Unit Strategic Fire Plan
Santa Clara Unit

Last update: May 01, 2013

UNIT STRATEGIC FIRE PLAN AMENDMENTS

Date	Section Updated	Page Numbers Updated	Description of Update	Updated By
05/15/2013	Fire Ignition Statistics	13,14,15	Update Ignition Statistics	RAJSKUP
05/15/2013	Battalion Program Plans	37,38,39,40,41	Added Morgan Hill City Sch. A	RAJSKUP
05/15/2013	Maps	55	Add Unit Battalion Map	Rajskup

Table of Contents

Table of Contents ii

SIGNATURE PAGE 1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2

SECTION I: UNIT OVERVIEW 4

UNIT DESCRIPTION 4

UNIT PREPAREDNESS AND FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITIES 6

SECTION II: COLLABORATION 8

COMMUNITY / AGENCIES / FIRE SAFE COUNCILS 8

SECTION III: VALUES 9

B: COMMUNITIES 11

SECTION IV: PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES 12

A: FIRE PREVENTION 12

ENGINEERING & STRUCTURE IGNITABILITY 16

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION 17

B. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT 18

SECTION V: PRE- FIRE MANAGEMENT TACTICS 20

DIVISION / BATTALION / PROGRAM PLANS 20

APPENDIX A: PRE- FIRE PROJECTS 52

APPENDIX B: UNIT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 53

EXHIBITS: MAPS 54

SUPPLEMENT 2012 61

SIGNATURE PAGE

Unit Strategic Fire Plan developed for Santa Clara Unit:

This Plan:

- Was collaboratively developed. Interested parties, Federal, State, City, and County agencies within the Unit have been consulted and are listed in the plan.
- Identifies and prioritizes pre fire and post fire management strategies and tactics meant to reduce the loss of values at risk within the Unit.
- Is intended for use as a planning and assessment tool only. It is the responsibility of those implementing the projects to ensure that all environmental compliance and permitting processes are met as necessary.

S. Woodill _____ 6/20/2013 _____

Unit Chief **Date**

Steve Woodill

Jim Rajskup _____ 6/20/2013 _____

Pre-Fire Engineer **Date**

Jim Rajskup

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Santa Clara Unit Fire Management Plan documents the assessment of the fire situation in the unit, includes stakeholder contributions and priorities, and identifies strategic targets for pre-fire solutions as defined by the people who live and work with the local fire problem.

Responsibility for Pre Fire Engineering and Fire Protection Planning falls under the direction of the Fire Prevention Bureau. Pre Fire Engineering includes GIS mapping of assets at risk, wildland fuel belts, and the maintenance of various other GIS data layers to assess the existing levels of wildland protection services, identifies high-risk and high-value areas that are potential locations for costly and damaging wildfires, rank these areas in terms of priority needs, and prescribe what can be done to reduce future costs and losses.

This plan will utilize the seven strategic goals and Fire Plan Framework identified in the California Fire Plan and incorporates them into the planning and implementation process. The seven goals and framework components of the Santa Clara Fire Management Plan are as follows:

1. Identify and evaluate wildland fire hazards and recognize life, property and natural resource assets at risk, including watershed, habitat, social and other values of functioning ecosystems. Facilitate the sharing of all analyses and data collection across all ownerships for consistency in type and kind.

2. Articulate and promote the concept of land use planning as it relates to fire risk and individual landowner objectives and responsibilities.

3. Support and participate in the collaborative development and implantation of wildland fire protection plans and other local, county and regional plans that addresses fire protection and landowner objectives.

4. Increase awareness, knowledge and actions implemented by individuals and communities to reduce human loss and property damage from wildland fires, such as defensible space and other fuels reduction activities, fire prevention and fire safe building standards.

5. Develop a method to integrate fire and fuels management practices and landowner priorities and multiple jurisdictional efforts within local, state and federal responsibility area.

6. Determine the level of fire suppression resources necessary to protect the values and assets at risk identified during planning processes.

7. Address post-fire responsibilities for natural resource recovery, including watershed protection, reforestation and ecosystem restoration.

Fiscal Framework

The California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and CAL-FIRE are developing a fiscal framework for assessing and monitoring annual and long term changes in California's wildland fire protection systems.

- Applications of the Fire Plan Framework

i. Identify for state, federal, local officials and the public those areas of concentrated assets and high risk.

ii. Allow the Santa Clara Unit to create a more efficient fire protection system, focused on meaningful solutions for identified problem areas.

iii. Give citizens an opportunity to identify public and private assets to design and carry out projects to protect those assets.

iv. Identify, before fires start, where the most cost effective pre-fire and fire management investments can be implemented.

v. Encourage an intergovernmental approach to reducing costs plus losses.

vi. Enable policy makers and the public to focus on what can be done to reduce future costs plus losses from wildfire.

vii. Through the land use and safety element of the Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Joaquin and Stanislaus County's general plan, incorporate elements of the California Fire Plan so that the county plan's support the state plan.

SECTION I: UNIT OVERVIEW

UNIT DESCRIPTION

The Santa Clara Unit is unique to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, located between the east side of the San Francisco Bay and the western Sacramento / San Joaquin valley, encompassing the Counties of Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, and western portions of Stanislaus and San Joaquin. There are a total of 1.3 million acres of direct protection area within the unit with a combined population of 5.5 million people. Air quality control is covered by Valley Air Quality Management and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Santa Clara Unit management staff work closely with these agencies to ensure reduced smoke plume impact as a result of our Vegetation Management program and wildland fire activity upon the local population.

The major population centers include the cities of San Jose and the surrounding, "Silicon Valley," Oakland, Berkley, Livermore/Pleasanton, Walnut Creek, Concord, Martinez and Richmond. Numerous major highways run through the unit and daily traffic congestion is a constant within the unit. Technology, manufacturing, heavy industry, three major sea ports, and three major airports all drive a large portion of the 5th largest economy in the world. Given the large population concentration in the unit, recreational use and open space preservation issues are constantly being addressed

Vegetation types in the unit range from annual grasses and brush in the eastern areas to large 80 plus year old brush fields and Costal Redwood on the western edge of the unit. Recent large damaging fire's include the Lexington Fire (1985/ 13,128 acres), the Tunnel Fire (1991/ 1624 acres, 25 deaths and 3500 structures), the Croy Fire (2002/ 3007 acres and 300 structures), the Santa Clara Complex (2003/ 32,000 acres), the Lick Fire(2007/ 47,183 acres), and the Corral Fire (2009/ 12,500 acres). With the current population levels in the unit and the intrusion of urban development into wildland, the Santa Clara Unit is taking every opportunity to be pro-active wildland fuels management. The unit is heavily involved in fire protection planning programs with our local cooperators to address existing problems, and identify areas where we can implement changes early in the planning stages. The Santa Clara Unit is located in an active earth quake fault area, as evidenced by the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, which the unit was heavily involved in the emergency response to.

Two Fire Safe Council's, Santa Clara Fire Safe, Diablo Fire Safe, and a working group formed after the Tunnel Fire to address projects in the local jurisdictions in the East Bay Hills interface areas, the Hills Emergency Forum are involved with fire safety and planning in the five county area. With input and cooperation from these groups, and the other stakeholder groups, the Unit managers establish goals and projects in the unit Fire Management plan to reduce the threat of large damaging fires. The document is the units' template for fuels reduction projects to pending, completed, and for general public review, and comment. The Unit Fire Plan allows us to respond to the needs and concerns of the public and identifies projects to be funded through cooperative grants and donations.

In 2008, the Federal Farm Bill added a provision to federal law that required states to conduct an assessment of forest resources. These assessments were to identify key issues and trends affecting all forest and rangelands in each state. Spatial areas (called priority landscapes) were delineated to help focus investments and other programs to deal with the associated issues. Three general themes were developed with eleven subthemes.

The three general themes are:

1. Conserve working forest and range landscapes.
2. Protect forests and rangelands from harm.
3. Enhance public benefits from trees, forests and rangelands.

These themes were then followed by eleven subthemes that provide more detail for a priority landscape rating.

High priority landscapes identified within the Santa Clara Unit include:

- Restoring wildfire impacted areas to maintain ecosystem health.
- Priority landscaping to protect communities from wildfire.
- Water quality and the threats within the watershed that affect water quality.
- Urban forestry tree planting.
- Urban forestry maintenance.
- Community wildfire planning.
- Wildfire threat to areas protected for habitat.

Overarching findings from the California's Forests and Rangelands 2010 assessment that affect the Santa Clara Unit include:

- Forest and rangelands remain valued assets critical to economic, social, and the environmental well-being of California.

- Forest and rangelands face a variety of threats, and trends indicate these threats are increasing in number.

- Demands on forest and rangeland resources are increasing

- Opportunities exist to improve the quality and quantity of benefits from these lands.

- Reaching desired future conditions will require political, social, and economic challenges.

- The potential to reach desired future conditions of our forest and rangelands will depend on taking advantage and augmenting existing collaborative efforts.

Priorities for the Santa Clara Unit include working with local landowners and governmental agencies for implementation of fire management plan objectives. Santa

Clara Unit will continue to support the Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) that are enacted within the unit and assist with grant funding for community wildfire protection projects. A continuance of the Vegetation Management Program (VMP) is a priority for healthy fuels management.

Additionally, through the use of this Fire Management Plan, the Santa Clara Unit is working with local landowners to reduce unplanned ignitions within the unit and limit damage caused by uncontrolled fires through the use of education, pre fire mitigation projects, patrol, and law enforcement to meet the mission statement of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

UNIT PREPAREDNESS AND FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITIES

Initial attack forces are essential to keeping unwanted fires to a minimum. In order to do this, Santa Clara Unit maintains a strong force of personnel and equipment always ready to respond at a moments notice to any fire, be it a wildland fire or any other type of fire threatening the wildland.

In order to do this, Santa Clara Unit has 12 state funded fire stations (Forest Fire Stations) and 1 helitack base (Alma) under its jurisdiction. These stations and helitack base are fully staffed during declared fire season with two of the stations being staffed year round due to local fire service agreements. These stations combined provide for the staffing of 15 state owned fire engines, one state owned helicopter, and three transport/bulldozers.

Nine battalion chiefs are available in the unit and are strategically positioned throughout the unit in order to maintain quick response times of overhead personnel.

Three Law Enforcement/Prevention personnel are available within the unit and will frequently assist with initial attack operations.

In order for Santa Clara Unit to meet the objective of keeping 95% of all wildland fires to 10 acres or less (as defined by CAL FIRE), a large number of auto-aid agreements exist in the area. These auto-aid agreements allow for the nearest fire suppression resource to respond to the scene of a wildland fire and begin fire suppression activities.

The following list contains all the agencies that participate in auto-aid agreements with Santa Clara Unit:

East Bay Regional Parks Fire Department, Crockett Fire Department, Contra Costa Fire Protection District, East Contra Costa Fire Protection District, San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, Rodeo-Hercules Fire Department, Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District, Richmond Fire Department, El Cerrito Fire Department, East Bay Regional Parks Fire Department, Alameda County Fire Protection District, Berkeley Fire Department, Oakland Fire Department, Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Protection District, Hayward Fire Department, Piedmont Fire Department, Fremont Fire Department, Tracy Fire Department, West Stanislaus Fire Department, South Santa Clara County Fire District (Schedule A contract), Santa Clara County Fire Department, Gilroy Fire Department, Palo Alto Fire Department, Milpitas Fire Department

The Morgan Hill Emergency Command Center (ECC) provides Command and Control through dispatch agreements for Local Government Cooperative Agreements with the South Santa Clara County Fire District, Alameda County Fire Protection District at the Sunol Forest Fire Station and two Amador Contracts. One Amador Contract at the Pacheco Forest Fire Station in Santa Clara County, and the other is at Sunshine Forest Fire Station in Contra Costa County.

SECTION II: COLLABORATION

COMMUNITY / AGENCIES / FIRE SAFE COUNCILS

Representatives involved in the development of the Unit Strategic Fire Plan are included in the following table. Their organization and title are indicated below:

Plan Development Team:

Organization	Title
Morgan Hill City	Morgan Hill City Manager
South Santa Clara County Fire	Fire District Board
Alameda County Fire	Fire Chief
Diablo Fire Safe Council	Director
Santa Clara Fire Safe Council	Director
Santa Clara Valley Water District	Director

SECTION III: VALUES

A: VALUES

The primary goal of wildland fire protection in the Santa Clara Unit is to safeguard the wide range of assets found within the unit from the effects of wildfire. The assets at risk are the public and private assets that the wildland fire protection system is created and funded to protect. The following have been identified as assets at risk from wildfires and delineates their economic and non-economic assets: people, structures, timber, watershed, wildlife, unique scenic and recreation areas, range, wildlife, and air quality. The table below provides a description of the assets evaluated.

Asset at Risk	Public Issue Category	Location and ranking methodology
Fire-flood watersheds	Public safety Public welfare	Watersheds with a history of problems or proper conditions for future problems, ranked based on affected downstream population
Soil erosion	Environment	Watersheds ranked based on erosion potential
Water storage	Public welfare	Watershed area up to 20 miles upstream from water storage facility, ranked based on water value and dead storage capacity of facility
Water supply	Public health	Watershed area up to 20 miles upstream from water supply facility
Scenic	Public welfare	Four mile view shed around Scenic Highways and 1/4 mile view shed around Wild and Scenic Rivers, ranked based on potential impacts to vegetation types (tree versus non-tree types)
Timber	Public welfare	Timberlands ranked based on value/susceptibility to damage
Range	Public welfare	Rangeland ranked based on potential replacement feed cost by region/owner/vegetation type

Air quality	Public health Environment Public welfare	Potential damages to health, materials, vegetation, and visibility; ranked based on vegetation type and air basin
Historic buildings	Public welfare	Historic buildings ranked based on fire susceptibility
Recreation	Public welfare	Unique recreation areas or areas with potential damage to facilities, ranked based on fire susceptibility
Structures	Public safety Public welfare	Ranked based on housing density and fire susceptibility
Non-game wildlife	Environment Public welfare	Critical habitats and species locations based on input from California Department of Fish and Game and other stakeholders
Game wildlife	Public welfare Environment	Critical habitats and species locations based on input from California Department of Fish and Game and other stakeholders
Infrastructure	Public safety Public welfare	Infrastructure for delivery of emergency and other critical services (e.g. repeater sites, transmission lines)
Ecosystem Health	Environment	Ranking based on vegetation type/fuel characteristics

An example of an asset at risk within the Santa Clara Unit is the Mt. Hamilton Observatory. This observatory dates back to the late 1800's in which an observatory was built at the top of Mount Hamilton, located east of San Jose. This observatory would grow throughout the years and now has 9 research grade telescopes located in the area. A large number of structures including residences and other support facilities exist at the observatory. Due to the location of Mount Hamilton, numerous radio and microwave towers have been erected over the years as well as Copernicus Fire Lookout which is staffed during periods of high fire danger.

