Unit Strategic Fire Plan
San Benito-Monterey

Last update: 26 April 2014

UNIT STRATEGIC FIRE PLAN AMENDMENTS

Date	Section Updated	Page Numbers Updated	Description of Update	Updated By
4/15/13	I - Unit Overview	4, 5	Unit resources & Aid Agreements	CST
4/15/13	III - Values	7 - 16	Replaced wording - Priority "Landscapes" with "Areas"	CST
4/15/13	Appendix A	36 - 50	Updated Battalion Projects	CST
4/15/13	Appendix C	52	Updated Ignition Data	CST
4/23/13	Exhibits: Maps	61	Fire History Map	CST
5/21/13	Appendix B	51	Deleted "Unit Goals & Objectives"	CST
5/21/13	Appendix B / C	51 - 52	Moved Ignition Data to App - B	CST
9/10/13	I - Unit Overview	5	Deleted "Carmel Fire Department"	CST
9/25/13	Information & Education	20	Updated ignition issues	CST
1/07/14	Dispatch Agreements	5	Deleted "Monterey Airport Fire District"	CST
4/26/14	Appendix A	36 - 50	Updated Battalion Projects	CST
5/9/14	Section II - Collaboration	6	Added stakeholders	CST

Table of Contents

Table of Contents ii

SIGNATURE PAGE 1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2

SECTION I: UNIT OVERVIEW 3

UNIT DESCRIPTION 3

UNIT PREPAREDNESS AND FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITIES 4

SECTION II: COLLABORATION 6

COMMUNITY / AGENCIES / FIRE SAFE COUNCILS 6

A: VALUES 7

B: COMMUNITIES 17

SECTION IV: PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES 18

A: FIRE PREVENTION 18

ENGINEERING & STRUCTURE IGNITABILITY 19

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION 20

B. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT 21

SECTION V: PRE- FIRE MANAGEMENT TACTICS 24

DIVISION / BATTALION / PROGRAM PLANS 24

APPENDIX A: PRE- FIRE PROJECTS 36

APPENDIX B: IGNITION DATA 51

EXHIBITS: MAPS 52

SUPPLEMENT: 2013 61

SIGNATURE PAGE

Unit Strategic Fire Plan developed for San Benito-Monterey 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.

_____ _____

Unit Chief **Date**

Richard C. Hutchinson, Jr.

_____ _____

Pre-Fire Engineer **Date**

Catey S. Trenner

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

California's Strategic Fire Plan is the state's road map for reducing the risk of wildfire. By placing the emphasis on what needs to be done long before a fire starts, the Strategic Fire Plan seeks to reduce firefighting costs and property losses, increase firefighter safety, and to contribute to ecosystem health. The San Benito – Monterey Unit, with the cooperation of key stakeholders, has designed a plan with the intention of meeting the goals set by both the stakeholders and the California Strategic Fire Plan. Pre-fire management projects are designed to reduce costs and losses, especially during periods of severe fire weather. With the use of fire resistant landscaping, mechanical fuels treatment, prescribed burns, building construction standards, infrastructure, land use planning and pre-fire safety zones and escape plans, the Unit strives to keep what would otherwise be a large, catastrophic fire, to smaller fire with less intensity, reducing suppression costs and property loss.

The San Benito-Monterey Unit management intends to support the Fire Plan and make it successful by meeting the following objectives:

- Collect, analyze and prepare data to assess communities at risk and in need of fuel reduction or other projects

- Work with grant writers and stakeholders to secure funds to implement projects.

- Utilize CAL FIRE personnel and resources in conjunction with other public and private efforts to assist with the project work on the ground.

- Educate the public on fire prevention and incorporating fire resistant landscaping and construction to their property, as well as hazardous fuel reduction to keep their lives, homes, property and natural resources safe from catastrophic wildfires.

With these goals in mind, the Unit strives to reduce fire suppression costs, property loss and damage to our environment and local ecosystems in the San Benito-Monterey Unit through our pre-fire work and by protecting life, property and the environment from destructive wildfires.

SECTION I: UNIT OVERVIEW

UNIT DESCRIPTION

The San Benito-Monterey Unit is located along the central coast between San Luis Obispo County to the south and Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties to the north. The Pacific Ocean abuts the western side of the Unit and the Diablo Mountains and the San Joaquin Valley lie to the east. The Los Padres National Forest lies along the coast south of the Carmel Highlands encompassing the Ventana Wilderness and the Silver Peak Wilderness. The community of the former Ft. Ord also lies within the Unit and has largely become Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land for public recreational use. The Pinnacles National Monument is centered in the Unit in both Monterey and San Benito counties.

The Unit encompasses over 3 million acres, in which 2.1 million acres are State Responsibility Area (SRA), representing one of the largest state responsibility jurisdictions in CAL FIRE.

The topography of the unit varies from steep and rugged mountains with moderate to heavy vegetative cover to rolling hills used for livestock grazing. Plant species vary by aspect, slope, elevation, soil type, past fire history and distance from the coast. The predominant vegetation types are coastal sage, chaparral, and oak/grass woodland, with the Monterey Peninsula supporting stands of various coastal tree species.

The weather in the unit is divided into two basic patterns. The northwestern area of the unit experiences a common coastal weather pattern with low clouds and fog which by mid-day give way to temperatures in the mid 70's to 80's, recovering in the evening with the marine layer moving in. This tends to keep fires near the coast to the first burn period. The eastern and southern areas of the unit generally have less fog and temperatures commonly reach the 90 to 100 degree range with strong afternoon valley winds upwards to 10 -15 mph. Fires in the eastern and southern parts of the Unit have greater potential of going into extended attack, especially late in the fire season when heavier fuels are dry. Winters are mild with rainfall from 7 to 30+ inches. Wind speed and direction is variable, but is predominantly northwest at 7-10 MPH.

The coastal weather influence, together with periods of extreme fire weather conditions, provides a window for extreme wildland fire behavior in areas of potentially high dollar loss. These conditions combine with the expanding wildland interface and urban population to yield the potential for large, damaging and costly wildfires. These areas at risk are defined further in the "Priority Areas" section of the Strategic Fire Plan. The unit has an overall fire hazard rating of High (56% of Unit) in the State Responsibility Area (SRA), while 30% is rated Very High and 14% is in the Moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

Fire history in the San Benito-Monterey Unit is collected for every fire 10 acres and larger. The majority of the fire history is in the Los Padres National Forest on the west side of the Unit, primarily due to lightning and camp fires. Fires in the foothills of the Salinas Valley in light, flashy fuels tend to be afternoon, wind driven incidents ranging from under 100 acres to over 1,000 acres, depending on temperatures, wind speed and topography.

There have been several "Priority Areas" identified in the Unit, shown in Appendix D, which are further addressed in the Battalion priorities where fuel reduction projects and public education are discussed.

Primary businesses in the Unit include farming, industry, and tourism.

UNIT PREPAREDNESS AND FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITIES

The San Benito-Monterey Unit is operationally divided into three divisions and further into seven battalions offering a wide variety of programs which includes: Fire Prevention, Resource Management, Law Enforcement, Air Attack, Helitack, Conservation Camp, Emergency Command Center (communications) and Cooperative Fire Protection.

FIREFIGHTING RESOURCES

Fire Stations – CAL FIRE 11
Fire Stations – Cooperative Fire 7
Air Attack Base 1
Helitack Base 1
Conservation Camp 1
Volunteer Fire Companies 4

EQUIPMENT

Engines – CAL FIRE 17
Engines – Cooperative Fire 16
Dozers – CAL FIRE 3
Water Tenders – Cooperative Fire 1
Ladder truck 75' – Cooperative Fire 1
Patrol – Cooperative Fire 2
Rescue – Cooperative Fire 2
Com van – CAL FIRE 1
Air Tankers – CAL FIRE 2
Helicopter – CAL FIRE 1
Air Attack plane – CAL FIRE 1
Rescue Boat (IRB) - Cooperative Fire 1

PERSONNEL

Permanent – CDF 170
Seasonal – CDF 99
Volunteer FF 80
Volunteers in Prevention 10
Firefighters (inmate) 131
Inmate Crews 6

COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENTS

Pebble Beach Community Services District
Cypress Fire Protection District
Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District
Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District
South Monterey County Fire Protection District
Soledad Fire Department

DISPATCH AGREEMENTS

Cachagua Volunteer Fire Department
Mid Coast Volunteer Fire Brigade

MUTUAL THREAT ZONE RESPONSE AREAS
Fort Hunter Liggett

AUTOMATIC / MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

CAL FIRE maintains several Automatic and Mutual Aid Agreements itself and through the Cooperative Fire Protection agreements in the Unit. All agencies in Monterey County are party to a countywide mutual aid agreement. Many of our contract districts maintain automatic aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions such as:

Cypress Fire Protection District has Auto Aid with:
Pebble Beach Fire Department
Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District
Monterey Fire Department
Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District

Pebble Beach Fire Department has auto aid with:
Cypress Fire Protection District
Monterey Fire Department

Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District has Auto Aid with:
Cypress Fire Protection District

Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District has Auto Aid with:
North Monterey County Fire District
Pajaro Valley Fire District
Watsonville City Fire Department
San Benito County Fire Department

Soledad Fire Protection District has Auto Aid with:
Greenfield Fire Protection District

South Monterey County Fire Protection District has Auto Aid with:
Greenfield Fire Protection District

CAL FIRE has local operating agreements with:
USFS-Los Padres National Forest
Pinnacles National Park
Clear Creek (BLM)

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
Monterey Fire Safe Council	Chairperson
San Benito Fire Safe Council	Chairperson
Monterey County Fire Chiefs Association	President
USDA Forest Service	District Ranger
Bureau of Land Management	Battalion Chief
San Benito County RCD	
RCD of Monterey County	
County of Monterey – Public Works	
Pacific Gas & Electric	
Monterey County Cattlemen's Assoc	
Carmel Highlands HOA	
Palo Colorado HOA	
Carmel Views HOA	
Rancho Tierra Grande HOA	
Big Sur Community HO	
Cachagua HO	
San Juan Canyon HO	

SECTION III: VALUES

A: VALUES

Valued assets susceptible to fire damage are identified in the Fire Plan as air quality, rangelands, recreation, agriculture, structures, timber, water and watersheds, wildlife and habitat, and other resources (cultural, historical and scenic). The focus of this plan and relative importance of each value has been determined by reviewing input from local stakeholders and CAL FIRE managers. The San Benito-Monterey Unit Fire Plan has been engineered with these issues in mind.

The priority values in the San Benito – Monterey Unit are tourism, recreation and rangelands. The Pinnacles National Park is split on the border of Monterey and San Benito County attracting visitors all year long. The Monterey Peninsula thrives on tourism all year long as home of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Pebble Beach's 17-Mile Drive and many world famous golf courses. The Big Sur area is another popular attraction bordering the Los Padres National Forest (LPF) that was heavily impacted during the Basin Complex Fires in 2008 and the Pfeiffer Fire in December of 2013 where several homes were destroyed. Laguna Seca is a popular recreational facility playing host to several large events throughout the year.

Agriculture is a big industry in the Unit. Cattle ranches encompass hundreds of thousands of acres of rangelands in the Unit while most of the floor of the Salinas Valley is crops of various produce. Vineyards line the foothills of the valley while the wine industry brings tourists to wineries throughout the Salinas Valley as well as Carmel Valley and the Monterey Peninsula.

Communications such as repeater sites, cell towers, radio towers, FAA communications and the Big Sur VOR are among the highest priorities to protect from wildfires. The unit maintains access roads to all the repeater towers and removes vegetation buildup protecting these towers in the event of a fire.

Priority Areas:

Several areas have been identified as "Priority Areas" by the San Benito – Monterey Unit management team. The identification of these specific areas was based on available data from Pre-Fire Engineering assessments and stakeholder input. Additionally, local employees provided anecdotal and historical information that was considered useful in understanding local conditions. Priority Areas described in this plan are not listed in order of priority but rather as elements of the overall Unit Plan and are listed below:

- **State Highway 68 Corridor between Salinas and Monterey Peninsula / Laureles Grade**
- **Carmel Valley / Carmel Valley Village**
- **Carmel Highlands / Palo Colorado Canyon**
- **San Juan Canyon (San Benito County)**
- **Cachagua (Carmel Valley)**
- **Pine Canyon (King City)**
- **North Monterey County / Aromas**
- **Jack's Peak / Pebble Beach**

Following the assessment of each Priority Areas, a series of potential mitigation actions was identified and agreed upon by the Unit Management Team. The following describes each area's geographic location, Values, and potential mitigation actions:

State Highway 68 Corridor / Laureles Grade:

This area is located in the western portion of the unit, between Salinas and the Monterey peninsula. The area is bounded on the north and west by the former Fort Ord Army Base, on the south by Carmel Valley, and on the west by Jack's Peak.

Values include a large number of single and multi-family residences. Highway 68 is a major travel route between Salinas and the Monterey Peninsula. Several commercial / industrial parks are located along Highway 68, including the Laguna Seca Recreation Area. Large areas of BLM wildland are located along the northern border. This area contains large plots of vegetation that have not burned in several years, resulting in a build-up of decadent mature fuels.

Priority Area Goals:

- Reduction of available wildland fuels, particularly adjacent to identified Values and primary access/egress routes
- Increased public awareness and education relative to wildland fire threat and defensible space

Potential Mitigating Actions:

The following actions have been identified to achieve the Unit Fire Plan goals for this Priority Area:

- Annual inspection of all electrical transmission and distribution lines over 750 volts to ensure compliance with Public Resources Code Sections 4292-4294 for wildland fuels clearance.
- Annual inspection and enforcement of fire safety and clearance requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 for at least 33% of structures within this Priority Area.
- Strive to provide chipper services as available to assist property owners in meeting the wildland fire safety requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 and reducing the overall wildland fuels load adjacent to identified assets at risk.
- Reduction and/or removal of wildland fuels along primary access/egress routes to reduce the incidence of roadside ignitions, and to ensure safe access and egress by firefighters and residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency.
- Identify "Safe Zones" within the Priority Area to provide a safe refuge for residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency, and ensure dissemination of this information throughout the Priority Area.
- Encourage development and distribution of wildland emergency plans for specific sub-areas of the Priority Area. Such plans should identify access and evacuation routes, safe zones, water sources, helibases and helispots, command posts, staging areas, and/or any other significant element of a wildland fire strategy for the Priority Area that can be pre-planned and identified.

Carmel Valley / Carmel Valley Village:

This area is located in the western portion of the Unit on both sides of Carmel Valley Road from State Highway 1 west to the Sleepy Hollow subdivision. It is bordered by Jack's Peak and State Highway 68 on the north, Garland Ranch Regional Park on the south, City of Carmel-by-the-Sea on the west, and Cachagua Fire Protection District on the east.

Values include a large number of single and multi-family residences and other rural structures. Carmel Valley Road is a primary travel route leading to and from the Monterey Peninsula from Hwy 101 in the Salinas Valley to Hwy 1 in Carmel. Several commercial/retail centers are located along Carmel Valley Road as well as the Rancho Canada, Quail Lodge, and Carmel Valley golf courses. Several wineries are also located in the area. Large areas of National Forest wildland / wilderness are located to the south of the target area. This area contains large plots of vegetation that has not burned in several years, resulting in a build-up of decadent mature fuel.

