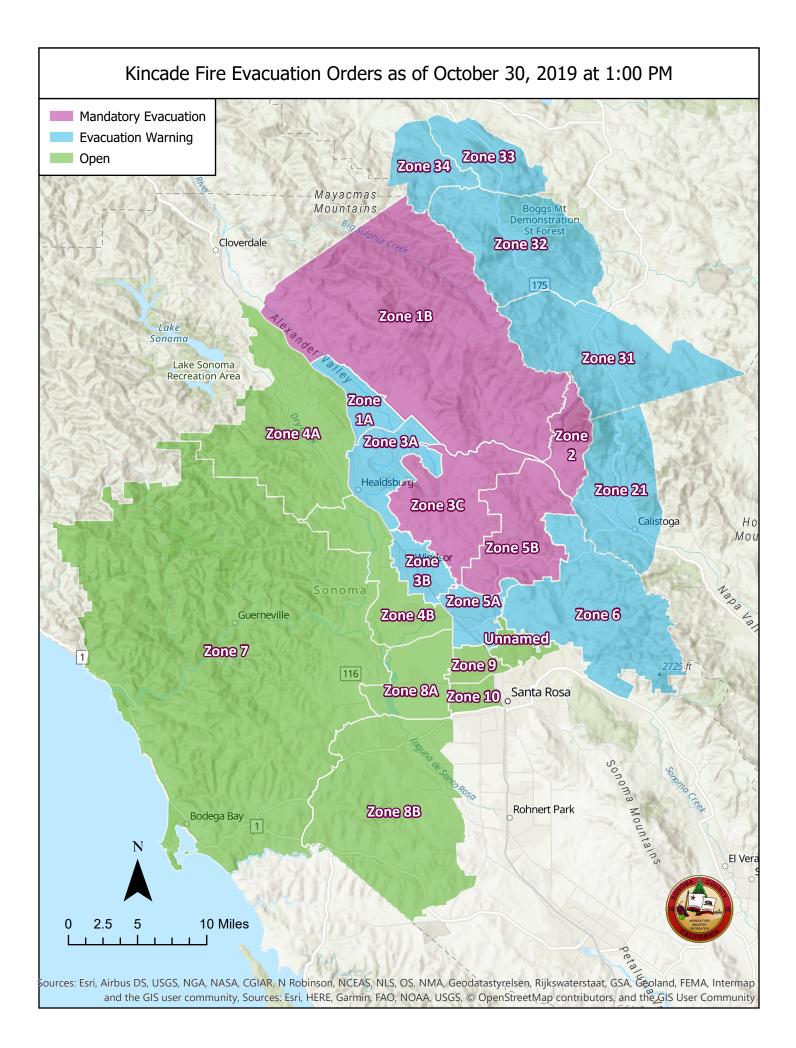


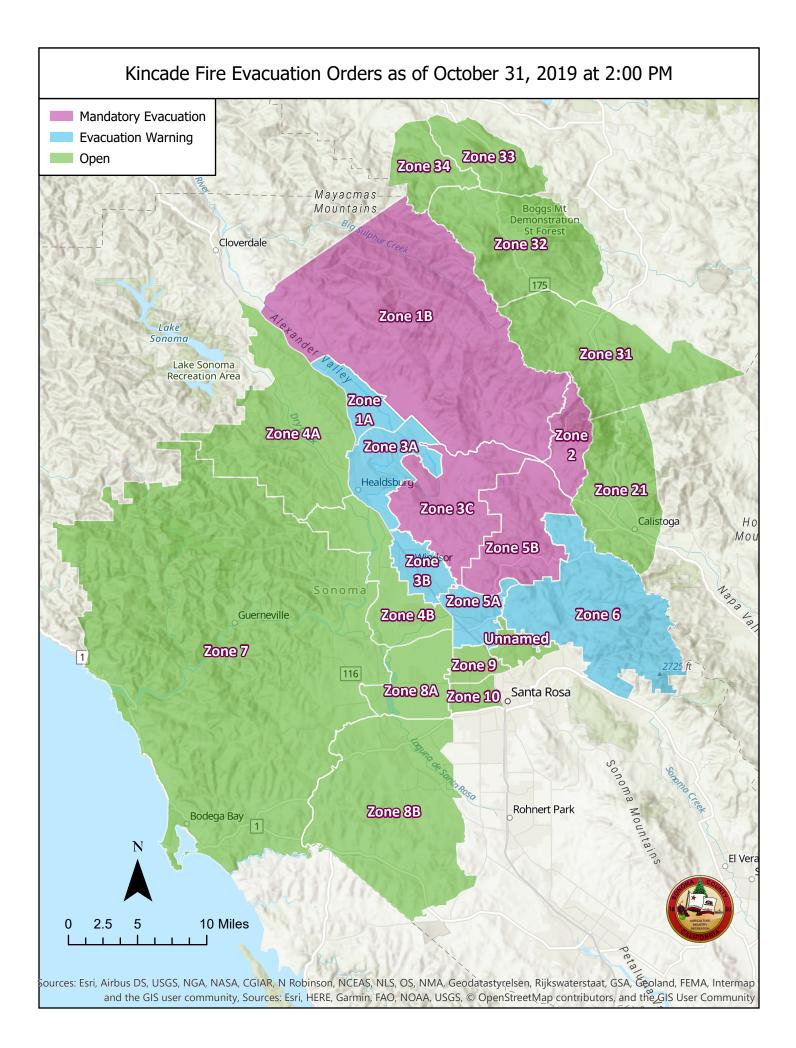


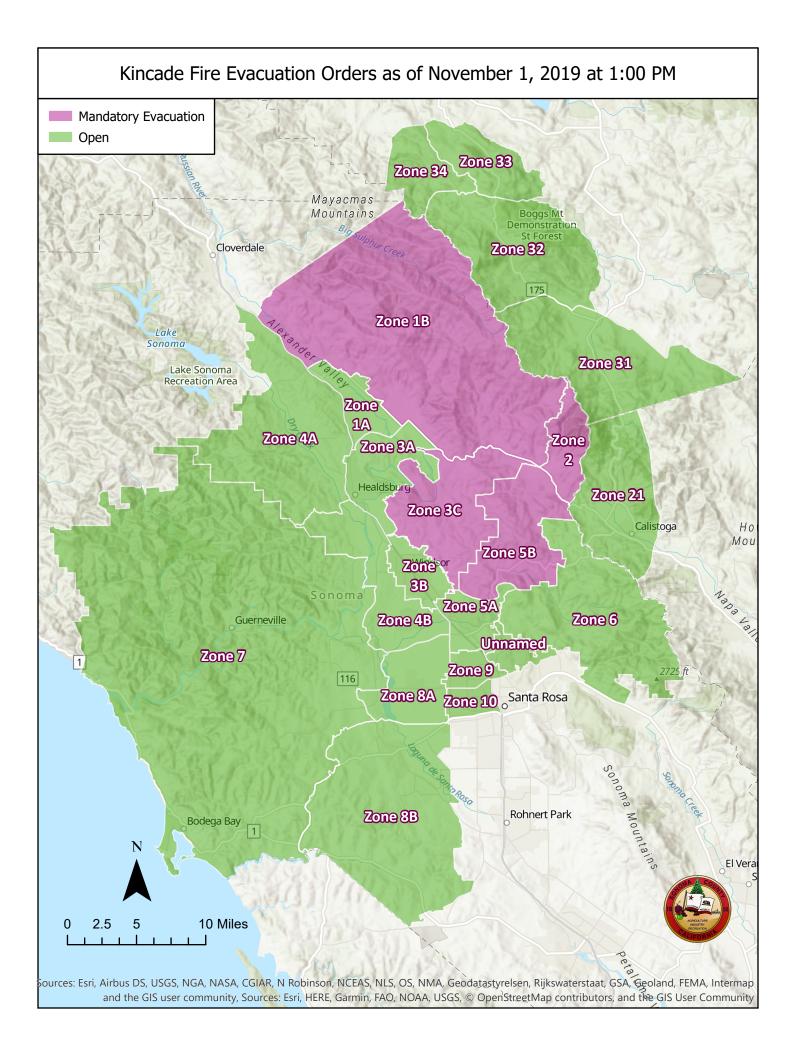


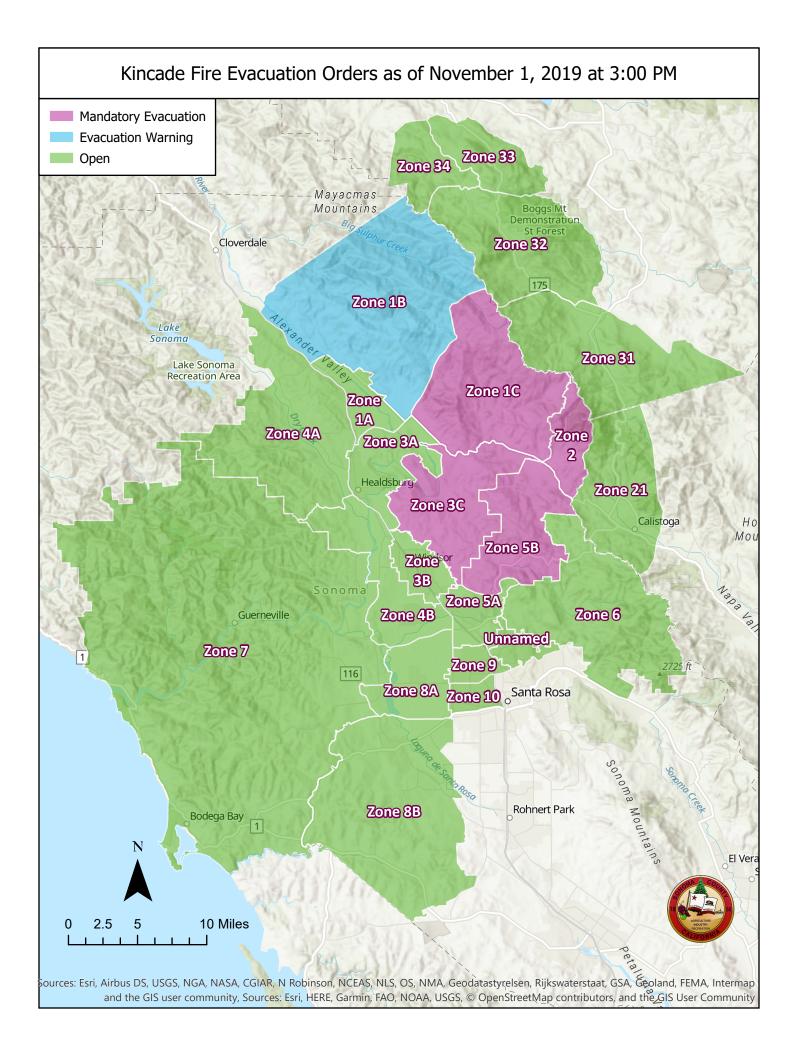
and the GIS user community, Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community.

