

SECTION III: VALUES

A: VALUES

VALUES AT RISK

Water quality has proven to be another example of a critical asset within Riverside County. Water stored in reservoirs within the county is supplied to businesses and residences throughout the Los Angeles Basin as well as the Inland Empire. Maintenance of water quality is crucial to Riverside County's 1.5 million residents and the support of its largest business, agriculture. Public consumption, recreation, and hydro-electricity are all affected by the quality of water. There are 8 reservoirs within the county that supply water for drinking, recreation, or hydroelectricity. They are: Lake Perris, Lake Mathews, Vail Reservoir, Lake Hemet, Canyon Lake, Lake Elsinore, Lake Skinner and Diamond Valley Lake. The following is a summary of the assets at risk, by Battalion for Riverside Unit. The information primarily is in consideration to the potential for large and damaging wild land fires, and the potential for a significant amount of structures damaged.

Battalion 1 – Perris

Significant damage would most likely be seen in the east side of the Perris Valley between Station 3 (Nuview) and Station 54 (Homeland), as there are some high dollar homes in the area. The Good Meadow area has the potential for large and damaging fires with a large potential for structure loss. This is due to the large amount of mobile homes and scattered single-family dwellings, this presents a significant exposure problem in the event of a fast moving grass fires.

Battalion 2 – Lake Elsinore

The primary assets at risk in B-2 are homes interspersed in the WUI. There is also a set of major electrical transmission lines on the East side of I-15 that pass through the County Ecological preserve. I-15 can and will be affected in the event of a major fire incident on either side of the freeway causing potential closures and economic/traffic impacts. Following any major fire occurrence on the Trabuco District, a severe winter will pose flooding and life safety risks. The West portion of the Battalion has suffered several major fires in recent history to include the Decker canyon fire in August of 1959 which claimed the lives of 5 firefighters, and the Ortega fire in 1988 which burned 16,000 acres from Orange County into Lakeland Village. The valley also experiences a unique weather pattern in the summer months called the "Elsinore effect". Valley floor heating creates a thermal low which draws a strong onshore flow over the Ortega Mountains and down into the valley creating strong down slope/down canyon winds during the heat of the day.

Battalion 3 – Beaumont

The assets at risk within Battalion 3 are predominately residential and recreational. The primary recreational assets are located in Poppet Flats, and Bogart Park in Cherry Valley. One of the areas at risk is the Morongo Indian Reservation. In this area, there is poor hazard reduction compliance, arson issues, and high amounts of off-road vehicle use. A fire in the Banning Water Canyon is a risk to the water supply of the water district as well as a threat to the San Bernardino National Forest Wilderness and the Community of Oak Glen. Additionally, annual maintenance of fire roads including the International Truck Trail, Mile-High Truck Trail, and the Cherry Truck Trail, has been completed allowing critical access to the 13 areas. Fires in these areas can be expected to burn through multiple burning periods.

Battalion 4 – Corona

The major assets at risk from a Santa Ana River bottom fire are the structures that line the bluffs overlooking the river and the potential loss of wildlife habitat. There is a problem gaining access to a good portion of the river bottom. A small portion of the Chino Hills is located along the west end of the County line and on a normal fire day we are able to contain a fire there to 100 acres or less, but when there is a Santa Ana wind event, a fire has the potential to run into Orange County rapidly, threatening hundreds of homes in the Yorba Linda/Carbon Canyon areas. The Chino Hills State Park covers just over 13,000 acres of the Chino Hills and holds recreational values and wildlife habitat. The Dawson Canyon and Spanish Hills areas consist of the hills south of Home Gardens running east to Lake Hills and running south basically along the east side of I-15 to Lake Street. The assets at risk generally consist of the approximately 135 homes located in the two areas. The assets at risk in the foothills that run along the Cleveland National Forest (Trabuco Ranger District) from the Orange County line to the Battalion 2/4 dividing line consist of the numerous housing developments that are adjacent to the wild land areas and the numerous houses built in some of the canyons and hillsides.

Battalion 5 – San Jacinto

The major assets at risk within Battalion 5 are the residential areas of the San Jacinto Valley, and the community of Sage which has classical WUI operational problems with many homes and ranches. The biggest risk currently facing Battalion 5 is the west-facing slopes below the communities of Idyllwild and Pine Cove. A repeat of the 1974 Soboba Fire is now possible due to fuel conditions. Also at risk in Battalion 5 are the areas south of Diamond Valley Lake, specifically Avery Canyon, Gible road and Polly Butte, and the foothills surrounding Simpson Park, located south of the community of Hemet. A fire starting at the east end of Simpson Park, in conjunction with Santa Ana wind conditions, has the potential to be a multimillion dollar loss fire.