Priority Area Goals:

- Reduction of available wildland fuels, particularly adjacent to identified Values and primary access/egress routes
- Increased public awareness and education relative to wildland fire threat and defensible space

Potential Mitigating Actions:

The following actions have been identified to achieve the Unit Fire Plan goals for this Priority Area:

- Annual inspection of all electrical transmission and distribution lines over 750 volts to ensure compliance with Public Resources Code Sections 4292-4294 for wildland fuels clearance.
- Annual inspection and enforcement of fire safety and clearance requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 for at least 33% of structures within the Priority Area.
- Strive to provide chipper services as available to assist property owners in meeting the wildland fire safety requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 and reducing the overall wildland fuels load adjacent to identified assets at risk.
- Reduction and/or removal of wildland fuels along primary access/egress routes to reduce the incidence of roadside ignitions, and to ensure safe access and egress by firefighters and residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency.
- Identify "Safe Zones" within the Priority Area to provide a safe refuge for residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency, and ensure dissemination of this information throughout the Priority Area.
- Encourage development and distribution of wildland emergency plans for specific sub-areas of the target area. Such plans should identify access and evacuation routes, safe zones, water sources, helibases and helispots, command posts, staging areas, and/or any other significant element of a wildland fire strategy for the target area that can be pre-planned and identified.
- Work closely with the Monterey Fire Safe Council and local stakeholders to identify additional mitigating actions suitable for the area.

Carmel Highlands / Palo Colorado Canyon:

This area is located in the western coastal area of the Unit, and is bordered by the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea on the north, the Los Padres National Forest on the east, Andrew Molera State Park and Big Sur on the south and the Pacific Ocean on the west.

Values include single and multi-family residences and other rural structures, many located in remote areas with limited access. The Point Lobos State Reserve, Garrapata State Beach, and the California Sea Otter Refuge are also within this Priority Area. Highway 1 is the only access/egress route for this Priority Area.

Priority Area Goals:

- Reduction of available wildland fuels, particularly adjacent to identified values and primary access/egress routes
- Increased public awareness and education relative to wildland fire threat and defensible space

Potential Mitigating Actions:

The following actions have been identified to achieve the Unit Fire Plan goals for this Priority Area:

- Annual inspection of all electrical transmission and distribution lines over 750 volts to ensure compliance with Public Resources Code Sections 4292-4294 for wildland fuels clearance.
- Annual inspection and enforcement of fire safety and clearance requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 for at least 33% of structures within Priority Area.
- Continue to provide chipper services as available to assist property owners in meeting the wildland fire safety requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 and reducing the overall wildland fuels load adjacent to identified assets at risk.
- Reduction and/or removal of wildland fuels along primary access/egress routes to reduce the incidence of roadside ignitions, and to ensure safe access and egress by firefighters and residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency.
- Identify “Safe Zones” within the Priority Area to provide a safe refuge for residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency, and ensure dissemination of this information throughout the Priority Area.
- Continue development and distribution of wildland emergency plans for specific sub-areas of the Priority Area. Such plans should identify access and evacuation routes, safe zones, water sources, helibases and helispots, command posts, staging areas, and/or any other significant element of a wildland fire strategy for the Priority Area that can be pre-planned and identified.

Work closely with the Monterey Fire Safe Council and local stakeholders to identify additional mitigating actions suitable for the area.

San Juan Canyon:

This area is located southwest of the community of San Juan Bautista, and is bordered by State Highway 156 on the north, Fremont Peak on the west, Hollister Hills SORV Park on the east and Wildhorse Canyon on the south.

Values include single and multi-family residential structures, many located in remote areas with limited access, and several large ranches. Access to and egress from the entire Priority Area is very limited.

Priority Area Goals:

- Reduction of available wildland fuels, particularly adjacent to identified Values and primary access/egress routes
- Increased public awareness and education relative to wildland fire threat and defensible space

Potential Mitigating Actions:

The following actions have been identified to achieve the Unit Fire Plan goals for this Priority Area:

- Annual inspection of all electrical transmission and distribution lines over 750 volts to ensure compliance with Public Resources Code Sections 4292-4294 for wildland fuels clearance.
- Annual inspection and enforcement of fire safety and clearance requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 for at least 33% of structures within the Priority Area.
- Continue to provide chipper services as available to assist property owners in meeting the wildland fire safety requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 and reducing the overall wildland fuels load adjacent to identified assets at risk.
- Reduction and/or removal of wildland fuels along primary access/egress routes to reduce the incidence of roadside ignitions, and to ensure safe access and egress by firefighters and residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency.
- Identify “Safe Zones” within the target area to provide a safe refuge for residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency, and ensure dissemination of this information throughout the Priority Area.
- Encourage development and distribution of wildland emergency plans for specific sub-areas of the target area. Such plans should identify access and evacuation routes, safe zones, water sources, helibases and helispots, command posts, staging areas, and/or any other significant element of a wildland fire strategy for the target area that can be pre-planned and identified.
- Work closely with the San Benito County Fire Safe Council and local stakeholders to identify additional mitigating actions suitable for the area.

Pine Canyon: (King City)

This area is located southwest of the community of King City in southern Monterey County. It is bordered by Hwy 101 on the north and east.

Values include single family and multi-unit residential structures. Access to the area is limited and the potential for entrapment of residents and emergency responders is extreme. This area continues to grow with the construction of new residential sub-division projects in the planning stages.

Priority Area Goals:

Ideally, this area will benefit from a combination of fuel modification, aggressive inspection, emergency planning, and public education.

Potential Mitigating Actions:

The following prescriptions have been identified as potential successful methods of achieving the Unit's Fire Plan goals for this Priority Area:

- Annual inspection of all electrical transmission and distribution lines over 750 volts to ensure compliance with Public Resources Code Sections 4292-4294 for wildland fuels clearance.
- Annual inspection and enforcement of fire safety and clearance requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 for at least 33% of structures within the Priority Area.
- Roadside fuel modification to insure egress / exit route safety and reduce the possibility of "roadside starts".
- Identify "Safety Zones" to insure that residents of the area have the ability to evacuate to a safe area during an emergency. Residents/ stakeholders will participate in the planning and placement of Safety Zones. Additionally, a "Wildland Fire / Emergency Pre-Plan" will be designed to prepare first responders and stakeholders during the initial attack of any fire. This is vital in that residents in the area are very limited when attempting to leave the area in case of an emergency
- Work closely with the Monterey County Fire Safe Council and local fire agencies to identify additional prescriptions suitable for the area.

Cachagua:

This Priority Area is located in the western portion of the Unit, and is situated south of Carmel Valley Road and north of the Las Padres National Forest east of Carmel Valley Village. The area is served by the Cachagua Fire Protection District.

Values include single and multi-family residential structures, many which are located in remote areas with limited access, and several large ranches. Fire history in the area is minimal, leading to the overgrowth of decadent brush and light flashy fuels.

Priority Area Goals:

- Reduction of available wildland fuels, particularly adjacent to identified Values and primary access/egress routes
- Increased public awareness and education relative to wildland fire threat and defensible space

Potential Mitigating Actions:

The following actions have been identified to achieve the Unit Fire Plan goals for this Priority Area:

- Annual inspection of all electrical transmission and distribution lines over 750 volts to ensure compliance with Public Resources Code Sections 4292-4294 for wildland fuels clearance.
- Annual inspection and enforcement of fire safety and clearance requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 for at least 33% of structures within the Priority Area.
- Reduction and/or removal of wildland fuels along primary access/egress routes to reduce the incidence of roadside ignitions, and to ensure safe access and egress by firefighters and residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency.
- Identify “Safe Zones” within the Priority Area to provide a safe refuge for residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency, and ensure dissemination of this information throughout the Priority Area.
- Continue development and distribution of wildland emergency plans for specific sub-areas of the Priority Area. Such plans will identify access and evacuation routes, safe zones, water sources, helibases and helispots, command posts, staging areas, and/or any other significant elements of a wildland fire strategy for the Priority Area that can be pre-planned and identified.
- Work closely with the Monterey Fire Safe Council and local stakeholders to identify additional mitigating actions suitable for the area.

North Monterey County / Aromas:

This area is located in the northwestern part of the Unit**,** situated west of State Highway 101, south of State Highway 129, north of State Highway 156, and east of the Pacific Ocean. It includes the communities of Aromas, Pajaro, Las Lomas, Prunedale, and Moss Landing.

Values include the four major highways noted above. Each of these routes is vital to vehicular traffic in the region. Although considered a "rural" region, the area contains a large amount of single-family dwellings, ranchland and commercial/retail properties. Additionally, the Moss Landing power plant and Moss Landing Harbor are located on the western edge of the Priority Area. Moss Landing and Zmudowski State beaches and the Elkhorn Slough provide scenic, recreation, and wildlife refuge. The potential for a large damaging fire in this area is increased dramatically due to the large number of eucalyptus trees throughout the area.

Priority Area Goals:

- Reduction of available wildland fuels, particularly adjacent to identified values and primary access/egress routes
- Increased public awareness and education relative to wildland fire threat and defensible space

Potential Mitigating Actions:

The following actions have been identified to achieve the Unit Fire Plan goals for this Priority Area:

- Annual inspection of all electrical transmission and distribution lines over 750 volts to ensure compliance with Public Resources Code Sections 4292-4294 for wildland fuels clearance.
- Annual inspection and enforcement of fire safety and clearance requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 for at least 33% of structures within Priority Area.
- Strive to provide chipper services as available to assist property owners in meeting the wildland fire safety requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 and reducing the overall wildland fuels load adjacent to identified values.
- Reduction and/or removal of wildland fuels along primary access/egress routes to reduce the incidence of roadside ignitions, and to ensure safe access and egress by firefighters and residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency.
- Identify "Safe Zones" within the Priority Area to provide a safe refuge for residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency, and ensure dissemination of this information throughout the Priority Area.
- Encourage development and distribution of wildland emergency plans for specific sub-areas of the Priority Area. Such plans should identify access and evacuation routes, safe zones, water sources, helibases and helispots, command posts, staging areas, and/or any other significant element of a wildland fire strategy for the target area that can be pre-planned and identified.
- Work closely with the Monterey Fire Safe Council and local stakeholders to identify additional mitigating actions suitable for the area.
- Implementation and completion of the Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District / North County Fire Protection District LE-100 Inspection program.

Jack's Peak / Pebble Beach:

This area is located on the Monterey Peninsula in the western portion of the Unit, and is bordered by the Pacific Ocean on the west, the City of Monterey on the north, Carmel Valley and the Highway 68 corridor on the east, and the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea on the south. This area represents one of the most scenic and affluent communities in California.

Values for this area are varied, including single-family residences, resort areas, championship golf courses, and areas of spectacular scenic beauty. Highway 1 is the primary north-south travel route, providing access to Big Sur and other coastal areas to the south. The potential for a large damaging fire in this area is high. The vegetation lends itself to "crown" type timber fires and the roads in the area can be confusing. The entire Priority Area has limited access and egress.

Priority Area Goals:

- Reduction of available wildland fuels, particularly adjacent to identified values and primary access/egress routes
- Increased public awareness and education relative to wildland fire threat and defensible space

Potential Mitigating Actions:

The following actions have been identified to achieve the Unit Fire Plan goals for this Priority Area:

- Annual inspection of all electrical transmission and distribution lines over 750 volts to ensure compliance with Public Resources Code Sections 4292-4294 for wildland fuels clearance.
- Annual inspection and enforcement of fire safety and clearance requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 for at least 33% of structures within target area.
- Continue to provide chipper services as available to assist property owners in meeting the wildland fire safety requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 and reducing the overall wildland fuels load adjacent to identified values.
- Reduction and/or removal of wildland fuels along primary access/egress routes to reduce the incidence of roadside ignitions, and to ensure safe access and egress by firefighters and residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency.
- Identify "Safe Zones" within the Priority Area to provide a safe refuge for residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency, and ensure dissemination of this information throughout the Priority Area.
- Continue development and distribution of wildland emergency plans for specific sub-areas of the Priority Area. Such plans should identify access and evacuation routes, safe zones, water sources, helibases and helispots, command posts, staging areas, and/or any other significant element of a wildland fire strategy for the Priority Area that can be pre-planned and identified.
- Continue enforcement of the PBCSD Fire Defense Plan to ensure compliance and maintenance of emergency access routes, designated open space areas, and undeveloped parcels.
- Work closely with the Monterey Fire Safe Council and local stakeholders to identify additional mitigating actions suitable for the area.

B: COMMUNITIES

Monterey County:

Aromas *
Big Sur *
Bryson-Hysperia
Cachagua
Carmel-by-the-Sea *
Carmel Highlands
Carmel Valley *
Carmel Valley Village *
Corral de Tierra
Del Monte Forest *
Del Rey Oaks *
Elkhorn *
Fort Ord *
Gonzales *
Greenfield *
Jamesburg
King City *
Las Lomas *
Lucia *
Marina *
Monterey *
Pacific Grove *
Pajaro *
Pinnacles National Monument *
Prunedale *
San Benancio
Soledad *
Sand City *
Salinas *
Seaside *

San Benito County:

Antelope Valley
Bitterwater
Cienega Canyon
Hollister *
Paicines
Panoche Valley
Ridgemark
San Juan Bautista *
San Juan Canyon
Tres Pinos

For more information on Communities at Risk and the California Fire Alliance go to

http://www.preventwildfireca.org/Communities-at-Risk/
http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/fireplan/fireplanning_communities_at_risk.php

* Communities listed as Communities at Risk on the California Fire Alliance website

SECTION IV: PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

A: FIRE PREVENTION & LAW ENFORCEMENT - *Battalion 4620*

The primary goal of the San Benito - Monterey Unit Strategic Fire Plan is to prevent the ignition and spread of unwanted, human-caused fires with an emphasis on reducing losses as a result of large damaging fires. Utilizing fire history, fuels data, weather data, assets at risk, incorporating input from the Monterey County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and Federal partners, the unit has identified "Priority Areas" as indicated in this document. Proactive pre-fire suppression activities and public information and education programs are key elements of this plan.

San Benito-Monterey Unit management addresses fire prevention through the engineering, education and law enforcement programs. Their shared objective is reduced fire hazard and risk. This is more narrowly addressed in a planning process based on ignition management and loss reduction, including biomass utilization, fire resistant landscaping, mechanical fuels treatment, building construction standards, infrastructure, land use planning and pre-fire, safety zone and escape plans.

Ignitions are managed by preventing fires likely to exceed the capabilities of available suppression forces that could result in large damaging fires. Loss reduction is integral to mitigating large and damaging fires. Significant improvement can be achieved by reducing hazards (fuel buildups around structures and communities) and working with private industry to implement hazard reduction plans around residential developments in the rural-urban intermix areas. Additionally, pre-designated suppression and evacuation plans are effective tools in ensuring civilian and firefighter life safety. Successful programs permit more effective utilization of CAL FIRE's initial attack forces and enhance firefighter safety and citizen safety.

See Appendix C for Ignition Data

-Title 24 (addresses fire apparatus access, water requirements, building materials, and construction methods as of 2007) – These requirements are performed by the district or agency with jurisdiction. Currently, San Benito County funds a Fire Marshall position within CAL FIRE to complete all PRC 4290, Protection Planning, Code Enforcement and Building Inspections issues.

While many structures in the Unit are not built to current standards, all new construction is being held to the Chapter 7 (Fire-Resistance-Rated Construction) and Chapter 7A (SFM - Materials and Construction Methods for Exterior Wildfire Exposure) building construction standards. Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) dictate what codes have to be followed in which areas. A map showing the FHSZs in the Unit is shown in the "Maps" portion of this document.

-Title 19, PRC 4290 - *A*ddresses fire apparatus access and water requirements and is dealt with at the County level

-Protection Planning - Fire Protection planning is reviewed at the subdivision and parcel map level and typically implemented at the development stages of a project.