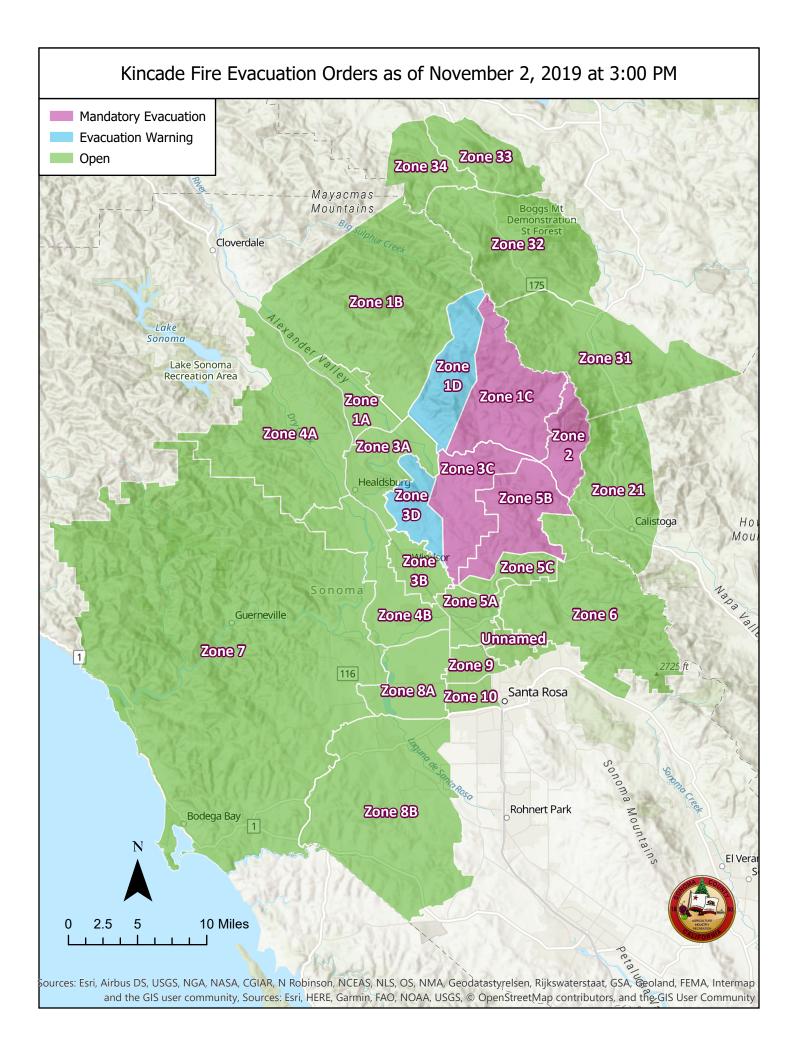


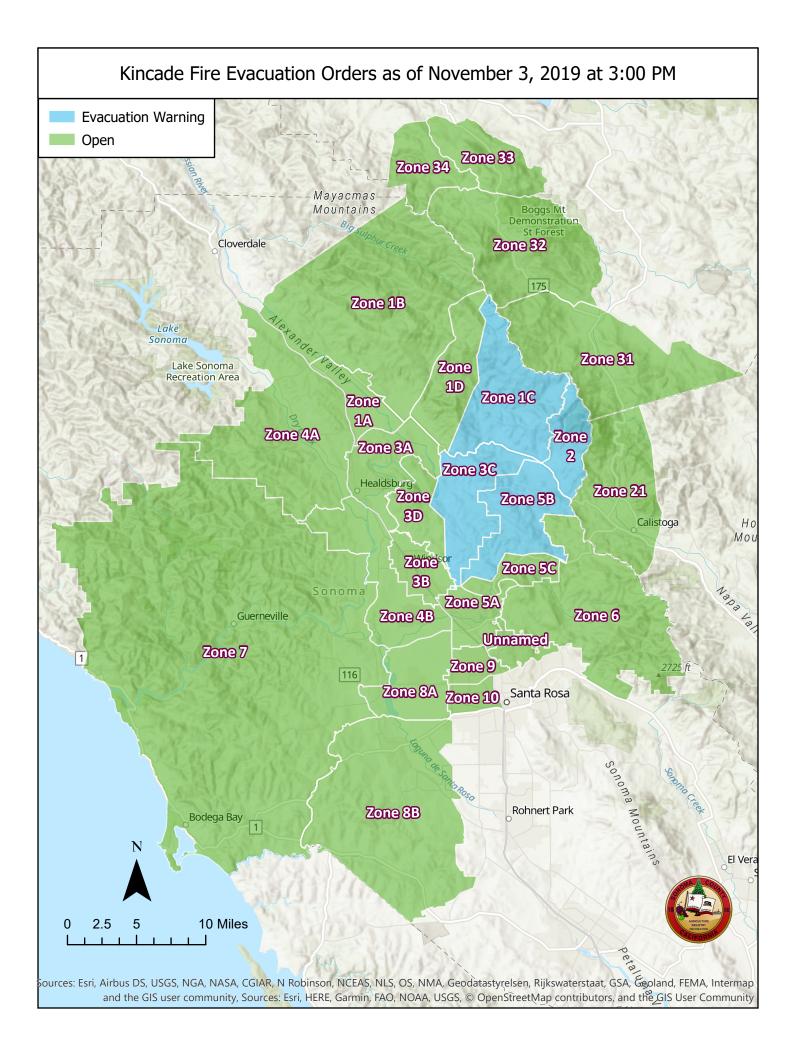


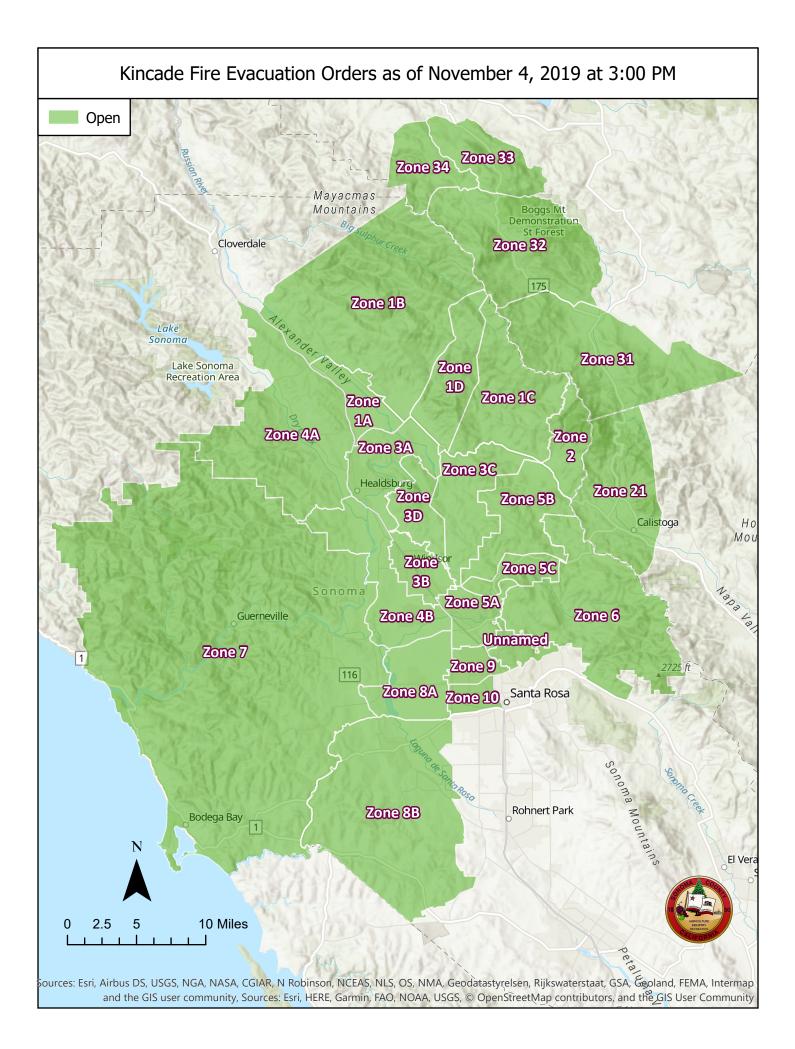












Appendix N-3

Evacuation Recommendations Memorandum



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3558 ROUND BARN BLVD., SUITE 200 SANTA ROSA, CA 95401 (707) 806-7628

November 30, 2022

Bibiana Sparks-Alvarez Acorn Environmental 5170 Golden Foothill Parkway El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

RE: Shiloh Resort and Casino Project

Dear Bibiana Sparks-Alvarez:

The purpose of this letter is to provide our professional recommendations for evacuation planning considerations at the Shiloh Resort and Casino (Project) during a disaster; specifically related to wildfire evacuations.

Disasters are unpredictable, much like human behavior in response to them. A comprehensive disaster evacuation plan prepares for many contingencies. No disaster response plan can eliminate risk, but a well-designed plan, reinforced with continuous training and clear communication can reduce risk.

#### EXPERIENCE

Our recommendations are based on a law enforcement perspective of traffic-related evacuations during a disaster. We have a combined 54 years of law enforcement experience, including leadership roles during the 2017 Sonoma County Complex Fires. At that time, these were the most devastating wildfires and in California's history. Serving as the Sonoma County Sheriff and Assistant Sheriff during these fires, let us see first-hand the importance of evacuation preparedness and planning. One of many important lessons learned during these fires was early evacuation is the key to protecting life and getting people out in an efficient manner. Our professional experience with wildfire evacuations means that we are uniquely qualified to provide evacuation recommendations, while working collaboratively with public agencies and other project team members, such as fire and traffic experts. Our goal is to provide the safest evacuation recommendations possible, recognizing that each project and its physical location are unique, and requires a tailored approach.

