



# COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN APPENDIX-A

For the Community of Occidental, California

## Development

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was developed by Fire Safe Occidental with guidance and support from Fire Safe Sonoma, the County of Sonoma, and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. This CWPP shall supplement the Sonoma County Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Fire Safe Occidental  
<http://firesafeoccidental.org>

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Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view(s) of any governmental agency, organization, corporation or individual with which the authors may be affiliated.

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## GREATER OCCIDENTAL AREA - RISK ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Risks that can probably be modified	Mitigation Strategies Include:	
<b>Access</b>		
Gates	Evacuation Planning, install "Knox Keys"	Adequate
Roadside vegetation	Fuels Management, education, funding	Moderate
<b>Signage</b>		
Street	Education, outreach, funding	Adequate
House	Education, outreach, funding	Inadequate
<b>Home Hardening/Construction</b>		
Roofing	Education, outreach, retrofit, funding	Moderate
Siding	Education, outreach, retrofit, funding	Inadequate
Unenclosed Features	Education, outreach, retrofit, funding	Inadequate
<b>Defensible Space</b>		
Defensible Space	Education, outreach, funding, inspections	Inadequate
Risks that possibly can be modified	Mitigation Strategies Include:	
<b>Access: Bridges</b>		
Unrated Bridges	Evacuation Planning, modification	
Wood Bridges	Evacuation Planning, modification	Moderate
<b>Water and Fuels</b>		
Water Sources	Develop further sources.	Moderate
Fire Behavior (strategic fuel breaks)	Planning, funding, education, outreach	Extreme
Fuels Density (fuels modification)	Planning, funding, education, outreach	Extreme
Risks that cannot likely be modified	Mitigation Strategies Include:	
<b>ACCESS</b>		
Primary Roads out	Evacuation Planning	Moderate
Primary Road width	Evacuation Planning	Moderate
Primary Road Slope	Evacuation Planning	Moderate
Secondary width	Evacuation Planning	Inadequate
Secondary Terminus	Evacuation Planning	Inadequate
Secondary Slope	Evacuation Planning	Moderate
Secondary Surface	Evacuation Planning	Adequate
<b>Utilities</b>		
Underground	Education, outreach, report issues	Moderate
<b>Fire Behavior</b>		
Fire Hazard Severity Zones	Education, outreach, planning	Moderate
Slope	Education, outreach, planning	Slight
Predominant Aspect	Education, outreach, planning	Very High



## DOWNTOWN AREA - RISK ASSESSMENT

### IGNITION RISK AND HAZARD ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW FOR DOWNTOWN OCCIDENTAL

FACTORS	RATING
<b>IGNITION RISK ASSESSMENT</b>	
<b>CONTRIBUTING RISK FACTORS</b>	
History of Lightning	Low
Camping Activities	High
High Level of visitors/activities	High
Understory receptive to ignition	Low
Thick brush and trees	High
Unmaintained Powerline Corridors	Low
High fuel loads	Moderate
High Winds	Moderate
History of fire ignitions	Moderate
Add other risk factor	Choose
Add other risk factor	Choose
Add other risk factor	Choose
Add other risk factor	Choose

#### Final Scores

**Summary Rating<sup>1</sup>** VERY HIGH

**Summary Rating / Score** 78

Hazard Category	Score
Low Hazard	< 41
Moderate Hazard	41-60
High Hazard	61-75
Very High Hazard	76+

<sup>1</sup> Summary rating for Ignition Risk Assessment is a judgment call determined by planning committee.

FACTORS	RATING	
HAZARD ASSESSMENT		
ACCESS		
Ingress/Egress	Adequate	1
Width of Primary Road	Moderate	3
Passibility	Moderate	3
Secondary Road Terminus	Adequate	1
Primary Slope	Moderate	3
Street Signs	Adequate	1
Address Signage	Inadequate	5
Roadside Vegetation	Moderate	3
Narrow Secondary	Inadequate	5
Secondary Paved	Adequate	1
Secondary Road Slope	Moderate	3
Unrated Bridges		3
Wooden Bridges	Adequate	1
Gates	Adequate	0
BUILT ENVIRONMENT		
2007 Standards	Inadequate	5
Roofing Materials	Moderate	5
Siding Materials	Inadequate	3
Unenclosed Features	Moderate	3
UTILITIES		
Utility Ignition Risk	Moderate	3
Lot Size	Inadequate	5
Defensible Space	Moderate	3
FIRE PROTECTION		
Water Source	Adequate	1
Fire Protection	Moderate	7
FIRE BEHAVIOR		
Fire Hazard Safety Zone	Moderate	3
Slope	Slight	4
Aspect	Moderate	3
Fuels	High	3
Fire Behavior	High	7

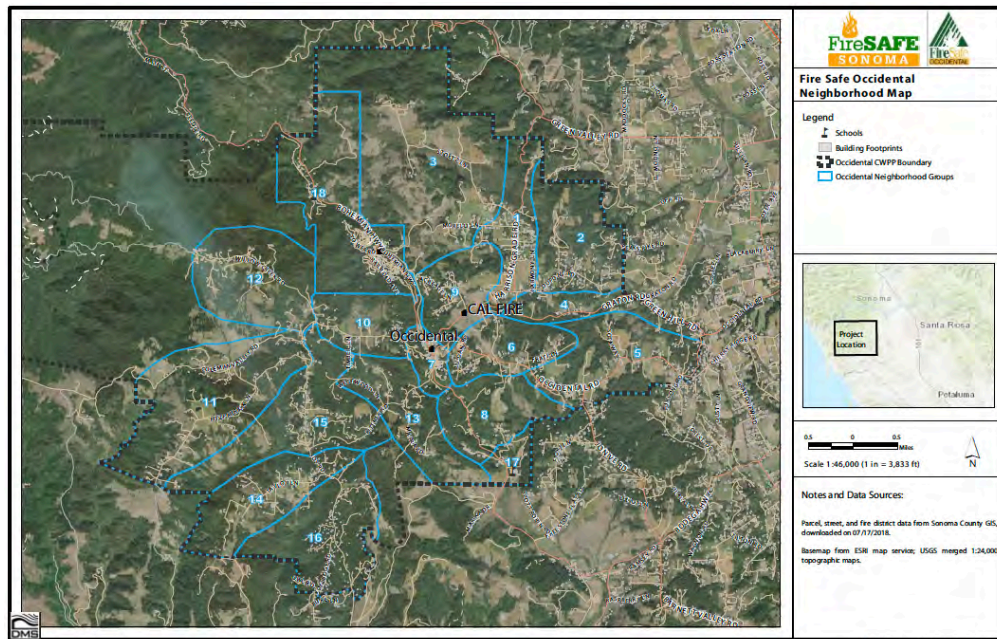
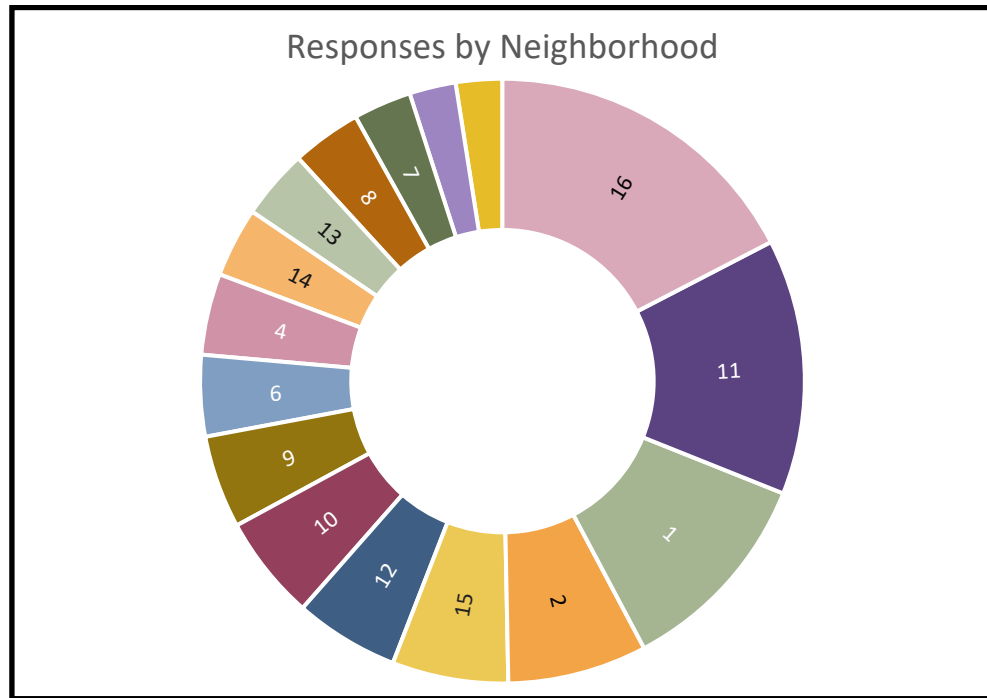
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Wood Bridges	Evacuation Planning, modification	Adequate
<b>Water and Fuels</b>		
Water Sources	Develop further sources.	Adequate
Fire Behavior (strategic fuel breaks)	Planning, funding, education, outreach	High
Fuels Density (fuels modification)	Planning, funding, education, outreach	High
Risks that cannot likely be modified	Mitigation Strategies Include:	
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Primary Roads out	Evacuation Planning	Adequate
Primary Road width	Evacuation Planning	Moderate
Primary Road Slope	Evacuation Planning	Moderate
Secondary width	Evacuation Planning	Inadequate
Secondary Terminus	Evacuation Planning	Adequate
Secondary Slope	Evacuation Planning	Moderate
Secondary Surface	Evacuation Planning	Adequate
<b>Utilities</b>		
Underground	Education, outreach, report issues	Moderate
<b>Fire Behavior</b>		
Fire Hazard Severity Zones	Education, outreach, planning	Moderate
Slope	Education, outreach, planning	Slight
Predominant Aspect	Education, outreach, planning	Very High



# COMMUNITY SURVEYS

## SURVEY RESPONSES BY NEIGHBORHOOD





## ACCESS/EVACUATION

Public vs. Private Roads
Driveway abuts a public road = 68%
Driveway abuts a private road = 32%

Egress in Emergencies
Only 43% of respondents have access at both ends of their street
Therefore, more than half live on a street with egress at only one end, and most of those are over 500' and up to 2 miles long