-Code enforcement - Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District, Cypress Fire Protection District and Pebble Beach Community Services District have full time Fire Protection Planners who review all building permits. Among other codes, they enforce the current California Building Codes, which include Chapter 7 (Fire-Resistance-Rated Construction) and Chapter 7A (SFM - Materials and Construction Methods for Exterior Wildfire Exposure).

-PRC 4291 - Addresses defensible space around structures. Each battalion has a predetermined amount of LE-100 inspections to complete each year. Some battalions, due to housing density, have more inspections and are on a three year cycle to alternate neighborhoods. Inspections will be done on any and all structures when requested, even if it is not within the normal rotation of inspections that year.

-Pre-Plans - Unit personnel is constantly gathering updated data in each battalion to submit to Unit GIS personnel in efforts to produce updated battalion preplan maps. The San Benito-Monterey Unit also works with students from local colleges for pre-plan mapping of communities for emergency response. The goal of this is to increase public and emergency responder awareness of community values, hazards, evacuation routes, potential safe refuge areas, and coordinate emergency responders while students have an opportunity to engage in GIS projects and emergency planning for college credit.

-Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) – In 2007, FHSZs were updated with improved accuracy and adopted throughout the Unit, not only on state responsibility lands, but also in local jurisdiction. Several cities throughout Monterey County had Very High FHSZs which required cities to either adopt or reject. All cities affected within the San Benito-Monterey Unit adopted recommended changes in the Very High FHSZs and now adhere to building code regulations contained in CBC Chapter 7A.

http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fire_prevention_wildland.php

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Fire safety education is a high priority in the unit, whether it is a formal school program or advising residents on how to keep their homes safe inside and out. Unit personnel perform training at the local schools in each battalion on fire safety inside the home as well as what to do if there is a fire outside in the wildland. The crews also take advantage of their time out in the field while doing LE-100 inspections to help educate the residents on ways to cut back brush, trim trees and mow while still keeping an attractive, natural look to the landscape.

The unit purchased several large fire prevention signs in 2005 on a grant from the Bureau of Land Management, as did the San Benito Fire Safe Council and has placed them at strategic locations throughout the unit to spread the fire safety message. Several of the signs have been placed at fire stations of other agencies to gain high visibility of the dangers of wildfire. In the years since the signs went up in 2006, the Unit has seen a 19% decrease in fires caused by "*equipment use*".

Results of the Unit's ignition data shows that recently vegetation fires caused by equipment use, smoking and vehicles have been reduced. Unit managers believe that our public education efforts are having a positive influence on the general public. Power line caused ignitions are also down for the same period, possibly due to increased communications and interaction between the Unit and utility companies over power line maintenance.

The San Benito and Monterey Fire Safe Councils actively seek grant funding to work with local landowners and stakeholders as well as CAL FIRE personnel to reduce roadside fuels, increase public awareness, build fuel breaks around communities and develop updated evacuation plans in the Unit. Grant funding will enable Unit personnel to purchase newspaper ads, large roadside signs, fund a Unit website and other avenues for public outreach.

The unit has made it a priority to have a public information officer available at all times to notify media of emergencies in the unit and throughout the state during peak fire season. Since a majority of fires are human caused, we believe that public awareness is key to reducing ignitions and have partnered with the *California Wildland Fire Coordinating Group* (CWCG) in the "One Less Spark Campaign". The *One Less Spark—One Less Wildfire* campaign educates Californians about how to prevent wildfires inadvertently caused by sparks from sources around the home and vehicle, as well as by industrial usage.

The San Benito – Monterey Unit has been very proactive in gaining defensible space compliance by aggressively doing LE-100 inspections in the interface areas. Public reaction has been positive as residents are educated on the various ways they can be compliant with the law and still maintain an attractive landscape that will assist fire personnel in the event of a wildfire in their neighborhood. The Unit's ability to keep fires small with minimal damage in and around structures has proven that more residents are becoming fire safe and our education efforts are working.

B. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

The San Benito-Monterey Resource Management Program strives to enhance the county's natural resources for both present and future use. The Unit has a Registered Professional Forester on staff to provide assistance and education to landowners on forestry issues.

The Unit administers an active Vegetation Management Program (VMP). The purpose of the VMP program is to reduce flammable vegetation that may contribute to large, damaging wildfires and high fire suppression costs. The flammable vegetation on public or private lands can be reduced through prescribed burning or mechanical treatment. Vegetation management also results in benefits to grazing, wildlife, plant diversity, and water quality.

Overview:

The Vegetation Management Program is a cost-sharing program that focuses on the use of prescribed fire, and mechanical means, for addressing wildland fire fuel hazards and other resource management issues on State Responsibility Area (SRA) lands. The use of prescribed fire mimics natural processes, restores fire to its historic role in wildland ecosystems, and provides significant fire hazard reduction benefits that enhance public and firefighter safety.

VMP allows private landowners to enter into a contract with CAL FIRE to use prescribed fire to accomplish a combination of fire protection and resource management goals. Implementation of VMP projects is by CAL FIRE Units. The projects which fit within a unit's priority areas (e.g., those identified through the Fire Plan) and are considered to be of most value to the unit are those that will be completed. The Vegetation Management Program has been in existence since 1982 and has averaged approximately 35,000 acres per year since its inception.

History:

The Vegetation Management Program is a cost share program that allows public and private landowners to participate in wildland fuel reduction projects. The primary tool used is prescribed fire, although in more recent years CAL FIRE has used the program for mechanical treatments of vegetation as well.

Vegetation management, or VMP, was preceded by the Range Improvement Program that was used aggressively by CAL FIRE to remove undesired woody vegetation and increase forage production for domestic stock and wildlife. Early records indicate that range improvement burns were conducted by CAL FIRE as early as 1945, when CAL FIRE was known as the Division of Forestry under the Department of Natural Resources. Acres burned during the period of 1949-1953 averaged 141,400 acres per year, and totaled approximately 707,000 acres for the same period (T. F. Arvola Deputy State Forester, Inter Office Memo, April 5, 1954). These burns were carried out in cooperation with landowners primarily interested in improving forage for livestock.

In July of 1980 Senate Bill 1704 (Keene) created the Chaparral Management Program. This legislation provided CAL FIRE authorization to contract with private and public landowners for the purpose of fuel hazard reduction, vegetation management, and the improvement of wildlife, range, and forest resources. The program is currently known as the Vegetation Management Program; however, the objectives and authority for fuel reduction projects are still guided by the statutes created by Senate Bill 1704. VMP acres treated have declined significantly in recent years, averaging approximately 13,000 acres per year since 1999. Increasing rural populations,

air quality issues, and new CAL FIRE programs have reduced the use of prescribed fire in many areas of the state. However, VMP is a cost effective tool that is still used to treat vegetation where physical and social conditions are conducive to its use. The program has proven to be well suited for controlling invasive weeds and improving wildlife habitat under joint projects with organizations such as the Nature Conservancy. Its use to establish fuel breaks and eliminate heavy fuel accumulations in many areas of the state will continue.

Local Program:

Locally, the emphasis is on projects in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) and the Wildland-Urban Intermix. The intention is to treat hazardous fuel accumulations near structures and infrastructure to reduce potential losses during wildfire. Other items of concern for VMP project selection are watershed protection, habitat enhancement (especially for threatened and endangered species), and property owner goals.

The unit has multiple projects in various stages of planning that are addressed in each Battalion section of this plan.

Depending upon weather conditions and resource availability, we may be able to conduct multiple prescribed burns this year on projects with an active contract. Public notification of an impending prescribed burn shall be through a press release to local media outlets and may include road signs, as well.

Fuels:

Four distinct wildland fuel types dominate the San Benito-Monterey Unit.

Fuel Model 1 (annual grasses)

Although inter-mixed with fuel model 4 (brush), this fuel model dominates the foothills of the eastern portion of the Unit. Extending from the Santa Clara County line southward along the foothills east of the Salinas valley, this fuel model represents more than fifty percent of the fuel types in the Unit.

Fuel Model 2 (oak woodland)

This fuel model is typically located on the north and east facing slopes of the Unit. It is predominant in the northeast, southeast and southwest areas of both San Benito and Monterey counties and typically aligned with Fuel model 4 (brush), on the opposite facing slopes.

Fuel Model 4 (brush)

While a substantial amount of brush is located in the foothills east of the Salinas Valley, in the area of the Pinnacles National Monument, the majority of this fuel type is found in the mountains west of the Salinas Valley throughout the coastal range. Typically, it is found on south and western facing slopes in areas not used for cattle grazing. Brush can be found measuring over five feet in height, which corresponds to over 30 years of age.

Fuel Model 9 (conifers)

Conifers consisting of several species of pine and redwood are located in two distinct areas within the Unit, specifically, in the Fremont Peak area south of San Juan Bautista, and throughout the coastal mountains south of Monterey. The conifer forests extend into the Big Sur and Ventana Wilderness areas.

SECTION V: PRE- FIRE MANAGEMENT TACTICS

DIVISION / BATTALION / PROGRAM PLANS

Battalion 1: Carmel Battalion - *Battalion 4611*

The Carmel Battalion is located in the North West corner of the San Benito / Monterey Unit. Encompassing more than 300 square miles it contains a diverse amount of topography and vegetation. To the west, the Pacific Ocean beaches rise into the steep Santa Lucia coastal mountains transitioning from Coastal Chaparral to Redwood canyons bordered on the ridges by Oak and Grass Woodlands. Inland, several north to south running valleys are bounded by the Sierra de Salinas Range to the east. The valley floors are predominantly Grass and Oak woodlands rising to thick Chaparral stands on the south facing slopes and hardwood forests on the east facing slopes. Throughout most of these valleys, residential development has occurred both on the ridges and the floors creating pockets of Urban Interface. The north is comprised of an area of ancient sand dunes hosting the West Coast's largest Maritime Chaparral community in the former Fort Ord area. Most of that land remains in a wild state and is considered State Responsibility Area (SRA). To the northwest, the Monterey Pine Forests of the Monterey Peninsula intermingle with a dense population of Urban Interface. And to the south, Battalion 1 borders the northern boundary of the vast Los Padres National Forest and Ventana Wilderness.

The weather patterns in Battalion 1, during the summer, may range from cool and foggy 60s near the coast to 100s in the upper reaches of the inland valleys. The normal summer northwest air flow generally carries the cool moist marine air inland by evening, somewhat moderating the fire risk at night in the valleys. A summer inversion often keeps the upper elevations warm and dry throughout the 24 hour cycle.

Fire history in Battalion 1 is varied. Many wildland fires have been started by lightning in inaccessible areas. Some of these have started on Federal lands and burned into SRA. Unattended controlled burns or campfires have historically contributed to damaging fires. Power line failures are also a common cause of fires due to the corrosive effects of the marine air on the lines.

Interspersed throughout the varied topography and vegetation, one will find the Battalion 1 values at risk. They include; large cattle ranches, exclusive gated communities, federal, state and local forests, parks and recreation areas, commercial / industrial developments, vineyards, and many urban interface communities.

To address the threat of fire in Battalion 1 and protect the values at risk, several approaches have been taken. Through the issuing of burning permits for campfires, agricultural and backyard burning, CAL FIRE personnel have been able to educate the public in the safe use of fire. Inspection of high voltage power lines is intended to mitigate their threats. The LE-100 Defensible Space Inspection program conducted by CAL FIRE and our local government cooperators has targeted more than 1,000 homes each year and helped to educate residents to help themselves by properly clearing around their homes. The application of the Monterey County Fire Codes to new construction in Battalion 1 directs homeowners in the safest ways to build their homes. Fuel reduction programs involving mechanical means as well as controlled burns are being used to reduce fuel loads and create strategic fuel breaks to protect communities and maintain safe egress in case of fire. Preplans of hazardous areas have been prepared to facilitate the safest means to combat wildland fires.

Personnel in Battalion 1 work closely with the following organizations and agencies: Monterey County Fire Safe Council, Pebble Beach Company, Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District, Cachagua Fire Protection District, Cypress Fire Protection District, Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District, Pebble Beach Community Services District, Mid Coast Fire Brigade, Big Sur Fire Brigade, California Dept. of Fish and Game, California State Parks, Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, Del Monte Forest Conservancy, United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Santa Lucia Preserve, Big Sur Land Trust, Monterey County and Hastings Preserve.

Battalion 2: Peninsula Battalion (Schedule A – Contract Districts) –
Battalion 4612 – Cypress FPD & Carmel Highlands FPD
Battalion 4618 – Pebble Beach CSD
Battalion 4605 – Prevention & Planning

Battalion 2 is comprised of three local government cooperative agreements or "Schedule A" contracts made up of Pebble Beach Community Services District (PBCSD), Cypress Fire Protection District and Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District.

The Pebble Beach area is entirely State Responsibility Area. Also referred to as the Del Monte Forest, this area has a closed cone coniferous forest with areas of chaparral and coastal scrub, as well as small remnants of coastal prairie in the common areas. There are homes all throughout the forested areas as well as many homes along all of the golf courses in the forest. The forest has a lot of small fires within the common forested areas near homes that pose a major threat to many high dollar homes. The Morse Fire in 1987, started by an illegal campfire, burned 160 acres and destroyed 31 structures causing an estimated damage of approximately $18,000,000. Fire road signage, mapping and maintenance are a high priority in the district due to recreation and fire occurrences in the open spaces within the forest.

The Cypress FPD borders the southern end of Pebble Beach and wraps around the city of Carmel-by-the-Sea on the north, east and south, stretching from the beaches to approximately two miles east from the mouth of Carmel Valley and bordering Carmel Highlands FPD to the south. The lower part of the district to the east covers Hwy 68, Josselyn Canyon and the homes surrounding the Del Monte Golf Course. Cypress FPD is in both SRA and LRA with housing developments surrounded by wooded areas.

The Carmel Highlands FPD is the southern-most district in Battalion 2 with the northern border just south of the Carmel River down to Mal Paso Creek encompassing the wildland urban interface on the west facing slope. The district has many large homes under a tall canopy of closed cone coniferous forest with areas of chaparral and coastal scrub, as well as small remnants of coastal prairie in the common areas. Most of the district is rated as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

The three fire districts maintain good working relationships to collaborate on fuel reductions projects with several different agencies such as; Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District, Pebble Beach Company, Cal Trans, PG&E, Homeowner associations and private homeowners.

Defensible space remains a very high priority in Battalion 2 due to the housing density within the wildland urban interface. The battalion has an aggressive LE-100 program employing Retired Annuitant Fire Captains to educate homeowners and to ensure compliance throughout the districts.

Battalion 3: King City Battalion - *Battalion 4613*

The King City Battalion starts from the Chualar area and encompasses both sides of the Salinas Valley down to San Ardo, ridge top to ridge top. This area includes the west entrance to the Pinnacles National Park, Arroyo Seco, and many vineyards and cattle ranches, to name of few values at risk.

The weather patterns in Battalion 3 during the summer months range from the 70s and into the low 100 degree mark. The valley winds ranging from 10-25 mph, usually begin early afternoon and subside around sunset when the marine layer occasionally blows in to cool the valley temperatures.

The strong winds affect the early season fires pushing grass fires from a few hundred acres and into the thousands in the cattle grazing pastures of the eastern foothills. The steep terrain of the Arroyo Seco & southern end of Carmel Valley has driven some large wildland fires in the late summer/fall crossing borders into the LPF where access for firefighting equipment becomes very challenging.