Battalion 11 – Mountain

Station 23 – Pine Cove

The assets at risk in the Pine Cove/Idyllwild area include residences, business, and a significant number of camps, which are typically occupied by children throughout the summer. The potential problems faced in the communities include: difficult ingress and egress, potential for smoky conditions and limited visibility coupled with narrow; winding roads, power lines throughout forested and residential areas, and steep rocky terrain.

Station 29 – Anza

The assets at risk in the Anza area are primarily the large number of homes scattered throughout the brush fields in the valley. All of the large public assets, such as the Trinity Boys Home property, propane storage facility, schools, and the community itself are well protected with large areas of defensible space. With the predominately east wind influence present, any fire started within the brush fields to the south and east ends of the valley will have the potential for a large damaging fire due to the response times of both initial attack engines and extended attack engines. This with the scattered homes in these areas will cause a chance of property loss. The northern portion of the valley has large stands of brush Fuel models 4 and 6 that can be influenced by winds both east and west that can push fire through the areas up the south slopes of Thomas and Cahuilla Mts. to the USFS lands. This area also has scattered homes throughout the brush areas. With the exception of the Bailey fire an 1993, there has been no real large fire history with the valley area in the past 15- 20 years.

Station 30 – Pinyon

The major assets at risk located in the Pinyon area consist of scattered, residential single-family dwellings located in and around fuel model 4. The BLM Santa Rosa National Monument is also located in this Battalion.

Station 53 – Garner Valley

Assets at Risk include scattered residences and ranches, community areas and several campgrounds and recreation areas. A fire near Lake Hemet would affect the local tourism and commerce of the area as well as provide an evacuation hazard for people at the campgrounds and lake. Fuel reduction projects and thinning has reduced the fire threat for some of the area, but persistent drought has left an abundance of dead and down fuels in areas that have not been cleared or thinned.

Station 77 – Lake Riverside

Aguanga is a rural community and within the last decade a large increase in private dwellings has been noticed. Several senior trailer parks, an elementary school, casino, and a private extreme sports camp are located within its boundaries. San Bernardino national forest skirts the northern boundaries of Station 77's Primary Response Area.

Battalion 13 – Menifee

Battalion 13 is 42 square miles and has roughly the following boundaries: North of Murrieta city, South of Perris city, west of the Winchester area and just East of Elsinore (halfway down Railroad Canyon Road). The area with the highest potential for large and damaging fires is in the area of Menifee, Station 68's PRA. The primary housing construction in the area of Cottonwood Canyon is single and doublewide mobile homes. The hazards include, but are not limited to: Limited access and egress, limited water supply, and housing construction.

The area south of Bundy Canyon Road may also pose a problem, however it is a north facing aspect. During north wind conditions, coupled with a wildland ignition, the potential exists for fire to rapidly spread south to Murrieta.

Battalion 15 – Temecula

Station 12 – Temecula

Major assets at risk in the Temecula area include the De Luz area (A major Avocado producing region) inter-mixed with very high dollar housing and the Santa Margarita river drainage, which runs from Temecula to the Pacific Ocean. Old Town Temecula is also at risk, due to prevalent westerly afternoon winds, which have pushed fire downhill into Temecula in the past. Additionally, a community of homeless has set up a decent size encampment at the mouth of the Margarita drainage. The eastern portion of the battalion has seen an explosion in construction the last 10 years with hundreds of homes and ranches being built in the WUI environment. The potential is here as everywhere in the county for a large high dollar fire. If there were a start in the Santa Margarita drainage, it would be difficult to achieve initial attack success, due to fuels, topography, and Accessibility.

Station 75 – Bear Creek

The major assets risks within Station 75's Initial Attack area (SRA) include hundreds of residential structures in the LaCresta and Tenaja area with a minimum square footage of 4,000 feet up to a maximum of 12,000 square feet on five-acre parcels. This area is a significant

watershed and environmental sensitive area. Included in station 75's PRA is one of the county's oldest partners in the VMP process, the 6,500-acre Santa Rosa Nature Conservancy, which contains over 10 miles of roads only accessible by Type III engines. Recreational areas include Tenaja Falls and a portion of the Wildomar off Highway Vehicle area on the Cleveland National Forest, both of which are located in the initial attack area. There are also numerous equestrian facilities and trails in the LaCresta area. A significant potential for a large destructive wildfire exists within Station 75's area. This potential includes reasons listed above, a lack of any significant recorded fire history, and climatic conditions relating to the daily coastal influences. These large communities with hundreds of significantly sized residences within the wild land urban interface have only two routes of ingress or egress in the event of an emergency. The general population frequently uses recreational areas and opportunities in this area to access the National Forest. In the event of a wildfire there is a significant reflex time to augment required resources to affect evacuations and structure protection necessary in the area.