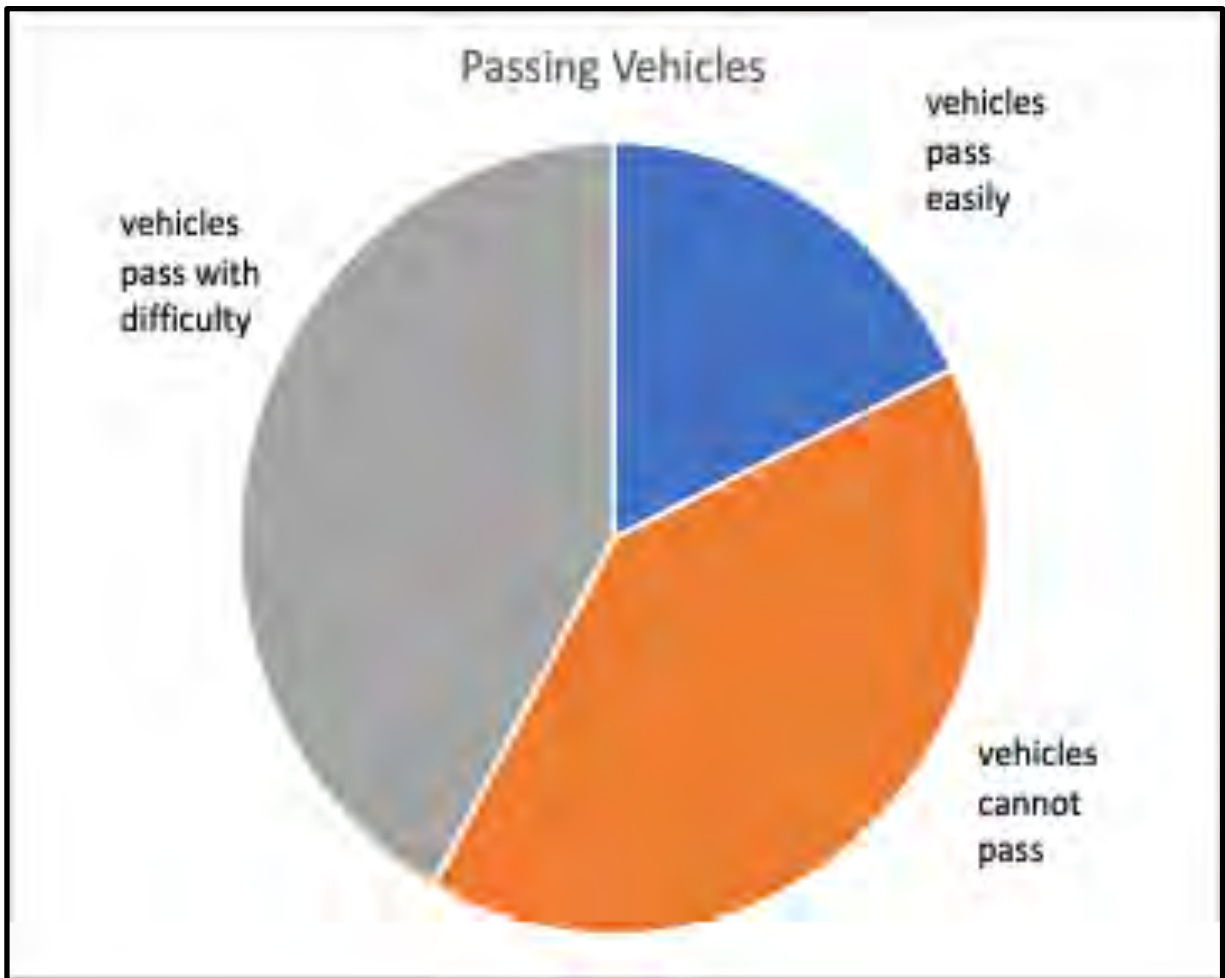
Road Signage
91% of respondents have adequate road signage and street markers
Only 9% of respondents do not have adequate road signage and street markers

Gate Access			
I do not have a gate	I have an unlocked gate	I have Knox Box access	I have a locked gate with only key access
46%	29%	18%	7%

Roadway signage		
Where the roadway going to your home splits or makes a "Y", and the split roadways share the same road name, are there approved (4" reflective on a contrasting background) address numbers at the intersection of the roadways indicating the correct roadway to take to reach your home.		
YES	NO	N/A
18%	10%	72%

Regarding the address numbers at your property:		
I have approved signage at the driveway	I have approved signage on the residence	I do not have approved signage
70%	16%	20%

Egress Routes
<b>Neighborhoods #2, 3, 11, 12 and 14 must have secondary egress routes</b>
<b>Neighborhood #2 has identified and marked its extra egress route</b>
83% of the respondents are aware of the secondary egress route
<b>Neighborhood #3 has identified but not marked its extra egress route</b>
75% of the respondents are aware of the secondary egress route
<b>Neighborhood #11 has not located an extra egress route</b>
50% of respondents think they have secondary egress that is marked
41% of respondents do not think they have identified secondary egress
9% feel they have located a shelter-in-place site
<b>Neighborhood #12 has not located an extra egress route</b>
33% of respondents think they have secondary egress
56% of respondents do not think they have identified secondary egress
22% feel they have located a shelter-in-place site
<b>Neighborhood #14 has located and marked its extra egress route</b>
83% of the respondents are aware of the secondary egress route
A third of the respondents feel they have located a shelter-in-place site



If a motor home and fire engine were traveling on my road in opposite directions (pick one):		
The motor home and fire engine can easily pass	The motor home and fire engine will have difficulty passing	The motor home and fire engine could not pass
18%	40%	42%
Note that 82% of areas display conditions that would make it difficult to impossible for large vehicles to pass		

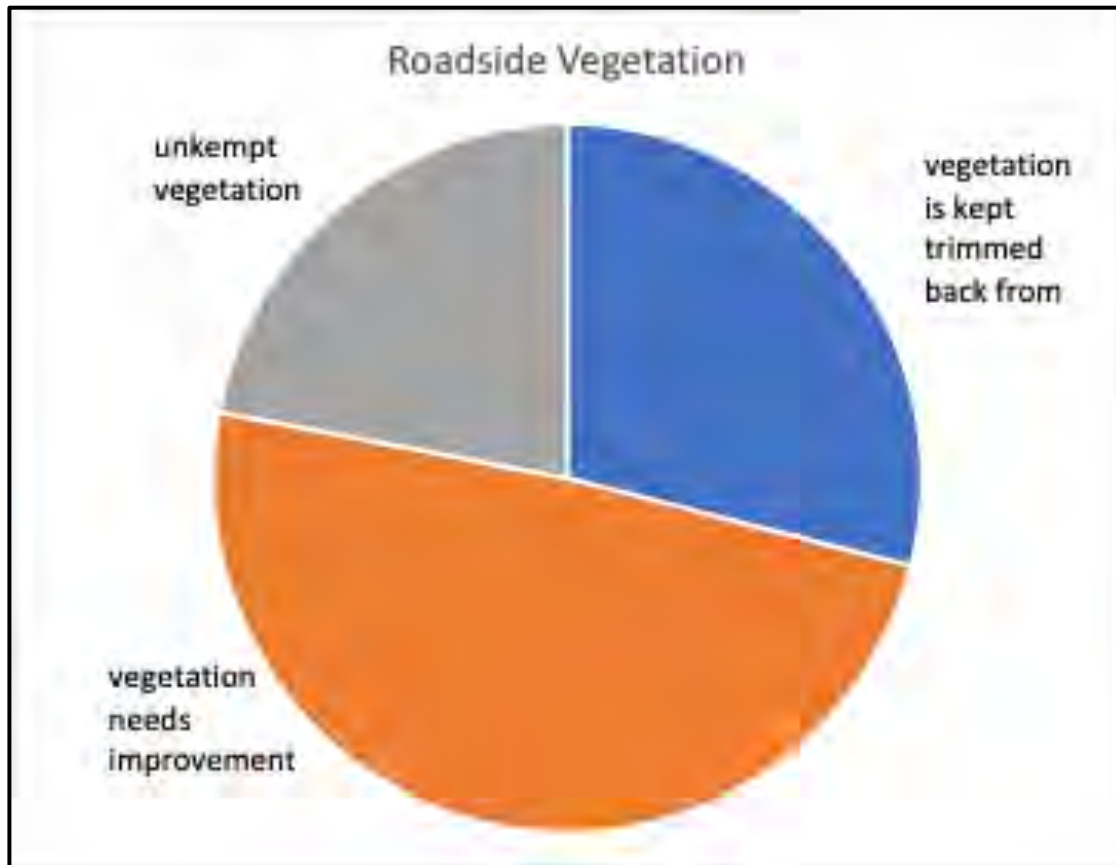


Number of people to vacate during evacuation order			
Neighborhood	Persons	Per response	
1	75	4.17	
2	34	2.83	
3	9	2.25	
4	22	3.14	
5	11	2.75	
6	21	3.00	
7	12	2.40	
8	15	2.50	
9	20	2.50	
10	26	2.89	
11	52	2.36	
12	20	2.22	
13	14	2.33	
14	20	3.33	
15	32	3.20	
16	73	2.61	
<b>Total</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>2.78</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>Important notes to table:</b>			
If extrapolated to the entire OCSD population this would be 6,183 individuals or 386 per Neighborhood			
There is some variation in density of Neighborhoods, with #7 (Downtown) being most congested, and larger properties primarily farthest away from the downtown area, increasing in size the farther away they are.			

<b>Number of large animals to vacate during evacuation</b>
<i>Error in Neighborhood #1 (should be 4 and not 40)</i>
Total = 53 distributed among Neighborhoods
Moving large animals adds 1-2 hours of time in loading process

<b>Number of pets to vacate during evacuation</b>
<b>Total number of pets to evacuate: 258 of 162 survey respondents = .7 pets per person average.</b>
In most cases, there are 5 or fewer pets per household
Evacuating with cats proved to be very difficult
Evacuating chickens is close to impossible without special cages and/or vehicles

## FUELS REDUCTION



With regard to the **VEGETATION** along your road, please select the best description from the choices below.