Many factors are involved in target area and asset at risk identification, including political climate of the region and suppression cost reductions. By looking at the 'big picture' and identifying the assets at risk, Santa Clara Unit staff along with input from other agencies and the public can confidently protect these areas and prioritize pre-fire projects.

B: COMMUNITIES

During the 2000 fire season wildfires burned millions of acres throughout the United States. These fires dramatically illustrated the threat to human lives and development. Under Executive Order, the National Fire Plan was created as a cooperative, long-term effort of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of the Interior and the National Association of State Foresters, to protect communities and restore ecological health on Federal lands.

A major component of the National Fire Plan was funding for projects designed to reduce fire risks to people and their property. A fundamental step in realizing this goal was the identification of areas that are at high risk of damage from wildfire. Federal fire managers authorized State Foresters to determine which communities were under significant risk from wildland fire on Federal lands.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection undertook the task of generating the state's list of communities at risk. With California's extensive Wildland-Urban Interface situation the list of communities extends beyond just those on Federal lands.

Three main factors were used to determine wildland fire threat to Wildland-Urban Interface areas of California.

- **Ranking Fuel Hazards**: ranking vegetation types by their potential fire behavior during a wildfire.
- **Assessing the Probability of Fire**: the annual likelihood that a large damaging wildfire would occur in a particular vegetation type.
- **Defining Areas of Suitable Housing Density that Would Create Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Strategy Situations**: areas of intermingled wildland fuels and urban environments that are in the vicinity of fire threats.

To help protect people and their property from potential catastrophic wildfire, the National Fire Plan directs funding to be provided 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. These high risk communities identified within the wildland-urban interface, the area where homes and wildlands intermix, were published in the Federal Register in 2001. At the request of Congress, the Federal Register notice only listed those communities neighboring federal lands. The list represents the collaborative work of the 50 states and five federal agencies using a standardized process, whereby states were asked to submit all communities within their borders that met the criteria of a structure at high risk from wildfire.

With California's extensive urban Wildland-Urban Interface situation, the list of communities extends beyond just those adjacent to Federal lands. There are 1,287 communities currently on the Communities at Risk List. The California State Forester (CAL FIRE Director) has assigned the role of managing the list to the California Fire Alliance.

Within Santa Clara Unit, there are 50 designated Communities at Risk. The following list contains all the Communities at Risk within the unit, year they were designated, and if the community is considered a Federal Threat :

Alamo, Antioch, Blackhawk, Brentwood, Clayton, Concord, Crockett, Danville, East Richmond Heights, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Hercules, Kensington, Lafayette, Martinez, Moraga, Orinda, Pinole, Pittsburg, Pleasant Hill, Richmond, Rodeo, San Ramon, Walnut Creek, West Pittsburg, Berkeley, Castro Valley, Dublin, Fairview, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, Oakland, Pleasanton, San Leandro, Union City, Cupertino, East Foothills, Gilroy, Lexington Hills, Los Alto Hills, Los Gatos, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, Palo Alto, San Jose, San Martin, Saratoga, Stanford.

SECTION IV: PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

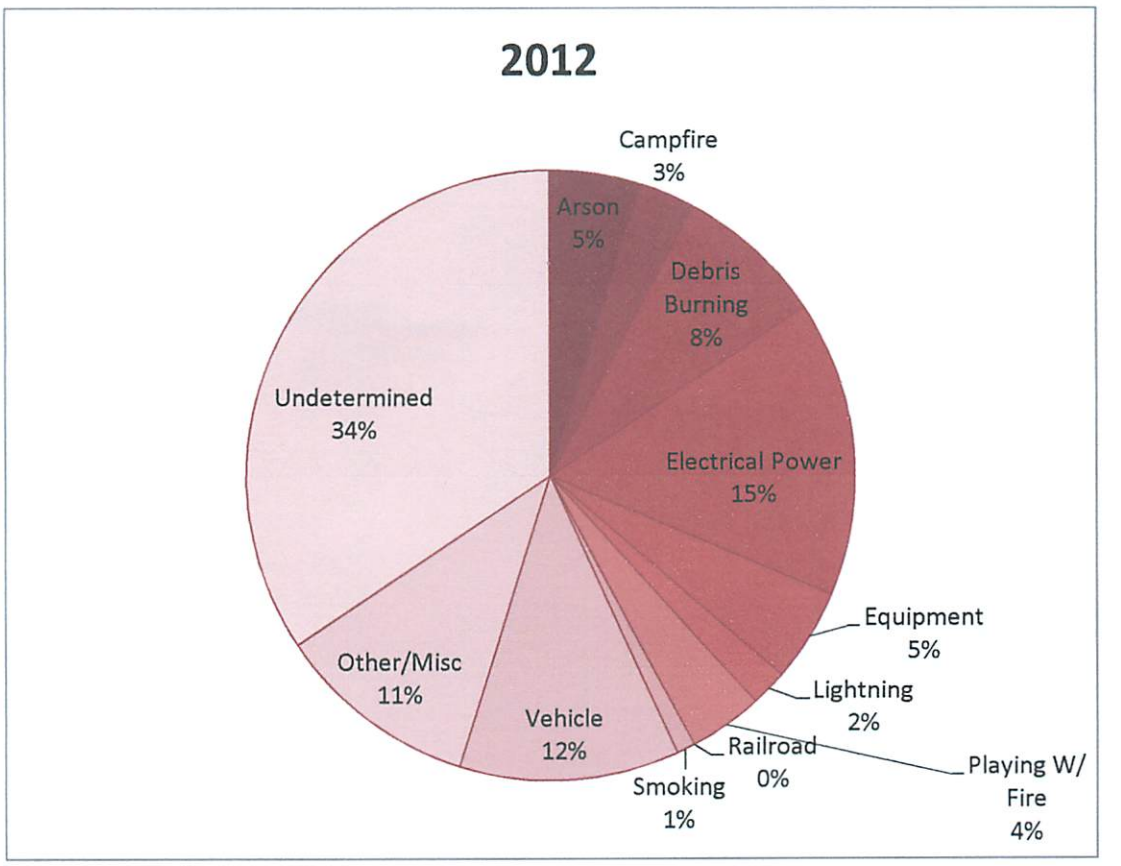
A: FIRE PREVENTION

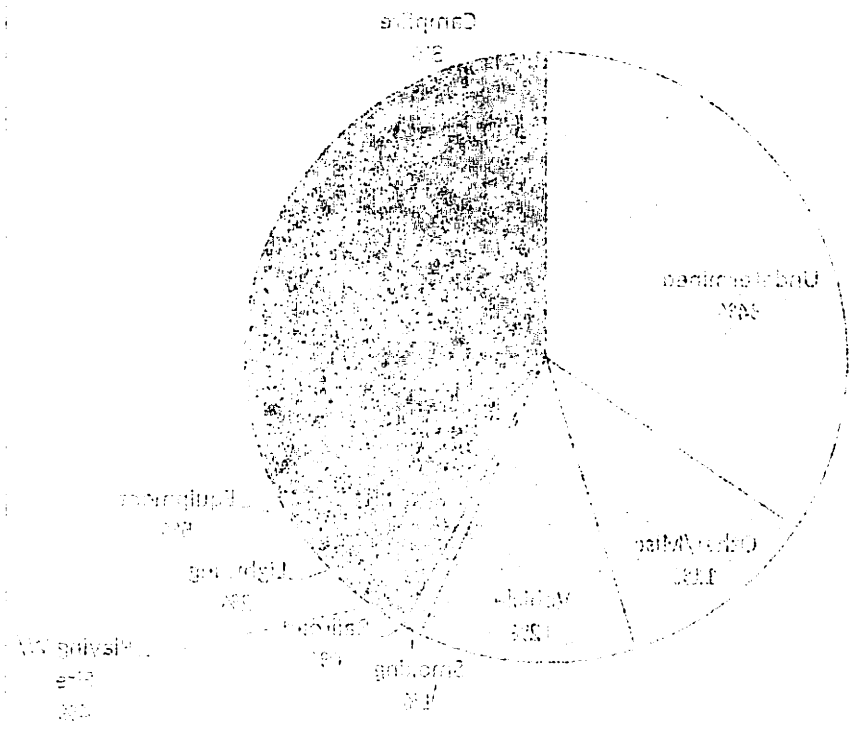
In order to prevent unwanted fires from occurring, it is important to understand what is causing these fires. The Fire Prevention Bureau of Santa Clara Unit works diligently to determine the cause of all fires with the assistance of company officers. By understanding what the causes are, it allows the Bureau to focus education, enforcement, and patrol activities.

2012 Fire Season Ignition Statistics

Wildland fire ignition statistics were tracked for the entire year of 2012. The Unit experienced 135 fires within its Direct Protection Area (DPA) for the year. The unit did not experience any large fire for 2012. The largest being 97 acres.

In reviewing fire causes during the 2012 season, it was found that the five leading causes of vegetation fires in the Unit were:





Fire activity for 2012 was down in the Unit as well as throughout the state. In order to better address ignition management for the Unit, a more detailed analysis of the fires in each major cause classification was attempted, but due to personnel changes in the Unit's Prevention Bureau accurate records for past years is not reliable and would be a major, time intensive task that will be rectified from this point forward.

An analysis of the fire causes for 2012 was done and compiled below:

1) Control Burning (debris burning) accounted for 11 fires or 8% of the total fires in the Unit. Due to other agencies within the Unit regulating controlled burns the education of those conducting controlled burns appears to have been reduced over the past number of years. This issue has been identified and the Prevention Bureau is examining ways to provide the missing education component to those that wish to conduct controlled burns.

2) Vehicles accounted for 16 fires or 12% of the total ignitions in the Unit. The Unit currently has a population of over 4 million people with a large percentage of that number operating motor vehicles of all types not including that daily influx of commuters transiting the Unit. Catalytic Converter failure and other maintenance issues remain the leading cause of fires caused by vehicles. With the current economic conditions there appears to be less maintenance done on vehicles which could potentially lead to an increase in the number of vehicle caused ignitions.

3) Electrical power accounted for 21 fires or 16% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Electrically caused fires resulted in three out of the five largest fires in the Unit. The electrical caused fires in the Unit can be separated into two distinct types. The first and most recognized is distribution caused fires. The second is generation/collection. The Unit is unique in the fact that the Altamont Wind Resource Area is located within our boundaries. The wind resource area currently contains approximately 4000 wind turbines that generate electricity for sale to the distribution grid. Most of the turbines located in the wind resource area are older models that are being replaced with newer more efficient and fire safe models. The Bureau plans on continuing our power line inspections to reduce the number of power line caused fires but number of inspections maybe impacted due to budget restrictions in the coming year.

4) Equipment accounted for 7 fires or 5% of the total ignitions in the Unit. One of the contributing factors in this category is the increasing number of people moving out into the wildfire prone areas of the Unit. These members of the public do not understand that the act ivies that would have not likely caused a fire in an urban environment are very hazardous and likely to cause a fire in the rural areas. Continued education is the key to reducing fires in this classification.

5) Miscellaneous causes accounted for 15 fires or 11% of the total ignitions in the Unit. This classification includes causes such as spontaneous combustion; fireplace ashes deposited improperly, shooting and other causes.

6) Playing with Fire accounted for 6 fires or 4% of the total ignitions in the Unit. The largest single cause in this category was the use of illegal fire works. The use of illegal fire works in the Unit is very prolific. The Bureau will continue to conduct patrols during the 4th of July period, in conjunction with our Volunteers in Prevention (VIPs) to reduce the use of illegal fireworks.

7) Undetermined accounted for 47 fires or 35% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Undetermined cause is utilized when the investigator cannot eliminate additional cause classifications. Continued hard work and dedication of the Unit's Fire Prevention Staff and the company officers who conduct thorough origin and cause investigations aid in the declining number in this cause class. The Bureau will continue to provide training to company officers to improve their skills at investigating fires.

8) Arson accounted for 6 fires or 4% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Enforcement of the fire laws in the State of California are a priority for the members of the Bureau. No arrests were made for arson fires in 2012.

9) Lightning accounted for 3 fires or 2% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Lightning is not a regular occurrence for the Unit and there is no way of stopping Lightning caused fires. The Unit's response to lightning caused fires is early detection and rapid response to reduce the acres burned.

10) Smoking accounted for 1 fires or 1%, of the total ignitions in the Unit. The majority of these fires were carelessly discarded cigarettes along our roadways of the years prior.

11) Illegal campfires and campfire escapes accounted for 4 fires or 3% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Both of these fires can be attributed to activity of illegal marijuana grows.

12) Railroad accounted for 0 or 0% of the fires in the Unit. In comparison to the number of daily trains moving through the Unit this is a positive sign that the railroads are maintaining their equipment and clearances.

ENGINEERING & STRUCTURE IGNITABILITY

The Santa Clara Unit has always known the threat of wildfire. Due to current fuel conditions, weather patterns, and increased human activity in wildland areas the occurrence of fire has become more of a danger than ever. In the event of a large wildfire, there potentially will not be enough emergency responders and equipment to protect each and every structure. In some instances, size, speed, and intensity of the fire, or building construction materials and surrounding vegetation, structures can ignite and potentially be destroyed before emergency responders can arrive. In order for a structure to survive it must be able to avoid ignition.

State and Local fire agencies having jurisdiction within the Santa Clara Unit continually provide wildland fire prevention education to those living in hazardous wildland fire areas. This education provides recommendations to reduce the chances of structure ignition.

The Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area Building Standards were established to create minimum standards for materials and material assemblies and provide a reasonable level of exterior wildfire exposure protection for buildings in Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Areas. The use of ignition resistant materials and design to resist the intrusion of flame or burning embers projected by a wildfire and exposure to it will prove to be the most prudent effort California has made to try and mitigate the losses resulting from our repeating cycle of Wildland-Urban Interface fire disasters.

California law requires CAL FIRE to identify areas based on the severity of fire hazard that is expected to prevail there. These areas, or "zones," are based on factors such as fuel (material that can burn), slope and fire weather. There are three zones, based on increasing fire hazard... medium, high and very high. The zones serve several purposes. They are used to designate areas where exterior wildfire exposure protection building codes apply to new buildings. It can be a factor in real estate disclosure. Local government considers fire hazard severity in the safety element of the general plan.

On September 20, 2005, the California Building Standards Commission approved the Office of the State Fire Marshal's emergency regulations amending the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24, Part 2, known as the 2007 California Building Code (CBC).

In part it states that new buildings located in a fire hazard severity zone within state responsibility areas, any Local Agency Very-High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, or any Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area designated by the enforcing agency for which an application for a building permit is submitted on or after January 1, 2008, shall comply with all sections of this chapter.

With the exception of the LE-100 program (fire safe clearances around structures), Santa Clara Unit has delegated the enforcement of these building standards to the local authority. The Unit however continues to provide guidance and assistance to local

authorities who frequently inquire as to specific building standards, changes to State Responsibility Areas, and fire hazard severity zone designations.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

CAL FIRE's Fire Safety Education Programs are spread throughout Santa Clara Unit and come in the form of fair exhibits, posters, flyers and thousands of other printed materials, radio and television spots, community meetings, one-on-one contacts with wildland homeowners, and the internet.

Santa Clara Unit makes it a priority that residents within the unit that reside in wildland areas are informed as to the dangers of wildfire. In order to do this, the Santa Clara Unit has put a priority on conducting LE-100 inspections. These inspections are conducted in order for the homeowner to become educated on section 4291 of the Public Resources Codes. This section states in part that all structures located within State Responsibility Areas shall have a clearance of up to 100 feet of flammable vegetation cleared around all structures. By conducting LE-100 inspections, Santa Clara Unit staff are able to have one-on-one contact with homeowners providing fire safety education while at the same time enforcing the Public Resources Code.

In 2010, Unit staff and Volunteers In Prevention (VIP) conducted in excess of 4,200 LE-100 inspections. In 2011, Unit staff is again taking an aggressive approach to conducting LE-100 inspections using both paid Unit staff and VIP's to handle the large task.

Another successful program within the Santa Clara Unit is the Volunteers In Prevention (VIP) program. This statewide program was designed to allow persons within the community to participate in assisting CAL FIRE with fire prevention and education programs. The Santa Clara Unit currently has in excess 70 members and in 2010 conducted 62 public outreach and education program making an estimated 320,000 personal contacts, 24 news releases, over 4,000 LE-100 inspections, and when combined with other projects donated a total of 6,252 hours of personnel time to fire prevention engineering and education to the unit.

B. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Attainment of the fuels reduction goals of the Santa Clara Unit Fire Plan will require on-the-ground effort on the Department's partial use of CAL-FIRE, CDC, CYA and CCC crews and equipment will likely be necessary in many areas where stakeholders do not have the finances or resources to do an effective job individually or as a group. The unit currently has a variety of VMP projects in various stages of preparation, ranging from those with range, water shed and wildlife habitat improvement as the primary goals, i.e.: the Isabel Valley, Mt Mocho, and other eastern Santa Clara County burns. The PL 566 project and Mt. Diablo State Park burns will have a community fire protection goal in addition to wildlife habitat renewal. Santa Clara Unit will make a concerted effort to pursue projects that meet the wide array of demands placed on the Vegetation Management Program in Santa Clara Unit.

Objectives:

The vegetation management program will shift emphasis to:

- Smaller projects closer to new developments
- Alternatives to fire, such as mechanical fuel treatment
- Emphasis on quality over quantity
- In some instances the program may be limited to simply providing wildland safety and protection zones around high value assets.

With the possibility of additional grant funding during the year, additional projects may evolve. VMP projects must be closely tied to the Santa Clara Unit Fire Management Plan. Since CAL-FIRE's most damaging fires are in urban interface, VMP projects must focus on critical, at-risk community developments or where projects reduce a fires potential to extend into those communities.

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Action Plan:

Funding and labor resources are always a challenge to obtain projected project completion dates.

Labor force availability is a limiting factor to achieving project completion. In the Santa Clara Unit the Ben Lomand Adult Conservation and Delta Adult Conservation camps are the main labor forces available to perform project tasks. Their cost and availability is an issue to use them on the projects in Santa Clara County. California Department of Corrections camps outside of the Santa Clara Unit have long travel times to consider using them as possible labor.

An additional camp located in or adjacent to the northern sections of the Santa Clara Unit whose population would be made up of the CDC is a possible solution to this labor force deficiency that would also provide better strategic coverage for response to wildland fires. These crews would help implement the proposed projects listed in the Santa Clara Unit Fire Management Plan, thereby reducing Santa Clara Unit's wildland fire problem. The added crews would be valuable in preventing and combating periodic floods and disasters. They could also provide economic stimulus to more remote areas of Santa Clara Unit, and could assist agencies of local, state and federal government in completion of conservation-related work projects.

SECTION V: PRE- FIRE MANAGEMENT TACTICS

DIVISION / BATTALION / PROGRAM PLANS

The following pages contain the Field Battalions lists of projects and goals for the implementation of the Santa Clara Units Fire Management Plan, They are compiled by the field Battalion Chiefs with input from the units Pre Fire Engineer, Fire Safe Councils, Stakeholders, and the general public through Community outreach. While they reflect an amazing cross section of goals and ideas, they are not inflexible or cast in stone, nor are they the only options available to mitigate a problem. These are suggestions and a starting point for the journey, not the end point.

BATTALION ONE (MORGAN HILL)

Battalion One is located in Santa Clara County's Supervisor District One and lies solely in the State Responsibility Area (SRA) bordering the south side of Bailey Road in the northwest; east of Uvas Road; then westward on the Redwood Retreat Road; south along the Santa Cruz County line to San Benito County line; then jumps across the South Santa Clara Valley and San Benito County Line at San Felipe Road; to the Henry Coe State Park and private ranches to the west side of The County Line Road, including the Highway 152 corridor- from Dinosaur Point to Dunne Hill. In the open lands of the east side of Battalion One and Henry Coe Park there is a need for state agencies and local citizens to protect mountain Lions, black-tailed deer, ground squirrels, coyotes, raccoons, bobcats, and wild pigs roam. Also, there are golden eagles, California, quail, jays, woodpeckers, red-tailed hawks, turkey vultures, western bluebirds and wild turkeys.

Historically, the major wild land fire occurrence has been in the remote and sparsely populated eastern portion of the Battalion One, the 1936 Fire, the 1961 Bollinger Ridge Fire, , the 2007 Lick Fire, are the largest fires recorded in the Santa Clara Unit. Fire Season staffing (May through October) statistics for Battalion One are: 1 Battalion Chief; 6 permanent and 1 seasonal Fire Captain; 2 permanent and 1 seasonal Fire Apparatus Engineer; and 22 seasonal firefighters answered the calls with one utility, four fire engines and 1 reserve fire engine responded to incidents within the Battalion.

Mission Statements:

> To protect and enhance South Santa Clara County's open areas and all who abide in it, their property, and the public lands in it. And, to respond "Code 3" safely to all types of emergencies and to respond to all local city and county fire jurisdictions requesting our assistance. Also, to educate South Santa Clara County's residences to improve individual awareness on how the Public Resource Code affects them, including burn permits requirements, vegetation fuel hazard reduction inspections, and new building requirements in the SRA lands.

To protect all California's open lands between local responsibility and federal lands to reduce costs and losses due to wild land fires. Additionally, to be prepared for and major emergencies and natural disasters throughout California to the best of our abilities and train for implementing the Incident Command System to assist local agencies during earthquakes, floods, landslides, hazardous materials spills and possible terrorist acts.

Objectives:

1. Improve awareness and involvement between the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council and south Santa Clara County communities by personnel at the fire station and the available "Living with Fire" in Santa Clara County handouts.

2. Continue hazard reduction inspections (LE100 Inspections) for structures with Volunteers In Prevention (VIP) and Engine Companies.

3. Continue input on all new construction and developments with the Santa Clara County Fire Marshall's office.

4. Install and maintain a Remote Fire Weather Station (RAWS) in the foothills east of South Santa Clara County basin when funding becomes available.

5. Participate in all local community activities (i.e. Back Country Event, Renaissance Fair, Indian POW WOW, and Tarantella Festival)

6. Continue assistance for Henry Coe State Park, and private ranchers in fuel modification projects.

7. Staff all state funded ICS Type III fire engines with 3 personnel during fire season (June through October).

8. Train and pre-plan to assist local government for the possibility of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and terrorist acts.

9. Train and preplan to assist local government for the possibility of natural or man-made disasters which may occur.

BATTALION TWO (San Jose)

The San Jose Battalion encompasses approximately 250 square miles of SRA lands in the northern and eastern portions of Santa Clara County and the SRA lands in the Almaden Valley. A major portion of the Battalion covers the remote undeveloped area of the Diablo Range. The wildland urban interface areas are adjacent to the Almaden Valley and the eastern foothills of San Jose.

Wildland fire activity in the battalion was very low due to mild weather conditions. It was reported to be the coolest location in the Bay Area. Most fires in the battalion are typically contained by the initial attack resource assignment. There is little too no structure loss or damage to public infrastructure. Fire Season staffing (May through October) statistics for Battalion Two are: 1 Battalion Chief; 4 permanent and 1 seasonal Fire Captain; and 10 seasonal firefighters answered the calls with one utility, two fire engines responded to incidents within the Battalion.

Mission Statements:

To protect Santa Clara County from large damaging fires due largely to the strength of the marine air mass. Higher elevations above the inversion layer stay very dry and commonly experience nighttime subsidence with an off shore component dropping the relative humidity into the single digits. Extreme fire behavior has been observed on several wildfires above 2000' in the Diablo Range due to this micro climate. In late summer and fall when the offshore flow is more prevalent, and the live fuel moistures reach critical levels, fire potential is quite high. Strong pressure gradients between interior California and the ocean allow for very strong winds through Pacheco Pass and the Altamont Pass during most of the summer months.

A variety of fuel regimes are observed throughout Battalion 2. Open grassland, grassland with Blue Oak, Black Oak, and Valley Oak overstory, and pockets of sage is quite common in the foothills of San Jose. Areas of oak woodland, sage, scrub oak and mixed chaparral are also present. The east side of Mt Hamilton and the Isabel Valley have large areas of chamise dominated chaparral, gray pines, and oak trees. Isolated pockets of ponderosa pine are growing on some high elevation locations. Due to the marginal growing site, reproduction is limited and without the natural fire cycle the understory fuel loading is quite high placing these stands at risk from wildfire.

Most of fuels in the WUI areas on the border of San Jose would be classified as a grass model with the exception of the Alum Rock area. The fuel type that presents the greatest threat for this interface area is the Eucalyptus trees. These trees will be the main source of brand production and have the potential to cause moderate to long range spot ignitions, and will make control efforts and structure protection difficult.

This certainly does not rule out the potential for a significant wildfire within San Jose resulting in considerable structure loss. Some high density LRA communities in the lower foothills are

intermixed with native wildland fuels, eucalyptus trees, and flammable non-native landscaping. Alignment of a high wind event could drive a fire front through these subdivisions with the structures themselves becoming the main source of fuel loading and heat transfer.

The remote SRA areas have a high potential for major fires but ignitions are limited. In 2003, lightning ignited numerous fires in the Diablo Range with several becoming major incidents.

Objectives:

1. Continue hazard reduction inspections (LE100 Inspections) for structures with Volunteers In Prevention (VIP) and Engine Companies.

2. Selected areas in the battalion were based on three factors; assets at risk, communities at risk, and watershed value. The three areas are Alum Rock Falls, Lick Observatory, and the community of Twin Creeks.

3. Develop concise pre-plans and compartment maps that will provide new personnel, ECC staff, and overhead teams with the location of strategic control points and access into the vast area of SRA lands.

4. Continue with pre-plans for areas of the Battalion that are remote.

BATTALION THREE (Los Gatos)

Battalion Three is located in Santa Clara County and lies solely in the State Responsibility Area (SRA) bordering the north of Highway 152; west of the Almaden Valley; then east of the Santa Cruz County line; South from the San Mateo County Line. The Battalion includes watershed for local communities, as this watershed flows in to many lakes and streams managed by both the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the San Jose Water Company. The Battalion also is home to a large amount of Coastal Redwoods protected from development by open space districts along with County parks. The Battalion also has a number of small rural communities that have little or no governmental services.

Historically, the major wild land fire occurrence has been in the remote and sparsely populated South western portion of the Battalion Three, The 2009 Loma Fire, The 2008 Summit Fire, the 1994 Croy Fire and the 1987 Lexington Fire were large structure loss incidents in the Santa Clara Unit. The 2010 Fire Cause Statistics are consistent with previous years equipment use being the leading cause for preventable wild land fires. Fire Season Staffing (May through October) statistics for Battalion Three are: 1 Battalion Chief; 7 permanent and 2 seasonal Fire Captains; 2 Fire Pilots and 2 seasonal Fire Apparatus Engineers; and 25 seasonal firefighters answered the calls with one utility (circa 2002) two fire engines (circa 2008, 2010) one helicopter (circa 1968) and one helicopter service unit (circa 1996) responded to 688 separate incidents,

Mission Statements:

Primarily:

Purpose Statement of the Battalion

Battalion Three of the Santa Clara Unit incorporates the western portion of Santa Clara County. There are many structures located through out the Battalion. The large population centers, Palo Alto, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Saratoga, are within Local Responsibility Area but are in Mutual Threat Zones. The fuels are redwood and mature pine trees on the eastern aspects and brush fields on the Western aspects. The Battalion has grass oak woodland on the lower elevations. There is recent large fire history, The Summit fire, The Loma Fire, the Lexington fire, The Croy fire of which each destroyed numerous homes and valuable watershed.