Fire History shows that "*equipment use"* is a leading cause of ignitions and has resulted in a number of the large, damaging fires in Battalion 3. With this knowledge, the Unit has made educating ranchers and homeowners on the importance of spark arresters and mowing in cooler weather conditions a high priority. Large billboards signs are posted in the battalion stating to "mow before 10 a.m." before the heat of the day. Statistics show that these efforts have been successful and ignitions have decreased. Debris burning and powerline caused fires are also among the frequent ignitions in Battalion 3. Prevention staff has been working with the utility company to upgrade powerline equipment to reduce the number of fires in the Unit. Battalion personnel continue to educate homeowners on laws of debris burning and how to safely burn brush piles in the non-peak fire season to reduce the amount of control burn escapes in the Unit.

Battalion 4: Bradley Battalion – *Battalion 4614*

The Bradley Battalion starts south of San Ardo and continues south to the San Luis Obispo County line. This area includes Bryson-Hysperia with many homes in the wildland ranking this Battalion 4's top value at risk. Battalion 4 also encompasses the San Antonio Reservoir, a popular recreational area, the community of Parkfield and the Ft. Hunter Liggett Army Training Facility among many vineyards and cattle and hunting ranches.

Much like Battalion 3, the weather patterns in Battalion 4 during the summer months range from the 70s and into the low 100 degree mark. The valley winds in Bradley range from 10-25 mph and usually begin mid-afternoon and subside well after dark. In the Lockwood and Parkfield areas, the temperatures are very similar but get much less wind due to the topographical features. The terrain is predominately rolling hills with some areas of brush covered, steep slopes.

Similar to Battalion 3, fire history shows that "*equipment use"* is the leading cause of ignitions and has resulted in a number of the large, damaging fires in Battalion 4. By educating ranchers and homeowners on the importance of spark arresters and mowing in cooler weather conditions along with the large billboard signs, the Unit has seen a decrease in our ignitions.

The main Values in Battalion 4 are recreational areas, vineyards and rangelands.

Battalion 5: Hollister Battalion – *Battalion 4615*

The Hollister Battalion is located at the North East corner of the Unit in San Benito County, following the county line on both the East and the West down to the end of Cienega Road and East to South of Panoche and Antelope Valley. The West side (Gabilan Mountain Range) of the battalion is comprised steep terrain and heavy fuels up in the Fremont Peak area. The east side (Diablo Mountain Range) is predominately grasslands, home to many large cattle ranches and quickly transitions into steep rugged terrain. The fuels commonly encountered in Battalion 5 are grass, oak woodland, Chemise and Gray Pine.

Hollister Hills Recreational Area is near the Fremont Peak area and is frequented by off-road vehicles on California State Parks lands and is one of the values at risk. Other values include the wild land urban interface areas in San Juan Canyon, Cienega Road and Paicines as well as the infrastructure at Fremont Peak State Park and Mission San Juan Bautista.

The weather patterns in Battalion 5 during the summer months range from the high 70s and into the low 100 degree mark with the occasional late night, early morning marine influence bringing in the fog. The winds in the Hollister area range from 5-15 mph. The terrain is predominately rolling hills with some areas of brush covered, steep slopes.

Similar to Battalions 3 and 4, fire history shows that "*equipment use"* is the leading cause of ignitions and has resulted in a number of the large, damaging fires in Battalion 5. By educating ranchers and homeowners on the importance of spark arresters and mowing in cooler weather conditions along with the large billboard signs, the Unit has seen a decrease in ignitions. "*Debris burning*" also ranks among the highest sources of ignition of fires in Battalion 5. Fire department personnel make a concerted effort while writing burn permits and while out in the public, to educate residents on the laws of burn piles, what materials they can burn and safe ways to conduct their burn to not let it escape their control.

The main Values in Battalion 5 are recreational areas, vineyards and rangelands.

The main priorities in Battalion 5 are to educate the public that live in the wild land urban interface on how to be fire safe and to maintain fire roads that serve a crucial role in means of ingress and egress for both the public and fire equipment during a wildland fire.

Personnel in Battalion 5 work closely with members from the following organizations or agencies; the San Benito Fire Safe Council, BLM, California State Parks, and local ranchers.

Battalion 6: Bear Valley Battalion – *Battalion 4616*

The Bear Valley Battalion is located on the east side of the Unit in San Benito County, following the county line on the west and bordering the Fresno County line to the east extending to Priest Valley in the south. Clear Creek Recreational Area is also in the southern portion of Battalion 6. The west side (east side of Gabilan Mountain Range) of the battalion is comprised steep terrain and heavy fuels up near the Pinnacles National Park area. The east side (Diablo Mountain Range) is predominately grasslands, home to many large cattle ranches and quickly transitions into steep rugged terrain. The fuels commonly encountered in Battalion 6 are grass, oak woodland, Chemise and Gray Pine.

The weather patterns in Battalion 6 during the summer months range from the high 70s and into the low 100 degree mark with little recovery overnight. The winds in the area range from 5-10 mph. The terrain varies from rolling hills transitioning into brush covered, steep slopes.

Similar to other battalions, fire history shows that "*equipment use"* is the leading cause of ignitions in Battalion 6. By educating ranchers and homeowners on the importance of spark arresters and mowing in cooler weather conditions along with the large billboard signs, the Unit has seen a decrease in ignitions. "*Debris burning*" also ranks among the highest sources of ignition of fires in Battalion 6. Fire department personnel make a concerted effort while writing burn permits and while out in the public, to educate residents on the laws of burn piles, what materials they can burn and safe ways to conduct their burn to not let it escape their control.

The main Values in Battalion 6 are the Pinnacles National Park, Clear Creek Recreational Area, agriculture and large cattle ranches. Priorities are public education, hazard assessment, and fuel reduction.

Battalion 6 maintains a close working relationship with the Pinnacles National Park, The Bay Area Network Fire, BLM, and the local ranchers.

Battalion 7: Aromas Battalion - *Battalion 4615*

The Aromas Battalion is located at the north end of the Unit encompassing portions of Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties. The battalion runs from the northern unit boundary over to Fremont Peak and down the Salinas Valley to just north of Chualar. The Aromas battalion is also home to the Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District which is 60 square miles of primarily residential structures with light commercial and agricultural occupancies and areas of wildland urban interface. In addition to the local population of approximately 6,000, the District experiences a constant increase to values at risk due to the major highways that traverse the District increasing the active population by hundreds of thousands per day. This exacerbates the issue of High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones throughout most of the District and the interface threats to local residents.

The fuels and topography defined in the battalion are gentle slopes of oak woodland varied with steep terrain and heavy fuels in other areas encompassing many housing developments throughout. The north county area has some heavily wooded areas of Eucalyptus groves posing a challenge to firefighters, with Hwy 101 running through the middle of one of the areas.

The weather patterns in Battalion 7 during the summer months range from the 60s and into the mid 80 degree mark with the marine layer moving in most evenings and burning off mid mornings. The winds in the area range from 5-10 mph.

Similar to other battalions, fire history shows that "*equipment use"* is the leading cause of ignitions in Battalion 7. By educating homeowners on the importance of spark arresters and mowing in cooler weather conditions along with the large billboard signs, the Unit has seen a decrease in ignitions. "*Debris burning*" also ranks among the highest sources of ignition of fires in Battalion 7. Fire department personnel make a concerted effort while writing burn permits and while out in the public, to educate residents on the laws of burn piles, what materials they can burn and safe ways to conduct their burn to not let it escape their control. Other leading causes of fires in Battalion 7 are roadside fires caused by exhaust carbon, blown tires and vehicles due to the heavy traffic on these highways.

The main Values in Battalion 7 are residential structures, agriculture, watershed and infrastructure.

TRAINING DIVISION: *Battalion 4607*

The San Benito-Monterey Unit Training Division has set several goals to improve firefighting operational efficiency and safety for the Unit.

These goals are but not limited to:

1. All BEU personnel attend Department of General Service Defensive Driver safety program.

2. Upon selection and placement of fuel moisture collection sites and ovens, those schedule B fire control personnel in each Division will be trained in collection and drying procedures of vegetation to assist the unit and region in determining potential fire behavior and wildland fire response levels.

3. All BEU personnel to attend annual Continuing Professional training to maintain firefighting skills and appropriate certifications. The intent is for personnel to meet 4032 and 4036 training requirements.

4. All BEU fire control personnel to attend “A“ faller training

    a. Selected personnel will be chosen to attend Class “B” faller training
    b. Selected personnel will be chosen to attend Class “C” faller training
        i. With a goal of having at least one Class “C” faller in each Division and Gabilan Camp.

5. All BEU Fire control personnel assigned to Helitack or Hollister air attack base attend the following training where applicable:

    a. RT-372 Helicopter manager refresher training
    b. RT 378 Air Attack Group Supervisor Training
    c. Basic helicopter safety training
    d. Short haul training
    e. Air Base safety training

6. All BEU Fire Control personnel receive wildland firefighter safety and survival training

7. All BEU Battalion Chiefs and Fire Captains attend C -234 Intermediate Firing Operations class.

8. BEU personnel attend applicable training and qualify in Incident Command System (ICS) positions. The intent is to meet the unit’s obligations to **Minimum ICS Qualified Personnel Matrix (7700) located in the 7000 handbook.**

***GABILAN CONSERVATION CAMP** – Administered by Division 4603*

Gabilan Conservation Camp (CC #38) is centrally located in Monterey County and the only camp servicing the CALFIRE San Benito-Monterey Unit. The facility is situated in the front of Soledad State Correctional Facility and the Salinas Valley State Prison on Hwy 101 between the cities of Soledad and Gonzales. The camp houses approximately 100 to 132 low-risk inmates under the direction of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and CAL FIRE. CALFIRE operates 6 Type one Fire Crews and a Mobile Kitchen Unit (MKU) from Gabilan Camp. The crews are available to respond year round to "all risk" emergencies throughout the state such as; wildland fires, floods, rescues and other disasters.

In preparation of emergency response, Gabilan Camp conducts an annual fire crew preparedness training exercise which evaluates each inmate fire crew's performance through arduous evolutions for the upcoming fire season.

In addition to emergency responses, Gabilan Camp is actively engaged in pre-fire management. Gabilan fire crews perform community service and hazard fuel reduction projects with the local governments, state and federal agencies within Santa Clara, Monterey, San Benito and San Luis Obispo counties.

Projects during the last years include; but not limited to,

- Federal hazardous fuel reduction grant projects, Hollister Hills State Park, State Parks and Recreation, Monterey County Parks, Laguna Seca Raceway, City of Monterey, City of Del Rey Oaks, City of Soledad, Camp Roberts National Guard base, Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, Salinas Valley Fairgrounds, Salinas Airshow, San Benito County Park, San Benito County Historical Park, Monterey Peninsula College, Gonzales USD, Washington Union School, National Park Service, BLM and San Benito-Monterey and Santa Clara CALFIRE facilities.

Since the opening in 1986, Gabilan Conservation Camp has continued to be a valuable resource for the State of California and the citizens of San Benito and Monterey counties through conservation and the protection of life, property and natural resources.

AIR ATTACK PROGRAM: Hollister Air Attack - *Battalion 4608*

The Hollister Air Attack Base, established in 1962, is located along the central coast of California, 30 miles south of San Jose in the CDF San Benito-Monterey Unit. Hollister responds to an average of 350 calls per year. Staff at the base consists of one battalion chief, two fire captains, one fire apparatus engineer, and seven firefighters. The complement of aircraft located at Hollister includes one OV-10 Bronco and two S-2T air tankers. On average, the base pumps about 300,000 gallons of retardant a year. With the base's pumps, three loading pits and equipment, Hollister has a possible peak output of 60,000 gallons of retardant each day. The base provides initial attack for 3.1 million acres encompassing 11 counties; an area spanning north to Mt. Diablo, south to King City, east to Interstate 5 and west to the Pacific Ocean. This area includes the Los Padres National Forest.

HELITACK PROGRAM: Bear Valley Helitack

The Bear Valley Helitack Base was established in 1987 and was located in the San Benito-Monterey Unit on Airline Highway in Bitter Water road area. The base was originally named Bitterwater Helitack Base and kept this name until 1992 when it was moved to the Bear Valley Fire Station in Paicines, changing the name to Bear Valley Helitack. Bear Valley responds to an average of 150 calls per year ranging from fires to rescues. In addition to responding to emergencies the helicopter conducts control burns and recon flights necessary to the state mission. On a daily basis, the crew of the Helitack Base consists of one pilot, two fire captains, five to six firefighters and an engineer. In addition to the helitack crew, there are two fire engines staffed at Bear Valley station. Bear Valley Helitack operates a UH-1H Super Huey helicopter. It is one of three ships that have a fixed tank rather than a bucket. The fixed tank can hold 325 gallons of water. The state has 11 helicopters with 9 helicopter bases, 2 helicopters are used as spares when maintenance is needed.

Also operated out of Bear Valley is the helitender, which serves as a support vehicle for the copter. The helitender contains 1,000 gallons of fuel, along with foam, backup tools, out-of-county bags, Meals Ready to Eat (MRE's) and many other items that are necessary to support the crew. Bear Valley provides coverage and protection from southwest Santa Clara to Interstate-5 in the Fresno-Kings Unit, down to Northern San Luis Obispo and all the way to the Pacific Ocean. As a state resource Bear Valley is also able to respond anywhere in the state.

CAL FIRE helitack crews consist of highly trained and experienced firefighters who are assigned to and respond to wildland fires and rescues aboard CAL FIRE helicopters. Once arriving on a fire incident, the crew, typically 5 to 6 firefighters along with a fire captain, are let off with firefighting hand tools and initiate fire suppression actions as the helicopter supports the helitack crew with water drops. Helitack crews also perform other helicopter support operations when not assigned to direct fire line operations such as establishing and staffing helibases conducting necessary operations and support.

APPENDIX A: PRE- FIRE PROJECTS

Batt.	Project Number	Project Name	Planning Area	Status	Project Type	Activity Acres	Project Acres
1	4600-2009-FPL-002	Palo Colorado Pre-Fire Plan	SRA	Active	Plan	N/A	N/A
1	4600-2014-FPL-003	Cachagua Pre-Fire Plan	SRA	Active	Plan	N/A	N/A
1	4600-2011-FPL-004	Hatton Canyon Fuel Break Maintenance	SRA	Ongoing		4	4
1	4600-2011-FPL-005	Outlook Fuel Break Maintenance	SRA	Ongoing		4	4
1	4600-2011-FPL-017	Cachagua Rd. / Tassajara Rd. Fuel Break	SRA	Planning			10
1	4600	Carmel Valley Regional Fuel Break	SRA	Planning	FSC		342
1	4600	Robinson Cyn Rd Fuel Break	SRA	Ongoing			
1	4600-2011-VMP-003	Big Sur - Molera VMP	SRA	Planning	VMP		193
1	4600-2011-VMP-010	Santa Lucia Preserve VMP	SRA	Active	VMP		215
1	4600-2010-VMP-001	White Rock VMP	SRA	Active	VMP		524
1	4600-2011-FPL-008	Santa Lucia Preserve - Fire Access Rd	SRA	Planning			57
1	4600-2011-FPL-022	Corona Park - Fire Access Rd	SRA	Planning			49
1	4600	Joshua Creek - Fire Access Rd	SRA	Ongoing			
1	4600-2011-FPL-020	Paloma Truck Trail - Fire Road	SRA	Ongoing			87
1	4600-2014-FPL-002	Hwy 68 Residential Chipping Program	SRA	Planning	FPL		14,436
1	4600-2014-FPL-026	Indian Springs Fuel Reduction	SRA	Planning	FPL		42
1	4600-2000-FPL-002	Rancho Tierra Grande Chipping Program	SRA	Active	FPL		560
1	4600-2014-FPL-004	Green/Mescal Ridge Shaded Fuel Break	SRA	Active	FPL		270

Project Number: Cal MAPPER ID Project Name: Project Name as in Cal MAPPER

Planning Area: SRA or LRA

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

Project Type: VMP, CFIP, FPL = Fire Plan, PREV = Prevention, and FI = Forest Improvement, Other = identify at the bottom of the table.