Grasses are mown to less than 4 inches, trees and brush are trimmed to provide 10' of horizontal clearance, and 15' of vertical clearance	Roadside vegetation is mostly well maintained, but some areas need improvement	Tall grass, brush and trees border and overhang the roadway
29%	49%	22%

Note: The County has recently done some road maintenance work on our evacuation corridors

There are still nearly a quarter of our Neighborhoods with dangerous brush and overhanging trees



## STRUCTURAL IGNITION

With regard to DEFENSIBLE SPACE on your property, which statement is most accurate:		
I have 0-5'	I have 0-30'	I have 0-100'
29%	49%	22%

What percentage of homes have these features or conditions?								
Wood shingle or wood siding	Potentially usable water source over 1000 gallons on my property	Dual glazed windows	Open wood decks/railings	Enclosed my soffits and eaves	Covered my gutters to keep them clean	Eaves and gutters are open but I clean them	One or more accessory dwelling unit(s) on the property	One to six outbuildings on my property (garage, shed, etc.)
63%	75%	76%	75%	27%	54%	27%	35%	78%

## ASSISTANCE TO RESIDENTS WITH MEDICAL ISSUES

Mobility Challenged Residents
There are a total of 9 identified in this survey
If extrapolated to the entire OCSD population (with a median age of 61), this would be 64 individuals or 4 per Neighborhood

## ABOVEGROUND POWERLINE ISSUES

Complaints for PG&E by Neighborhood	
Neighborhood	Comment
1	PG&E marked tall pines for cutting last year but has not cut them down.
1	A pole housing a transformer which provides the main electrical feed to our house is leaning badly and it worries me at times.
2	I am not sure if the main PG&E power line is insulated or not
4	Cedar/ Fir trees along Occidental Rd in public right of way near primary uninsulated overhead wires. PG&E removed some to the trees in this area but more removals would be beneficial
4	I recently removed trees and deadwood near the house at my expense, but more needs to be done Our fire holding tank contains 5000 Gal of non-well water w/hydrant
6	My neighbor across the road from my property does not mow or disc his grass and it is a fire hazard to all neighbors. The grass is very tall and dry
8	Our neighbor may have turned away a PG&E/Davey Tree maintenance crew that needed to inspect a transformer. This is concerning.
8	Our driveway is long and steep and through dense forest - I am slowly trying to prune back vegetation and would like to invite the fire department to provide advice on what they would need to use it
9	Main overhead lines go through the middle of my property.
10	We have dying fir trees that overhang the power lines and roadway. We need help with these and are on a fixed low income.
11	Dead and compromised trees overhang or are close to wires on Fitzpatrick Lane.
11	we have the main power line that feeds Fitzpatrick Ln on our property. This has always been a concern. However, have never been able to get a response from PG&E regarding upgrading to a insulated wire or possibly moving it. underground would be even better.
11	Insulated PG&E power lines cross my property
12	Lots of dead trees near power lines
13	The power lines at the foot of Marra road at the intersection with Bittner are in the direct drop line of some tall trees sliding down the embankment.
13	Should they fall, numerous lines will be effected.
15	Just across from our gate, at the intersection of Joy & Fitzpatrick, there are 11 sickly Monterey Pine trees that pose a fire threat.
15	About 8 years ago, one of those trees dropped a large limb that snapped the power lines and closed Joy Rd.
15	Many power lines intersect there and are at risk of starting a catastrophic fire from those trees. Danger!!!!
16	overhanging trees on Lauri Lane that PGE didn't clear
16	Power lines look dangerous, go into branches. Branches go into street.







# COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN APPENDIX-B

For the Community of Occidental, California

## Development

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## **APPENDIX B: Occidental CWPP Risk Reduction Projects**

**Created 15 September 2020**

In collaboration with community members, local, county, state and federal government agencies, and local and state fire officials, this CWPP establishes and prioritizes wildfire risk reduction projects that have been developed to address the most significant risks identified in the Occidental Community Risk Assessment. This project list is a living document and will be periodically updated in the future to reflect progress and changing priorities.

**PRIORITY RATINGS** – Projects have been categorized as follows:

- H = High Priority
- M = Medium Priority
- L = Low Priority

**PROJECT CATEGORIES** – Projects have been categorized as follows:

- Access & Evacuation
- Fuels Reduction
- Ignitions Reduction
- Emergency Notification and Communication

## A) PROJECT: EARLY WARNING COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS

**Priority:** High

**Category/s:** Emergency Notification and Communication

**Goal:** Ensure earliest possible and most complete alert/warning systems during emergencies

- Continue to work with Sonoma County on harmonizing communications
- Conduct and coordinate ongoing testing of the communication system
- Identify and eliminate dead zones in the electronic emergency alert systems
- Develop and communicate community and neighborhood wide notification procedures and plans during emergencies.
- Include investigating and/or distributing: phone trees, car horns, text, email, automated call systems, NOAA Radios, other technologies.
- Develop informal neighbor notifying neighbor recommendations.

**Participants:** Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management, Sheriff and residents

**Timing:** Immediate and ongoing

**Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:** Sonoma County 5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor, Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management, Sonoma County Sheriff

**Potential Funding Sources:** Individual neighborhoods, Sonoma County funds, matching grants

## B) PROJECT: FIRE & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AWARENESS

**Priority:** H

**Category/s:** Emergency Notification and Communication, Access and Evacuation

**Goal:** Improve community awareness of evacuation plans, increase preparedness, and minimize confusion to ensure efficient response during an emergency

- Provide community safety training on communication, evacuation, and emergency planning. Include topics:
  - Benefits of early evacuation
  - Emergency "To-do" lists
  - Go-Bags
  - Shelter-in-Place Tips
  - CERT training
  - Special Evacuation Needs
  - Animals
  - Knox box and gate protocols
- Improve evacuation signage
- Perform annual evacuation drills
- Identify and provide evacuation planning information to special needs groups and provide support if appropriate, and educate on early evacuation planning:
- Elderly or other persons with higher needs, especially medical needs, during evacuations
- Properties with large animals -- Advocate for the County to increase large animal shelter capacity and quality
- Airbnb/vacation rentals -- Educate owners of short-term rental properties how best to communicate with renters, provide supporting documentation (maps, brochures etc.)

**Participants:** Fire Safe Occidental, Community Health Services, property owners, Sonoma County

**Timing:** To be determined

**Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:** To be determined

**Potential Funding Sources:** To be determined

## C) PROJECT: EVACUATION ROUTE PREPARATION

**Priority:** H

**Category/s:** Access & Evacuation, Fuels Reduction, Ignition

**Goal:** Reduce/remove hazardous vegetation along primary and secondary roads to support ingress and egress of residents evacuating, emergency vehicle access, and reduce wildfire intensity by providing multiple shaded fuel breaks throughout the area.

Improve roadways according to the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection SRA Fire Safe Regulations to increase their safety and to allow for evacuation by the residents and visitors while simultaneously allowing access to the firefighters.

- Create model to simulate evacuation impact during various scenarios to provide real data on traffic impact of tourist, schools, camps and large events in the area (e.g., beginning of the week school night in October vs. Friday night during Farmers Market or Saturday during a biking event when camps are in session.)
- Identify critical areas of concern on both primary and secondary routes and prioritize remediation. Includes:
  - Reduction of roadside tree and vegetation intrusion including the trimming of overhanging branches
  - Removing (cut, pull and/or spray) understory shrubs
  - Pruning and/or selective removal of trees or tree branches that;
    - pose a risk of falling on powerlines (Ignition)
    - trees that may fall on the road and block access (Access & Evac)
    - lower level fuels (dead and alive) that are fuel for fire close to roadway (Fuel Reduction)
  - Removing and/or chipping all cut and dead material
  - Create roadway pullouts where needed to ensure access on narrow roadways
- Clear roadsides to create shaded fuel breaks along all major roadways and appropriate safe egress on smaller roadways
  - Define and execute a plan to capitalize on existing county chipper programs and mobilize other effective programs to chip the brush accumulated while creating fuel breaks
  - Seek funding for contract work to create shaded fuel breaks and clear roadsides where needed
- Develop plan for periodic parcel inspections
  - Establish criteria to provide assistance to residents needing help and unable to do defensible space work along roadways themselves
  - Identify funding and potential resources to implement work
- Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works (TPW) has responsibility to keep the roadway clear of vegetation within their right of way. This distance is usually 5-10 feet from the edge of the road. Beyond the right of way, the responsibility becomes that of



the individual property owner. Environmental review will be required outside of the TPW right of way if government funding will be used for this project.

**Participants:** Licensed contractors, Fire Safe Occidental, property owners, PG&E, Sonoma County TPW and Department of Emergency Management

**Timing:** Year-round; avoiding nesting season and red flag days

**Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:** Sonoma County Fire Mitigation Office, North Bay Civilian Conservation Corp, CAL FIRE.

**Potential Funding Sources:** To be determined

## D) PROJECT: REDUCE IMPACT OF CONSOLIDATED POPULATION LOCATIONS ON EVACUATION

**Priority:** H

**Category/s:** Access & Evacuation

**Goal:** Work in concert with Fire Safe Camp Meeker and business owners to develop a collective evacuation protocol/plan that lowers the impact of the evacuation of consolidated population locations along the Bohemian Corridor (e.g., the education campuses, camps, conference and event centers, and downtown merchants) on the flow of traffic along Bohemian Highway.

- Identify all appropriate contributors
- Educate and ensure commitment
- Identify working group
- Review modeling
- Create preparedness plans and protocols
- Practice

**Participants:** CYO Camp, Bohemian Corridor Business Alliance, Camp Dorothy's Rest, Alliance Redwoods Camp, Westminster Woods Conference Center, Harmony Elementary, and Salmon Creek Middle School

**Timing:** To be determined

**Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:** To be determined

**Potential Funding Sources:** To be determined

## E) PROJECT: IMPROVING ROADWAY NAVIGATION DURING PERIODS OF EXTREMELY LOW VISIBILITY

**Priority:** H

**Category/s:** Access and Evacuation

**Goal:** Install reflectors or other highly visible markings on roadways to ensure that both evacuees and firefighters and other first responders can easily navigate the high ridges, steep curves and sharp drop-offs along the narrow roads in the Occidental area.

- Identify best practices and work with the Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works Roads Division to ensure the selected product is appropriate for the region
- Secure funding for installation and, if necessary, maintenance
- Secure agreement from the owners along private roadways to install along those roads
- Install and maintain

**Participants:** Fire Safe Occidental, Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works Roads Division, property owners

**Timing:** Year-round

**Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:** Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works Roads Division

**Potential Funding Sources:** To be determined

## **F) PROJECT: ALTERNATE EVACUATION ROUTE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

**Priority:** M

**Category/s:** Access & Evacuation

**Goal:** Create essential secondary egress routes currently lacking on approximately 57% of the roadways in the Services District.

- In collaboration with neighborhood groups, identify potential secondary evacuation routes and the associated property owners of those routes
- Ensure property owner cooperation/collaboration
- Create or improve additional evacuation routes
- Install signage where appropriate
- Maintain alternative evacuation routes
- Develop usage protocols and best practices
- Communicate with residents of the area and conduct annual drills

**Participants:** Residents and property owners

**Timing:** Ongoing towards the accomplishment of as many secondary routes as practical.

**Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:** To be determined

**Potential Funding Sources:** To be determined

## **G) PROJECT: IF TRAPPED - EDUCATION AND INFORMATION**

**Priority:** M

**Category/s:** Access and Evacuation

**Goal:** Identify and provide information on what to do when fire is imminent and evacuation by road is impossible in order to provide the best possible option for survival, communication, and eventual evacuation/rescue.