Our recommendations are based on our professional experience and first-hand knowledge of evacuations during disasters. In addition to our experience, we reviewed the following items:

- On-site reconnaissance;
- Sonoma County's Emergency Operation Plan, and the incorporated annexes: Alert and Warning and Evacuation Plans;
- Presentations by Law Enforcement leaders on disaster management of actual incidents;
- News media covering disaster issues for law enforcement including review of the Sonoma County Complex Fires of 2017, and the 2019 Kincade Fire;



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- Client's square footage calculations (Reduced Intensity and Full Build Site Plan)
- Client's Full Build Site Plan and Reduced Intensity Site Plan;
- Client's Environmental Assessment Section 2.1.2 (Resort Facility) and 2.1.6 (Roadway Access and Circulation);
- Draft Reports by Vern Losh regarding Fire and Emergency Response recommendations;
- Personally driving and observing relevant evacuation roads and routes.

#### PROPOSED PROJECT LOCATION

South/East corner of East Shiloh Road at Old Redwood Highway, Windsor, California

#### PROPOSED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Project is located on 68.6 acres on the south/east corner of East Shiloh Road and Old Redwood Highway in the unincorporated area of the County of Sonoma. The Project Site includes a three-story casino, a five-story hotel with spa and pool area, ballrooms/meeting space, and event center. The resort would be designated as entirely non-smoking and open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is anticipated that the event center would host concerts and performances while the ballrooms/meeting space would host banquets, conferences, or other special events. An enclosed pedestrian bridge would connect the parking garage with the casino approximately 12 feet above Pruitt Creek. The Project Site would create an estimated 1,571 full-time equivalent jobs.

#### Project Occupancy Numbers:1

The total occupancy load of the Resort and Casino is 20,814<sup>2</sup>. However, the total occupancy based on parking capacity is 9,191. There are 5,110 parking spaces on the entire property and nine bus parking spaces. Based on figures provided, the average vehicle would contain 1.7 persons per vehicle for a total of 8,687 people. There are nine bus parking spaces with 56 seats per bus which totals 504 persons.

The market study showed peak bodies at any given time to be 4,165 people. Assuming 1.7 persons per vehicle, that would equal 2450 total vehicles at the Project. Additional considerations should be made for shuttle services that bring persons to and from the Resort and Casino.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Information provided by Acorn Environmental based on figures they receive from the architect and from a GMA market study.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Provided to Acorn Environmental from Architect Dale Partners.



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#### CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN



#### ROADWAY ACCESS FROM PROJECT SITE

Ingress and egress onto the Project Site are through the following roadway access points:

- 1. An existing driveway on East Shiloh Road, east of Caporale Court;
- 2. A new driveway on East Shiloh Road across from Gridley Drive and;
- 3. A new driveway on Old Redwood Highway across from the southern driveway of the existing Shiloh Neighborhood Church.

The two main roadways to exit the property are Old Redwood Highway and E. Shiloh Road. Old Redwood Highway is a two-lane highway that traverses through the Town of Windsor to the north and the City of Santa Rosa to the south. Shiloh Road is a two-lane roadway that crosses Highway 101 to the west, which is the main evacuation artery in the area. There is a traffic-controlled intersection at Old Redwood Highway and Shiloh Road. Evacuee's most viable options for evacuation from the Project Site at the Old Redwood Highway access point is southbound on Old Redwood Highway toward



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Larkfield, where more evacuation routes become available to access Highway 101. Or, heading northbound on Old Redwood Highway and then west on Shiloh Road towards Highway 101.

For evacuee's leaving the Project Site from the E. Shiloh Road access point, the best option would be heading westbound on E. Shiloh Road to Highway 101.

#### DEFINITIONS

This letter uses four types of definitions: definitions that are specific to the Shiloh Resort and Casino; definitions from FEMA; and Sonoma County and State of California evacuation terminology as is set forth below.

1. Shiloh Resort and Casino Specific Definitions

For a clear description of the different aspects of the Project, we included the following terms when describing the Shiloh Resort and Casino and its components.

*Casino:* 538,137 square foot facility to serve gaming, ballrooms, meeting rooms, food court, retail, service bars, and an event center.

*Hotel:* A 400 room hotel with spa.

*Parking:* The Project will provide for 5,119 parking spaces as follows:

- Casino drop-off parking is 800 parking spaces
- Four-story parking garage with 3,692 parking spaces
- Additional paved surface parking is 618 parking spaces
- Bus parking is 9 spaces

#### 2. FEMA Definitions

*Evacuation:* Organized, phased, and supervised withdrawal, dispersal, or removal of civilians from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas, and their reception and care in safe areas.

3. Sonoma County and California Statewide Evacuation Terminology

Our experience showed that using correct terminology during a disaster is significant. Therefore, we will use the following list of common terms based on the California Standard Statewide Evacuation Terminology. Sonoma County adheres to this terminology.

*Evacuation Order:* Immediate threat to life. This is a lawful order to leave now. The area is lawfully closed to public access.



*Evacuation Warning:* Potential threat to life or property. Those who require additional time to evacuate, and those with pets and livestock should leave now.

*Shelter-in-Place:* Go indoors. Shut and lock doors and windows. Prepare to self-sustain until further notice and/or contacted by emergency personnel for additional direction.

#### EVACUATION EVOLUTION IN SONOMA COUNTY

Typically, strong "Diablo Winds" from the northeast have fueled Sonoma County's most destructive wildfires. These wind-driven fires caused "No-Notice" events, such as the Sonoma County Complex fires in October 2017 when people had little or no warning time to evacuate.

Today, Sonoma County has developed fire preparedness education, advanced Alert and Warning Systems, Evacuation Zones, and early detection devices such as wildfire cameras to enhance life-safety through orderly evacuations. However, "No Notice" events still merit significant consideration and planning. In a "No-Notice" event, people are typically forced to self-evacuate<sup>3</sup> or shelter-in-place. "No-Notice" events may include loss of infrastructure, such as power, internet, and cell phones.

Advanced warning and early evacuations provide more time for people to get out of the danger areas. The 2019 Kincade Fire and 2020 Glass Fires, saw early and widespread evacuations by design<sup>4</sup> to protect life and enable the firefighters to fight the fire. Although traffic problems were widely reported during the Kincade and Glass Fire evacuation, traffic congestion is expected and normal when trying to get all residents out of an area. The roadways were not designed to handle the high volume of vehicles during a mass evacuation. The critical metric for success in these evacuations was that no loss of life occurred. Consequently, structure losses were significantly lower relative to wildfires without these early evacuations.

#### VERN LOSH'S FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE LETTER, DATED NOVEMBER 29, 2022

We reviewed retired Sonoma County Fire and Emergency Service's Department Head Chief Vern Losh's November 29, 2022 opinion letter on the Fire and Emergency Response for the Project Site. Losh summarized the fire risk and history for the Project site. We noted that fire data shows there have been three fires that have burned up to Faught Road at East Shiloh Road; the 1964 C. Hanly Fire, 2017 Tubbs Fire, and 2019 Kincade Fire.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> "Self evacuate" means to leave without being ordered to leave, such as when a no notice-fire occurs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Sonoma County Alert and Warning Annex discusses this in "Appendix A: Communication System Hazards."

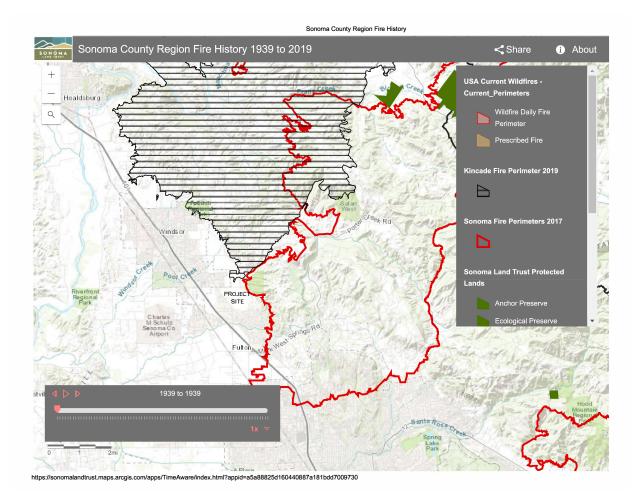


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The following illustration depicts the 2017 Tubbs Fire and 2019 Kincade Fire in relation to the Project Site. The 1964 C. Hanly Fire burned in a similar footprint as the Tubbs Fire; specifically, near the Project Site.

## SONOMA COUNTY REGION FIRE HISTORY<sup>5</sup>



## \*\*\*INTENTIONALLY BLANK\*\*\*

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> This map can be located here: <u>https://sonomalandtrust.maps.arcgis.com</u>



#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on our evaluation and experience from the law enforcement perspective, we have the following recommendations for wildfire evacuations for the Shiloh Resort and Casino:

## 1. Alert and Warning Notifications

We recommend Shiloh Resort and Casino executives and senior management staff working at the Resort and Casino subscribe to and monitor local emergency Alert and Warning Notification Systems. There should always be executive and management staff present who fulfill this role and are responsible for emergency evacuations.

Executive and management staff should be trained and understand the local emergency alert and warning systems. By subscribing to and monitoring the alert and warning systems, executive and management staff will be apprised of immediate disaster information and be able to assist guests in proper safety instructions. Alert and Warning Notification Systems are one of the most important aspects of emergency preparedness. For this above recommendation, the following are the notification systems executive and management staff will subscribe to and monitor or have knowledge of:

## A. Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA)

The Wireless Emergency Alerts system is an essential part of America's emergency preparedness. Since its launch in 2012, the WEA system has been used more than 70,000 times to warn the public about dangerous weather, missing children, and other critical situations; all through alerts on compatible cell phones and other mobile devices.

WEA is a public safety system that allows customers who own compatible mobile devices to receive geographically targeted, text-like, messages alerting them of imminent threats to safety in their area. WEA enabled devices can receive a brief text message along with a unique tone to specific areas over cell phones and other communication devices. This is a message forced out to these communication devices in a specific area. Most people have had exposure to this system when an Amber Alert comes to their cell phone.

Executive and management staff at the Shiloh Resort and Casino will ensure WEA is enabled on their cellular phones.

#### B. SoCoAlert

SoCoAlert is a local emergency warning system capable of sending out automated messages to phones, text, email, and TDD (telecommunications device



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for the deaf) systems. This is an opt-in system that generally requires people to signup to receive alert notifications. It is one of Sonoma County's primary alert systems.

