APPENDIX A: HIGH PRIORITY PRE FIRE PROJECTS

CALFIRE NEU Fuel Moistures

Every other week, fuel moistures are collected, dried and weighed and posted to the NFMD (National Fuel Moisture Database). NEU has one of the most complete historical records of fuel moistures in the state. Collection species and locational information can all be found on NFMD.

Website http://72.32.186.224/nfmd/public/index.php

Collection points:

USBOR - Chamise

Nevada City – 1000 hr fuels

Tyler Foote – Manzanita

Reader – Manzanita and live oak

Historical Fire Perimeters

Historic fire perimeters provide a mechanism for estimating current fuel conditions within burned areas, providing a starting point for field validation. Fire perimeter data is used during major fires to display where fires have taken place in order to take advantage of reduced fuels and previous control lines.

CAL FIRE NEU exceeds state collection standards and has policy in place to collect GPS perimeters for all wildland fires in the unit greater than 10 acres and all prescribed fire activity. Information collected includes incident number, start and end dates and cause.

Data is submitted annually to CAL FIRE's Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) and is available for download by the public in GIS format.

http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/data/frapgisdata/download.asp?spatialdist=1&rec=fire

CALMAPPER

Cal MAPPER is a new forest improvement and fuel reduction project activity tracking database. This effort has been organized to bring the Department's records from various fuels reduction and forest improvement programs into a common database.

Cal MAPPER is an acronym and stand for CAL FIRE Management Activity Project Planning and Event Reporter. It contains GIS and tabular information. The goal is to improve project tracking and fiscal reporting, and to support emergency response, planning, and assessment.

The Pre-Fire Engineer is responsible for collecting all data from CAL FIRE programs and its cooperators, entering it into Cal MAPPER and submitting it to Sacramento quarterly.

Fireplan

The current version of the statewide fireplan works to answer the question of "how do we utilize and live with the risk of wildfire?"

The PFE works cooperatively with Unit/Region/ Sacramento Staff in developing and analyzing data for Pre-Fire Management Plants and for public stakeholder meetings. They perform Level of Service (LOS) analysis, identify and validate values-at-risk, collect

and display fire history and fire weather on GIS maps, and develop high risk/high value maps of the unit.

Training

NEU Pre-Fire works with unit training to provide the unit training in fire behavior, GPS use, map reading and Field Observer (FOBS).

GIS

Pre-Fire works with counterparts from other units, Sacramento, local counties, USDA Forest Service, BLM, BOR, NPS and any local entities to share data and communicate projects. Placer County and Yuba County have started up local user GIS groups.

SRA / DPA Review

CAL FIRE is required to maintain official maps of State Responsibility Areas (SRA), where the State has financial responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires as determined by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (PRC 4102-4125). CAL FIRE conducts a 5 year review of SRA maps as required by PRC 4125 to capture changes in land use, for example conversion in or out of agriculture, areas of densification due to development, and other relevant changes. SRA data are updated on a more frequent basis to capture annexations and changes in federal ownership that affect SRA status.

To provide a level of wildland fire protection for the intermingled lands “equivalent” to similar lands protected directly by the state or the federal agencies, the said intermingled and adjacent lands have been divided into practical “Direct Protection Areas” (DPAs) delineated by boundaries regardless of statutory responsibility, and this protection is assumed by administrative units of either the federal agencies or the state. The boundary will be reviewed annually during the process of developing operating plans. Proposed changes must be mutually agreed upon prior to forwarding for approval.

Both major and minor adjustments are encouraged based on changes in protection capability, changed land ownership or use, or Board of Forestry policy which states that "lands which can reasonably be more effectively protected by the state should not be contracted to the USFS for protection."

Fire Hazard Severity Zones

PRC 4201-4204 and Govt. Code 51175-89 direct the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to map areas of significant fire hazards based on fuels, terrain, weather, and other relevant factors. These zones, referred to as Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ), then define the application of various mitigation strategies to reduce risk associated with wildland fires and drive Title 24 requirements for building standards.

The Pre-Fire Engineer is the Unit representative for testing the model and validating all data produced for the Fire Hazard Severity Zone model. The Pre-Fire engineer also attends all public meetings, representing as a technical expert.

CWPP Development

CAL FIRE pre-fire participates in the development and advising stages of Community Wildfire Protection Planning Documents within all of our counties of responsibility.

RAWS Maintenance and Monitoring

Pre-Fire is responsible for monitoring the Unit RAWS stations and working with the vendor each year to complete annual maintenance.