- Locate resources such as CAL FIRE's Ready for Wildfire "What To Do If You become Trapped", UCCE Fire in California's "What To Do When Trapped" and other reliable sources and create local materials with information on what to do if trapped by wildfire.
- As part of the outreach, include a list of essential equipment to include alternate communication, survival and first aid equipment
- Train neighborhood leaders to train the members of their community on what to do if trapped by wildfire.
- Provide Wilderness Rescue and First Responder training for at least one person per neighborhood and include as part of any CERT training throughout community

**Participants:** Fire Safe Occidental, property owners

**Timing:** Year-round

**Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:** To be determined

**Potential Funding Sources:** To be determined

## H) PROJECT: FIRE SERVICES ACCESS TO WILLOW CREEK NORTH THROUGH WILLOW CREEK NATURE PRESERVE

**Priority:** L

**Category/s:** Access & Evacuation

**Goal:** Restore the county owned roadway from Willow Creek through the Nature Preserve enough to allow fire truck access.

- Assess remains of existing road
- Obtain bids for rehabilitation of road
- Solicit assistance from Sonoma county, State Parks, and other stakeholders to fund project
- Select contractor and manage project

**Participants:** Sonoma County, State Parks, and other residents

**Timing:** To be determined

**Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:** Sonoma County, State Parks

**Potential Funding Sources:** Sonoma County, State Parks



## I) PROJECT: IMPACT OF SHORT-TERM VACATION RENTAL OCCUPANCY ON IGNITION REDUCTION AND EVACUATION

**Priority:** L

**Category/s:** Access and Evacuation, Ignition Reduction

**Goal:** Evaluate and mitigate the impact of short-term vacation rentals on ignition reduction and evacuation

Understand the impact of short-term vacation rentals on ignition reduction and evacuation plans and create recommendations and support material for property owners to decrease risks associated with this population.

- Identify the number of short-term vacation rental properties and occupancy rates in the OCSD area
- Figure out what if any education/preparation is done for the renters
- Model evacuation during periods of high occupancy
- Prepare materials and educate owners on the risks and liabilities associated
- Investigate the regulations for short-term rental properties and lobby for improvement if appropriate

**Participants:** Fire Safe Occidental, the County Supervisor's Office

**Timing:** Year-round

**Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:** To be determined

**Potential Funding Sources:** To be determined

## **J) PROJECT: FUELS REDUCTION ON LARGE CONNECTED PROPERTIES**

**Priority:** H

**Category/s:** Fuels Reduction

**Goal:** Mitigate the fuel risk on large areas deemed to be highest risk to major conflagration, particularly along primary egress routes such as Harrison Grade Road, Joy Road and Willow Creek Road.

- Collaborate with State and local agencies to identify specific risk mitigation needs on governmental properties
- Collaborate to encourage and support private landowners to reduce the fuel load on their property
- Monitor progress

**Participants:** Sonoma County and public and private landowners

**Timing:** Year-round

**Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:** State of California Department of Fish and Wildlife, CAL FIRE, Occidental Community Services District, Occidental Volunteer Fire Department

**Potential Funding Sources:** To be determined

## K) PROJECT: CREATE COLLABORATION TO ADDRESS WATERSHED-WIDE FOREST MANAGEMENT

**Priority:** H

**Category/s:** Fuels Reduction

**Goal:** Coordinate local workshops on developing Forest Management Plans and THPs

- Engage with existing fuels and timber management programs to reduce potential fuel
- Educate local landowners about CVTP Vegetation Thinning Grant
- Educate local landowners on Forest management best practices to reduce fuels and improve forest health
- Explore opportunities to restore old-growth characteristics of forests to benefit fish, water quality and birds, and reduce erosion by fuel/veg removal. Fuel thinning may also improve or maintain the quality of in-stream aquatic habitat for endangered Coho and steelhead. Managing redwood forests to restore fire-resilient old-growth characteristics can also enhance water quality, streambed rehabilitation, and sensitive species in the riparian/redwood ecosystem.
- Bring together officials and groups of residents who may be interested in engaging in these projects
- Identify funding opportunities and collaborative relationships with Civilian Conservation Core (CCC)
- Investigate using an Air curtain burner in appropriate areas

**Participants:** CAL FIRE, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, Fire Safe Occidental, property owners

**Timing:** To be determined

**Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:** Bohemian Highway Corridor forest property owners, retreat centers and religious camps

**Potential Funding Sources:** To be determined

## **L) PROJECT: ADDRESS THE ONGOING NEED FOR CHIPPER RESOURCES**

**Priority: M**

**Category/s:** Fuels Reduction

**Goal:** Decrease area fuel through increased access to chipper resources to minimize air quality impact of controlled burns and to expand the fuel reduction activity throughout the area beyond the months of allowable controlled burns.

- Support the purchase of a dedicated chipper for Occidental and advocate for personnel to execute chipping throughout area
- Research and apply for grants to increase access to chipper equipment and crews
- Investigate and fund biochar facility to remove chipped matter and transform into energy
- In conjunction with North Bay Conservation Corp, apply for crews to mitigate highest risk areas of fuel loads

**Participants:**

**Timing:** Year-round

**Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:** North Bay Civilian Conservation Corp

**Potential Funding Sources:** To be determined

## M) PROJECT: IDENTIFY FUELS REDUCTION AREAS OF HIGHEST RISK

**Priority:** M

**Category/s:** Fuels Reduction

**Goal:** Identify the strategic priorities for fuel reduction in the locations deemed to be strategically important to block the movement of fires.

Secure High-Resolution Fuel Mapping Models for Western Sonoma County to clearly identify areas at highest risk in order to effectively target large fuel reduction efforts

- Evaluate available mapping programs and select
- Coordinate with local fire department, Fire Safe Sonoma and other agencies to ensure work is additive to other programs and capitalizes on applications already in use
- Do analysis of Occidental area and make community-wide recommendations for needed fuel reduction priorities

Participate in:

- Sonoma County planning processes including the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan (Wildland Fire Hazards Element)
- The update to the Sonoma County CWPP and General Plan

**Participants:** Fire Safe Occidental, Sonoma County

**Timing:** Year-round

**Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:** Fire Safe Sonoma, Sonoma County CWPP and FEMA Hazard Mitigation and General Plan update planning efforts

**Potential Funding Sources:** To be determined

## N) PROJECT: HOME AND PROPERTY HARDENING

**Priority:** H

**Category/s:** Ignition Reduction, Fuels Reduction

**Goal:** Minimize structural ignition and damage from wildfire (from radiant heat, embers, and direct flame impingement) by retrofitting existing structures, especially in the concentrated areas of historic buildings in downtown Occidental and Camp Meeker.

- Conduct an education/awareness campaign via community presentations, site visits, and inspections/assessments
- Seek funding for contractors to create defensible space and funding for residents and/or property owners who may need financial assistance
- Establish criteria for providing funding
- Work closely with the property owners and the Historic Preservation Society to develop strategies and funding to appropriately harden the downtown timber-built structures and closely built older housing in Camp Meeker
- Assign a designated liaison between the Fire Safe Occidental Steering Committee and the Fire Safe Camp Meeker Board

**Goal:** Minimize structural ignition and damage from wildfire and reduce adjacent fuel load for residents that are elderly or low-income and unable to complete the work themselves

- Conduct an education/awareness campaign on structural hardening via community presentations, site visits, newsletters, website, social media, and bringing in experts and other resources to motivate action on the part of property owners
- Identify the 5 least expensive home hardening projects and educate on those
- Resource inspections/assessments for property owners
- Seek funding for contractors and volunteers to provide home hardening for residents and/or property owners who may need financial assistance
- Establish criteria for providing funding

**Goal:** Increase the percentage of structures in the area that meet home hardening and defensible space best practices

- Conduct an education/awareness campaign on structural hardening via community presentations, site visits, newsletters, website, social media, and bringing in experts and other resources to motivate action on the part of property owners
- Resource inspections/assessments for property owners
- Provide resource lists for property owners for efficient purchase and installation of home hardening elements



**Participants:** Licensed contractors, Fire Safe Occidental, Fire Safe Camp Meeker, property owners, Permit Sonoma

**Timing:** Year-round

**Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:** To be determined

**Potential Funding Sources:** To be determined

## R) PROJECT: UTILITY COMPANY

**Priority: M**

**Category/s:** Ignition Reduction

**Goal:** Take advantage of new opportunities being presented by PG&E to engage with the utility and other stakeholders to assist in, unifying the utility's infrastructure protection and the community's forest health interests, while, at the same time, reducing the risk of fire ignition due to the ageing infrastructure.

- Meet with relevant stakeholders, officials from PG&E and the Wildfire Safety Division of the CPUC as part of the mandate within the current 2020 PGE Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) and 2021 plan as it is developed to meet with local fire safe councils.

**Participants:** Fire Safe Occidental, the County Supervisor's Office, CPUC Wildfire Safety Division, PG&E

**Timing:** Year-round

**Potential Cooperating Agencies and/or Programs:** Public Utilities Commission

**Potential Funding Sources:** To be determined

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# COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN APPENDIX-C

For the Community of Occidental, California

## Development

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was developed by Fire Safe Occidental with guidance and support from Fire Safe Sonoma, the County of Sonoma, and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. This CWPP shall supplement the Sonoma County Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Fire Safe Occidental  
<http://firesafeoccidental.org>

## **DISCLAIMER**

Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view(s) of any governmental agency, organization, corporation or individual with which the authors may be affiliated.

This publication is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information in regard to the subject matter covered. This Community Wildfire Prevention Plan (the Plan) is a work in progress. Various changes are anticipated throughout the Plan over the next several years.

Readers are urged to consult with their own agencies having jurisdiction regarding the use or implementation of this Plan, as well as their own legal counsel on matters of concern.

While the publisher and authors have used their best efforts in preparing this Plan, they make no representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents and specifically disclaim any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. No warranty may be created or extended by receiving this publication. The advice and strategies contained herein may not be suitable for your specific situation. The publisher, sponsors and authors shall not be liable for any loss of profit or any other damages, including but not limited to, special incidental and/or consequential damages.

This CWPP is not to be construed as indicative of project “activity” as defined under the “Community Guide to the California Environmental Quality Act, Chapter Three, Projects Subject to CEQA.” Any actual project activities undertaken that meet this definition of project activity and are undertaken by the CWPP participants or agencies listed shall meet with local, state and federal environmental compliance requirements.

Because the Sonoma County CWPP does not legally commit any public agency to a specific course of action or conduct and thus, is not a project subject to CEQA or NEPA. However, if and once grant funding is received from state or federal agencies and prior to work performed pursuant to the Sonoma County CWPP or a local CWPP, or prior to issuance of discretionary permits or other entitlements by any public agencies to which CEQA or NEPA may apply, the lead agency must consider whether the proposed activity is a project under CEQA or NEPA. If the lead agency makes a determination that the proposed activity is a project subject to CEQA or NEPA, the lead agency must perform environmental review pursuant to CEQA or NEPA.