Priority Areas

1. The watershed areas of western Santa Clara County including Saratoga, Lexington Basin, Los Gatos, Summit road, Croy road areas, are becoming highly populated. These areas have heavy fuel loading and require fuel modification
   - Reason for risk: Wild land urban interface area, watershed as defined in the Lexington California Community Wild Fire Protection Plan.
   - Greatest reason for risk: North/East wind pushing fire from San Jose area

- Local Fire authority: Central Fire Protection District.

Objectives:

1. Support the ongoing shaded fuel break in conjunction with the Santa Clara Valley Water District and other stakeholders.

2. Assist both Mid-Peninsula and the Santa Clara Open Space Districts in planning and implementing fuels reduction on lands they manage in the public trust.

3. Continue to expand the Fire Safe Council chipper program to include stakeholders in the Croy Ridge area.

4. Continue to assist and gain stakeholder support of the western Santa Clara County fuel break.

5. Continue to assist with the Community wildfire prevention plans in western Santa Clara County to include a countywide Community Wild Fire Protection Plan.

BATTALION FOUR (Alameda)

Battalion four covers the entire county of Alameda. Alameda County has a population of 1.5 million people. It is geographically located on the eastern side of the San Francisco Bay and stretches eastward from Oakland into the greater San Joaquin valley near Tracy. Contra Costa County borders it to the north while Santa Clara and San Joaquin border it to the south and east.

Topography ranges from rolling hills near the bay to mountainous elevations up to 4000 feet with steep canyon drainages south of Livermore. Fuel types are generally grass (50%), Chaparral (30%) and Oak Woodland (20%). Weather during fire season is temperate near the bay and hotter and drier further inland approaching the inland valleys. The most significant weather factor in Alameda County is wind. Wind patterns are predominately west to east during fire season due to the cooler marine air flowing from the San Francisco Bay into the Livermore and San Joaquin valleys. Wind speeds vary but on most summer days the winds near the bay are 10 to 20 m.p.h. In the eastern portion of the county on those same days wind velocities will be 15 to 25 m.p.h. Wind velocities of 40 to 50 mph in the eastern portion of the battalion are not uncommon under normal weather patterns. Even though relative humidity's are tempered by the marine influence the higher wind speeds adversely affect fire behavior. Any fire starts with sustained fuel continuity downwind quickly progress into moderate to rapid rates of spread at the fires head. Quick initial attack by fire suppression forces is critical in these conditions.

Operationally, Battalion four is a complex environment for CAL FIRE. There are twelve local government fire agencies operating in Alameda County. Nine of these cities border CAL FIRE state responsibility areas (SRA). There are approximately 70 miles of wildland-urban interface(WUI) separating local government responsibility areas (LRA) from the 286,000 acres of CAL FIRE jurisdiction. The interface area is densely populated with homes that easily exceed one million dollars each. The high values at risk in Battalion four and the windy conditions have combined to create high damage loss fires historically. One 2 acre fire in the Oakland Berkeley hills destroyed two homes and damaged a third for a total damage loss of four million dollars. The 1991 Tunnel Fire destroyed 3000 homes for a loss of 1.8 billion dollars. Life safety at wildland fires is also a major concern. There have been 28 wildland fire fatalities in Alameda County going back to 1968 including citizens, police and firefighters. Coordination during wildland fire evacuations in the densely populated interface areas is a major challenge. Coordination with local government fire resources is critical to fire response in Alameda County. An extensive cooperative effort over the past ten years to create and manage mutual threat zones and responses to fires has dramatically increased CAL FIRE's initial attack capability in this area. That coupled with CAL FIRE moving additional fire engines and helicopters into the East Bay during times of high fire danger increases the probability of keeping fires small and therefore reducing the need for evacuations and reducing dollar loss.

Mission Statements:
Primarily:

Purpose Statement of the Battalion

The main focus for fire prevention in Battalion Four is public education, information and fuel reduction in prioritized areas. This focus includes a strong relationship with stakeholders to maximize limited resources to accomplish prioritized objectives. East Bay Region Parks is in the process of completing an Environmental Impact Report addressing fuels management by way of the establishment of fuel breaks, shaded fuel breaks and the reduction of hazardous trees and other vegetation in Alameda County. CAL FIRE is partnered with local government fire agencies, the Diablo Fire Safe Council and the East Bay Hills Emergency Forum. This partnership is designed to reach beyond the fire service to involve homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, insurance companies, public utilities and others to reduce the risk of wildfire, before a fire starts.

Priority Areas:

1. SRA-LRA wildland urban interface areas.

WUI Communities

Oakland-Berkeley Hills: 16,200 acres with an estimated population of 105,000. Oakland Fire, Berkeley Fire, East Bay Regional Parks and CAL FIRE have jurisdiction.

San Leandro-Castro Valley Hills: 8500 acres with an estimated population of 30,000. Alameda County Fire, East Bay Regional Parks and CAL FIRE have jurisdiction.

Hayward Hills: 5000 acres with an estimated population of 38,000. Hayward Fire, East Bay Regional Parks and CAL FIRE have jurisdiction.

Union City-Fremont Hills: 10,000 acres with an estimated population of 20,000. Alameda County Fire, Fremont Fire and CAL FIRE have jurisdiction.

Pleasanton Ridge-Kilcare Woods: 4000 acres with an estimated population of 5000. Livermore-Pleasanton Fire, East Bay Regional Parks and CAL FIRE have jurisdiction.

Palomares-Niles Canyon: 3500 acres with an estimated population of 1500. Alameda County Fire, Hayward Fire, Fremont Fire, East Bay regional Parks and CAL FIRE.

Objectives:

1. Continue and enhance the fuel modification and fuel reduction projects in the wildland-urban interface areas. Coordinate resources with the Hills Emergency Forum and the Diablo Fire Safe Council. Projects include but are not limited to:

    i. Berkeley upper Strawberry Canyon fuel reduction project.

    ii. Diablo Fire Safe East Bay roadside clearance project.

    iii. East Bay Regional Park Claremont Canyon fuel reduction project.

    iv. Tilden Park Eucalyptus removal project.

    v. Oakland-Berkeley hills 15 mile fuel break project.

    vi. Oakland Shepherd Canyon shaded fuel break project

    vii. Chabot Park fuel reduction project.

    viii. Highway 24 Caldecott Tunnel fuel reduction project.

    ix. Obtain language changes in the conditions of approval for wind generators use.

2. permits requiring numbering and marking gates and road access utilizing the standards of PRC 4290 with regard to signage.

3. GIS / GPS mapping and marking of wind farm gates and road system

4. Conduct public information and education programs at local schools.

5. Distribute FireSafe educational materials at public gatherings and public venues.

6. Utilize Volunteers in Prevention for targeted inspections of dwellings and buildings for compliance with PRC 4291.

7. Utilize Volunteers in Prevention to conduct bulk mailing of self inspection and fire safe guides to postal customers in high hazard areas.

8. Whenever dealing with the media suggest fire prevention messages to be included and integrated into their story.

9. Conduct meetings with agricultural groups such as the Cattleman's Association, and Farm Bureau to provide information and encourage the use of firebreaks and clearance around all improvements such as dwellings, barns, out buildings and wells.

10. Conduct training exercises and pre-fire season briefings with cooperating fire agencies and share pre-fire plans for special target hazards.

BATTALION FIVE (Stanislaus)

Battalion Five covers all of western Stanislaus County west of Interstate Five and bordered by San Joaquin County to the north and Merced County to the South. The Battalion includes a portion of eastern Santa Clara County which includes the San Antone valley and is bordered by the top of the China Grade on Mount Hamilton Road to the west of the San Antone Valley.

The vegetation and topography in Battalion Five transition from annual grass rangelands along the Interstate Five corridor to remote, steep, brush and pine covered mountains to the west. The area includes over 230,000 acres of watershed critical to maintaining downstream water quality. All runoff flows into the San Joaquin river, a valuable fisheries and source of agricultural and domestic water supply.

Numerous plants and animals that are designated as rare, threatened or endangered species, or are candidates for such designation, occur here.

The Battalion includes sparsely populated rural and ranch properties and a planned upscale residential resort community in the Salado Creek area, being developed under the Diablo Grande Specific Plan. The Battalion includes wilderness areas of Coe State Park and the Frank Raines Off-Highway Vehicle Park located in Del Puerto Canyon.

Frank Raines Park is an 1800 acre multi use park operated by Stanislaus County, located 18 miles west of Patterson in Del Puerto Canyon. Eight hundred acres of the park is designated for off highway vehicle (OHV) use. The OHV portion of the park is in very steep and treacherous terrain. Because of the steep terrain and the potential fire risk, The OHV portion of the park is typically closed from June through October of each year.

The 23,3000 acre wilderness area of the 87,000 acre Coe State Park is located in western Stanislaus County. The wilderness area is environmentally sensitive and has a number of archeological sites within its boundaries.

The area has a significant history of large damaging wild land fires. While the majority of fires start along the Interstate 5 (I-5) corridor, the majority of large damaging fires have occurred in more remote areas of the Battalion. The primary factors contributing to difficulty of control have been the steep, inaccessible terrain, the extreme burning conditions from decadent brush and pine trees, and the prolonged response time for fire suppression resources to the remote areas of the Battalion.

Objectives:

1. Improve local operational efficiency and effectiveness by improving mutual and auto aid agreements between CDF and West Stanislaus Fire Protection District, City of Patterson, and City of Newman. This will include improving communications systems and dispatch procedures.

2. Review all development projects for compliance with PRC 4290 and make recommendations for fire defense improvements. This will include:

3. Participate as a voting member of the Stanislaus County Fire Authority in developing improved local fire codes, ordinances and fire prevention processes.

4. Participate in planning fire safe requirements for expansion of Frank Raines OHV Park.

5. Work with Caltrans and local landowners on mowing, discing, and other and fuel reduction projects along the I-5 corridor, to prevent large wind driven fires that endanger the motoring public and interrupt transportation and commerce through the area.

6. Work with the Electric Utilities (PG & E and TID) on grading fire roads and maintaining fuel breaks along critical Transmission lines.

7. Work closely with local fire officials to improve mutual aid and communications between agencies.

8. Maintain critical fire roads and fuel breaks.

9. Work with West Stanislaus County Fire Protection Districts and Stanislaus County Parks on improving fire safety conditions in Frank Raines OHV Park.

Priority Areas:

Diablo Grande Development Fire Break / Fuel Reduction Project WUI
Diablo Grande Development is a 28,500 acre Planned Residential and Resort Community (Specific Plan) located nine miles west of Patterson. Currently constructed (as part of the first phase) are two 18 hole golf courses and approximately 440 residential homes. This project consists of a combination of fire breaks, fuel reduction projects, and greenbelts.

Mount Oso Road Fire Break
The Mount Oso Road fire break is maintained by Cal Fire to provide safe access and to act as a critical fire break to protect the critical communications facilities, which serve central California, located at the summit of Mount Oso.

Stanislaus / Santa Clara County Line Road Fire Break
This primarily ridge top road runs from the San Antone Valley to Highway 152. The road serves as a critical access road and a fire break between the urban interface of Santa Clara County and the environmentally sensitive wilderness areas of Coe State Park and the Orestimba creek watersheds.

Fink Road Solar Farm

The Fink Road Solar farm is a proposed 800 acre, 80 to 100 megawatt, photovoltaic solar energy farm located just west of Interstate 5 west of Newman.

Copper Mountain Solar Farm

The Copper Mountain Solar farm is a proposed 13 megawatt photovoltaic solar energy farm located in portions of a 4,147 acre site within the confines of the Diablo Grande Development.

BATTALION SIX (Contra Costa)

The Contra Costa battalion covers all of Contra Costa, a small sliver of northwestern Alameda, and western San Joaquin Counties. There are several large landowners in the battalion. Four of the largest are the East Bay Regional Park District, Mt Diablo State Park, Contra Costa Water District, and the wind power consortium near the Altamont Pass.

Mt Diablo State Park encompasses approximately 30,000 acres of open space in the middle of the battalion. The Park had not experienced a significant wildland fire event in recent years.

The Contra Costa Water District includes the Los Vaqueros Reservoir and is a large stakeholder in overall watershed protection with close to 80,000 acres under management. The Los Vaqueros Reservoir and watershed incorporates some 20,000 acres and provides a domestic water supply to over 450,000 people.

While many fire safety steps have been taken by the wind power consortium, wind farms continue to be an ignition source for vegetation fires. We will continue to work with the wind farm owners in an effort to minimize this risk.

The population of Contra Costa County is now over one million people while the population of the San Joaquin County portion of the Battalion is over 100,000. In Contra Costa County the majority of citizens reside within the 19 incorporated cities, although more than 20% live in unincorporated communities. The continuing growth in the population further increases the pressure on areas of wildland urban interface. Top on the list of projects for the battalion are the cooperative agreements with other fire agencies. These include the continued staffing of Sunshine Forest Fire Station though the non-fire season months under the current Amador plan with the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District and updating and improving the Mutual Threat Zone response plans. The Diablo Fire Safe Council has been very successful in obtaining grant money to further fire safety and fuels management projects in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Battalion Six personnel will continue to support these projects in anyway possible.

The vegetation and wildlife habitat of Contra Costa County includes several broadly defined types: native and non-native forests and woodlands, shrub lands, grasslands, riparian woodland and scrub, and wetlands. Numerous plants and animals that are designated as rare, threatened, or endangered species or are candidates for such designation occur here.

Contra Costa County contains 13 major watersheds and sub-watersheds, with over 1300 miles of creeks and drainages. These watersheds form a crucial part of the Bay Area's domestic water supply, and are the location of several large reservoirs.

Wildfires are part of Contra Costa's natural eco-system. The Mediterranean-like climate, the rugged, wind-conducive topography, and fire-adaptive native vegetation set the stage for periodic burns.