Executive and management staff will sign-up to receive SoCoAlert notifications thru email, SMS text, and phone calls.

#### C. Nixle

Nixle is another notification system used locally for emergency. Nixle is used by Sonoma County in addition to SoCoAlert. Executive and management staff would be required to register with Nixle in order to receive alert notifications. The Nixle registration system is simple and user friendly, one can text the Zip Code they want warning for to "888777" and the system is activated.

Based on our early evacuation recommendations, executive and management staff at the Resort and Casino would need to know their Sonoma County evacuation zones and monitor Nixle for Alert and Warning notifications.

## D. NOAA Weather Radio (NWR)

Working with the Federal Communications Commission's Emergency Alert System, NOAA Weather Radio is an "all hazards" radio network, making it the single source for the most comprehensive weather and emergency information available to the public. It broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards; Both natural (such as fires, earthquakes and tsunamis) and technological (such as chemical releases or oil spills). Certain NOAA Weather radios have battery backup power and the capability to send out a tone and an emergency alert even if the radio is turned off. These radios also have strobe lights and vibrating pillow accessories that can be added to the NOAA radio for ADA compliance.

NOAA radios with alert capabilities should be located in executive and management staff office spaces, to be able to monitor NOAA radio in case of an infrastructure failure due to wildfire or another disaster.

## E. Hi-Lo Sirens

Hi-Lo sirens have been adopted by local jurisdictions as an emergency signal. The Hi-Lo siren is broadcast from patrol cars, giving first responders the ability to drive thru a neighborhood notifying large groups of people quickly that there is an emergency. The Hi-Lo siren will only be used during an emergency where people need to act. Upon hearing the Hi-Lo siren, community members are to act, by paying attention to first responder's instructions, seeking out information via news sources, and checking their surroundings.

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Executive and management staff at the Shiloh Resort and Casino will need to know about Sonoma County's Hi-Lo siren program to be able to provide evacuation information to guests and visitors.

# F. Other Emergency Related Apps and Websites

There are several applications and websites that provide emergency information related to wildfire and other disasters, such as Watch Duty, Alert Wildfire Camera Network, Pulse Point and Perimeter (a new system Sonoma County has purchased but is not fully functional yet).

Executive and management staff can use these Apps as helpful tools for situational awareness if they choose. However, these are not replacements for official government notifications. It is critical that executive and management staff use government Alert and Warning notification systems for reliable and consistent evacuation information.

# 2. Register Phone Lines with SoCoAlert

# We recommend that primary phone lines into Shiloh Resort and Casino be registered with SoCoAlert.

If SoCoAlert sends an emergency notification for the area including Shiloh Resort and Casino, all phones registered will automatically receive a phone call with the emergency notification<sup>6</sup>.

# 3. Red Flag Warning and Fire Weather Watches

# We recommend that Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches information be posted so visitors and guests will be apprised of the high fire danger conditions.

The Nation Weather Service issues Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches to alert fire departments and communities of the onset, or possible onset, of critical weather and dry conditions that could lead to rapid or dramatic increases in wildfire activity.

Red Flag Warnings are the highest alert to fire danger. These warnings pertain to weather which may cause extreme fire behavior within the next 24 hours.

A Fire Weather Watch, one step below a Red Flag Warning, is issued when weather conditions could exist in the next 12-72 hours. The type of weather patterns that can cause a warning or a watch include low humidity, strong winds, dry fuels, the possibility of dry lightning strikes, or any combination thereof.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> If this is possible based on the communication's system used for the Project.



Staff, guests, and visitors should be apprised of the conditions of critical fire danger in the area. Educating guests and visitors about Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches creates better "situational awareness," which is the foundation of evacuation preparedness.

Executive and management staff can easily obtain weather condition information from the National Weather Service or directly contacting the Windsor Fire Department. This critical fire danger information can simply be posted on site at entrance/exit locations.

# 4. Efficient Project Design for Mass Evacuation

# We recommend traffic engineers review the design of the Project Site parking locations and entrance/exit locations to determine the most efficient plan for mass evacuation of vehicles from the Project Site.

To determine the timeline to an early evacuation, it is important to know traffic data for the property and existing roadways that would potentially be used during an evacuation. In review of the conceptual site plan, there appears to be two entrance/exits points for the parking structure<sup>7</sup>. Additionally, the Project Site has three entrance/exit points.

The basis of this recommendation is to ensure the Project Site has considered mass evacuations of vehicles from the Project Site in the most efficient manner possible. Some of the questions that could provide more insight are:

- Would it be beneficial to add additional entrances/exits for the parking structure?
- What are the most efficient routes for vehicles to exit the property during a mass evacuation? Should there be one-way routes to split traffic during an evacuation?
- Would more entrance/exit locations and designated evacuation routes within the property increase evacuation efficiency?

# 5. Cumulative Impacts

# We recommend evaluating the scale of the Shiloh Resort and Casino evacuation impact along with other proposed projects in the area.

Traffic engineers should evaluate traffic conditions based on the cumulative impacts of known or planned projects in the area. Any additional known or proposed project should be considered in determining the evacuation impacts of the Shiloh Resort and Casino and surrounding community.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Acorn Environmental coordinated with the architect who indicated that, preliminarily, the smaller entrance/exit was one lane in and one lane out. The larger (main entrance/exit) was two lanes in and three lanes out.



# 6. Regular Evacuation Trainings

## We recommend staff and management train on evacuation procedures for guests and visitors as part of their new hire orientation. Additionally, all staff should receive updated evacuation procedures training annually.

The best of plans will fail if training is not a considerable component of the plan. The training should include tabletop exercises<sup>8</sup> facilitated by qualified personnel. Designated staff should be comfortable handling evacuations of the Shiloh Resort and Casino and communicating with guests and visitors about situations during emergency conditions. Staff should be familiar with all evacuation routes and be able to direct traffic for evacuees out of the Project site.

# 7. Internal Alert and Warning Systems

# We recommend staff have methods to notify guests that don't rely on government notification systems.

As early evacuation will be a strategy for this project, staff may need to evacuate the property long before a government notification. Staff will need methods to notify guests that don't rely on government notification systems. Resort staff will need a system to be able to notify guests through their mobile devices using guest phone numbers and other information obtained during the check-in process. However, in the case of infrastructure failure, will need to use public address systems on the property, phone calls to the resort rooms, PA broadcasts, or in-person (door-to-door) notifications.

# We recommend AM/FM radios with battery backup power be in each room of the Hotel, and in various locations within the Casino and Hotel where staff can monitor.

In addition to using technology devices like special apps on guest's phones and public address systems, AM/FM radios should be integrated into these alert and notice plans. In past fires, we quickly lost infrastructure that eliminated cell phone and internet connection for many people. Traditional radio remained the most reliable communication system. Staff should monitor radios as well as the other networks.

# We recommend designated staff have handheld portable radios for communication during an emergency.

Staff will take an active role communicating public safety information to guests during an emergency. Because of the possible infrastructure failures discussed above, staff should have

2022 1129 Shiloh Resort and Casino

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Tabletop exercises are discussion-based sessions where team members meet in an informal setting, such as a classroom or conference room, to discuss their roles during an emergency and their responses to a particular emergency situation. A qualified facilitator guides participants through a discussion of one or more scenarios.



handheld radios to communicate to each other during evacuations and to direct guests and visitors off the property safely and efficiently. This method of communication is in addition to direct notifications of property owners and guests via Nixle, SoCoAlerts and the WEA system<sup>9</sup>, and will augment official government notifications in the event of a fire or other emergency.

The Resort and Casino will have significant back-up generator power to keep emergency radios and other powered devices operational during an emergency.

# 8. Exit Route and No Parking Signage

# We recommend all intersections on the Shiloh Resort and Casino property include signage that clearly indicates the exit route from the property to major evacuation routes such as Old Redwood Highway and Shiloh Road to Highway 101.

Signage on the property should clearly indicate the direction traffic should go during an evacuation. In addition, staff should be trained and able to direct traffic according to the most efficient exit off the property as designed based on the results of recommendation #4 (Efficient Project Design for Mass Evacuation).

# We recommend no parking signage on all the ingress/egress roadways within the Resort and Casino property.

Ingress and egress roads during an emergency are critical to evacuate visitors and guests and provide access for first responders to enter the property. Parking should not be allowed on these roads to maintain open ingress/egress access. Proper signage indicating no parking should be displayed on these roads.

# 9. Early Evacuation and Traffic Analysis

# We recommend an analysis of the available science on traffic modeling and evacuation times be conducted specific to this area, including a review of Sonoma County's upcoming Evacuation Route Analysis<sup>10</sup> work with Fehr and Peers, Traffic Engineers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> "WEA" stands for Wireless Emergency Alert System, which forces notifications to cellphones in the area, irrespective of where the cell phone originated.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> As part of its Public Safety Element Update to the General Plan, the County of Sonoma has hired Fehr and Peers, traffic engineers, to perform an Evacuation Route Analysis within the County. This analysis will include among many things, an assessment of roadway capacity under described scenarios, an identification of evacuation routes and an identification of critical evacuation zone groups. This plan is discussed in detail in the County of Sonoma Board of Supervisors Resolution September 13, 2022 meeting, Resolution Number 2022-0916, Attachment 1, draft Professional Services Agreement, Task S-4.3, Evacuation route Analysis.

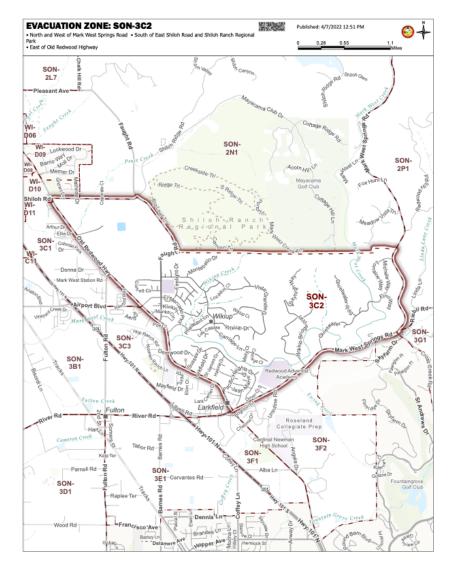


ROB GIORDANO ROB@CASSAFETYCONSULTING.COM

3558 ROUND BARN BLVD., SUITE 200 SANTA ROSA, CA 95401 (707) 806-7628

Early evacuation is a very effective tool in the event of a wildfire. Certain developments can benefit from this strategy. This Project places a large guest population between the Town of Windsor and the City of Santa Rosa (approximate population of over 200,000 people combined). The logical and most efficient evacuation routes out of this area are north and south on Old Redwood Highway and Highway 101. This is a populated area and any evacuation in this area will create traffic congestion and delays - a natural part of evacuations. The goal is preservation of life. Early evacuation is an excellent tool to increase the effectiveness and safety of the evacuation. An example of early evacuation would be requiring the Resort and Casino to close all operations and evacuate when any adjacent evacuation zone receives an Evacuation Warning or Order.