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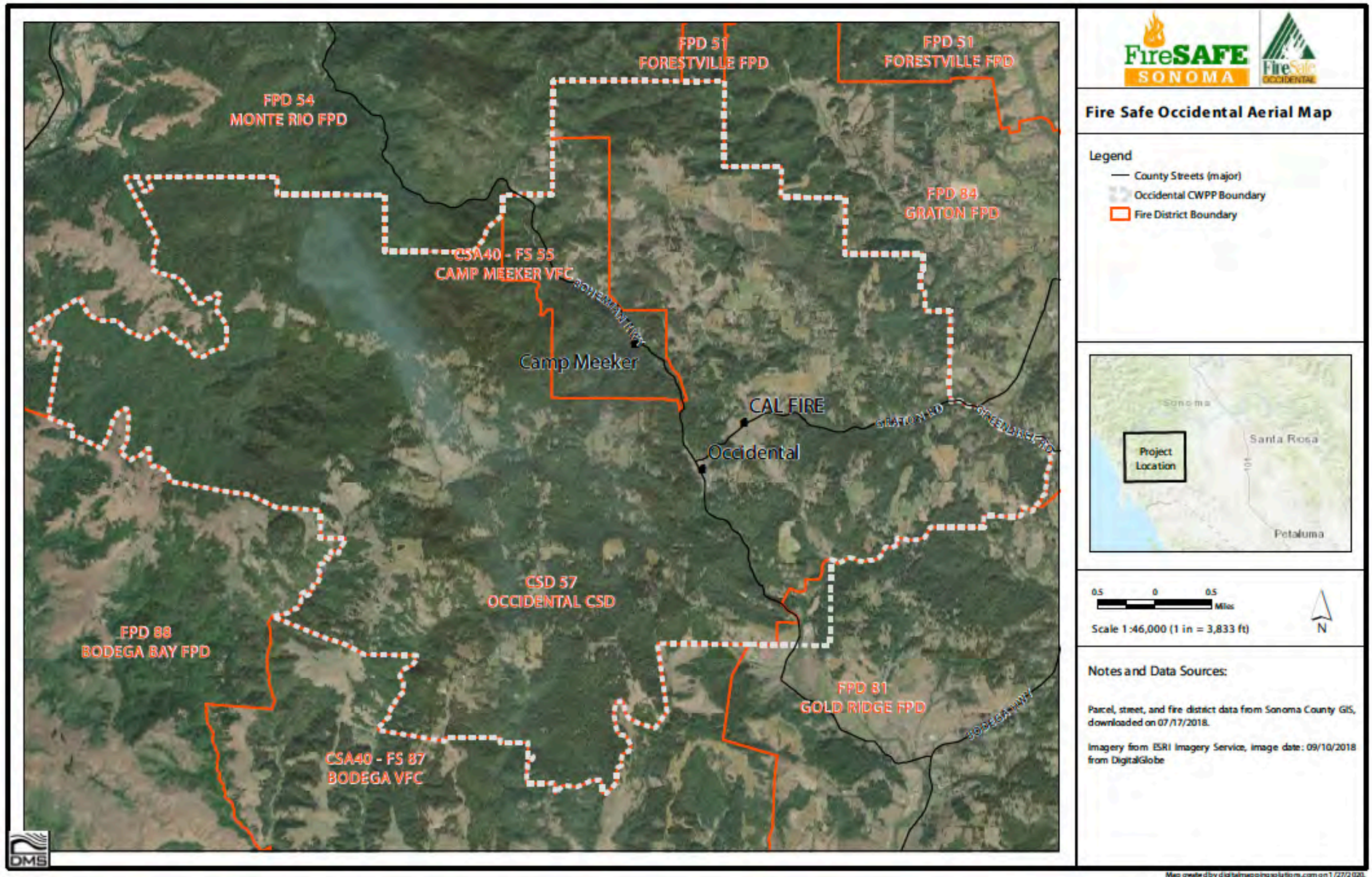
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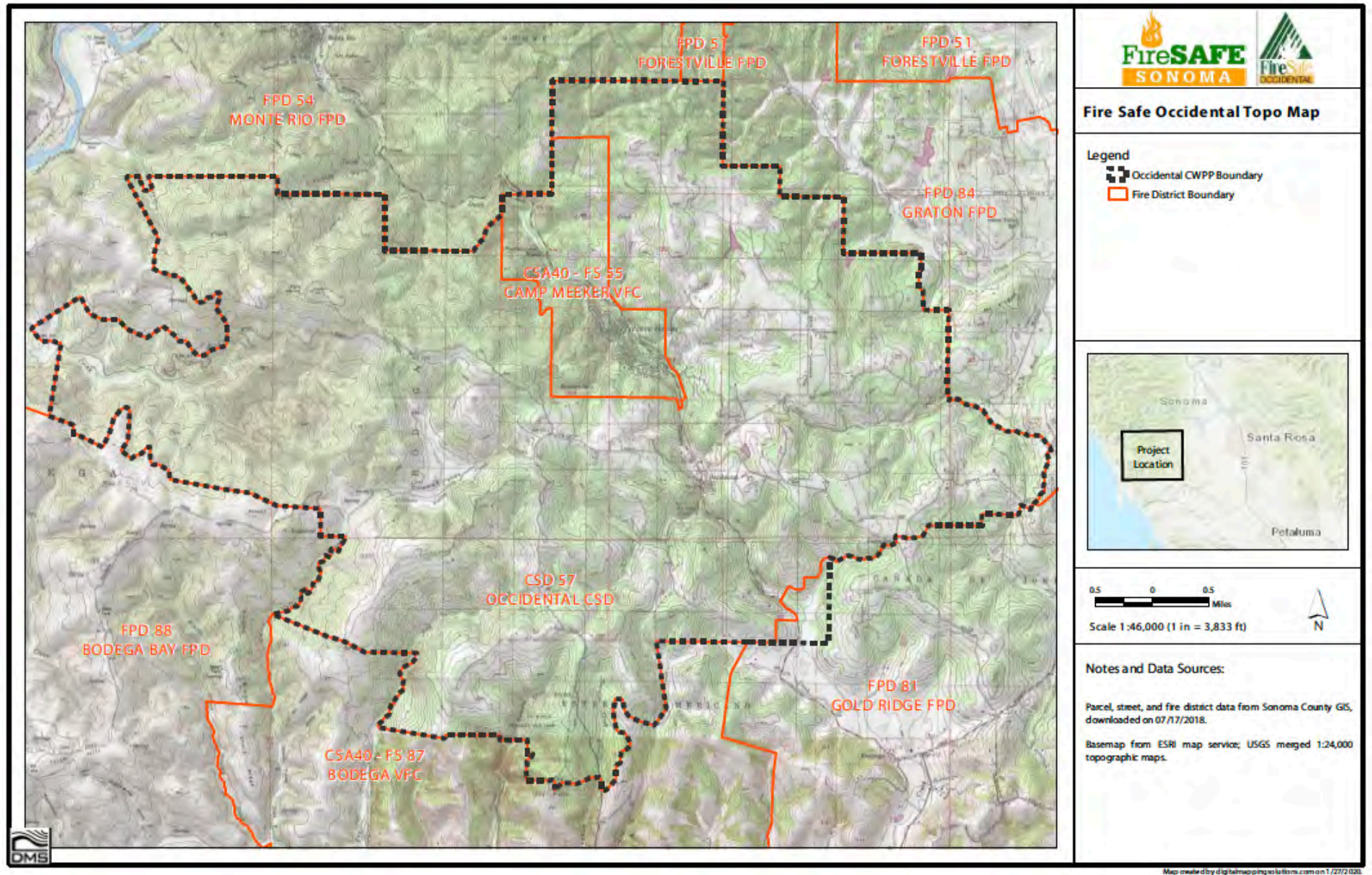