In the past 60 years there have been more than 30 wildfires that were more than 300 acres and countless smaller fires in Contra Costa County mainly in the Central and Eastern portions of the

County. In San Joaquin County there has been also more than 30 large wildfires many burning into adjacent Alameda and/or Stanislaus Counties. The acreage in San Joaquin County is more substantial then Contra Costa due to the expansive grass lands of the Altamont and I-5 corridor.

Finally with this year being the 20th anniversary of the Tunnel Fire that occurred in October of 1991 in the Oakland Hills, CAL FIRE will be continuing its relationship with the Hills Emergency Forum (HEF). This Forum made up of stakeholder agencies in both Alameda and Contra Costa Counties has worked tirelessly for 2 decades to both prevent and prepare for another Urban Interface Wildland event that could occur in the Oakland Hills area. The Tunnel Fire remains the largest loss of structures (2900) by wildfire in the history of California.

Objectives:

1. Continue fuel modification, 4291 inspections and look at access and egress issues within and around the Community of Canyon.

2. Implement a fuel modification zone around Mt Diablo State Park boundaries.

3. Draft and implement a 20 to 25 year control burn cycle within the state park. Santa Clara Unit Fire Management Plan, 2009

4. Maintain Wind Farm fire plans and continue the inspections of the re-powering projects.

5. Begin focused enforcement of the 4291 code in the Alhambra Valley and Wildcat Canyon areas.

6. Begin groundwork for 4291 program in the San Pablo Watershed.

7. Continue working with Contra Costa Water District to protect and enhance the Los Vaqueros watershed and nature area.

8. Upkeep, maintenance and mapping of the Contra Costa County fire trails.

9. Remain active in the Diablo Fire Safe Council.

10. Educate the public on equipment caused fires.

11. Reduce arson fires.

12. Review/update Mt. Diablo Sate Park pre-fire management plan with State Parks and other local agency cooperators.

Priority Areas:

1. Canyon

Continue community meetings to assess the overall progress of fire safety and fuels modification projects in the community. Start a 5-year phase-in of 4291 code inspections. Address the access / egress issues with county planning, transportation and building officials. Using GIS based products and a fire behavior-modeling program such as Far Site or Behave conduct a series of fire scenarios in the Canyon area before fuel modification projects and after. Take this data and perform cost suppression estimates of fires before and after projected fuel modification efforts.

2. Mt Diablo State Park

A. Implement a fuel modification zone along the park boundaries to limit the spread of fires from the park into the urban interface and vice versa. Work with park management, US Fish and Wildlife and adjacent local governments to draft and implement a 20-year fire reduction plan in the park. This project would start at or near the top of Mt Diablo and proceed down slope and return to the top at the completion of a cycle. Santa Clara Unit Fire Management Plan, 2009 These burns would be limited to approximately 500 acres per year as conditions allow.

3. Alhambra Valley, Wild Cat Canyon and West Contra Costa County

Begin a focused, phased 4291 code enforcement program. Assess the region for fuel modification projects and secure contracts with local landowners.

4. Bollinger Canyon and Las Trampas Ridge

Working with East Bay Regional Parks, San Ramon Valley Fire Department and local landowners begin fuel modification on Las Trampas Ridge running north Continue 4291 and local weed abatement enforcement in the LRA and SRA areas.

5. Los Vaqueros Watershed and Mallory Ridge

Continue assisting Contra Costa Water District with fuel modification projects and control burns in the Los Vaqueros watershed sensitive areas. Assist Contra Costa Water District with weed abatement projects on
Mallory Ridge.

BATTALION SEVEN (South Santa Clara County Fire District and Morgan Hill Fire)

The South Santa Clara County Fire District and City of Morgan Hill, known as Battalion Seven, are located in the southern San Francisco Bay Area. Battalion Seven provides fire control and advanced emergency medical services to 70,000 customers in the unincorporated areas of Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and the community of San Martin and The City of Morgan Hill. The Battalion has 5 fire stations that cover approximately 300 square miles. The boundaries are: San Jose city limits to the North along highway 101 at Metcalf road; to the Santa Cruz County Line; to the West Hecker Pass Highway; East to Bell Station on the Pacheco Pass Highway; South to the San Benito County Line at Pajaro River.

Battalion Seven protects: residential, commercial and light industrial occupancies; the wildland urban interface communities; 10 wildland Mutual Treat Zones, 450 miles of State Highways 152, 156, 25, and 101; 45 miles of two separate rail lines owned by Southern and Union Pacific Railroads, also used by Cal Train Commuter and Amtrak trains.

The San Andrea's, Hayward, and Sergeants Faults Zones run through Battalion Seven. One large major water supply from San Luis Reservoir and a gas pipeline run through the battalion.

Since 1997, Battalion Seven has provided advanced life support (paramedic) services for all members of the community. The battalion works closely with the local ambulance provider (Rural Metro), and Santa Clara County EMS. Along with fire suppression and emergency medical service, battalion personnel are trained in many other aspects of emergency responses. These include: vehicle extrication, swift water rescue, hazardous material response, earthquake, and flood preparedness. The battalion also provides fire prevention education, code enforcement, and engineering services to the public. Battalion staff includes 3 Battalion Chiefs, 1 Fire Captain Paramedic in the position of EMS Coordinator, 1 Fire Captain in the position of Fire Marshal, 6 Fire Captains/Paramedics, 6 Fire Captains, 13 Fire Apparatus Engineers/Paramedics, 14 Fire Apparatus Engineers, 1 Mechanic, 4 Communication Operators and 1 Staff Service Analyst and 1 Office Technician. The battalion operates 6 type 1 Fire Engines, 1, 75' Truck, 1, 105' Truck, 2 3,000 Gallon Water Tenders, 3 Utility Vehicles, 3 Chief Officer's Vehicles, Mobile Air Support Unit and a Technical Rescue Unit. The battalion is supported by its' 20 paid call firefighters. In addition to emergency response, Paid Call Firefighters are frequently utilized to staff stations when front line engines are on other emergencies. Paid Call Firefighters are also involved in numerous charitable activities and fund raisers.

Battalion Seven participates actively in automatic aid agreements, with the Gilroy City Fire Department, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), Pajaro Valley Fire District, San Benito County Fire, and San Jose City Fire Departments. Battalion Seven is an active participant in the Santa Clara County and State of California Mutual Aid Plans responding to disasters in the County and throughout California.

The battalion is an all risk emergency response battalion. Responding to approximately 5,500 incidents per year which include various assists to other fire departments, emergency medical services, structure, vehicle, wildland fires, hazardous materials spills, water rescues, and public service assists.

The Insurance Service Rating (ISO) rating for the Battalion is 5 and 10. The ISO rating of 5 is within 5 miles of any fire station or a fire department we currently have an auto aid agreement with.

Battalion Seven: (South Santa Clara County Fire District):

The South Santa Clara County Fire District was established in 1980 when the Gilroy Rural Fire District merged with the Morgan Hill Rural Fire District. The South Santa Clara County Fire District contracts for personnel and administration with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) which is the largest multi-purpose emergency service and resource protection agency within the United States. The Santa Clara Unit (SCU) of CAL FIRE is responsible for over 1.35 million acres of State Responsibility Area (SRA), as well as Local Responsibility (LRA).

A seven-member Board of Fire Commissioners oversees the South Santa Clara County Fire District. The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors appoints them. The Board Members live in different areas of the Fire District and represent the diversified views of the local community. Their diversified views provide input, oversight, and budget management, as representatives of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

Mission Statement:

Santa Clara County Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide quality public services with measurable outcomes for the residents of the County of Santa Clara, in order to meet their needs for a healthy, safe, and prosperous environment and help them develop a community rich in both natural beauty and economic opportunity where diverse people come together to celebrate a higher quality of life. The South Santa Clara County Fire District is dedicated to provide professional customer service through performance and accountability.
We provide fire and emergency medical services to protect life and property and we strive to reduce emergencies through fire prevention and public education.

The South Santa Clara County Fire District Mission Statement
The South Santa Clara County Fire District is dedicated to provide professional customer service through performance and accountability. We provide fire and emergency medical services to protect life and property and we strive to reduce emergencies through fire prevention and public education.

South Santa Clara County Fire District Board of Commissioners Strategy

We will advise responsibly and in accordance with all Federal, State, and Local laws, codes, and ordinances. We will ethically represent the residents of the Fire District at all times with Respect, Leadership, and Integrity. We will be fiscally responsible, while providing the Fire District residents with highly trained and properly equipped personnel, meeting and exceeding industry standards

Battalion Seven: (City of Morgan Hill):

The City of Morgan Hill was incorporated in 1906, and is a General Law City operating under the Council-Manager form of government. It is a community of 12 square miles, serving 38,000 people. Located 12 miles south of the City of San Jose, it is 15 miles from the Pacific Ocean. It is a comfortable, livable residential community, surrounded by agricultural production of fruits, vegetables and wines. Its top employers include Anritsu, Comcast Cable, and the Morgan Hill Unified School District.

Fire and EMS service delivery in the city is provided by the City of Morgan Hill (2 stations), El Toro and Dunne Hill. The city changed fire service providers on Jan 3, 2013 via contract with CAL FIRE. The city stations then became part of Battalion Seven.

Mission Statement:

The Morgan Hill Fire Department is committed to the Protection of Life, Property, and the Environment through Performance, Preparedness, and Prevention.

Vision:

The Morgan Hill Fire Department will be recognized as a fire service leader through innovative programs focusing on regionalization, community preparedness, education, and youth programs while delivering exceptional emergency and non-emergency services.

Values:

The Morgan Hill Fire Department is committed to the Protection of Life, Property, and the Environment through Performance, Preparedness, and Prevention.

Battalion Seven:

Objectives:

1. To keep structure fires to the floor of origin.
2. To treat, package, and transport patients to definitive care within 1 hour.
3. To meet designated EMS response times 95% or above
4. To adopt new fire code
5. To minimize the interface fire threat.
6. To identify high fire severity zones and complete pre-response and evacuation plans.
7. To identify fuel reduction and fuel modification projects in the high fire severity zones.
8. Continue to support Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).
9. To maintain staffing at all Fire Stations.
10. To attempt to locate funding using all grant resources
11. Continue to explore regionalization possibilities.

Battalion Seven:

2013 Vegetation Fuel Reduction Inspections Areas:

1. Holiday Lake Estates/ Jackson Oaks
   > Light flashy fuels mixed with oak woodland. Population in this area is approximately 6,000 residents.
2. El Matador Drive
3. Redwood Retreat Road
4. Developed areas East of New Ave.
5. Day Road
6. Burchell road
7. Chesbro Reservoir and Live Oak areas

2013 Action Plan:

1. Update pre fire plans.
2. Educate the public about the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council.
3. Maintain school and special event programs.
4. Assist Unit VIPs with LE 100 program for PRC 4291.
5. Continue to recruit and retain Paid Call Firefighters.
6. Continue plans reviews and enforcement of PRC 4290
7. To provide employees with the latest Fire and EMS training to support objective 1 and 2.
8. To continue to work with and support all of our cooperators
9. Work in cooperation with the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council, Local Law Enforcement, and our local Cooperators to develop evacuation plans and fire plans for communities at risk due to a major incident.
10. Perform business inspections.

Utilization of the reverse 911 system for public notification during major incidents which may impact their communities.

BATTALION NINE (Emergency Command Center)

The Morgan Hill Emergency Command Center (ECC) of the Santa Clara Unit is one of 21 unit ECCs in CAL FIRE, providing command and control services for 12 State Fire Stations, (Schedule B), positioned to protect the State Responsibility Areas, (SRA), of Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, Western San Joaquin, and Western Stanislaus Counties. The Morgan Hill ECC also provides Command and Control for the Local Government Cooperative Agreements with The South Santa Clara County Fire District, Alameda County Fire Protection District at the Sunol Fire Station and two Amador Contracts. One Amador Contract at the Pacheco Fire Station in Santa Clara County, and the other is at Sunshine Fire Station in Contra Costa County.

The ECC has budgeted positions for four Fire Captains (Schedule B), three Communication Operators (Schedule A), and one Battalion Chief (Schedule B). The shifts are staggered to maintain a Fire Captain (Duty Officer) on 24 hours per day. A minimum of two other ECC qualified employees are on duty in the daytime during transitional and peak staffing. A minimum of one other ECC qualified employee is on duty in the winter preparedness during daytime hours.

The ECC provides Command and Control, communications and logistical support, and CAL FIRE resources to mitigate wildfires and to assist local and federal government and cities, for any emergency management needs including but not limited to fires, floods, and earthquakes in the Local Responsibility Areas, (LRA), of Alameda, Contra Costa, and Santa Clara, Western Stanislaus and Western San Joaquin Counties.

A portion of LRA lands in the Santa Clara Unit are protected by means of Mutual Threat Zone Agreements, (MTZs), with the various cities, and local governments in the Santa Clara Unit. The Santa Clara Unit has approximately 110 MTZs. These MTZs are located in Alameda, Contra Costa, and Santa Clara and Western San Joaquin Counties. The MTZs are divided into geographic portions dictated by community, geography, and structure density. At which time infrastructure is developed in Stanislaus Counties, it is anticipated that additional Mutual Threat Zone Agreements will be established to protect the values at risk in these areas.

The ECC works hand in hand with our cooperators by means of Mutual Aid, and Automatic Aid Agreements. On a day to day basis the ECC provides assistance to adjoining jurisdictions by means of our Automatic Aid Agreements. These agreements allow CAL-FIRE and its Cooperators to respond the closest available resource to any given incident with a reduced delay. On a broader scale, if a given entity determines the incident they are responding to will exceed, or has exceeded their capabilities, CAL-FIRE will assist as requested to manage and mitigate the incident.

The ECC provides a leadership role in the monitoring of fire weather conditions within the Santa Clara Unit. The issuing of Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches are a foundation for success. The ECC works closely with the Monterey and Sacramento Fire Weather Office to anticipate such weather events, which allows the ECC to augment staffing prior to the barrage of fire activity that accompanies some weather events. The ECC also works closely with the SCU Duty Chief and the NOPS Duty Officer as it pertains to pre-positioning of CAL-FIRE resources

in the critical areas of the Santa Clara Unit and tracking of costs associated with these augmentations. The ECC strives to be ever-prudent, but appropriately prepared to respond.