Batt.	Project Number	Project Name	Planning Area	Status	Project Type	Activity Acres	Project Acres
2		Gentry Hill (roadside)	SRA	Active	FPL		4
2		Olmstead Road	?	Ongoing			10
2		End of Loma Alta in Jack's Peak Park	?	Planning			3
2		Along Loma Alta (roadside)	SRA	Planning			4
2		Loma Alta, south of homes	SRA	Planning	FSC		40
2		Del Mesa Carmel (fuel break & access road)	SRA	Ongoing			27
2	4600-2000-FPL-023	Pacific Meadows Fuel Reduction	SRA	Ongoing	FPL		20
2		Roach Canyon	SRA	Ongoing	VMP		6
2	4600-2011-FPL-004	Hatton Canyon	SRA		FPL		93
2		Pine Hills (roadside)	SRA	Ongoing			20
2		Ribera Road	SRA	Planning			6
2		Quail Meadows	SRA	Ongoing			23
2		Hwy 1 @ Carpenter	SRA	Planning			9
2		Powerlines in Cypress FPD	SRA/LRA	Ongoing			11
2		Roadsides in Cypress FPD	SRA/LRA	Ongoing			24
2		Via Mar Monte @ High Meadows		Ongoing			2
2		North Carmel Hills Drive strip w Hwy 1		Ongoing			2.24
2		Hwy 1 @ High Meadows Drive		Planning			4
2		Jacks Peak neighborhood roadsides	SRA	Active			40
2		Powerline across Jacks Peak to Pine Hills Drive	SRA	Ongoing			19
2		San Jose Creek canyon ingress/egress	SRA	Planning			3
2		Victorine Ranch	SRA	Ongoing			248
2		Roadsides in Carmel Highlands FPD	SRA	Ongoing			72
2		Powerlines in Carmel Highlands FPD	SRA	Ongoing			1
2		North Mentone, San Remo Road Assoc	SRA	Ongoing			2.5
2		Hwy 1, both sides entire CHFPD boundary	SRA	Ongoing			4.8 mi

Project Number: Cal MAPPER ID Project Name: Project Name as in Cal MAPPER

Planning Area: SRA or LRA

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

Project Type: VMP, CFIP, FPL = Fire Plan, PREV = Prevention, and FI = Forest Improvement, Other = identify at the bottom of the table.

Batt.	Project Number	Project Name	Planning Area	Status	Project Type	Activity Acres	Project Acres
2		Sunridge Pines common area	SRA	Ongoing			4
2		Huckleberry Hill - Haul Rd Fuel Break	SRA	Ongoing			40
2		Huckleberry Hill – Near Ocean Pines	SRA	Ongoing			6
2		Huckleberry Hill – Along Hwy 68	SRA	Planning			3
2		1990 Hwy 68 fire between Road 4 and Hwy 68	SRA	Completed			3
2		Huckleberry Hill - Fuel Break	SRA	Ongoing			11
2		Shepherd's Knoll - North Side of 17 Mile Drive	SRA	Ongoing			1.5
2		SFB Morse Botanical Reserve	SRA	Ongoing			6
2		Huckleberry Hill - Near SFB Morse Dr	SRA	Planning			11
2		PQR - Fire Road 20 East to Fire Road 21 - PBC	SRA	Ongoing			2
2		PQR - West of Fire Road 20	SRA	Ongoing			14
2		Pescadero Canyon (multiple areas)	SRA	Ongoing			31
2		Navajo Tract	SRA	Ongoing			3
2		CAL Am land between Lopez and Forest Lake	SRA	Ongoing			7
2		Forest Lake - PBCSD	SRA	Ongoing			22
2		Indian Village	SRA	Ongoing			4
2		Crocker Grove and SFB Morse Memorial	SRA	Ongoing			2
2		Fire Road/Fuel Break maintenance (all)	SRA	Ongoing			31
2		Carmel Way (Pescadero Canyon west)	SRA	Ongoing			5
2		Hermann property	SRA	Ongoing			1
2		Pescadero Point and Courtland Hill Preserve	SRA	Ongoing			1.5
2		Fire Road 24	SRA	Ongoing			.01
2		Area between Viscaino and Lisbon	SRA	Ongoing			2.5
2		Canyon between Palmero Way & Del Ciervo	SRA	Ongoing			13
2		Below Carmel Woods	SRA	Ongoing			26
2		Area Below Sunset Lane and Fire Road 23	SRA	Ongoing			4.5
2		Powerlines in Pebble Beach	SRA	Ongoing			6
2	4600-2000-FPL-001	Aguajito Residential Chipping	SRA	Ongoing	FPL		2,363

Project Number: Cal MAPPER ID *Project Name: Project Name as in Cal MAPPER*

Planning Area: SRA or LRA

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

Project Type: VMP, CFIP, FPL = Fire Plan, PREV = Prevention, and FI = Forest Improvement, Other = identify at the bottom of the table.

Batt.	Project Number	Project Name	Planning Area	Status	Project Type	Activity Acres	Project Acres
3		Dillard VMP	SRA	Completed	VMP		19
3	4600-2010-VMP-007	La Macchia VMP	SRA	Active	VMP	956	956
3		Reliz Cyn VMP	SRA	Planning	VMP		
3		Santa Lucia School Program	SRA	Ongoing	PREV	N/A	N/A
3		Arroyo Seco Home Owners Association	SRA	Ongoing	PREV	N/A	N/A
3		Deer Creek Home Owners Association	SRA	Ongoing	PREV	N/A	N/A
3		Highland Hills Home Owners Association	SRA	Ongoing	PREV	N/A	N/A
3		Via Canada Home Owners Association	SRA	Ongoing	PREV	N/A	N/A
4		Bryson / Hesperia Wildland Fire Preplan	SRA	Active	PREV	N/A	N/A
4		CAL FIRE / Fort Hunter Liggett Fuel Break	SRA	Planning	VMP		
4		Bryson Hesperia CERT Group	SRA	Active	PREV	N/A	N/A
5	4600-2010-VMP-006	Limekiln VMP	SRA	Completed	VMP		2,200
5		Thompson Truck Trail	SRA	Planning	VMP		
5		Public Education	SRA	Ongoing	PREV	N/A	N/A
5		Thompson Valley VMP	SRA	Planning	VMP		1000
6	4600-2012-VMP-001	Rabbit VMP	SRA	Completed	VMP		843
6		Public Education	SRA	Ongoing	PREV	N/A	N/A
6		Rock Springs VMP	SRA	Planning	VMP		10,000
7		Battalion 7 Hazard Assessment	SRA	Active	PREV	N/A	N/A
7		South Pasture VMP Prescribed Burn Project	SRA	Completed	VMP		1,360
7		Gabilan Ranch VMP Prescribed Burn Project	SRA	Planning	VMP		
7		RIs - Silacci, Bengard, Christiansen, Ussery	SRA	Ongoing	VMP		
7	4600-2014-FPL-001	Aromas Residential Chipping Program	SRA	Planning	FPL		
7	4600-2013-FPL-024	San Juan Canyon Fuel Break	SRA	Active	FPL		60

Project Number: Cal MAPPER ID *Project Name: Project Name as in Cal MAPPER*

Planning Area: SRA or LRA

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

Project Type: VMP, CFIP, FPL = Fire Plan, PREV = Prevention, and FI = Forest Improvement, Other = identify at the bottom of the table

Battalion 1 Projects:

Project #1

Project Name: Palo Colorado Pre-Fire Plan
Description: Preplan community with updated maps and tactical planning in preparation for wildland fires in their area.
Community: Palo Colorado - south of Carmel
Project Collaborators: Mid Coast Fire Brigade / Monterey FSC

Project #2

Project Name: Cachagua Pre-Fire Plan
Description: Preplan community with updated maps and tactical planning in preparation for wildland fires in their area.
Community: Cachagua – east of Carmel Valley
Project Collaborators: Cachagua FPD / Monterey FSC

Project #3

Project Name: Hatton Canyon Fuel Break Maintenance
Description: Maintain current fuel break in canyon between subdivisions
Community: Carmel at the mouth of Carmel Valley
Project Collaborators: State Parks / Cypress FPD

Project #4

Project Name: Outlook to Outlook Fuel Break Maintenance
Description: Maintain current fuel break in canyon between subdivisions
Community: Carmel at the mouth of Carmel Valley
Project Collaborators: Monterey County Public Works / Private / Cypress FPD

Project #5

Project Name: Cachagua Rd. / Tassajara Rd. Fuel Break
Description: Establish a fuel break along Cachagua and Tassajara roads around community
Community: Cachagua - east of Carmel Valley
Project Collaborators: Monterey County / Monterey FSC / Private

Project #6

Project Name: Carmel Valley Regional Fuel Break
Description: Establish a fire road for emergency egress
Community: Carmel Valley Area
Project Collaborators: Cachagua FPD / Private Owners / Monterey FSC

Project #7

Project Name: Robinson Cyn Rd Fuel Break
Description: Establish a fuel break along Robinson Cyn Rd
Community: Santa Lucia Preserve – Carmel Valley
Project Collaborators: Santa Lucia Preserve / White Rock / Monterey County

Project #8

Project Name: Big Sur - Molera VMP
Description: Conduct several VMPs at Molera State Park
Community: Big Sur
Project Collaborators: State Parks

Project #9

Project Name: Santa Lucia Preserve VMPs
Description: Series of VMPs on the Santa Lucia Preserve
Community: Santa Lucia Preserve
Project Collaborators: Santa Lucia Preserve / Monterey County Regional FPD / Monterey FSC

Project #10

Project Name: White Rock VMP
Description: Conduct a VMP at the White Rock Club
Community: White Rock - south east of Carmel Valley
Project Collaborators: White Rock / Monterey FSC / Monterey County Regional FPD

Project #11

Project Name: Santa Lucia Preserve Fire Access Rd.
Description: Construct / Maintain
Community: Santa Lucia Preserve - south east of Carmel Valley
Project Collaborators: Santa Lucia Preserve / MPCPD / Monterey County Regional FPD

Project #12

Project Name: Corona Park Fire Access Rd.
Description: Construct / Maintain
Community: Carmel Valley
Project Collaborators: MPCPD

Project #13

Project Name: Joshua Creek Fire Access Rd.
Description: Maintenance
Community: South of Carmel Valley
Project Collaborators: DFG

Project #14

Project Name: Paloma Fire Rd Fire Access Rd.
Description: Maintenance
Community: Cachagua
Project Collaborators: Private Owners / Cachagua FPD

Battalion 2 Projects:

Community	Project Name	Owner / Collaborators	Fuel Reduction Methods
Cypress FPD			
CYP	Gentry Hill (roadside)	Private / Cypress FPD	Masticate, lop, weedeat, remove
CYP	Olmstead Road by Foothill School (pvt field)	Private	mowing
CYP	End of Loma Alta in Jack's Peak Park	Monterey Co Regional Parks / pvt	cut/remove
CYP	Along Loma Alta (roadside)	Private / Monterey Co Regional Parks	MoCo mowing, pvt owners cut/remove
CYP	Loma Alta, south of homes	Monterey Co Regional Parks / pvt	Masticate, lop, weedeat
CYP	Del Mesa Carmel (fuelbreak around complex, access road)	Del Mesa Carmel, Cypress FPD	Firecrew / masticator / mower
CYP	Pacific Meadows (fuelbreak around complex, access road)	Pacific Meadows, Monterey Co Public Works, Cypress FPD	Firecrew / masticator / mower
CYP	Roach Canyon	Monterey Co Public Works	mowing
CYP	Hatton Canyon	State Parks, Firecrews	mowing
CYP	Pine Hills (roadside)	Monterey Co Public Works	mowing
CYP	Ribera Road, by lagoon	State Parks	mowing
CYP	Quail Meadows	Private	mowing
CYP	Hwy 1 @ Carpenter	State Parks, CalTrans, Firecrews, Rancho Cielo	weed eating, mowing, cut/remove
CYP	Powerlines	PG&E	weedeating, scraping
CYP	Roadsides	Monterey Co Public Works	mowing
CYP	Via Mar Monte @ High Meadows	State Parks	weed eating, cut/chip, masticator
CYP	North Carmel Hills Drive strip w Hwy 1	State Parks	weed eating, cut/chip branches, remove dead trees
CYP	Hwy 1 @ High Meadows Dr to N end of North Carmel Hills Drive	State Parks, CalTrans, Firecrews, Ranchj Cielo	
CYP	Jacks Peak neighborhood roadsides	Private / Cypress FPD	weed eating, cut/chip, masticator
CYP	Powerline across Jacks Peak to Pine Hills Drive	PG&E	weedeating, scraping
Carmel Highlands			
CH	San Jose Creek canyon ingress/egress	State Parks	mowing
CH	Victorine Ranch	Private and Carmel Lahaina Water Co.	mowing
CH	Roadsides	Monterey Co Public Works and Highlands Community Fire Safe Committee (HSFSC) fed grant	Mowing, weed eating, cut/chip, masticator
CH	Powerlines	PG&E	weedeating, scraping
CH	North Mentone, San Remo	Individual owners to center of private roads	Weed eating, cut/chip
CH	Hwy 1, both sides entire CHFPD boundary	CAL TRANS	mowing, remove dead trees, chipping

Pebble Beach

PB	Sunridge Pines common area	Each owner of Sunridge Pines, PBCSD	Private contractor (masticator)
PB	Huckleberry Hill - Haul Rd Fuel Break	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFF), PBCSD	Gabilan crew, PB Co chipper (w/ operator, truck, porta potty
PB	Huckleberry Hill - Ocean Pines, between Hwy 68 and Scenic Drive	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC), PBCSD	Gabilan crew, PB Co chipper (w/ operator, truck, porta potty
PB	Huckleberry Hill - Along Hwy 68 from Los Altos FB to Haul Rd	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC), PBCSD	Masticator, Gabilan crew, PB Co chipper (w/ operator, truck, porta potty
PB	Hwy 68 along old burn above Morse gate	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC), PBCSD	Masticator, Gabilan crew, PB Co chipper (w/ operator, truck, porta potty
PB	1990 Hwy 68 fire between Road 4 and Hwy 68	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC), PBCSD	Masticator, Gabilan crew, PB Co chipper (w/ operator, truck, porta potty
PB	Huckleberry Hill - Los Altos/Costanilla Fuel Break	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC), PBCSD	Gabilan crew, weedeaters, PB Co chipper (w/ operator, truck, porta potty
PB	Shepherd's Knoll - North Side of 17 Mile Drive	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC), PBCSD	Private contractor crew
PB	Shepherd's Knoll - South Side of 17 Mile Drive to Hwy 68	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC), PBCSD	Pvt crew, lopping, weedeating, chipping
PB	Shepherd's Knoll - Condos	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC), PBCSD	Private contractor crew
PB	SFB Morse Botanical Reserve	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC), PBCSD	Private contractor crew
PB	Huckleberry Hill - East of Del Monte Park, North of SFB Morse Dr	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC), PBCSD	Gabilan crew, goats
PB	PQR - Fire Road 20 East to Fire Road 21 - PBC	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC), PBCSD	Gabilan, goats, masticator
PB	PQR - West of Fire Road 20	Pebble Beach Co, PBCSD	Lopping, weedeating, chipping
PB	Pescadero Canyon (multiple areas)	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC), PBCSD	Goats, Private contractor crew
PB	Navajo	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC), PBCSD	
PB	Area B - Navajo North	DMFC	Private contractor crew
PB	Area C (Navajo south)	DMFC	Private contractor crew
PB	CAL Am land between Lopez and Forest Lake	CAL AM	Private contractor crew
PB	Forest Lake - PBCSD	PBCSD	Pvt crew, lopping, weedeating, chipping
PB	Indian Village	DMFC, PBCSD	Firecrew, chipping, masticator
PB	Indian Village Annex - Seal Rock Creek North to residences	Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC), PBCSD	*Left natural*
PB	Crocker Grove and SFB Morse Memorial	DMFC	Pvt crew, lopping, weedeating, chipping
PB	Fire Road/Fuel Break maintenance (all)	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC), PBCSD	Masticator, mowing