# AERIAL MAP



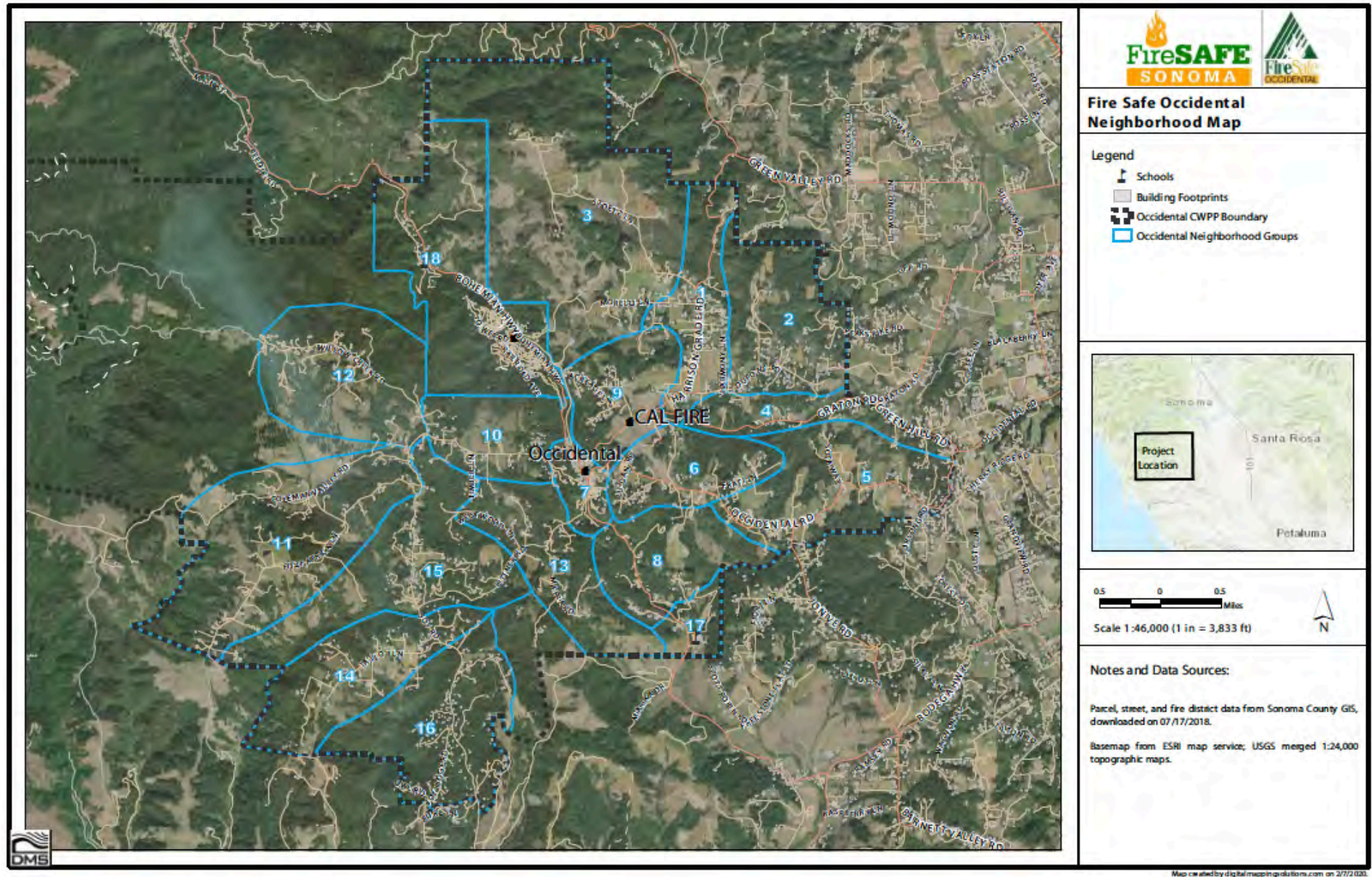


# TOPOGRAPHY



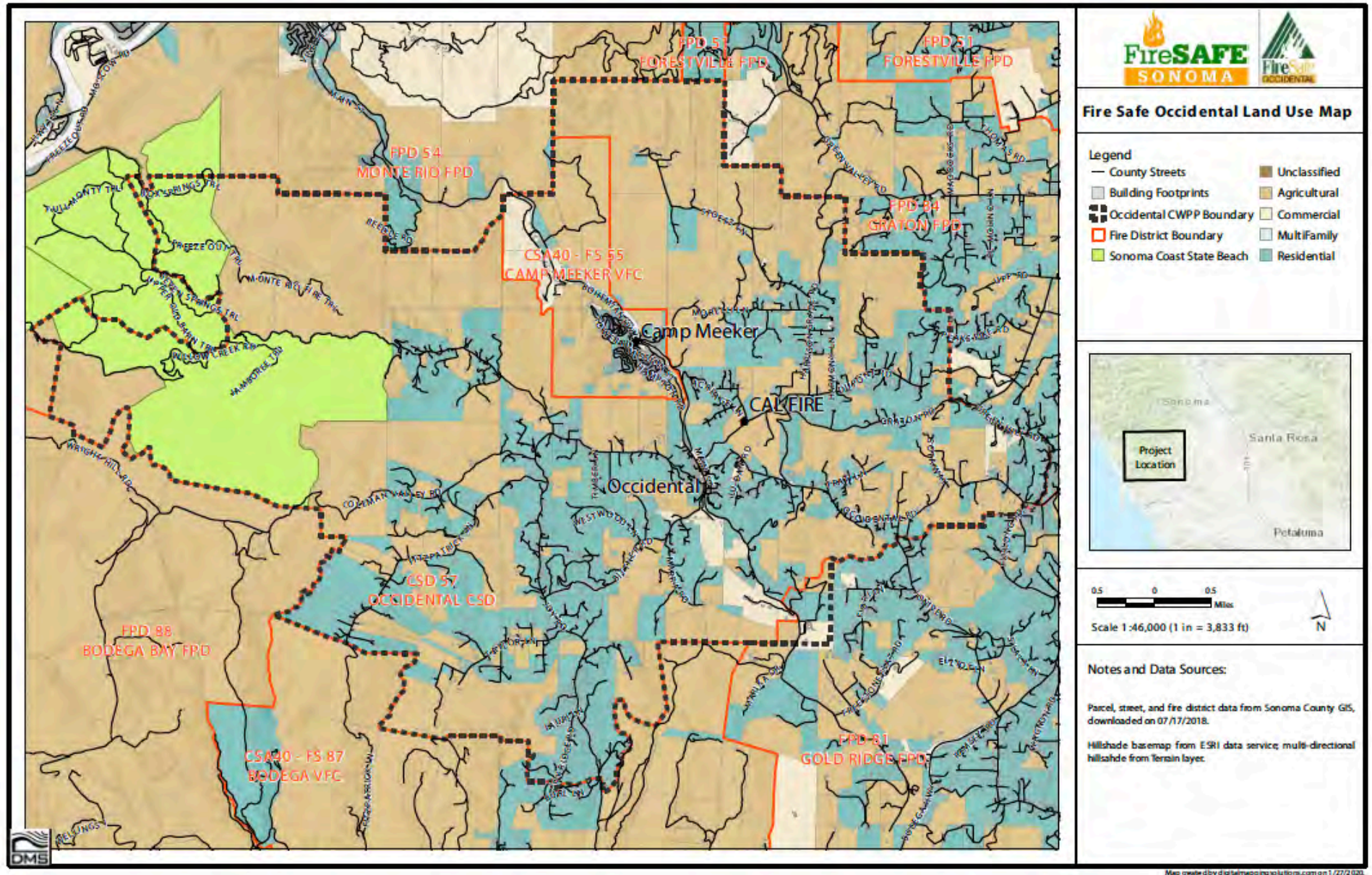


# NEIGHBORHOODS



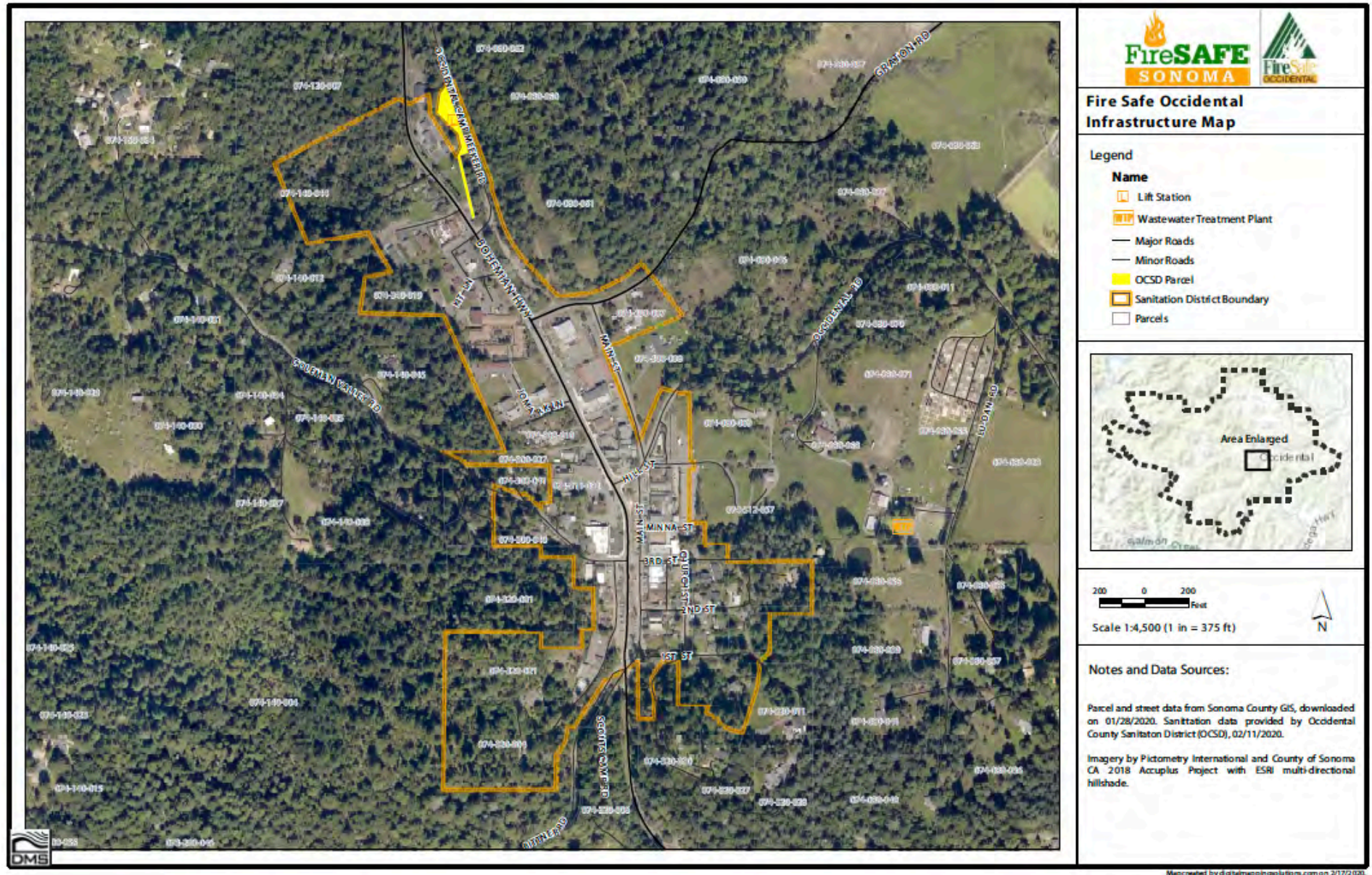


# LAND USE



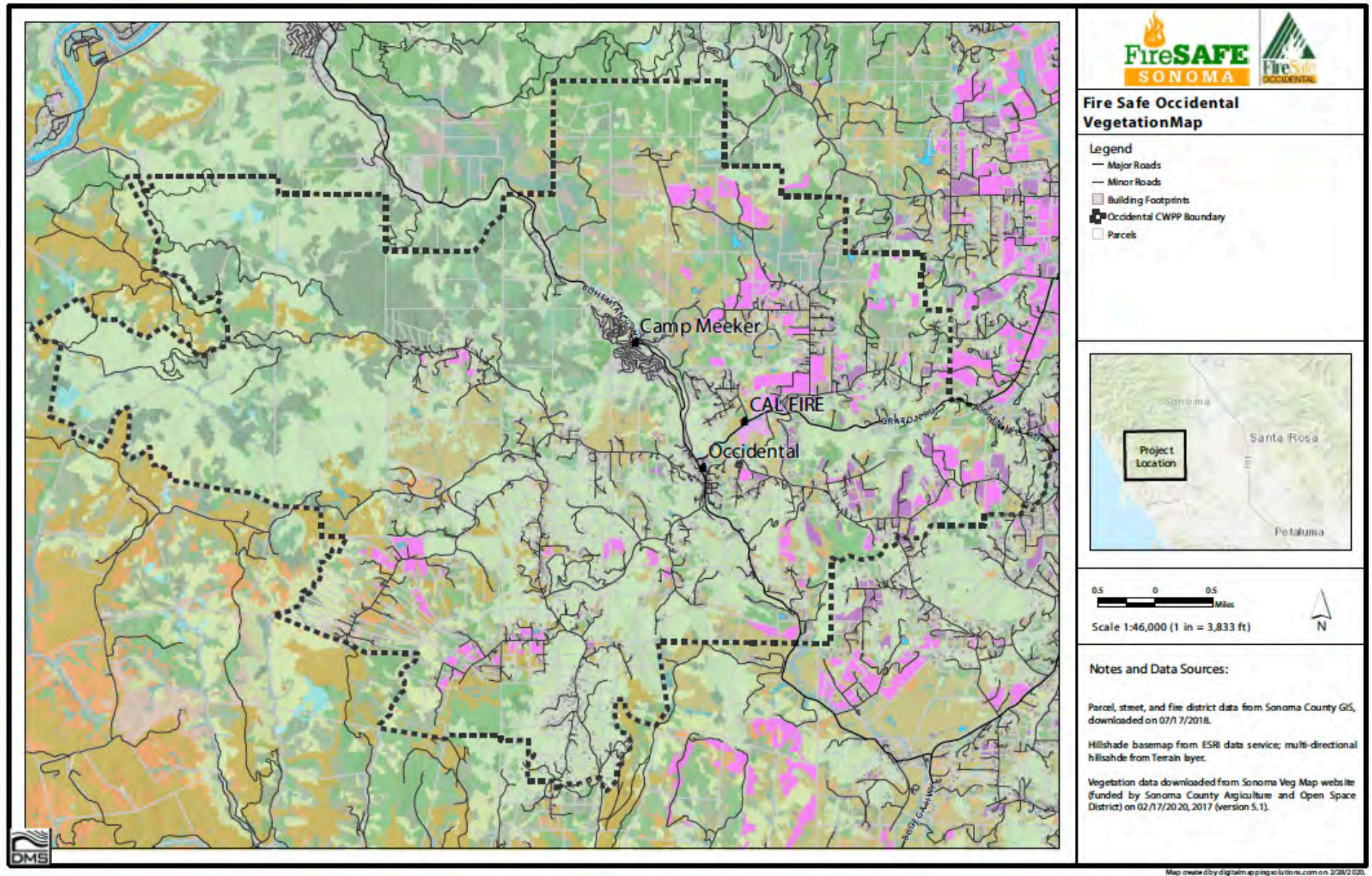