The County of Sonoma and incorporated cities have established standardized evacuation zones. The Project Site is in Sonoma County Evacuation Zone SON-3C2.





These pre-determined evacuation zones allow for efficient and managed evacuations during an Evacuation Warning or Order. These predetermined evacuation zones, along with the current alert and warning systems, have improved evacuation efficiency during wildfires. These zones, with knowledge of traffic modeling data, provide a method to make an early evacuation recommendation.

To evaluate an early evacuation strategy for this project, we'll need to quantify travel times under various scenarios, consider capacity of roadways, and the timing for community evacuations.

# 10. Consultations with Local Emergency Response Officials

# We recommend evacuation and fire experts consult with local law enforcement, fire departments, and emergency management officials to ensure that any assumptions and conclusions regarding evacuation risk are substantiated.

The following is a list of the local law enforcement agencies within the Resort and Casino jurisdiction. The proposed Project resides within the unincorporated area of the County of Sonoma but is within the sphere of influence for the Town of Windsor.

- A. Sonoma County Sheriff's Office (Main Office) 2796 Ventura Avenue Santa Rosa, CA 95403
- B. Town of Windsor Police Department<sup>11</sup> 9291 Old Redwood Hwy Windsor, CA 95492
- C. California Highway Patrol Santa Rosa Office 6100 Labath Avenue Rohnert Park, CA 94928

# 11. Evacuation Strategy During Construction Phase

# We recommend an evacuation strategy be conducted for the construction phase of the Shiloh Resort and Casino.

During construction of the Resort and Casino, it will be imperative that construction crews know and understand evacuation procedures, fire prevention plans, and Alert and Warning Notification Systems. The planning/recommendations for construction should entail similar evacuation strategies as

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> The Town of Windsor contracts with the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office for police services.



CLINT@CASSAFETYCONSULTING.COM

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adopted for the Resort and Casino but more specific to the construction industry. These plans/recommendations should be included in the General Contractors Site-Specific Emergency Action and Evacuation Plans.

11/30/22 Date

CShiel

11/30/22

Date Clint Shubel

Date

Attachments:

**Robert Giordano** 

- 1. Rob Giordano CV
- 2. Clint Shubel CV



# CURRICULUM VITAE for ROBERT GIORDANO

CAS Safety Consulting, LLC 3558 Round Barn Blvd. Suite 200 Santa Rosa, CA 95401 Phone 707-291-1810 Email: rob@cassafetyconsulting.com

# **OVERVIEW**

I began my law enforcement career in 1989 and progressed from a police officer to serving as the Sheriff for Sonoma County. The 2017 Sonoma Complex fires, which included the Tubbs, Nuns, and Pocket fires, occurred during my tenure as the Sonoma County Sheriff. At the time, these were the worst fires in the history of California and still rank among the most significant wildfire disasters in our state. The Sonoma Complex Fires consisted of seven major fires that merged into three large fires and burned over 100,000 acres. Over 100,000 people were evacuated during these fires.

As Sheriff, along with my Assistant Sheriff, Clint Shubel, we were responsible for evacuations in response to these wildfires and other aspects of the disaster response. As a result of the 2017 fires, I gained a valuable, first-hand understanding of large-scale disaster management, including wildfire evacuations. Wildfire evacuations throughout the state changed significantly after this event-spurring an evolution of evacuation and notice improvements. The United States Congress, California State Legislature, and several local groups recognized my leadership and contributions to the community during the 2017 fires.

# **WORK EXPERIENCE**

<u>Member-CAS Safety Consulting, LLC</u> Consultant providing expertise in evacuation safety specifically in wildfire preparedness. Working with builders to comply with CEQA regulations and make developments safer.

Owner-R. Giordano Consulting & Investigations, LLC2019 to PresentProvides outside investigative services to government agencies, specifically in employment issues.This includes looking at alleged misconduct in the use of force, unlawful harassment, and racialbias. Completing over 60 investigations for Sheriff's Offices and Police Departments in NorthernCalifornia.California.The firm also consults in all areas of law enforcement policy, procedure, andadministration to include expert witness consultation.California.

Sheriff-Sonoma County Sheriff's Office

After the early retirement of the elected sheriff, I was appointed by the Board of Supervisors, through a selection process, as the Sheriff. Responsible for the complete management and control of the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office which included 650 employees, two detention facilities

2017-2018



(that housed on average 1000 inmates a day), state courthouse security, and law enforcement services for the unincorporated area of Sonoma County (including two contract cities). Managed a budget of over 160 million dollars. Decision maker and public representative for all civil litigation involving the Office. Developed and maintained working relationships with government and non-governmental agency leaders including a civilian auditor of the Office. Made several key decisions in significant personnel investigations involving discipline. Testified on behalf of the Office in litigation and civil service hearings. Recognized for my leadership during the 2017 firestorm that devastated Sonoma County, burning over 100,000 acres, and resulting in the evacuation of 100,000 people. Conducted numerous public presentations where I was able to educate the public on Sheriff's Office policy and procedure including the implementation of a controversial immigration policy. Media spokesperson for the Office during significant events.

## Assistant Sheriff-Sonoma County Sheriff's Office

Oversight and management of the Law Enforcement Division of the Sheriff's Office, which included the following bureaus and units; Court Security, Transportation, Patrol Services, Helicopter, Marine, Investigations, Coroner's Office, Central Information Bureau, Information Technology, Telecommunications, and the law enforcement contracts for the Town of Windsor and City of Sonoma. Represented the Sheriff in public events and managed the Sheriff's Office in his absence. Responded to and implemented recommendations from a Community and Law Enforcement Taskforce that came about after one of our deputies shot a 13-year-old who displayed a replica firearm. This response and implementation included the creation of a Civilian Auditor's Office to review Sheriff's Office work and the format in which the Office would work with the Auditor's Office. Led numerous public presentations on Sheriff's Office policy and procedure. Represented the Office in civil litigation. Oversaw our response to significant civil disobedience as a result of the shooting. Implemented a body-worn camera program. Managed and expanded our public communications presence, including social media presence and the hiring of a Community Engagement Liaison. Initiated and oversaw the re-development of the helicopter safety program after deficiencies were found. Conducted due process discipline appeals, such as "Skelly" hearings.

# Sheriff's Captain-Sonoma County Sheriff's Office

2012-2014 Operations Captain responsible for all uniformed personnel in the Sheriff's Office. The Patrol Division handled 100,000 calls for service a year. Managed significant incidents such as large civil disobedience events and overall patrol operations response. Tasked with decision-making in the hiring process and the personnel investigation process. Developed and maintained the security agreement and relationship with the largest Indian gaming casino in northern California. Responsible for all patrol operations specialty units including; the Special Weapons and Tactics Team, Helicopter and Search and Rescue, Marine Unit, Tactical Response Team, and Court Security (including its relationship with the State Court system). Responsible for the deployment of public safety resources to best protect the community. Responsible for labor relations with the Deputy Sheriffs' Association. Chair of the CALGANG Executive Board, 2013/2014.

Sheriff's Lieutenant-Sonoma County Sheriff's Office

2006-2012

2014-2017

Managed the Personnel and Internal Affairs Bureaus. These bureaus were responsible for all hiring, background investigations, injured employees, safety programs, internal affairs



investigations, and litigation management. Gained a strong working knowledge of the Peace Officer Bill of Rights and government labor law as it relates to hiring, discipline, and terminations. Managed, reviewed, and conducted personnel investigations including; discrimination and harassment, use of force, sexual conduct in detention facilities, abuse of authority, improper evidence handling, and other inappropriate employee behavior allegations. Managed and reviewed background investigations. Coordinated discovery requests in civil litigation. Managed the development of our "Brady" policy-the policy that dealt with what information must be released during criminal cases from peace officer personnel records. Sheriff's Office representative in court for "Pitchess Motions." This involved the court hearings that deal with what information must be released from peace officer personnel records for the defense. Participated in employee interactive process meetings for injured employees. Managed the Investigations Bureau consisting of seven investigative units including the Coroner's Office. Responsible for budget management and all personnel decisions of these units. This role also required extensive collaboration with outside law enforcement agencies including the District Attorney's Office in the investigation of several officer-involved shootings, by far the most critical of investigative cases. Represented the Sheriff's Office in court cases regarding Sheriff's Office policy and procedure relative to criminal investigations.

# Sheriff's Sergeant-Sonoma County Sheriff's Office

Violent Crimes Unit supervisor responsible for the supervision of the detectives handling assault, robbery, and homicide cases. Supervised the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault unit, responsible for a team of detectives investigating Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Child Abuse cases. Sheriff's Office representative for Sonoma County's Domestic Violence Death Review Team and the County's Sexual Assault Response Team. Firstline supervisor responsible for a team of detectives. Supervised a patrol team responsible for frontline emergency response and law enforcement services. Management and development of personnel assigned to me. Responsible for the training and transition to the new automated report writing and records system.

2003-2006

1996-2003

## Deputy Sheriff-Sonoma County Sheriff's Office

A detective assigned to the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Unit. Responsible for the investigation of sexual assault cases, domestic violence cases, and child abuse cases. Carried an ongoing regular caseload of over 30 cases. Interviewed and interrogated individuals who were involved in these cases. Wrote detailed reports covering all aspects of the investigation. Testified numerous times in court for criminal cases. Worked closely with non-governmental organizations assisting victims, including the YWCA (providing services to victims of domestic violence) and Verity (providing services to victims of sexual assault). Board member of the Sonoma County Child Abuse Prevention Council for four years. Conducted training presentations on domestic violence and sexual assault for nonprofit groups and state child abuse employees. Managed the internship program in the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Unit. Responsible for frontline emergency response as a deputy sheriff assigned to patrol. Handled a wide range of investigative work, community problem solving, and basic law enforcement. Trained other patrol deputies in how to provide service for the Sheriff's Office.