PB	Carmel Way (Pescadero Canyon west)	DMFC	Pvt crew, lopping, weedeating, chipping
PB	Hermann property	DMFC	Pvt crew, lopping, weedeating, chipping
PB	Pescadero Point and Courtland Hill Preserve	DMFC	Pvt crew, lopping, weedeating, chipping
PB	Fire Road 24	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC), PBCSD	Private contractor crew
PB	Area between Viscaino and Lisbon	Pebble Beach Co, PBCSD	Firecrew, chipping, hauling
PB	Canyon between Palmero Way and Del Ciervo Road (and others)	Pebble Beach Co, PBCSD	Goats
PB	Below Carmel Woods	Pebble Beach Co, Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC), PBCSD	Goats, Private contractor crew
PB	Area Below Sunset Lane and Fire Road 23	Pebble Beach Co, PBCSD	Goats
PB	Powerlines	PG&E	weedeating, scraping

Battalion 3 Projects:

Project #1

Project Name: La Macchia VMP
Description: Fuel Modification with Fire Use
Community: La Gloria Rd (Training site) Gonzales
Project Collaborators: La Macchia Ranch, CAL FIRE, MPUAPCD

Project #2

Project Name: Reliz Cyn VMP
Description: Fuel Modification with Fire Use
Community: Reliz Cyn (upper), Greenfield
Project Collaborators: Anthony Ranch, Cotton Ranch, USFS, CAL FIRE, MPUAPCD

Project #3

Project Name: Santa Lucia School Program
Description: Public Education on Fire Safety Awareness to 5th grade students.
Community: King City
Project Collaborators: Santa Lucia Teachers, CAL FIRE

Project #4

Project Name: Arroyo Seco Home Owners Association
Description: Public Education on Fire Awareness and preparation for Wildland Fires in their area.
Community: Arroyo Seco Area
Project Collaborators: Arroyo Seco HOA, CAL FIRE, SoMoCo, Monterey County SO

Project #5

Project Name: Deer Creek Home Owners Association
Description: Public Education on Fire Awareness and preparation for Wildland Fires in their area.
Community: Deer Creek Subdivision, Pine Cyn Rd (middle Cyn) King City
Project Collaborators: Deer Creek HOA, CAL FIRE, SoMoCo, Monterey County SO

Project #6

Project Name: Highland Hills Home Owners Association
Description: Public Education on Fire Awareness and preparation for Wildland Fires in their area.
Community: Highland Hills Subdivision, Pine Cyn Rd (middle Cyn) King City
Project Collaborators: Highland Hills HOA, CAL FIRE, SoMoCo, Monterey County SO

Project #7

Project Name: Via Canada Home Owners Association
Description: Public Education on Fire Awareness and preparation for Wildland Fires in their area.
Community: Via Canada Subdivision, Via Canada Rd (lower Pine Cyn) King City
Project Collaborators: Via Canada HOA, CAL FIRE, SoMoCo, Monterey County SO

Battalion 4 Projects:

Project #1

Project Name: Bryson / Hesperia Wildland Fire Preplan
Description: Identify predetermined evacuation areas, values at risk, control lines and objectives, create preplan maps for responders
Community: Bryson / Hesperia
Project Collaborators: Bryson Hesperia CERT group, CAL FIRE, SoMoCo

Project #2

Project Name: CAL FIRE / Fort Hunter Liggett Southern Boundary Fuel Break
Description: Establish a fuel break along the entire length of the Ft. Hunter Liggett (FHL) and CAL FIRE southern boundary in the Copper Head / Bryson Hesperia area
Community: Ft. Hunter Liggett Military Base
Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, FHL

Project #3

Project Name: Bryson Hesperia CERT Group
Description: Form an emergency response team of community members that live in the Bryson/Hysperia area
Community: The Bryson / Hysperia (BH) community
Project Collaborators: Monterey County OES, CAL FIRE

Battalion 5 Projects:

Project #1

Project Name: San Juan Canyon Hazard Assessment
Description: Gather hazard assessment data. Develop updated preplans and tactical/strategic planning.
Community: San Juan Canyon
Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, San Benito County Fire Safe Council, San Benito County Fire

Project #2

Project Name: Thompson Truck Trail Improvement
Description: This road stretches from Limekiln Road to the Fremont Peak area. At one time, this road was maintained annually by CAL FIRE and is a main access road to areas in that part of the county. The trail can also be used for evacuation of citizens from the San Juan Canyon area. Collaboration with the various property owners and gaining their trust and permission to allow CAL FIRE to once again maintain the road is crucial to the success of this project. Brushing of the roads utilizing crews and grading and installing water bars are some of the items that would need to be addressed.
Community: Thompson Truck Trail runs from Cienega Road to San Juan Canyon Road on the West side of San Benito County.
Project Collaborators: Various land owners, San Benito Fire Safe Council (pending grant approval), Gabilan camp crews.

Project #3

Project Name: Public Education
Description: Increase public awareness on defensible space throughout San Benito County, with emphasis in the south county area and the Panoche Valley. Personnel will utilize public events such as the San Benito County Fair and work closely with the San Benito Fire Safe Council for high visibility and spread the fire safety message.
Community: San Benito County
Project Collaborators: San Benito County Fire Department, San Benito Fire Safe Council

Project #4

Project Name: Thompson Valley VMP
Description: Burn approximately 1000 acres of brush/grass. This project is in the planning stages
Community: South San Benito County
Project Collaborators: Wilbur Ranch, Enz Ranch

Project #5

Project Name: Willow Springs Hazard Assessment
Description: Gather hazard assessment data. Develop updated preplans and tactical/strategic planning.
Community: Willow Springs
Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE

Battalion 6 Projects:

Project #1

Project Name: Rock Springs Ranch VMP
Description: The site is the second of three separate burn projects located all on the Rock Springs Ranch totally approximately 8,000 acres. This project is in the planning phase
Community: Private ranch located in San Benito County southeast of the Pinnacles National Park between Highway 25 and Fresno County line
Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE / Private landowners

Project #2

Project Name: Public Education
Description: Increase public awareness on defensible space throughout the south county area of San Benito County utilizing public events such as Neighborhood Prevention Gathering and San Benito County Fair
Community: County of San Benito
Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, San Benito Fire Safe Council

Battalion 7 Projects:

Project #1

Project Name: Battalion 7 Hazard Assessment
Description: Use gathered hazard assessment data to begin updated preplans and tactical/strategic planning.
Community: Aromas – northern Monterey County
Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE

Project #2

Project Name: Gabilan Ranch VMP Prescribed Burn Project
Description: This project is in the initial planning phase
Community:
Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE / Private landowners

Project #3

Project Name: Range Improvement burns
Description: Multiple Ranchers - Silacci RI, Bengard RI, Christiansen RI, Ussery RI, Massa RI
Community: Eastern foothills of Salinas Valley
Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE / Private landowners

APPENDIX B:

~ IGNITION DATA

Fire Cause	Number of fires from 2000-2012	Percentage by Cause
Arson	92	4%
Campfire	31	1%
Debris Burning	154	7%
Equipment Use	509	23%
Lightning	18	0.8%
Miscellaneous	340	15%
Playing with Fire	92	4%
Powerlines	154	7%
Railroad	7	0.3%
Smoking	68	3%
Undetermined	297	13%
Unknown	197	9%
Vehicle	250	11%

Total = 2,209

Fire Cause	Number of fires from 2013	Percentage by Cause
Arson	3	2%
Campfire	8	6%
Debris Burning	13	10%
Equipment Use	5	4%
Lightning	1	1%
Miscellaneous	12	9%
Playing with Fire	2	2%
Powerlines	12	9%
Railroad	0	0%
Smoking	7	5%
Undetermined	23	18%
Unknown	18	14%
Vehicle	24	19%