The ECC manages two Remote Weather Stations (RAWS) and monitors 14 other (which are the property of State Parks, San Francisco Water Department, East Bay Regional Parks, Contra Costa Water District, Central Fire Protection District and the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District) stations on a daily basis to set the appropriate dispatch levels based on burn indices. A Standard Response is pre-determined for each dispatch level in the event of a wildfire, or other type of fire determined to be a threat to the wildland. Dispatch levels and responses are determined based on the approved Unit Fire Danger Operating Plan.

The ECC Expanded Operation (SCU Expanded) is a co-located facility that allows for the operation of an incident, which goes beyond the scope of initial attack, to be managed off the main ECC floor. The ECC can then continue to maintain the day-to-day business of the Unit with less distraction. The SCU Expanded operation is fully functionalized (Crews, Equipment, Overhead, Supplies, and General Information). When an Initial Attack Incident occurs that has the potential to become an extended attack, or major incident, the ECC duty officer can request to open the SCU Expanded. Staffing can be requested by call-back of off duty ECC personnel or by requesting and ECC Support Team be activated by NOPS.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the CAL FIRE Morgan Hill Emergency Command Center is to provide timely, professional, consistent, accurate and coordinated command and control functions; utilizing existing and future resources, funding sources and technology in a creative manner to produce the best possible service to those in need.

Objectives:

1. The ECC will endeavor to meet or exceed the call processing and dispatching recommendations set forth in NFPA 1221 and NENA Standards.

2. To hold the public, and fire service personnel safety as the number one priority in relation to ECC responsibilities.

3. To provide accurate, and timely dispatching services to the population served by the CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit and Cooperators through training, instruction and procedural guidelines.

4. To provide a proper notification to CAL FIRE and cooperator resources of all incidents in the Santa Clara Unit based on information collected, the approved standard response plans and the duty officer's knowledge and experience.

5. Provide proper notification to the public through designated processes including the media, regarding incidents and events that have a potential effect on their safety.

6. To keep Unit employees and cooperators informed in areas of significance; including burn indices, weather forecasts and emergency events.

7. Maintain efficiency of all tasks required, and perform them in a timely manner.

8. Continue to pursue to establish 24-hour Wide-Awake Dispatch Capability at Morgan Hill ECC.

9. To continue our leadership role in the early recognition of extreme fire weather conditions within the Santa Clara Unit, and to communicate this information to Unit staff and our Cooperators in a timely manner.

10. Aggressively initiate the Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) request process as soon as the incident is identified to meet the criteria of any given wildland fire which is damaging, or threatening to damage infrastructure within the Santa Clara Unit.

11.To maintain a proper database to use in the event of an emergency to query and activate proper resources to mitigate an event.

12. To maintain ECC and Unit telecommunications resources to meet the needs of Unit personnel with fiscal responsibility.

BATTALION TWENTY (Prevention-Law Enforcement)

The Santa Clara Fire Prevention Bureau falls under the direction and supervision of the Unit's Eastbay Division Chief. The Bureau is staffed by a Battalion Chief, one Fire Captain Specialist, one Pre-Fire Engineer, who also doubles as a Fire Captain Specialist, and a Fire Prevention Specialist II (FPS II). All of the Prevention Bureau staff are California Peace Officers, except the FPS II. The Bureau is involved in all areas of prevention and is broken down into three separate, but related functions handled by the individuals assigned to the Bureau, education, engineering and enforcement.

The Volunteers in Prevention program is administered and coordinated by the FPS II. The VIP's currently have 78 members and conduct public outreach and education programs, news releases, 4,230 PRC- 4291 (LE-100 Defensible Space) inspections, and when combined with other projects of personnel time to fire prevention engineering and education to the unit.

Law Enforcement branch of the Bureau includes; fire investigation (origin and cause determination), issuing citations, and processing criminal complaints with local District Attorneys, and civil cost collections, which are returned to the States General Fund. The Bureau maintains active membership in the Santa Clara and Alameda County Fire Prevention Officers, and Fire Investigation groups, and is currently working to establish an interdisciplinary fire investigation team in Contra Costa County. In addition to these groups the Bureau is actively fostering working relationships with the over 40 other Law Enforcement agencies within the units boundaries.

Pre Fire Engineering and Fire Protection Planning are also handled by the Bureau. The majority of the Public Resources Code 4290 inspections are conducted by the local fire department officials in cooperation with the local CAL FIRE Battalion Chief. The reason for having these local agreements is that many of the local agencies have requirements that are more restrictive than PRC 4291. In addition it makes the process easier for the property owner.

Pre Fire Engineering includes GIS mapping of assets at risk, wild land fuel belts, and the maintenance of various other GIS data layers for use in planning and implementing fuel reduction projects. The Bureau also provides technical support to for three Fire Safe Council's active in the unit, South Santa Clara County Fire Safe, Santa Clara Fire Safe, Diablo Fire Safe, and to the Hills Emergency Forum, a working group formed after the Tunnel Fire to address projects in the LRA and interface areas of the East Bay Hills and surrounding communities. With input and cooperation from these groups, and the associated stake holders, the Pre-Fire Engineer establishes goals and projects in the Unit's Fire Management Plan to reduce the threat of large damaging fires. The Fire Management Plan is the Unit's template for fuels reduction projects including pending, on going, and completed projects. The Unit's Fire Plan allows us to respond to the needs and concerns of the public and identifies projects to be funded through cooperative grants and donations.

Through the functions of education, engineering and enforcement, the goal of the Santa Clara Fire Prevention Bureau is working to reduce unplanned ignitions within the unit, limit damage caused by uncontrolled fires, through the use of education, pre fire mitigation projects,

patrol, and law enforcement to meet the mission statement of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. *Education and (Volunteer in Prevention)/VIP*

The SCU VIP Program assists the Unit in a variety of Fire Prevention Activities. The Unit currently utilizes the VIP's to help support community outreach events, defensible space inspections (LE-100 Program), home and garden shows, educational events, staffing Copernicus Lookout and supporting the Unit during fires.

AUTOMOTIVE BATTALION

CAL FIRE Department of Forestry, Santa Clara Unit's (SCU) Automotive Battalion, encompasses portions of five counties: Santa Clara, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Joaquin and Stanislaus. The Automotive Battalion has five program areas that require automotive equipment and maintenance. The five programs are: the South Santa Clara County Fire District Schedule A Program, the Sunol Schedule A Program, the Sunshine Amador Contract, the Pacheco Amador Program and the California State wildland protection funded fire equipment. To maintain the required mobile equipment spread over portions of five counties, there is a great need to have three automotive repair shops. They are located at the Morgan Hill Fire Station, the Sunol Fire Station and the Del Puerto Station. This placement reduces travel times, fuel costs and allows for repairs or maintenance on multiple pieces of mobile equipment simultaneously. The Heavy Fire Equipment Operators (HFEOs) assist the SCU's Heavy Equipment Mechanics (HEM) with automotive repairs, maintain state fire breaks and roads and participate in Vegetation Management Projects (VMP) when not assigned to wildland fire incidents. The Fleet Equipment Manager (FEM) directs and manages the SCU's Automotive Battalion. The FEM manages the automotive budget, assigns repair projects, projects automotive needs of the future and coordinates equipment replacement.

CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit Automotive Policy

It is the policy of CAL FIRE to maintain each piece of mobile equipment in a condition consistent with the work for which it was designed. This will be accomplished through the uniform application of an effective, preventive maintenance program in accordance with all state automotive and fiscal requirements. Repairs shall be made and parts replaced as necessary to keep the equipment functional, with priority being given to those items contributing to personnel safety. Mobile equipment shall not be altered or modified except, as outlined in the CAL FIRE Mobile Equipment Handbook: 6820 – MODIFICATIONS. Approval for modifications or alteration is granted in writing by the appropriate level.

Regular inspections of all mobile equipment shall be made as outlined in the preventive maintenance procedure and record. Accurate records shall be maintained of maintenance and repairs on all mobile equipment. As much as possible, major repairs shall be scheduled during the time of least expected incident activity. The Type III fire apparatus will have the majority of maintenance preformed during the winter months and construction equipment used in the winter months will be maintained during summer. This will reduce occurrences of breakdown during those times when the equipment is needed most.

SAFETY BATTALION

Safety Battalion

The Santa Clara Unit's sphere of influence includes portions of Santa Clara, Stanislaus, Alameda, San Joaquin and Contra Costa Counties. It shares jurisdictional boundaries with: 35 separate city fire departments and fire protection districts; Mount Diablo and Henry Coe State Parks; East Bay Regional Parks District (EBMD); and Santa Clara County parks.
The SCU Safety Battalion actively participates in the Santa Clara County, Contra Costa, and Alameda Counties Safety Officer's Associations. In addition, the SCU Safety Battalion Chief participates in regular meetings with the: Santa Clara County Fire Safe Counsel; East Bay Regional Parks District; Mount Diablo and Henry Coe State Parks; Morgan Hill Police Department; Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office, California Highway Patrol, and other responding agencies..

The Safety Battalion oversees the quarterly Safety Committee meetings: to discuss tSafety issues; review personnel and vehicle accidents; recommend steps to prevent future mishaps: ensure the department's safety requirements and safety programs are being adhered to in the fire stations and on incidents. Listed below is the Santa Clara Unit Safety Committee Charter.

Action Plan

Develop Santa Clara Unit Program Goals and Objectives. Review accident reports to determine causation and develop prevention recommendations. Develop a Lessons Learned educational format to disseminate info back out to the Unit for Safety Review. Recommend Guidelines and Programs for safety Education and Training. Exchange ideas to improve methods of Operation. Take an active role in the Unit wide safety inspections to address concerns with Health and Safety issues at all Unit facilities. Developing recommendations regarding Policy and Programs. Disseminate safety information to keep managers, supervisors, and employees informed of Safety Hazards and Prevention Techniques Evaluate the effectiveness of the Unit's Safety Program on an annual basis. Review IIPP 8 submitted by employees and follow through with solutions and reply back to the employees in a timely manner. The first priority of the Santa Clara Safety Battalion is to provide for the overall safety of the Santa Clara Unit's 100 permanent personnel and 134 seasonal employees.

Mission Statements

The SCU Safety Battalion is to provide the most current national industry standards for safety in all mentioned program areas with the highest attention given to providing safety in the work environment. The battalion tracks work related injuries and illnesses for the Santa Clara Unit employees through the IAPS Injury and Illness Prevention Program).

The secondary mission of the SCU Safety Battalion is to: enhance fire department Safety by seeking creative and alternative Safety training mechanisms; seeking additional funding sources, encouraging each employee to be part of a team and to share their individual areas of expertise by participating as instructors.

TRAINING BATTALION

The Santa Clara Unit's sphere of influence includes portions of Santa Clara, Stanislaus, Alameda, San Joaquin and Contra Costa Counties. It shares jurisdictional boundaries with: 35 separate city fire departments and fire protection districts; Mount Diablo and Henry Coe State Parks; East Bay Regional Parks District (EBMD); and Santa Clara County parks. Joint training is held with the: State EMS; the AMR Ambulance Company; 5 different Sheriff Offices; California Highway Patrol and various city police departments.

The SCU Training Battalion personnel actively participate in the Santa Clara County, Contra Costa County, and Alameda County Training Officer's Associations. In addition, the SCU Battalion Chiefs participate in regular meetings with the: Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council, East Bay Regional Parks District, Mount Diablo State Park, Henry Coe State Park, Morgan Hill Police Department, Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office and other responding agencies. The Battalion Chiefs assist these agencies with wildland fire training exercises and provide the Training Battalion with a list of training needs so joint operations may take place. This provides for cost effective operations and allows for enhanced interagency partnerships.

The first priority of the Santa Clara Training Staff is to provide for the overall safety of our 100 permanent personnel and 134 seasonal employees through instructional programs that target operational efficiency with emphasis on safe operating procedures in all aspects of fire and emergency operations. The Training Battalion's responsibility is to also facilitate and to ensure coordination for the unit-wide training plan, match training courses with approved personnel training requests, maintain a central location for updated training records for all employees.

The Battalion Staff comprises of one Battalion Chief, one Fire Captain, and two engine Captains that work in training in during non-peak staffing. The Training Staff is responsible for training five Volunteer Fire Company's in Santa Clara County under a contract with the county. The Staff continually strives to provide creative, cost effective, innovative training, and always providing the highest commitment to safety. The state-funded training operations, which are divided into 18 separate program areas, are a seven-day a week operation.

Mission Statements

The Santa Clara Unit Training Battalion responsibility is to provide on-going training, education and certification to fire service personnel. All training is focused on providing and maintaining the highest quality emergency service at both fire and medical responses to the citizens of California. Instructional programs target operational efficiency with emphasis on safe operating procedures for our personnel in all aspects of fire and emergency operations.

Objectives:

1. Examine, re-evaluate, and recommend changes in SCU's Field Accountability Tracking System (FATS).

2. Identify the legal state and federal requirements for training in each program area.

3. Identify training requirements for contract programs.

4. Meet or exceed those training standards identified in the CAL-FIRE State Training handbook.

5. Identify training priorities set by the Unit's senior management.

6. Identify the needs of each of the 18 program areas to meet the training requirements established by the program managers.

7. Identify projected vacancies and the training requirements necessary to help those personnel filling those vacancies function successfully.

8. Identify the needs of each employee to help achieve career development goals.

9. Identify CAL-FIRE'S new training programs in the early stages of development, project their impact and develop an implementation plan.

10. Identify the training needs of our partner agencies.

11. Examine the current tracking and delivery systems. Identify system deficiencies. Implement corrective solutions necessary to meet the goals of the Training Plan.

12. Develop control mechanisms to monitor program efficiency and correct deficiencies.

13. Establish a communication system, using current electronic technologies, to deliver information on training programs available.

14. Seek alternative funding sources in the form of grants, participation with universities and sharing courses with other agencies.

15. Work towards enhancing the knowledge and skill levels necessary for safe and effective response to possible weapons of mass destruction incidents.

16. Compile information derived from objectives listed above. Establish a training priority list. Develop a Training Plan with achievable goals for the Training and Safety Battalion. Set timeframes necessary to meet those goals.