92 – Wolf Creek

Major assets at risk within Station 92's first in area include hundreds of custom and ranch style residential structures with some equestrian activity. Accessibility, water supplies and water sources are good to these residential structures. The Pala/Temecula Grade area, where there is a very heavy brush load, and an active real estate market has generated large, high dollar homes in the area. There are also two smaller and older style developments/communities, which have limited access and poor water supplies. As a general rule, access to the residential structures can be made by Type I engines, however access to the wildland is limited to Type III engines.

96 – Glen Oaks

Major assets at risk within Station 96's first in area include the Glen Oaks area and the Temecula Wine Country (a major grape / wine producing region). This area has orchards intermixed with very high dollar housing. This area also has a significant watershed and environmentally sensitive areas.

Battalion 17 – Lake Mathews

The major assets at risk within Battalion 17 are scattered residential areas in the Mead Valley, Glen Valley, Lake Matthews, and Gavilan Hills areas and the two large Ecological Reserves the Lake Matthews Estelle Mountain Reserve and Harford Springs Reserve. The structures are primarily single family homes ranging from mobile homes to multi-million dollar homes. The property surrounding the Lake Matthews Reserve has an established Fire Plan which includes planning for a major fire running through the surrounding areas of the Lake Matthews Reservoir which is a drinking water reservoir for Southern California. The potential water run-off and sediment could cause an issue.

B: COMMUNITIES AT RISK

	Place Name	County Name	Federal Threat	Federally Regulated	Year
1	Aguanga	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
2	Anza	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
3	Banning	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
4	Beaumont	Riverside		✓	2001
5	Cabazon	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
6	Calimesa	Riverside			2001
7	Canyon Lake	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
8	Cathedral City	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
9	Cherry Valley	Riverside		✓	2001
10	Coachella	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
11	Corona	Riverside		✓	2001
12	Desert Hot Springs	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
13	East Hemet	Riverside		✓	2001
14	El Cerrito	Riverside			2001
15	Gilman Hot Springs	Riverside		✓	2001
16	Glen Avon	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
17	Hemet	Riverside		✓	2001
18	Highgrove	Riverside			2001
19	Home Gardens	Riverside			2001
20	Homeland	Riverside			2001
21	Idyllwild-Pine Cove	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
22	Indian Wells	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
23	Indio	Riverside		✓	2001
24	Juniper Flats	Riverside		✓	2001
25	La Quinta	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
26	Lake Elsinore	Riverside		✓	2001
27	Lakeland Village	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
28	Lakeview	Riverside		✓	2001
29	March Air Force Base	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
30	Mead Valley	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
31	Mira Loma	Riverside			2001
32	Moreno Valley	Riverside		✓	2001
33	Morongo Indian Reservation	Riverside	✓	✓	2001

	<u>Place Name</u>	<u>County Name</u>	<u>Federal Threat</u>	<u>Federally Regulated</u>	<u>Year</u>
34	Mountain Center	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
35	Murrieta	Riverside			2001
36	Murrieta Hot Springs	Riverside			2001
37	Norco	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
38	Nuevo	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
39	Palm Desert	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
40	Palm Desert Country Club	Riverside		✓	2001
41	Palm Springs	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
42	Pechanga Indian Reservation	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
43	Pedley	Riverside			2001
44	Perris	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
45	Pinyon Pines	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
46	Quail Valley	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
47	Rancho Mirage	Riverside		✓	2001
48	Riverside	Riverside		✓	2001
49	Romoland (Ethanac)	Riverside			2001
50	Rubidoux (West Riverside)	Riverside			2001
51	Sage	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
52	San Jacinto	Riverside		✓	2001
53	Sedco Hills	Riverside			2001
54	Snow Creek	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
55	Sun City	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
56	Sunnyslope	Riverside			2001
57	Temecula	Riverside		✓	2001
58	Thomas Mountain	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
59	Thousand Palms	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
60	Torres Martinez Indian Reservation	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
61	Valle Vista	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
62	White Water	Riverside	✓	✓	2001
63	Wildomar	Riverside		✓	2001
64	Winchester	Riverside		✓	2001
65	Woodcrest	Riverside		✓	2001