Police Officer/Investigator-City of Pittsburg Police Department

1989-1996

A detective assigned to general crimes and ultimately worked robbery/homicide. Performed general duties of a patrol officer including traffic enforcement. Responsible for the investigation of all crimes and general law enforcement in the city. Member of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team. Field training officer responsible for training new officers.

# **RETAINED AS AN EXPERT**

2019 Retained as a law enforcement expert by Greg Thomas and Temitayo O. Peters, of Burke Williams and Sorenson, LLP (attorneys representing San Joaquin County) to offer my opinion related to a lawsuit stemming primarily from a law enforcement response to a courthouse protest-Black Lives Matter vs. San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office

# SELECT COURSES ATTENDED

2017	Calibre Press
	Constitutional Use of Force, 8 hours
2015	California Peace Officers Association
	Labor Law Legal Update, 8 hours
2013	California Peace Officers Association
	Labor Law Legal Update, 8 hours
2012	Peace Officer Standards and Training
	Executive Development Course, 80 hours
2011	California Peace Officers Association
	Labor Law Legal Update, 11 hours
2011	Systems for Public Safety
	Background Investigations Commanding Officer Legal Update, 24 hours
2009	Americans For Effective Law Enforcement
	Discipline and Internal Investigations, 20 hours
2009	California Peace Officers Association
	Pitchess Motions, 6.5 hours
2009	California Peace Officers Association
	Peace Officer Bill of Rights Update, 6 hours
2007	Dr. Kevin Gilmartin
	Leadership Training, 8 hours
2007	California State University Long Beach
	Management Course, 104 hours
2005	San Jose State University
	Internal Affairs Investigations, 21 hours
2004	California Department of Justice
	Officer-Involved Shooting School, 36 hours
2004	Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety
	Critical Incident Response for Law Enforcement Managers, 32 hours
2004	Dr. Kevin Gilmartin



	Emotional survival for law enforcement, 8hours
2003	Santa Rosa Junior College
	Law Enforcement Supervisory Course, 80 hours
2003	Napa Junior College
	Field Training Officer School, 40 hours
2002	Sonoma County Sheriff's Office
	Basic Rifle Course, 24 hours
2000	Behavior Analysis Training Institute
	Interview and Interrogation Techniques, 40 hours
2000	California Sexual Assault Investigators Association Conference, 28 hours
2000	Family Violence and Sexual Assault Institute
	International Conference on Family Violence, 32 hours
2000	California Sexual Assault Investigators Association Conference,18 hours
2000	Child Abuse Prevention Councils of Sonoma, San Francisco, Napa, and Marin
	Child Abuse Prevention Conference, 16 hours
1999	National College of District Attorneys
	National Conference on Domestic Violence, 24 hours
1999	California Sexual Assault Investigators Association Conference, 28 hours
1999	Reid and Associates
	Interview and Interrogation, 24 hours
1999	San Jose State University
	Sexual Assault Investigation, 36 hours
1999	Alameda County Sheriff's Office
	Plain Clothes Officer Safety, 24 hours
1999	Child Abuse Prevention Councils of Sonoma, San Francisco, Napa, and Marin
	Child Abuse Prevention Conference, 16 hours
1999	San Diego Regional Training Center
	Domestic Violence Frist Responder, 8 hours
1995	Los Medanos Criminal Justice Training Center
	Investigation of Officer Involved Fatal Incidents, 16 hours
1995	Los Medanos Criminal Justice Training Center
	Search and Arrest Warrants, 28 hours
1994	Behavior Analysis Training Institute
	Interview and Interrogation Techniques, 40 hours
1994	San Joaquin Delta College
	Advanced Special Weapons and Tactics, 40 hours
1993	San Jose State University
	Robbery Investigation, 24 hours
1991	Los Medanos Criminal Justice Center
	Homicide Investigation, 40 hours
1989	Los Medanos Criminal Justice Training Center
	Basic Police Academy



# FORMAL TRAINING PRESENTATIONS CONDUCTED

2022	California Police Chiefs Association Annual Symposium Pros and Cons of Using Outside Investigators to Conduct Internal Affairs
	Investigations
2018	California Police Chiefs Association Annual Symposium
	Crafting Your Message in a Crisis: How to effectively communicate in a natural
	disaster and be the voice of calm in your community
2018	California Police Chiefs Association Annual Symposium
	Panel Member: Response to Disasters-2017 North Bay Firestorm
2018	California State Sheriff's Association Conference
	Panel Member: Response to Disasters-2017 North Bay Firestorm

# **CERTIFICATES**

California State			
Private Investigators License	Awarded October 2019	License # PI188829	
POST Advanced	Awarded September 2005	Certificate #A71776	
POST Intermediate	Awarded May 2001	Certificate #70417	
POST Basic	Awarded January 1991	Certificate #63190	

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

California State Sheriff's Association California Peace Officers Association Peace Officers Research Association of California Formerly -California Sexual Assault Investigators Association

## **AWARDS AS SHERIFF**

Recognized by the United States Congress and the California Legislature for leadership of the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office, specifically related to leadership during the 2017 firestorm.



# CURRICULUM VITAE

# BACKGROUND

I started my career in Law Enforcement in 1994 as a Police Officer with the City of Sausalito, California. In 1997, I began working for the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy Sheriff. I progressed through the Sheriff's Office ranks and ultimately retired as Assistant Sheriff for the Law Enforcement Division in 2019.

I have extensive experience in policing, law enforcement management, and law enforcement administration. Most of my experience in law enforcement was spent in operational capacities, such as patrol operations, tactical planning, and emergency management. I have testified in court and administrative hearings. I have specialized experience in tactical planning for pre-planned, no-notice incidents and emergency situations such as wildfire evacuations.

In 2017, Sheriff Rob Giordano and I managed the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office disaster response during the Sonoma County Complex Wildfires. The fires consisted of seven fires that merged into three major firestorms known as the Tubbs, Nuns, and Pocket fires. These fires burned over 100,000 acres and required over 100,000 people to evacuate. The Sonoma County Complex Fires still rank as one of the most devastating wildfire disasters in California.

During the Complex Fires, I was assigned as the Department Operations Center (DOC) Incident Commander for the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office. I was responsible for patrol operations, Mutual Aid, evacuations or rescue missions, repopulating residents, missing persons investigations, and Coroner mass fatality investigations. I worked and coordinated with other governmental agencies, such as Sonoma County Emergency Management, Cal-Fire, FEMA, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, and other Sonoma County departments. In my leadership role, I worked with a team of highly experienced and knowledgeable professionals. It was the team environment and trust in one another that helped with our successes during this unpredicted natural disaster.

I have managed and planned incidents to protect the peace in civil disobedience, hostage situations, barricaded subjects and predicted natural disasters (flooding, mudslides, etc.). I have held positions in the Emergency Operations Center for the County of Sonoma as the Operations Section Chief and Law Enforcement Branch Manager.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### <u>2022 – Present Member/Owner</u>

CAS Safety Consulting, LLC.

I perform safety consulting services and expert witness testimony for emergency disaster evacuations, specifically related to wildfire evacuations. I work with developers to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) land use laws by providing sound recommendations on wildfire evacuations. I also conduct safety inspections and audits for



developers to ensure recommended evacuation plans are in compliance during the construction phase of project.

# 2019 - Present Health and Safety Coordinator

Stockham Construction, Inc.

After retiring from law enforcement, I was hired to help develop health and safety programs for the company which includes:

- Plan and develop programs to prevent injury and illness to workers
- Analyze data to help determine best course of action to mitigate further injuries
- Prepare reports for injuries, job hazard analysis, annual audit reports, and task planning
- Develop and review policies and procedures, emergency action plans, insurance records, and pre-qualification documents
- Train staff on health and safety procedures, equipment and tools, and driving safety
- Participate in hearings when needed for Cal/OSHA offenses.

#### 2017-2019 Assistant Sheriff

Sonoma County Sheriff's Office

I was appointed by two different Sheriffs to serve in the Law Enforcement Division. Duties and responsibilities included:

- Oversaw law enforcement operations for the Sonoma County Complex Fires natural disaster
- Oversight and management of the Law Enforcement Division, which included the following bureaus and units: Court Security, Transportation, Patrol Services, Helicopter, Marine, Investigations, Coroner's Office, Central Information Bureau, Dispatch, Information Technology, Telecommunications, and the law enforcement contracts for the Town of Windsor and City of Sonoma
- Represented the Sheriff in public events and managed the Sheriff's Office in his absence.
- Responded to and implemented recommendations from a Community and Law Enforcement Taskforce
- Worked in coordination with Civilian Auditor's Office to review Sheriff's Office complaints and investigations
- Led numerous public presentations on Sheriff's Office policy and procedure
- Worked with Risk Management and participated in settlement conferences in civil litigation
  matters
- Conducted due process discipline appeals, such as "Skelly" hearings

## 2014 - 2017 Sheriff's Captain

Sonoma County Sheriff's Office

I served as both the Operations Captain and the Administrations Captain. The Operations Captain was responsible for all uniformed personnel in the Sheriff's Office, including the Patrol Division, the Special Operations Unit, Tactical Response Team, the Helicopter Unit, Search and Rescue Team, and the Marine Unit Dispatch, and Court Security. The Administrations Captain was responsible the Investigation Bureau, Civil Bureau, Internal Affairs, Telecommunication Unit, Central Information Bureau, and Information Technology Unit. In this position, I gained a strong



working knowledge of the Peace Officer Bill of Rights and government labor law as it relates to hiring, discipline, and terminations.