# INFRASTRUCTURE



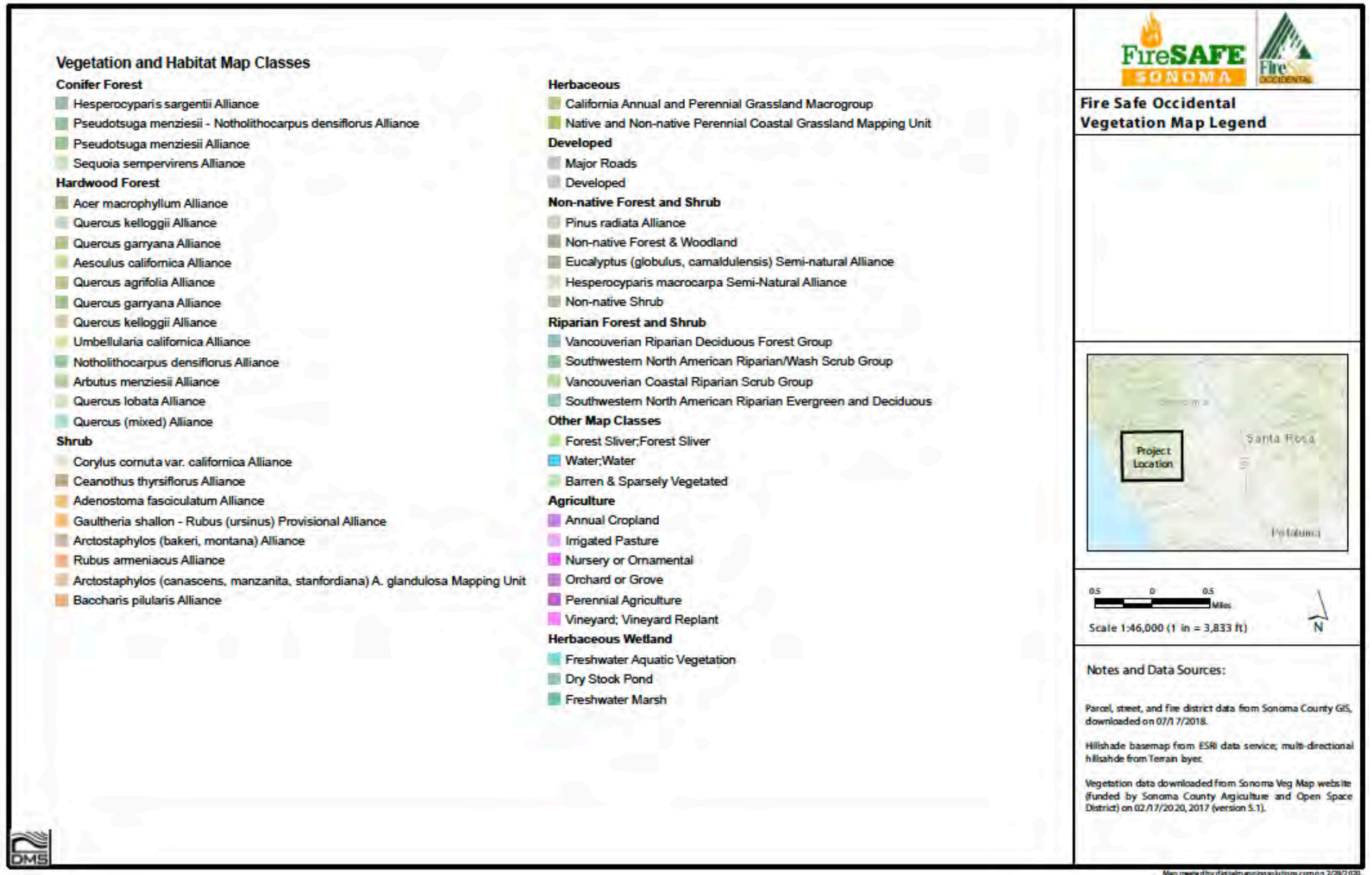


# VEGETATION





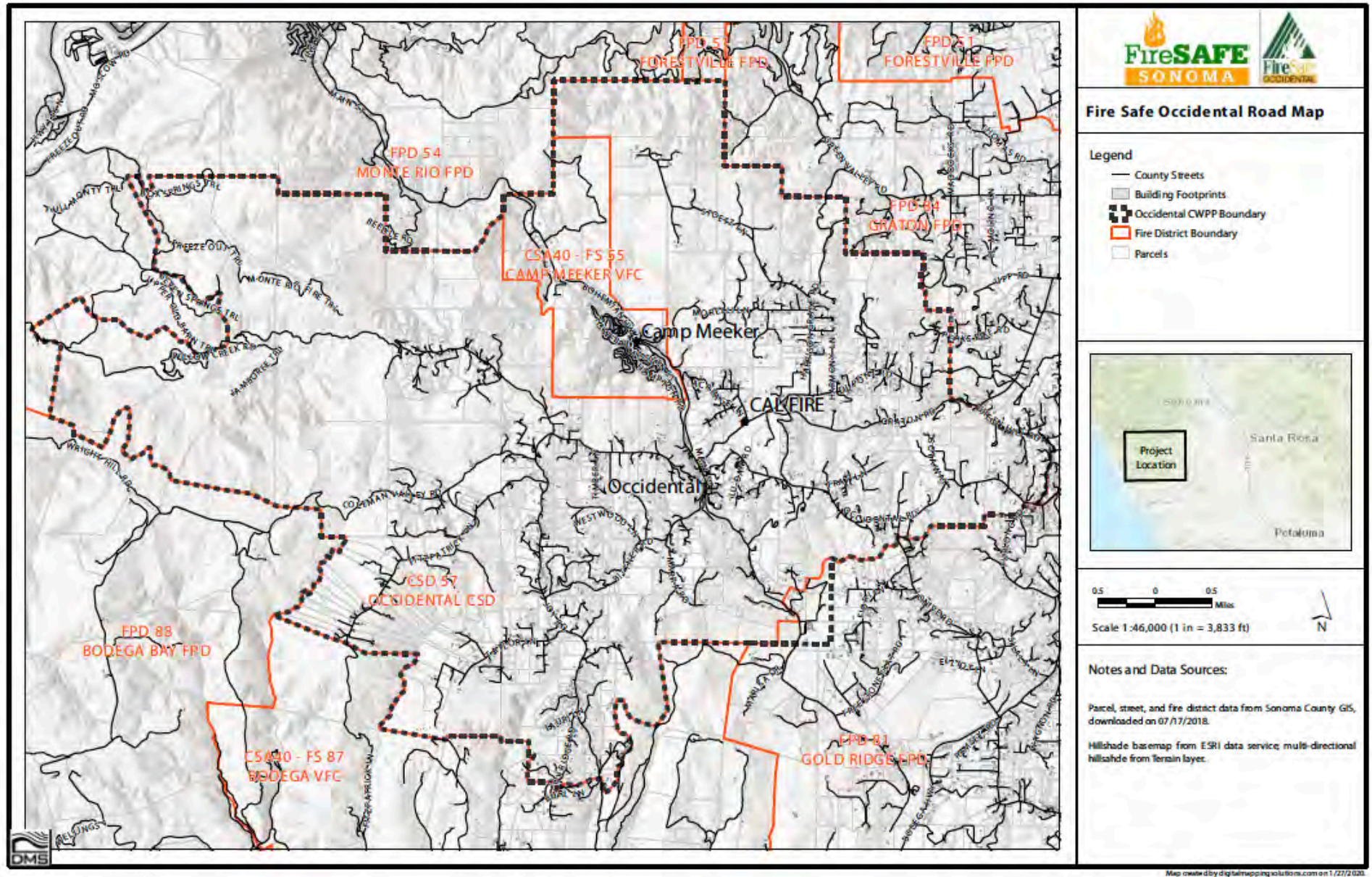
## Vegetation Map Legend



Map created by digitalmapping.com on 2/28/2020.

