SECTION III: VALUES AT RISK

A: ASSETS AT RISK

Assets at risk are valued resources that can be damaged or destroyed by wildland fire. In addition to protecting citizen and firefighter safety, the California Fire Plan identifies the following assets warranting consideration in pre-fire planning: watersheds and water, wildlife, habitat, special status plants and animals, scenic-cultural and historic areas, recreation, rangeland, structures, and air quality.

The Marin Municipal Water District is the oldest private water purveyor in the State of California. The Mt. Tamalpais watershed, feeding a system of six reservoirs, supplies central and southern Marin County with 75% of their fresh water. Given the area's seasonal rainfall, any major wildfire impacting the heavily forested watershed will result in major silting and subsequent degradation of water quality in the watershed.

This watershed—as well as lands managed by Marin County Open Space, State Parks, and the National Park Service—are largely contiguous. They harbor several endangered, threatened, and special-status species. Two prominent species that come to mind are coho salmon and northern spotted owl. The area is also part of a major migrating bird flyway and nesting area.

Marin County is also a major tourist destination. The California State Parks (Mt. Tamalpais, Samuel P. Taylor, China Camp, and Stinson Beach), the National Park Service's Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Muir Woods National Monument, and Pt. Reyes National Seashore attract 2.5 million visitors annually. A major wildfire effecting any of these attractions would have an enormous impact on the local economy for years after the event.

Marin County's agricultural land base includes nearly 137,000 acres of privately owned agriculturally zoned land and 32,000 acres of federally-owned land that is leased to agricultural operators. Types of agricultural operations include cow/calf, dairy, sheep, row crops, grapes, hay/silage, tree crops, poultry/eggs, aquaculture, cut flowers, and nursery crops. The gross value of all agricultural production was $56,181,338 in 2010.

Finally, there are 73,311 structures in the County's identified Wildland-Urban Interface, with an assessed value of $35.7 billion. The impact of a major wildland fire on Marin County's property tax base, and hence the County's budget would be catastrophic. As such, we have focused on the most highly valued asset—structures—with the greatest at-risk structures within the wildland-urban interface.

B: COMMUNITIES AT RISK

To help protect people and property from potential catastrophic wildfire, the National Fire Plan allocates funding for projects designed to reduce the fire risks to communities. A fundamental step in achieving this goal was the identification of communities that are at high risk of damage from wildfire. With California's extensive Wildland-Urban Interface situation, the list of communities extends beyond just those adjacent to Federal lands. There are 1,287 communities currently on the California Communities at Risk List. Marin County has 23 communities at risk that are tabulated below.

Community	California At-Risk	Federal Threat	Federally Regulated
Bolinas	√	√	√
Corte Madera	√		
Fairfax	√		
Inverness	√	√	√
Inverness Park	√	√	
Kentfield	√		√
Lagunitas-Forest Knolls	√	√	√
Larkspur	√	√	
Lucas Valley-Marinwood	√		
Marin City	√	√	√
Mill Valley	√	√	√
Novato	√		
Olema	√	√	√
Ross	√		
San Anselmo	√		
San Rafael	√		
Santa Venetia	√		
Sausalito	√	√	√
Stinson Beach	√	√	√
Strawberry	√		√
Tamalpais-Homestead Valley	√	√	√
Tiburon	√		
Woodacre	√		