There were about 233 sworn deputies and another 107 civilian staff members in the Law Enforcement Division. The Patrol Division handled approximately 100,000 calls for service a year. In addition, my duties included:

- Managed public communications, including social media, and the hiring of a Community Engagement Liaison
- Managed significant incidents such as large civil disobedience events and overall patrol operations response
- Tasked with decision-making in the hiring process and the personnel investigation process
- Maintained the security agreement and relationship with the largest Indian gaming casino in northern California
- Responsible for the deployment of public safety resources to best protect the community
- Responsible for labor relations with the Deputy Sheriffs' Association

#### 2011-2014 Sheriff's Lieutenant

Sonoma County Sheriff's Office

I managed and supervised the Sheriff's Office patrol sergeants. I conducted performance evaluations on Sergeants and investigated citizen complaints against Deputy Sheriffs. I was responsible for the research and development of the Body-Worn Camera Program. I presented the program to the Board of Supervisors to obtain additional funding to procure the cameras. Other duties included:

#### Court Security Lieutenant – 2012 to 2014

- Ensured the Sonoma County Courts had staffing as required by law
- Managed the budget and supervised Court Security Sergeants
- Worked with the Presiding Judge(s) on policies and procedures

#### Special Operations Unit Commander - 2011-2014

- Overall Incident Commander for the SWAT team, Tech Team, and Crisis Negations team
- Managed high-risk incidents such as hostage situations, barricaded subjects, and emergency rescues
- Responsible for reviewing and approving tactical and evacuation plans, and afteraction reports

#### 2009-2011 Detective Sergeant, Coroner's Office

Sonoma County Sheriff's Office – Coroner's Bureau

Managed and supervised a team of Coroner detectives, a clerical staff, and a contracted pathologist. My duties included:

• Managed the Coroner's Bureau administration and operational functions that expended \$2.3 Million annually



- Fostered and maintained relationships with the media, vendors, and multiple law enforcement agencies in the county
- Created a "Coroner's Best Practices Manual", a statistical database, and implemented several staffing and operational changes in the Coroner's Bureau
- Responsible for meeting with physicians within the county to present on death investigations and death certificates
- Developed mass fatality policies and procedures

# 2006-2009 Sheriff's Sergeant

#### Sonoma County Sheriff's Office

I supervised a team of Deputy Sheriffs during the performance of their regular duties on patrol or in special assignments. I was responsible for development of Deputy Sheriffs for future growth within the office, including yearly performance evaluations. In addition, I held the following collateral assignments:

## <u>Sonoma Police Department – 2007 to 2009</u>

- Sergeant for the Sonoma Police Department, a contract city for the Sheriff's Office
- Supervised and trained the team of Sonoma Police Officers
- Routinely worked with the City of Sonoma, department leaders and city council
- Developed the Emergency Operations Plan for the City of Sonoma Emergency Operations Center

## <u>S.W.A.T. Team – 2007 to 2009</u>

- Tactical Team Leader for the SWAT team
- Held the Command-and-Control function for specific units within the SWAT team
- Developed and implemented new training records, after-action reports, and operational plans
- Responsible for developing the action plan with the team on SWAT assignments

#### 2004-2006 Detective, Investigations Bureau

Sonoma County Sheriff's Office

- Assigned to Violent Crimes Investigation
- Investigated violent crimes and officer-involved critical incidents
- Assumed the role of lead investigator on several homicides and an officer-involved fatal incident
- Managed large caseload and complex investigations

#### 1997-2004 Deputy Sheriff

Sonoma County Sheriff's Office

- Performed the regular duties as a Deputy Sheriff assigned to the patrol division
- Patrol assignments included various schedules with the Roseland Community Orientated Policing project, Sonoma Valley Substation, and main office



• Continually performed at "exceeds standards" or "outstanding" in evaluations from supervisors.

Special assignments and accomplishments have included:

#### Field Training Officer – 2000 to 2004

- On-scene supervisor for day-to-day operations
- Demonstrated one-on-one supervisory ability with deputies of varied experience
- Identify inadequacies in deputy trainees and adapt to fit the best needs of the deputy
- Reviewed reports for approval, prepared detailed documents of trainee performance, trained and motivated trainee to successful completion of the field-training program
- Remained up to date with case law, search and seizure, department policies and procedures, criminal statutes, and laws of arrest

#### <u>S.W.A.T. Team – 2000 to 2005</u>

- Embraced the "sense of team" concept
- Primary position on entry team element, but crossed trained in various positions on the team
- Have been involved in high-stress situations, such as "barricaded subjects" and "High-Risk" entries
- Ability to provide solutions to solve potentially dangerous situations
- Knowledgeable in weaponry, tactics, operational plans, hostage rescue tactics, barricaded subjects, vehicle assaults, high-risk search warrant protocol, diversionary devices, and less-lethal options

#### <u>Tac-Team Member – 1999 to 2000</u>

• Trained in civil disobedience control and tactics

#### Department Instructor – Ongoing throughout career

- Planned, organized, researched, and instructed officers from other county agencies on Missing Persons investigations. Developed and used a PowerPoint presentation as a teaching aid to assist in the instruction. This Missing Persons course was POST certified
- Citizens Academy instructor for S.W.A.T.
- Coordinated, developed, and instructed lesson plan for BLOC training in tactical responses
- Orientation instructor for newly appointed deputies in building search tactics and high-risk stops
- Coordinated and instructed S.W.A.T. training exercises with scenarios for outside agencies
- Certified Pepperball instructor and armorer. Assigned to maintain inventory, repairs, and provide training
- Developed an orientation class for newly appointed S.W.A.T. team members



## 1994-1997 Police Officer

City of Sausalito Police Department

Performed the regular duties of a Police Officer. Conducted complete criminal investigations of all criminal statutes, traffic accidents, drunk driving, and city ordinance violations. Developed and coordinated police department Internet website. Developed and coordinated report forms for department. Special assignments and accomplishments included:

#### Officer-In-Charge

• Acted as duty supervisor when requested

#### Police Association President

- Worked in conjunction with the police department and city management on discipline, contract, and "meet and confer" issues
- Formulated 12-hour work schedule for patrol officers to assist management with budget constraints, hiring issues, and morale among officers

#### D.A.R.E. Instructor

- Coordinated D.A.R.E program at local elementary school
- Instructed students and provided characteristics of a positive role model
- Established community relations with teaching staff, students, and parents of students

#### Juvenile Officer

- Coordinated and supervised juvenile diversion program for the police department
- Responsible for acting as a liaison with Juvenile Probation
- Developed, supervised, and implemented juvenile procedure guidelines for police officers

#### Awarded "Officer of the Rotation" (1997)

• Nominated from co-workers, supervisors, and management

## **EDUCATION**

#### <u>1996</u> California State University Sacramento / Santa Rosa Junior College

Associate of Arts Degree; General Education

I attended Sacramento State University after graduating from Santa Rosa High School in 1988. While in college, I decided to become a police officer and put myself through the Police Academy at the Santa Rosa Junior College. In 1996, while working full-time as a Police Officer for the City of Sausalito, I returned to Santa Rosa Junior College to obtain my Associate of Arts degree.



# **CERTIFICATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AWARDS**

## Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Certifications:

1992 Basic Law Enforcement Course, Santa Rosa Junior College

1996	Basic Certificate	#B 80486
1998	Intermediate Certificate	#I 59212
2003	Advanced Certificate	#A 65212
2011	Supervisory Certificate	#S 81869
2014	Management Certificate	#M 28414

## Emergency Management Certifications:

2006	NIMS/SEMS Certifications
2007	ICS 300 & 400 Certification
2008	Introduction to Emergency Management: Earthquakes; Cal OES
2008	SEMS Introductory Course; Cal OES

## Specialized Awards:

- 2004 Sheriffs Excellence Award
- 2013 The Louis "Pete" Peterka Emergency Management Award; Sonoma County Emergency Management
- 2018 Gold Resolution Sonoma County Board of Supervisors for the 2017 Sonoma Complex Fires

# SELECT TRAINING COURSES ATTENDED

- 1994 Drug Abuse Recognition Investigations (11550 H&S); Santa Rosa Junior College
- 1995 Basic Traffic Accident Investigations; Los Medanos College
- 1996 Certified D.A.R.E Instructor; Los Angeles Police Department
- 1997 Domestic Violence Workshop; Sonoma County Sheriff's Office
- 1999 Advanced Drug Interdiction Course
- 2000 Field Training Officer School; Santa Rosa Junior College
- 2001 Basic S.W.A.T School; Los Angeles Sheriff's Special Enforcement Bureau
- 2002 Field Training Officer Update Course; Napa Training Academy
- 2003 Report Writing for Supervisors; Napa Training Academy



2004	Pepperball Instructor and Armorer Course; Pepperball Technologies
2004	Distraction Devices Course; Armor Academy Training
2004	Hostage Rescue Tactics School; San Francisco F.B.I S.W.A.T
2005	Homicide Investigations; Robert Presley's Institute of Criminal Investigations
2005	Officer Involved Shootings Investigations; California Department of Justice
2005	Interview and Interrogations; Reid and Associates
2006	Officer Involved Shooting Investigations; Department of Justice
2006	Law Enforcement Supervisory Course; Santa Rosa Junior College
2007	Terrorism Concepts for Patrol Personnel; California Department of Justice
2007	Academy Instructor Course; Napa Valley Criminal Justice Center
2007	SWAT Team Leader Course; California Tactical Officers Association
2009	Coroner's Basic Death Investigations MOD A & B; Santa Ana Coroner's Office
2009	Coroner's Mutual Aid and Mass Fatality Planning; Cal E.M.A
2012	Management Course; CSU Long Beach

Appendix N-4 Evacuation Mitigation Plan



ROB@CASSAFETYCONSULTING.COM

3558 ROUND BARN BLVD., SUITE 200 SANTA ROSA, CA 95401 (707) 806-7628

February 19, 2024

Bibiana Sparks Acorn Environmental 5170 Golden Foothill Parkway El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

RE: Evacuation Mitigation Plan - Shiloh Resort and Casino Project

#### Dear Bibiana Sparks:

The purpose of this letter is to provide our Evacuation Mitigation Plan based on the Evacuation Travel Time Assessment results by Fehr and Peers<sup>1</sup>. After review, CAS Safety Consulting has the following two options to help relieve evacuation traffic for the Project:

- 1. Trigger Evacuation Zone
- 2. Shiloh Resort and Casino Pre-Determined Evacuation Zone

First, disasters are unpredictable, much like human behavior in response to them. Although the traffic study used the Kincade fire because an actual event gives us the most realistic scenario, we also must recognize that future events will unfold differently. No analysis can predict an actual scenario but preplanning with reasonable assumptions can reduce risk.

Second, it's important to understand the differences between Sonoma County fire scenarios of today verse years past. Wildfires are unpredictable and "No Notice" evacuations still merit significant consideration and planning. However, several systems have been put in place that reduce the risk of a "No Notice" event. Sonoma County has developed preventive measures such as:

- Enhanced public education on fire preparedness.
- Taking an active approach in broadcasting high fire danger times (Red Flag Warnings).
- Implementing a more robust Alert and Warning System.
- Developing Pre-determined Evacuation Zones.
- Utilizing early detection devices such as wildfire cameras.