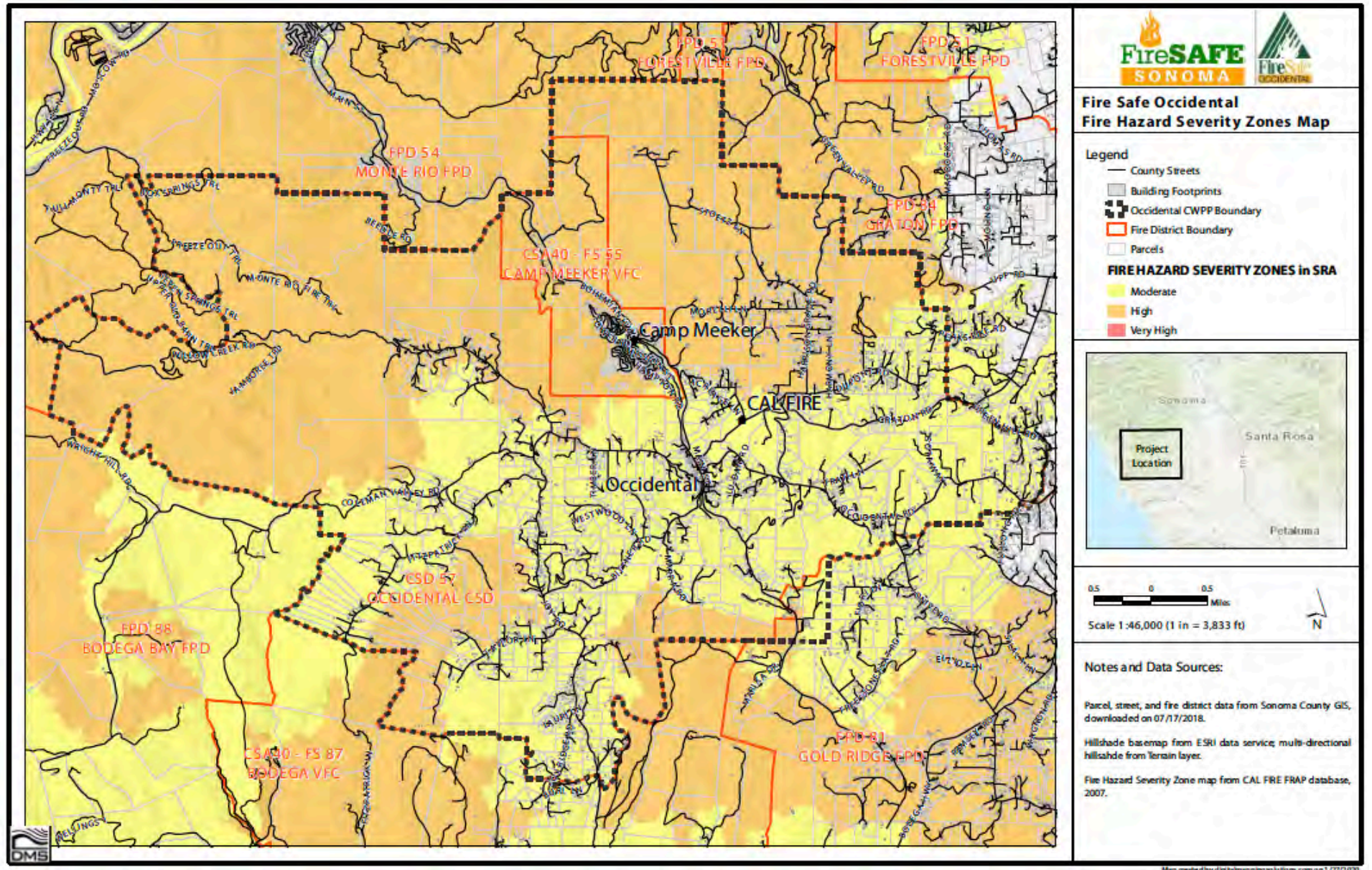


# ROADS



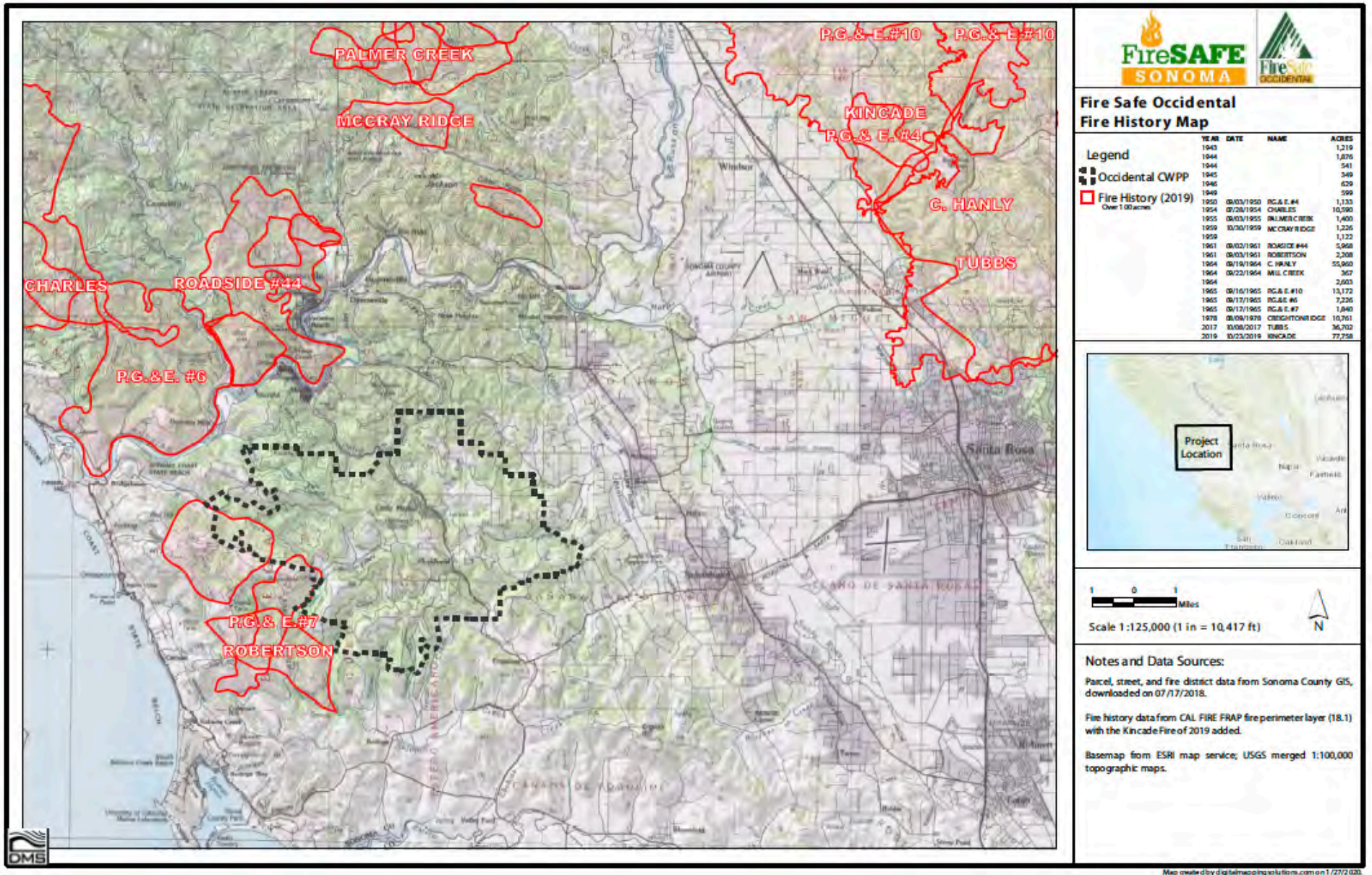


# FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES



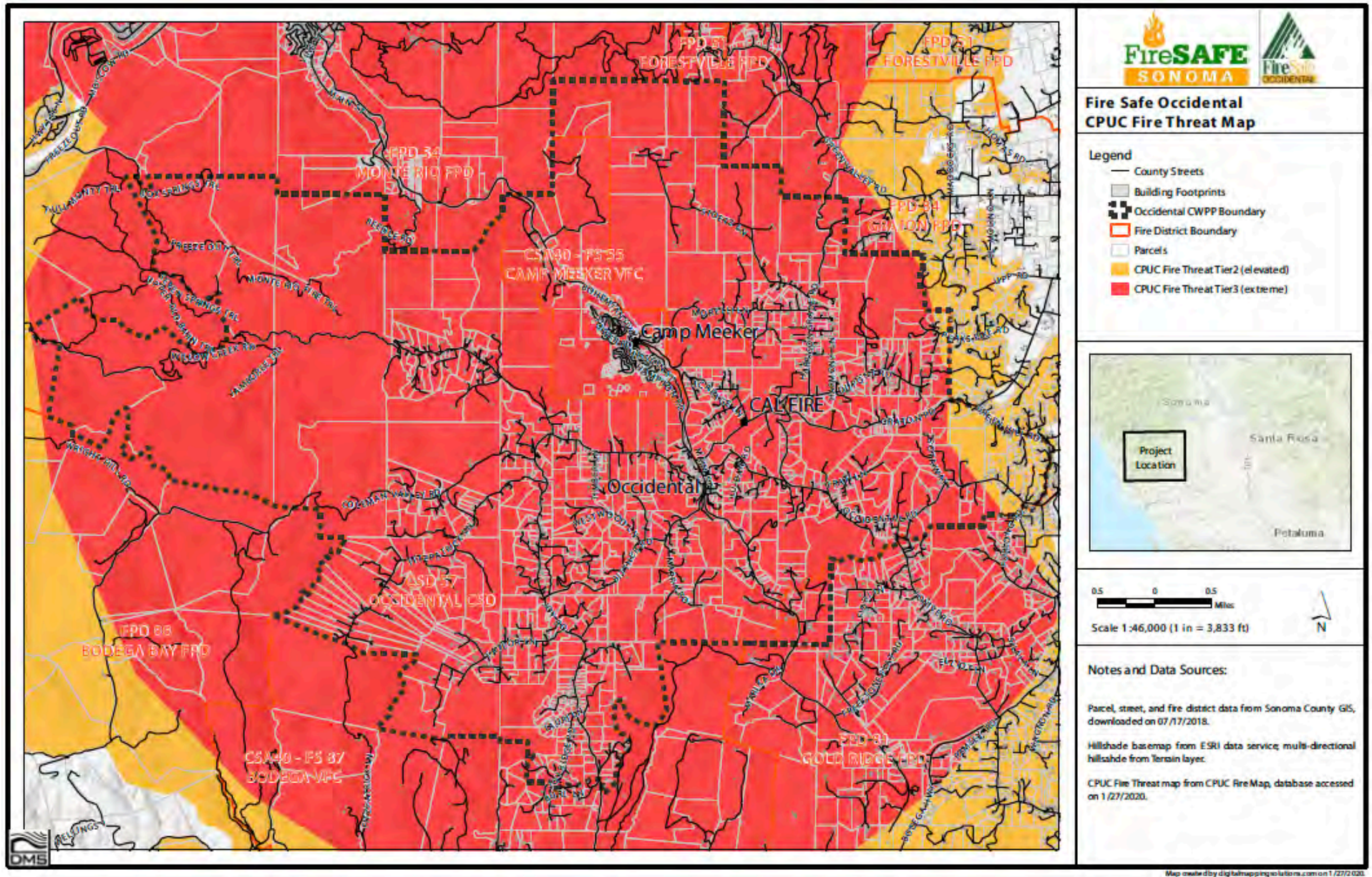


# FIRE HISTORY





# CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION FIRE THREAT





# VACANCY