APPENDIX A: PRE- FIRE PROJECTS

- ***Insert all of the Pre Fire Projects. (Fuel modification projects, community outreach and education programs, etc.)***

Batt Planning area	Project Number	Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
7		South Santa Clara Fire Public Education	A	N/A	ED	0
7		Morgan Hill Fire Public Education	A	N/A	ED	0
		Santa Clara Unit Fire Education Program	A	N/A	ED	0
3		Santa Clara Valley Water Shed Project	C	July 1, 2013	VMP	34836
2		Grant Ranch	O		VMP	
1		Coe Park	O		VMP	

Status Guide: A = Active, P = Planning, C = Completed, O = Ongoing, M = Maintenance.

APPENDIX B: UNIT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOALS

The Units' priorities are identified in bold and a measurement criteria are provided for each of the identified objectives.

Goal 1: Develop a method to integrate fire and fuels management practices with landowner priorities and multiple jurisdictional efforts within local, state and federal responsibility areas.

Objectives:

a) Support the availability and utilization of CAL FIRE hand crews and other CAL FIRE resources, as well as public and private sector resources, for fuels management activities, including ongoing maintenance.

Measurement Criteria: *CAL FIRE will report to the Board on the number of crews available each year with a description of projects, including acres treated, completed by each Unit. Report the number of agreements and/or amount of funding and acres treated that involve grants or partnerships with federal agencies, resource conservation districts, local FSCs, fire districts, watershed groups or other non-profit or community groups that support the ability to carry out fuels reduction projects.*

Goal 2: Address post-fire responsibilities for natural resource recovery, including watershed protection reforestation, and ecosystem restoration.

Objectives:

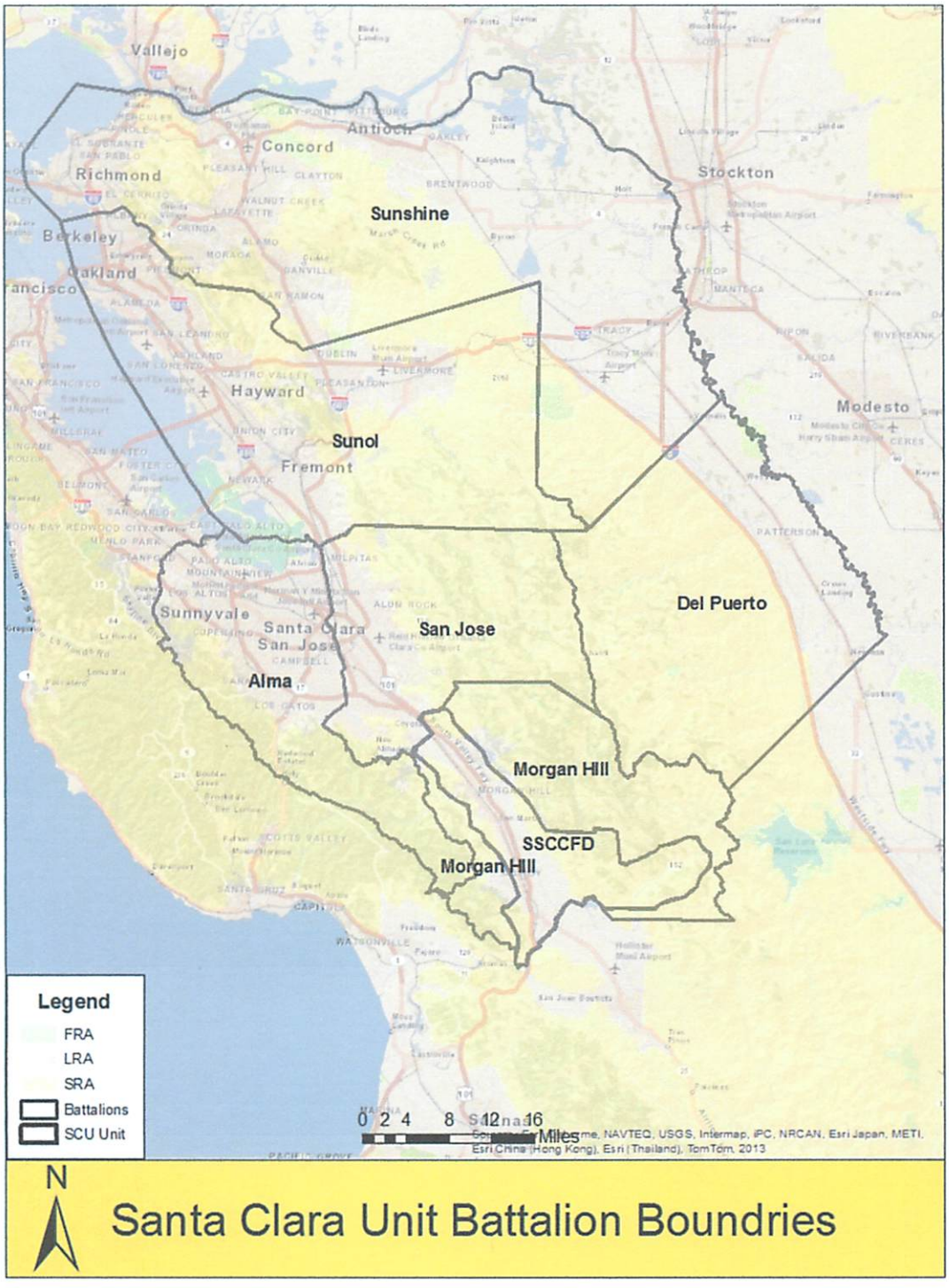
b) Assist landowners and local government in the evaluation of the need to retain and utilize features (e.g., roads, firelines, water sources) developed during a fire suppression effort, taking into consideration those identified in previous planning efforts.

Measurement Criteria: *CAL FIRE (utilizing Incident Command Teams) to schedule a post-fire review of the planning documents that cover the area affected by the fire. Review the goals, objectives and projects (implemented and planned) to identify successes and failures. Review the features developed during the fire and incorporate them into the existing Unit fire plan documents. This objective will only be reported when a fire occurs in an area with an existing Unit fire plan document. Incident command teams may conduct this post fire assessment under the direction of the Unit Chief.*