The wildfire camera system consists of cameras on mountaintops that can detect a wildfire from a distance, locate and mark the wildfire, and the direction of travel. The system immediately notifies dispatchers and emergency officials. From this, Emergency Managers have situational awareness of where the fire is and the direction of travel.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Fehr & Peers Traffic engineering/planning consulting firm.



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Pre-determined evacuation zones enable a methodical approach to move people out of areas in case of an emergency. Since the 2017 Tubbs Fire, Sonoma County has employed a philosophy of early and wide evacuations. Emergency Managers have learned that they need people out of the way ahead of time to protect life and safety and enable firefighters the ability to fight the fire. This philosophy has been applied in previous Sonoma County fires<sup>2</sup>, which has resulted in no deaths and less property damage.

Furthermore, Pacific Gas & Electric has developed other protection measures, such as: Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) and Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS). PSPS' are when Pacific Gas and Electric intentionally shuts off the power in an area because of high-risk fire weather, such as red flag warnings, to prevent a downed line from starting a fire. These shut offs have become a tool to prevent wildfires. EPSS' are designed to prevent fires in the event of a fault in a power line. These enhanced settings shut down power in an area immediately upon a line integrity issue, such as a fallen tree bringing a power line down.

CAS Safety members have also witnessed fire personnel applying more aggressive firefighting tactics at the onset of a fire<sup>3</sup>. Strike teams and firefighting aircraft are routinely dispatched to small fires to prevent the fire from spreading.

#### **EVACUATION MITIGATION PLAN – OPTION 1**

CAS Safety analyzed the Evacuation Travel Time Assessment conducted by Fehr and Peers. At the request of CAS Safety consulting, Fehr and Peers analyzed the evacuation time for the project-siteonly, while still applying the "With Notice" scenario assumptions, such as the level of background traffic and the evacuation destinations. The results showed the project vehicles would need a maximum of 52 minutes (in year 2028) and 54 minutes (in year 2040) to evacuate the site and clear the study area. This analysis included a conservative assumption of maximum capacity of the passenger parking and bus parking, and a further increased demand of five percent (5%) totaling 5,367 vehicles that would need to evacuate from the project site.

In order to reduce traffic congestion for the surrounding community and to provide sufficient time to clear vehicles from the Project, CAS Safety developed a Trigger Evacuation Zone. Meaning, the Project will begin evacuations when identified zones are issued an evacuation warning or order. The goal being to achieve an evacuation travel time with the least amount of impact to the surrounding community.

CAS Safety recommends the following:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 2019 Kincade Fire, 2020 Glass Fire, and 2020 Walbridge and Meyers Fires.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> CAS Safety members frequently monitor "Watch Duty".



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We recommend Shiloh Resort and Casino immediately evacuate all guests and visitors when any of the pre-determined evacuation zones within the Trigger Evacuation Zone have been issued an evacuation warning or order.

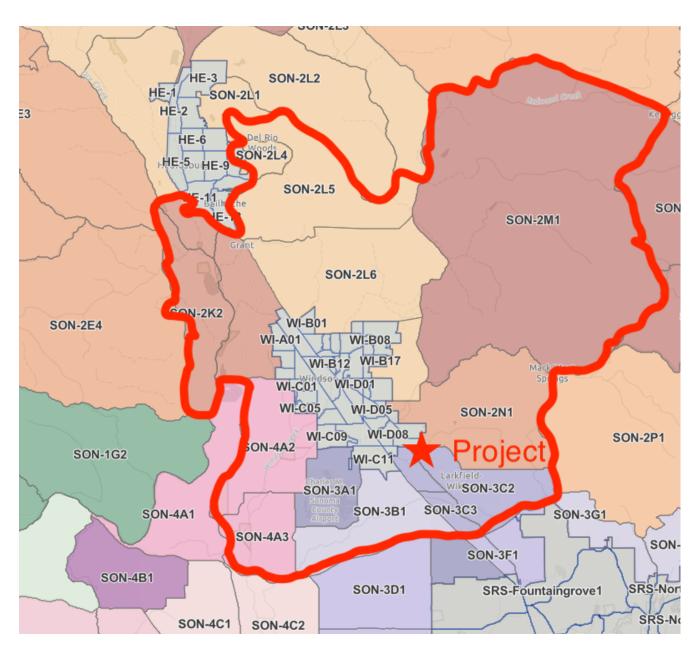
This Trigger Evacuation Zone method would immediately force evacuation of the Project site when any of the zones inside the red outlined area are issued an evacuation warning or order. As an example, if a wildfire was occurring in the northeast section of the county (like the 2019 Kincade Fire) as soon as zone SON-2M1 was issued a warning or order the Project would immediately evacuate.

CAS Safety developed the Trigger Evacuation Zone by analyzing Fehr and Peers Evacuation Travel Time Assessment report, reviewing past fire behavior and the timing of evacuations by zones, and understanding how today's emergency managers would likely proceed with evacuations with the current pre-determined evacuation zone system. We used the Trigger Evacuation Zone method to specify early evacuation of the Project as it related to Fehr and Peers' traffic travel time assessment modeling of the Kincade Fire. Additionally, we understand that no future event will unfold like past events because of changes in emergency response and disasters, such as fires.

See Figure 1 - Trigger Evacuation Zone map on next page.



ROB GIORDANO ROB@CASSAFETYCONSULTING.COM



# **Trigger Evacuation Zone**

Figure 1

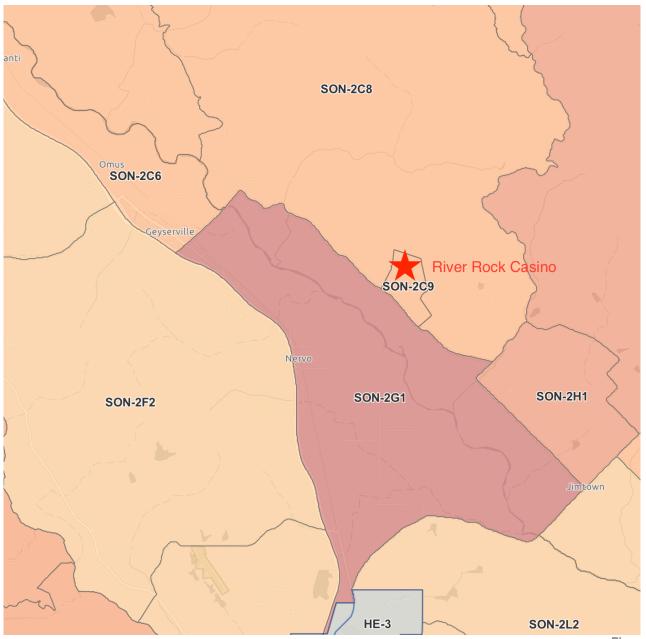


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#### **EVACUATION MITIGATION PLAN – OPTION 2**

There is a second option for evacuation travel time mitigation. The County of Sonoma can create a pre-determined evacuation zone specifically for the Shiloh Resort and Casino. Currently, River Rock Casino lies within its own defined zone SON-2C9.





CLINT@CASSAFETYCONSULTING.COM

ROB GIORDANO ROB@CASSAFETYCONSULTING.COM

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#### We recommend Koi Nation work with the County of Sonoma in developing its own predetermined evacuation zone for the Shiloh Resort and Casino.

This option could benefit both the County of Sonoma and Shiloh Resort and Casino. The County's Emergency Officials could order an evacuation of the zone within its orderly approach during a disaster. County Emergency Officials have all the situational awareness during a disaster to determine the most appropriate time to issue an evacuation order, understanding the population of the casino, and other pre-determined evacuation zones.

Shiloh Resort and Casino could benefit as well by not having to provide constant training to staff on understanding all the Trigger Evacuation Zones or having the sole responsibility to evacuate when conditions are met.

In conclusion, CAS Safety presents these two above options as a means of providing a safer evacuation for the entire community.

Robert Giordano

2/19/24 Date

Clint Shubel

2/19/24 Date Appendix O Sonoma Fire District Letter of Intent



Arnie Tognozzi, President Board of Directors Sonoma County Fire District 8200 Old Redwood Hwy Windsor, CA 95492

RE: Letter of Intent for Emergency Services to Koi Nation Trust Land at 222 Shiloh Road

# Dear Mr. Tognozzi:

This Letter of Intent ("LOI") is made between the Koi Nation of Northern California (the "Nation"), P.O. Box 3162, Santa Rosa, CA 95402, and the Sonoma County Fire District (the "Fire District"), 8200 Old Redwood Hwy, Windsor, CA 95492.

The Nation is a federally-recognized Indian tribe desiring to reestablish its land base and develop a gaming enterprise thereon. The Fire District is an independent fire district pursuant to the California Health and Safety Code Section 13800. The Fire District and the Nation intend to enter a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") to provide emergency services to include fire response, emergency medical services, fire prevention and all other all-risk response to the gaming enterprise that the Nation will own and operate on Indian lands located in unincorporated Sonoma County outside the political and geographic boundaries of the Town of Windsor.

The Fire District will provide fire protection services to the Nation's gaming facility in exchange for consideration paid by the Nation to the Fire District as agreed upon and set forth in the MOU. The Nation's consideration for these services will likewise be set forth in the MOU.

The purpose of this LOI is to set forth the intentions of the Nation and the Fire District to negotiate in good faith an agreement for fire and emergency services. The Nation and the Fire District recognize that the transaction discussed in this LOI will require further information exchange, documentation, and approvals. Nevertheless, the parties execute this LOI as evidence of their intentions to proceed in mutual good faith to complete the work required and negotiate the term of an MOU that is consistent with this LOI.

In the absence of a duly executed MOU, the Fire District shall have no duty or obligation to provide any services to the Nation for its proposed gaming facility and the Nation shall have no duty to provide compensation to the Fire District.

Arnie Tognozzi, President June 13, 2023 Page 2

This LOI may be executed in several counterparts. If the foregoing is acceptable to you, kindly execute a copy of this LOI in the place set forth below and return it to the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

Koi Nation of Northern California Man By: Darín Beltran, Chairmar

Date: 6 23 13

# ACCEPTED AND AGREED TO:

Sonoma County Fire District

By:

Arnie Tognozzi, Preside

Board of Directors

Date: 6/27/23