Total = 128

EXHIBITS: MAPS

Figure A: Unit Map

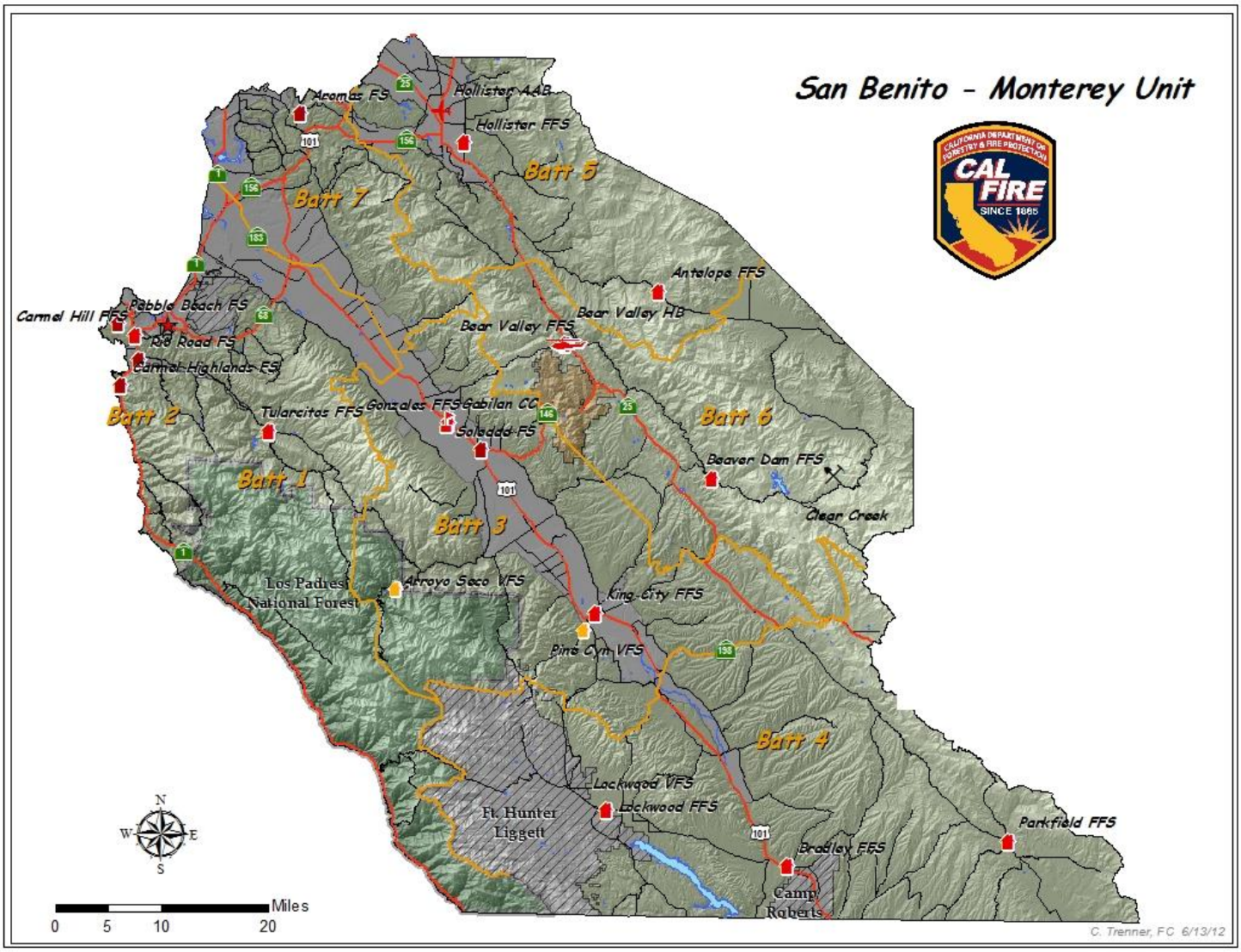
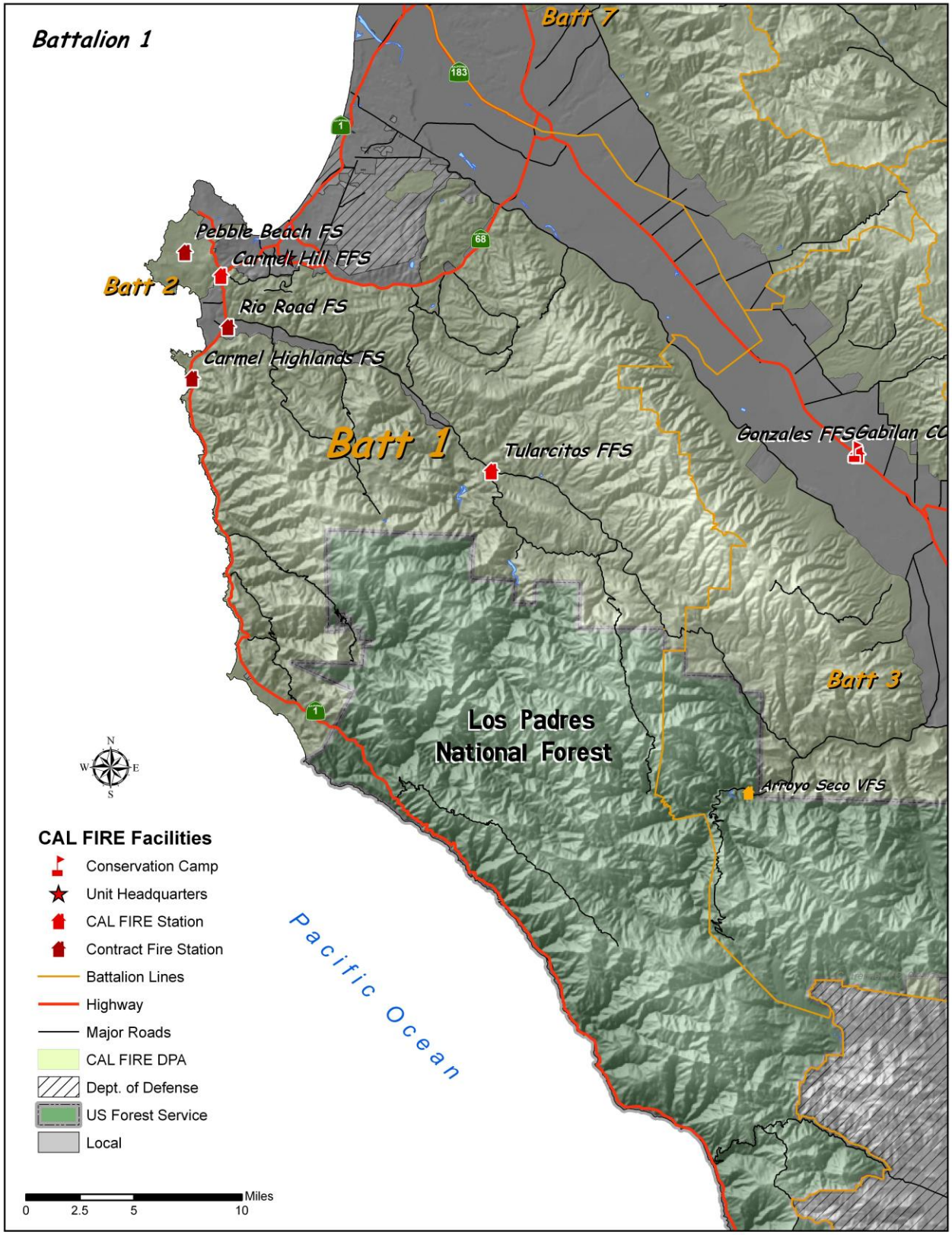
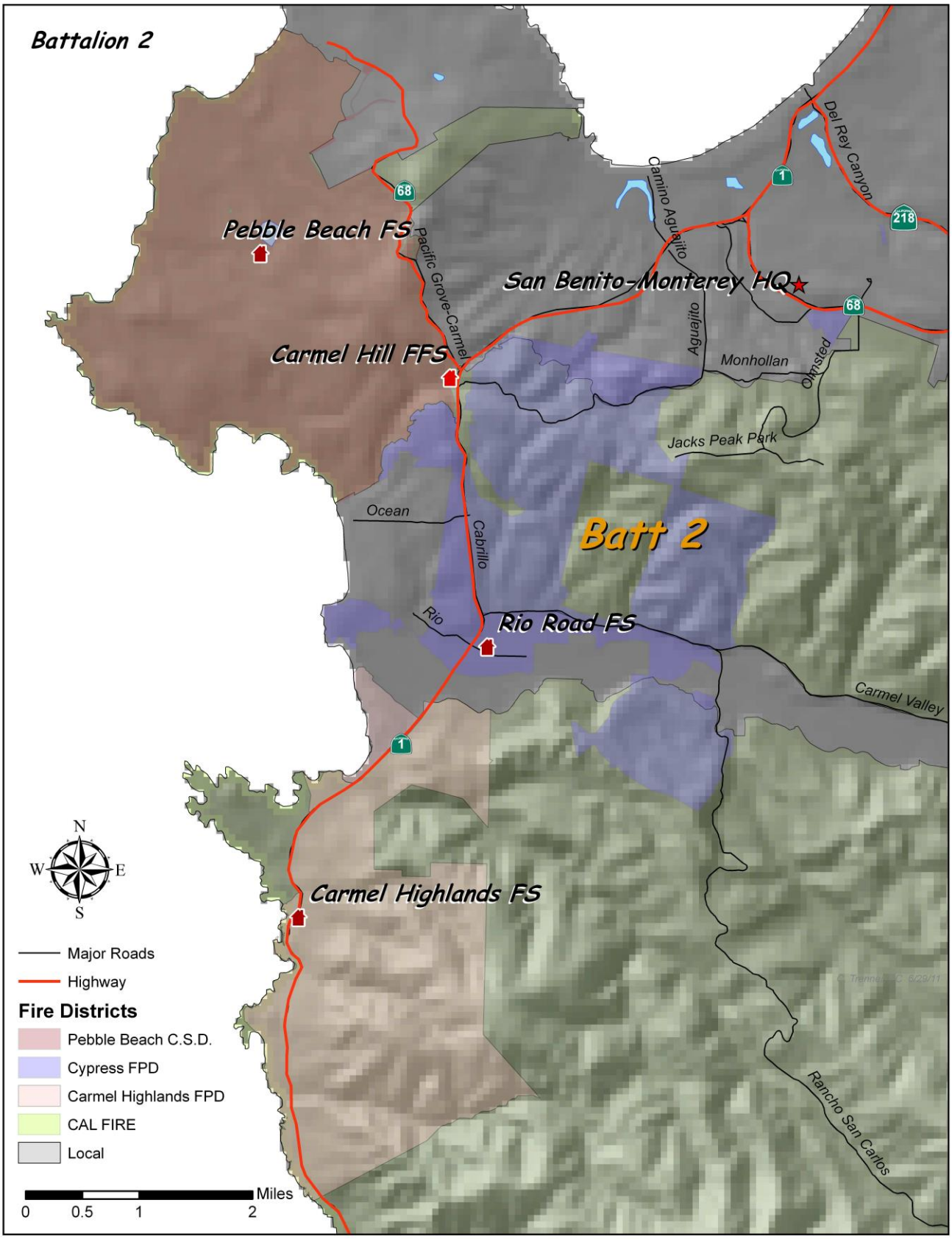
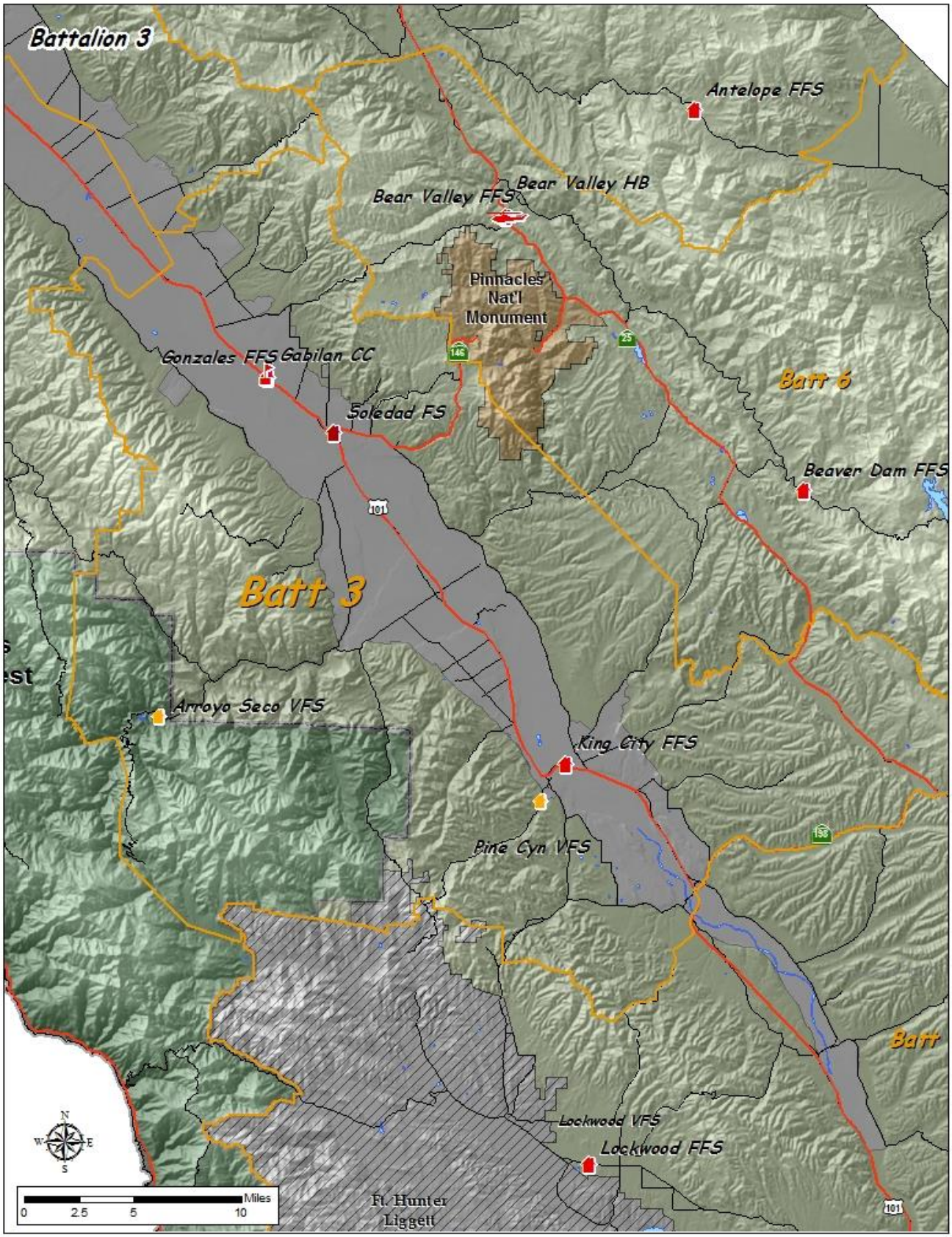
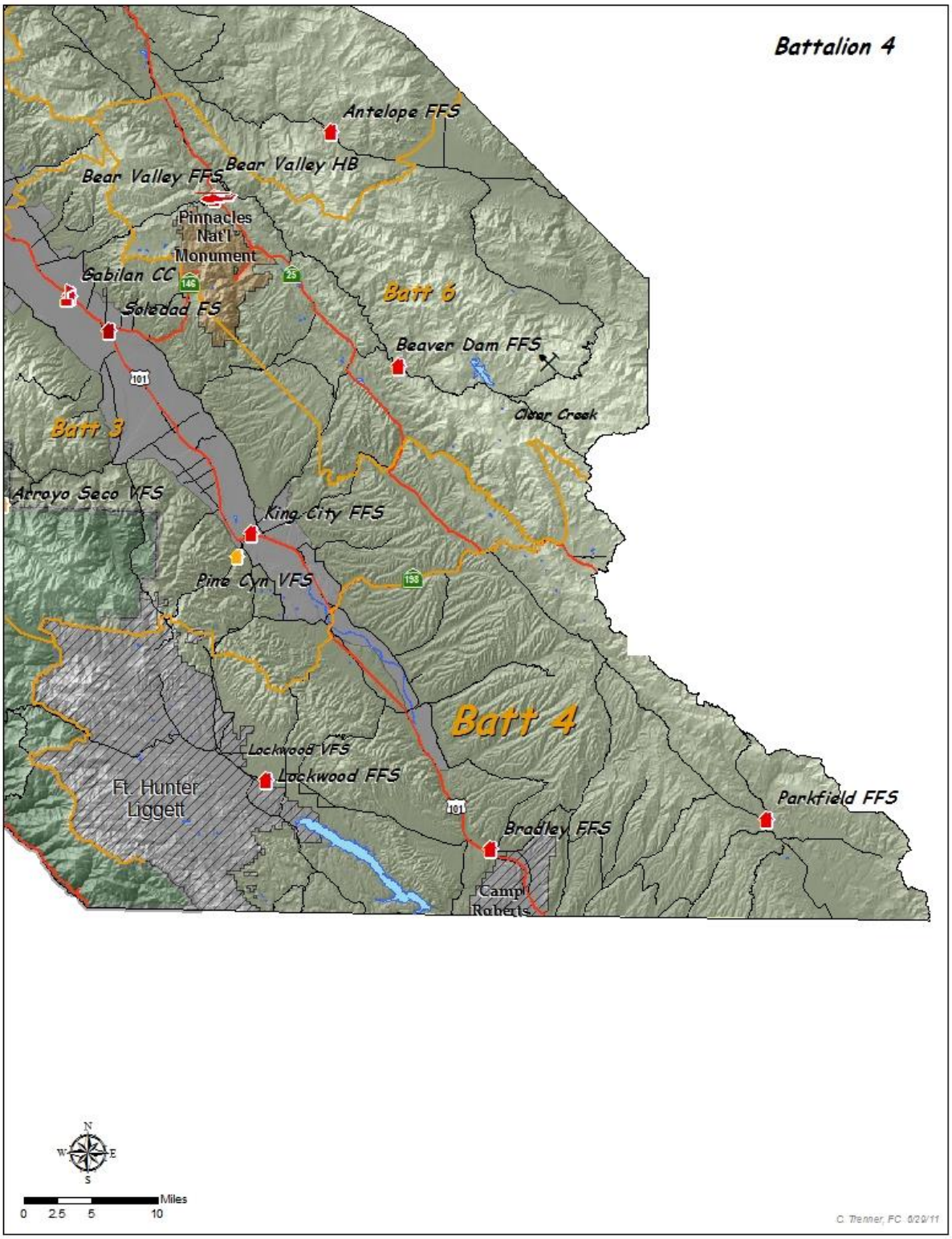