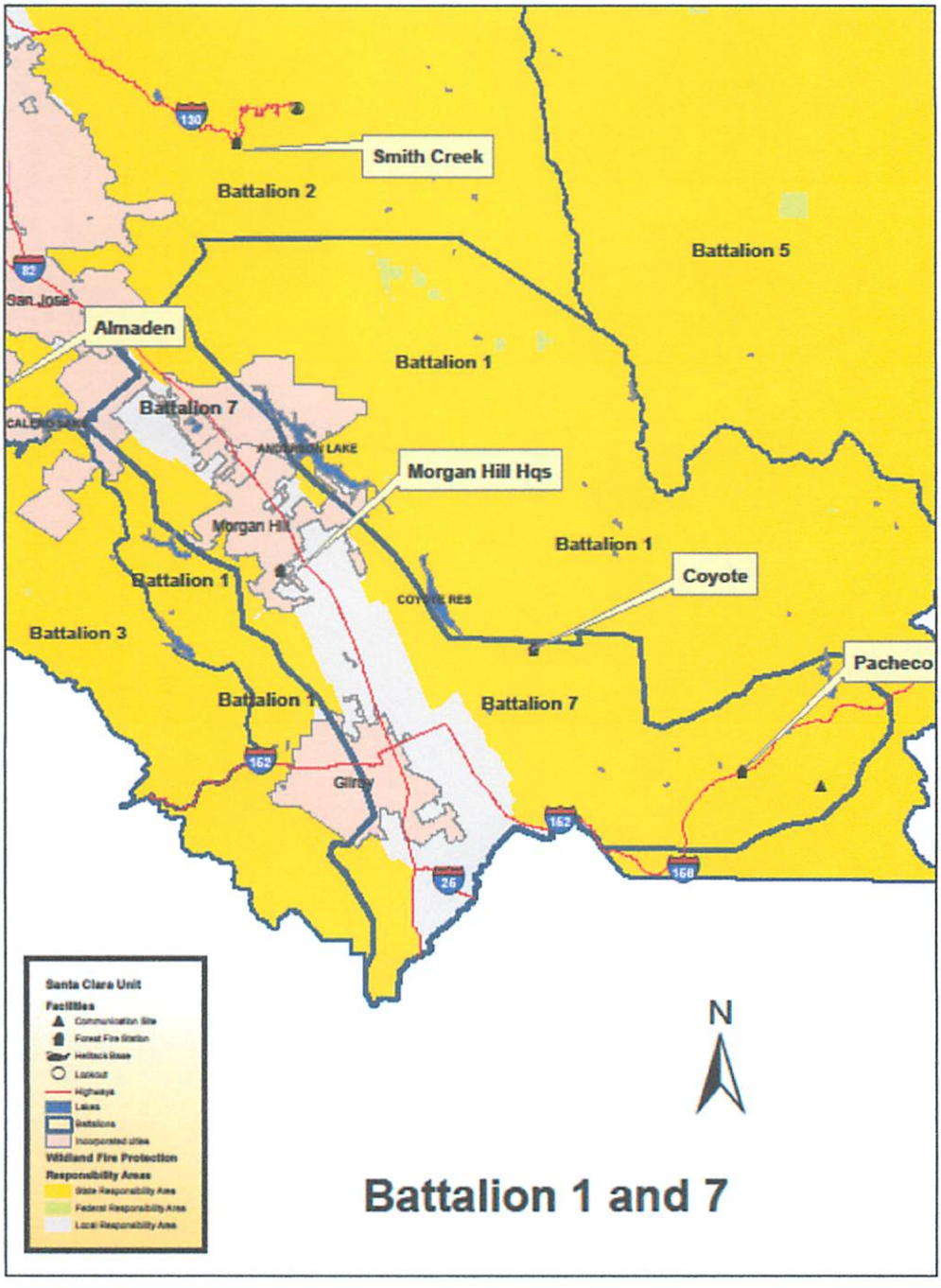
EXHIBITS: MAPS

Figure A: Unit Map

Unit & Battalions

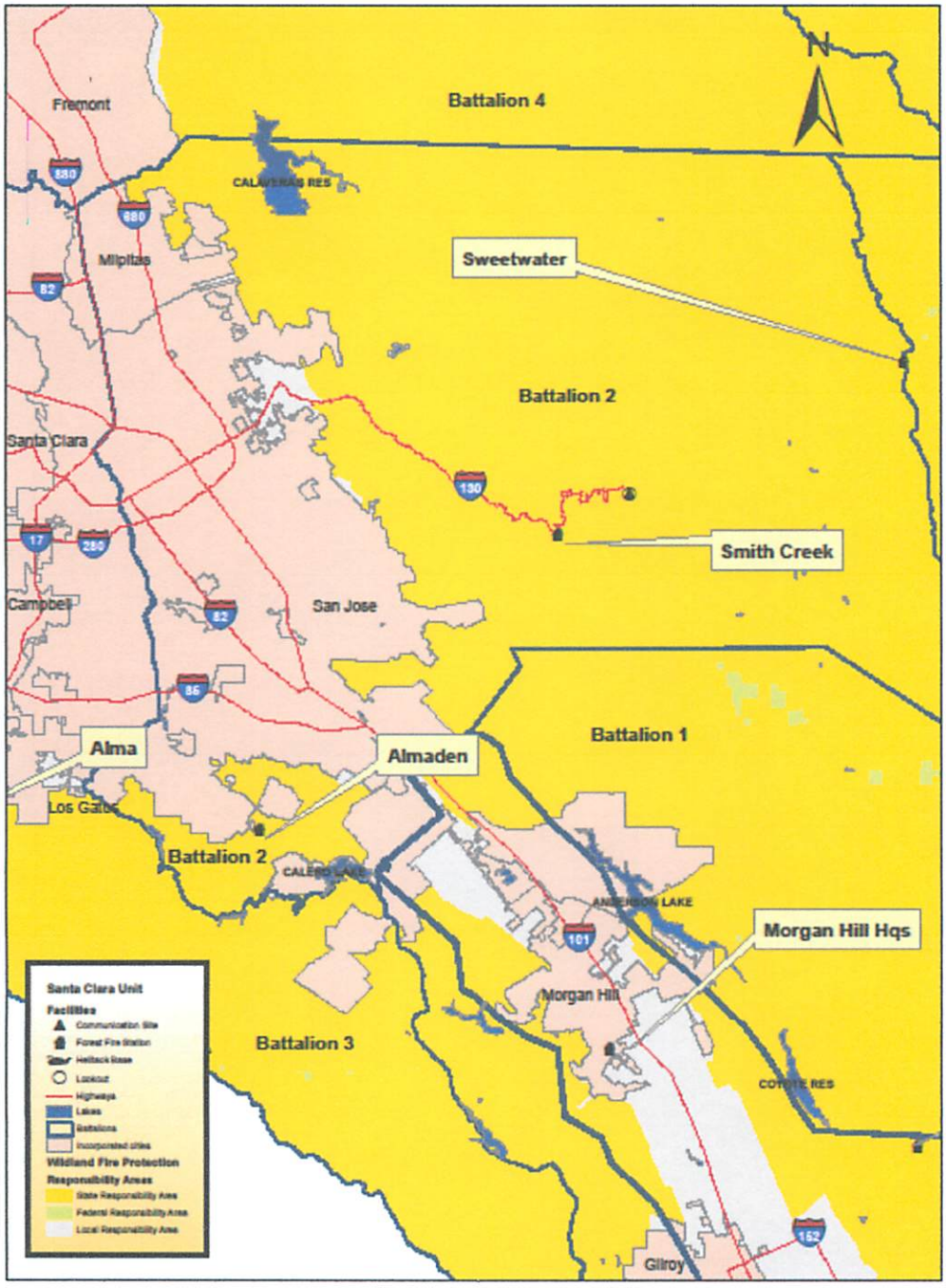


Battalions 1 and 7

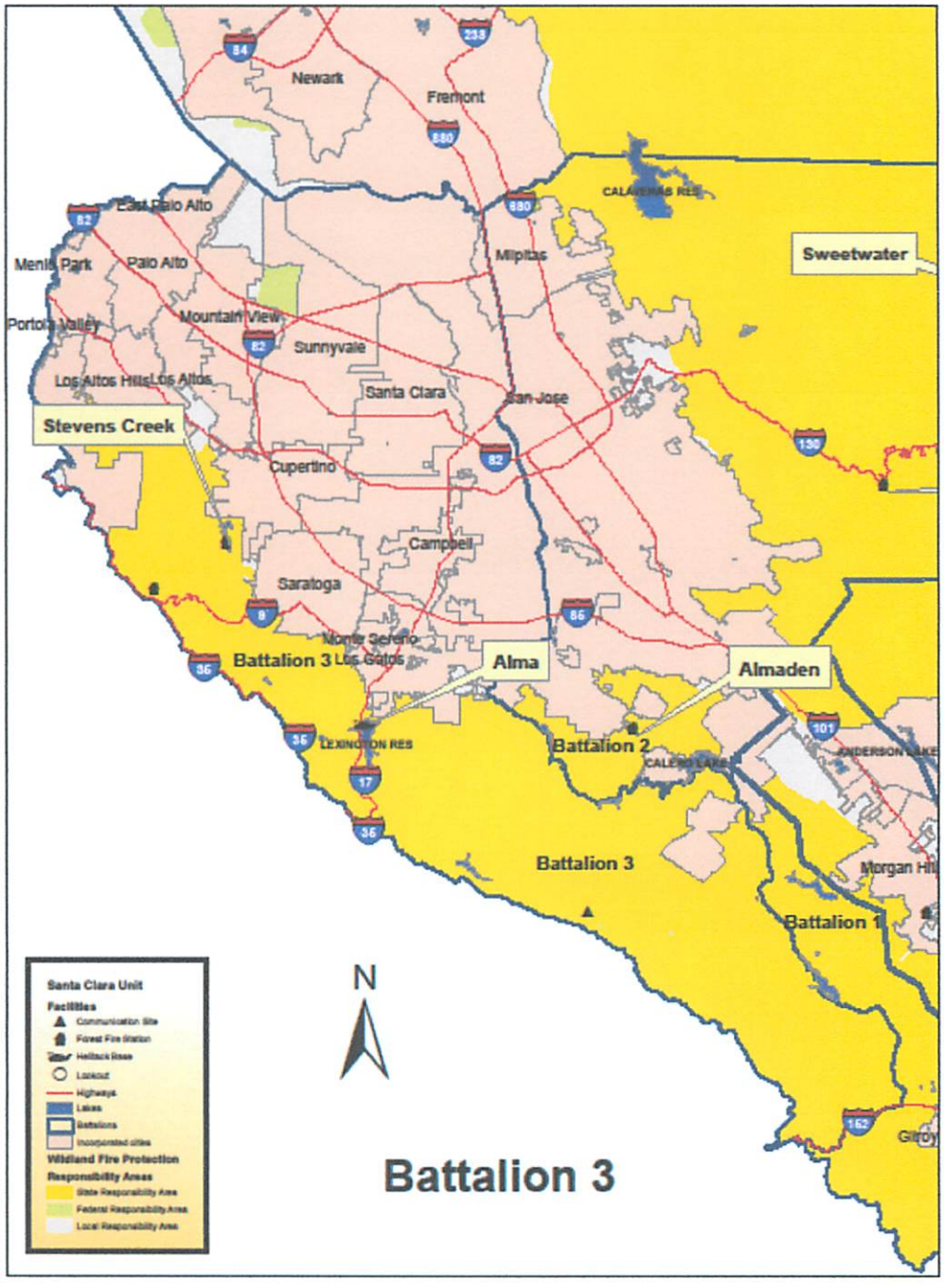

Smith Creek
Battalion 2
Battalion 5
San Jose
Almaden
Battalion 1
Battalion 7
Morgan Hill Hqs
Morgan Hill
Battalion 1
Coyote
Battalion 1
Battalion 3
Pacheco
Battalion 1
Battalion 7
Gilroy
N
Santa Clara Unit
Facilities
Communication Site
Forest Fire Station
Helitack Base
Lookout
Highways
Lakes
Battalions
Incorporated cities
Wildland Fire Protection
Responsibility Areas
State Responsibility Area
Federal Responsibility Area
Local Responsibility Area
Battalion 1 and 7

Battalion 2

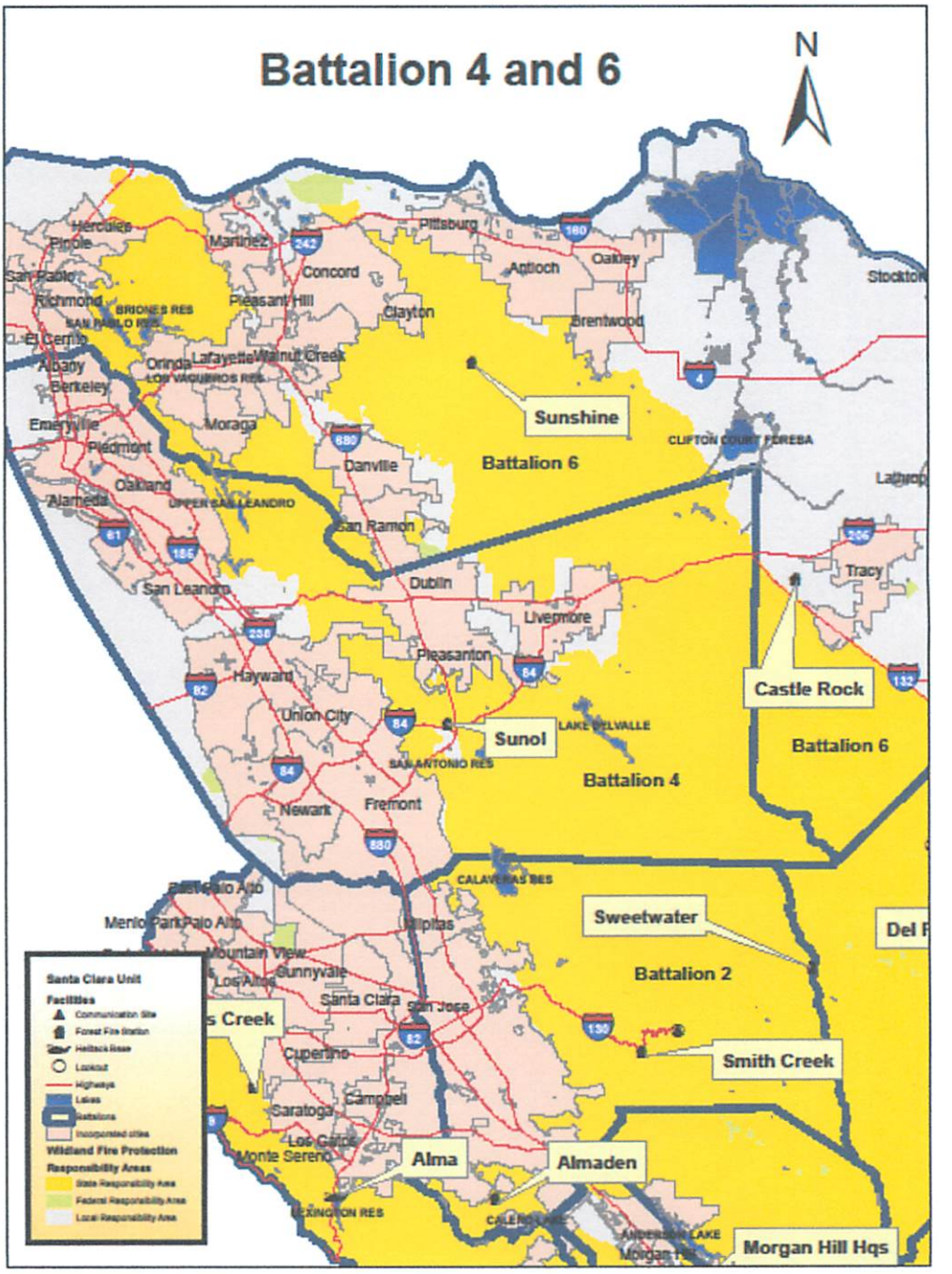
Battalion 2



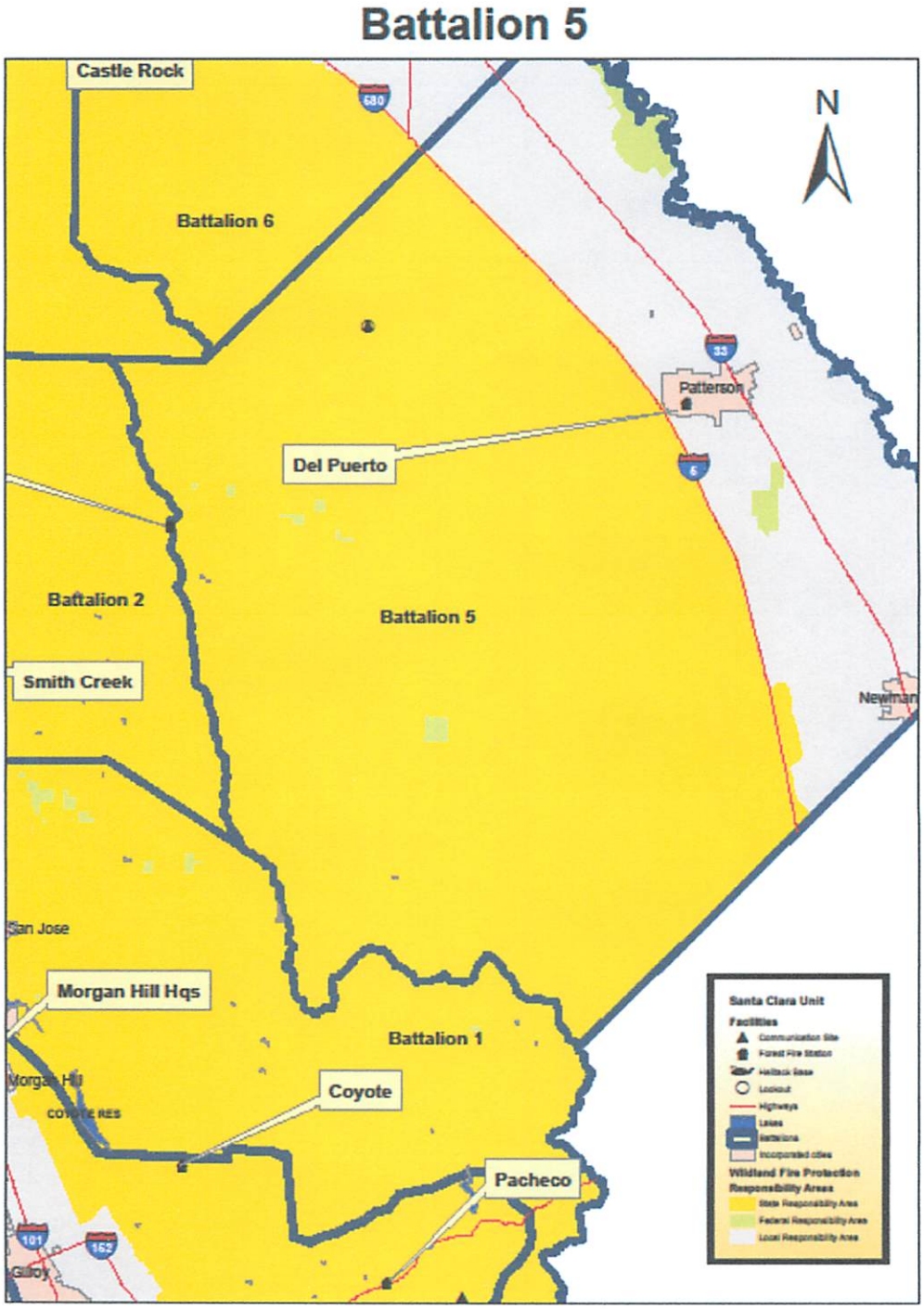
Battalion 3



Battalion 4 & 6


Battalion 4 and 6
N
Sunshine
Battalion 6
Castle Rock
Battalion 6
Sunol
Battalion 4
Sweetwater
Battalion 2
Smith Creek
Alma
Almaden
Morgan Hill Hqs
Hercules
Pinole
San Pablo
Richmond
El Cerrito
Albany
Berkeley
Emeryville
Piedmont
Oakland
Alameda
Martinez
Concord
Pleasant Hill
Clayton
Pittsburg
Antioch
Oakley
Brentwood
Stockton
Orinda
Lafayette
Walnut Creek
Moraga
Danville
San Ramon
Dublin
Livermore
Pleasanton
Tracy
Lathrop
San Leandro
Hayward
Union City
Fremont
Newark
Milpitas
Menlo Park
Palo Alto
Mountain View
Los Altos
Sunnyvale
Santa Clara
San Jose
Cupertino
Campbell
Saratoga
Los Gatos
Monte Sereno
Santa Clara Unit
Facilities
Communication Site
Forest Fire Station
Helitack Base
Lookout
Highways
Lakes
Battalions
Incorporated cities
Wildland Fire Protection
Responsibility Areas
State Responsibility Area
Federal Responsibility Area
Local Responsibility Area

Battalion 5


Battalion 5
Castle Rock
Battalion 6
N
Patterson
Del Puerto
Battalion 2
Battalion 5
Smith Creek
Newman
San Jose
Morgan Hill Hqs
Battalion 1
Morgan Hill
Coyote
Pacheco
Gilroy
Santa Clara Unit
Facilities
Wildland Fire Protection Responsibility Areas

SUPPLEMENT: 2012

Annual Report of Unit Accomplishments

The Santa Clara Unit worked in cooperation with the Santa Clara Valley Water district to improve the watershed, road and clearance in the PL 566 project. Working with San Jose State university we were able to provide them with an area to use for a large scale mapping project using various mapping and technical equipment to map the project area to include but not limited to road, project area, treatment areas culverts power poles and lines. This data will be used to document the project and can be used in the event there is a fire in the area. The class project saved the unit countless staff hours of mapping and GIS work and provided the class with a real hands on project that will be useful in the furture.