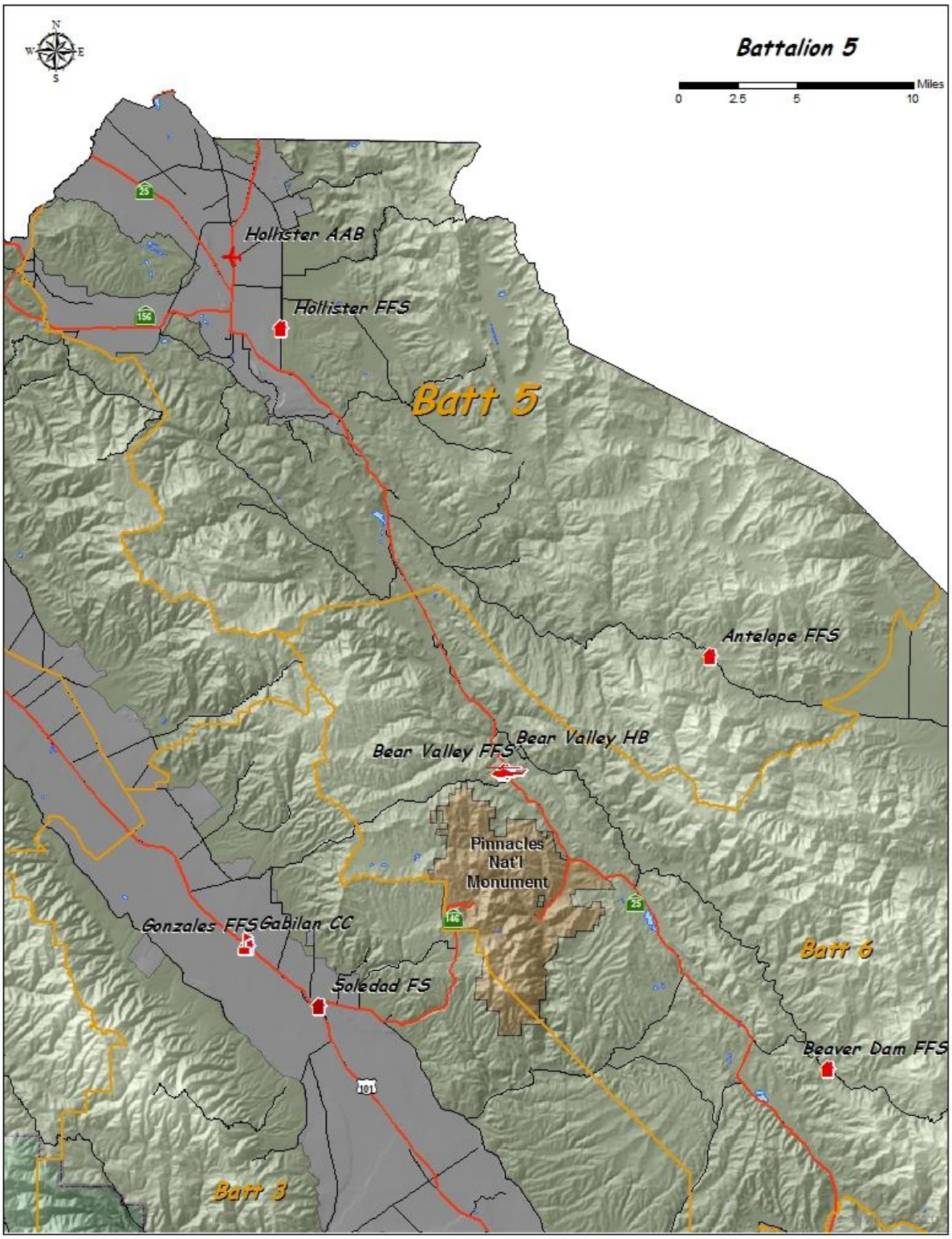
Figure B: Battalion Maps

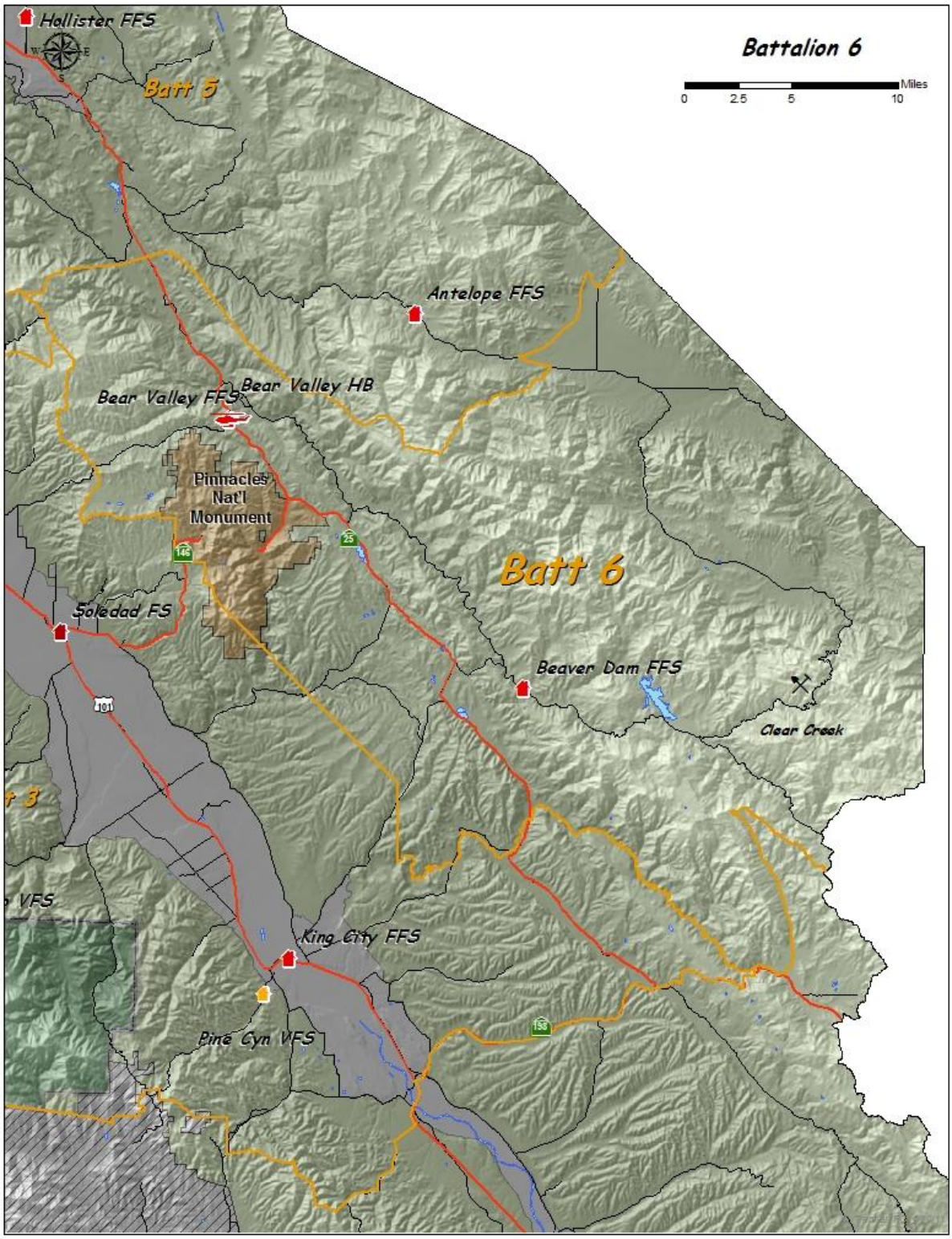



Battalion 2
Pebble Beach FS
Carmel Hill FFS
San Benito-Monterey HQ
Rio Road FS
Carmel Highlands FS
Batt 2
Pacific Grove-Carmel
Camino Aguajito
Aguajito
Del Rey Canyon
Monhollan
Olmsted
Jacks Peak Park
Ocean
Cabrillo
Rio
Carmel Valley
Rancho San Carlos
68
1
218
N
S
E
W
Major Roads
Highway
Fire Districts
Pebble Beach C.S.D.
Cypress FPD
Carmel Highlands FPD
CAL FIRE
Local
Miles
0
0.5
1
2


Battalion 3
Antelope FFS
Bear Valley HB
Bear Valley FFS
Pinnacles Nat'l Monument
Gonzales FFS
Gabilan CC
Soledad FS
Batt 6
Beaver Dam FFS
Batt 3
Arroyo Seco VFS
King City FFS
Pine Cyn VFS
Batt
Lockwood VFS
Lockwood FFS
Ft. Hunter Liggett
Miles
0 2.5 5 10


Battalion 4
Antelope FFS
Bear Valley HB
Bear Valley FFS
Pinnacles Nat'l Monument
Sabilan CC
Soledad FS
Batt 6
Beaver Dam FFS
Clear Creek
Batt 3
Arroyo Seco VFS
King City FFS
Pine Cyn VFS
Batt 4
Lockwood VFS
Lockwood FFS
Ft. Hunter Liggett
Parkfield FFS
Bradley FFS
Camp Roberts
N
W
E
S
Miles
0 2.5 5 10
C. Tenner, FC 8/29/11


Battalion 5
Miles
0
2.5
5
10
N
S
E
W
Hollister AAB
Hollister FFS
Batt 5
Antelope FFS
Bear Valley HB
Bear Valley FFS
Pinnacles
Nat'l
Monument
Gonzales FFS
Gabilan CC
Soledad FS
Batt 6
Beaver Dam FFS
Batt 3
25
156
146
101


Battalion 6
Miles
0
2.5
5
10
Hollister FFS
Batt 5
Antelope FFS
Bear Valley HB
Bear Valley FFS
Pinnacles
Nat'l
Monument
146
25
Batt 6
Soledad FS
Beaver Dam FFS
Clear Creek
101
King City FFS
Pine Cyn VFS
153

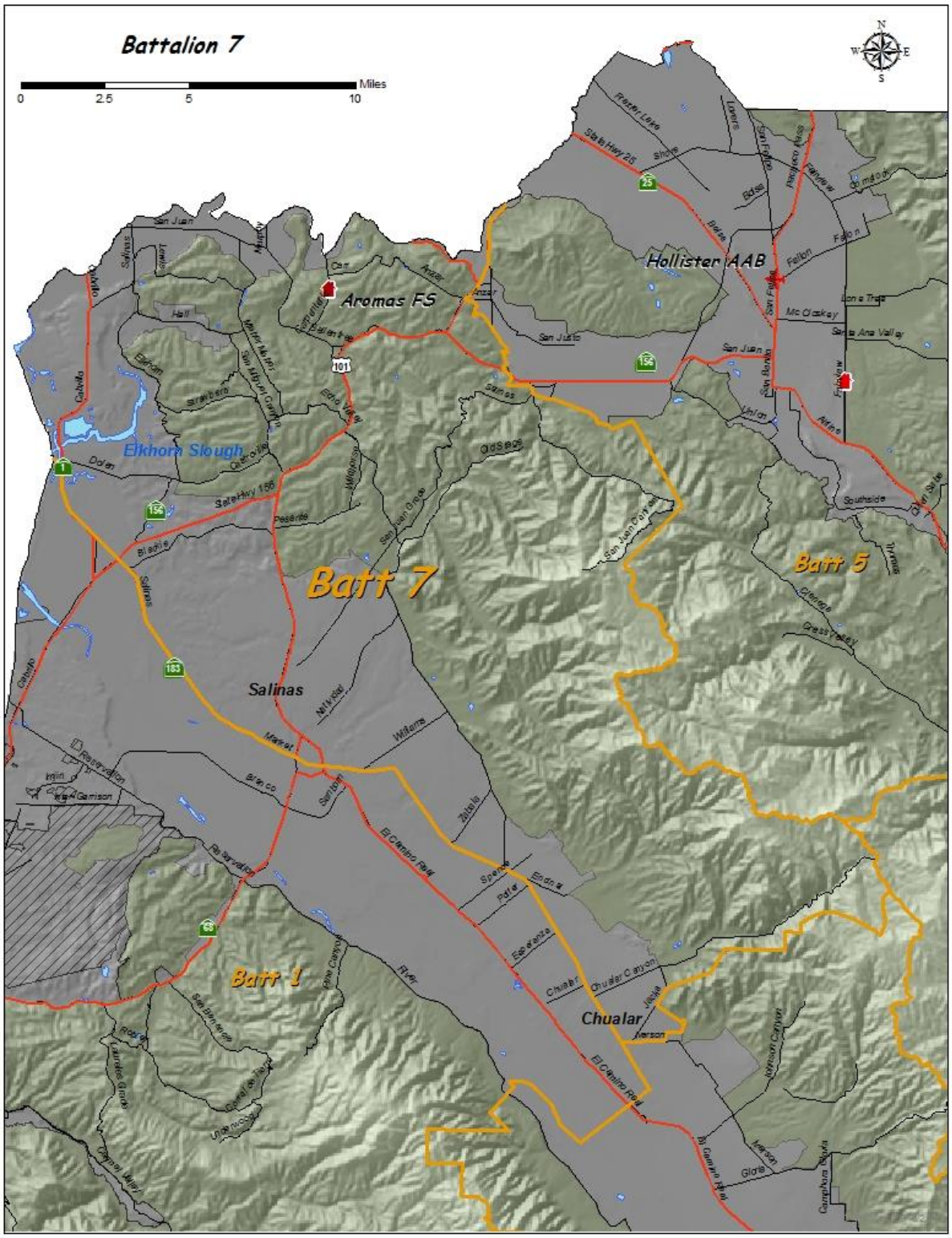
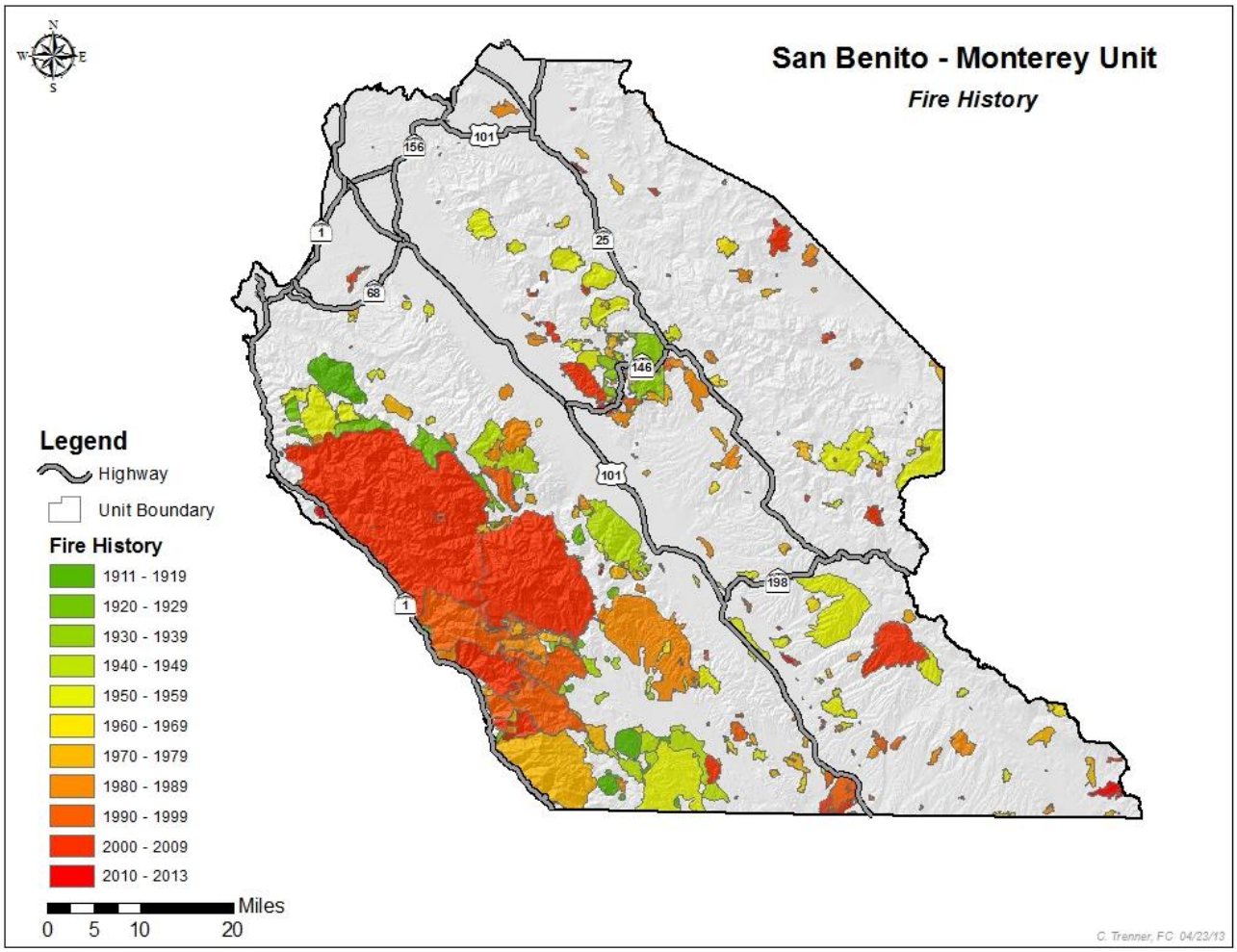

Battalion 7
Miles
0
2.5
5
10
N
S
E
W
Aromas FS
Hollister AAB
Elkhorn Slough
Batt 7
Batt 5
Batt 1
Salinas
Chualar

Figure C: Fire History Map



SUPPLEMENT:

ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING (2013)

Fire Planning:

The Unit has made great strides in 2013 towards assembling a Unit wide Pre Attack Plan. Several community members, fire safe councils and homeowner groups have come together to assist Unit personnel in gathering information, collecting data and making maps of their respective areas to compile a Unit wide resource to educate residents and visitors in the event of an emergency, as well as assist responding emergency personnel.

Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering:

In 2013, the San Benito-Monterey Unit was successful in providing 4291 Public Resource Code inspections, fire prevention and fuel reduction education to communities.

CalMAPPER has been instrumental in collecting data, tracking, fiscal reporting, emergency response, planning, and assessment, for fuel reduction projects in the San Benito-Monterey Unit.

Education and Information:

In conjunction with districts and other groups such as fire safe councils, Resource Management has completed multiple community fuel reduction projects. CAL FIRE has committed to working with fire safe councils and other local groups to seek new grant funding or other sources to create a more fire safe environment for the citizens.

Vegetation Management:

The Dillard VMP outside of King City was completed for a total of 265 acres with collaboration from Dillard Ranch, Ft. Hunter Liggett Fire South Monterey County Fire Protection District and the Monterey Peninsula Unified Air Pollution Control District.

The Rabbit VMP was completed for a total of 843 acres with collaboration from private landowners

The Limekiln VMP was completed for a total of 1,117 acres with collaboration from Enz Ranch, Clements Ranch, and Barker Ranch

Also completed was the White Rock Ridge Fire Access Road project south east of Carmel Valley. This project was completed in cooperation with White Rock Homeowners Association, Department of Fish and Wildlife and Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District.

Volunteerism:

The San Benito-Monterey Unit is an active participant with the Monterey Fire Safe Council and the San Benito Fire Safe Council working together with local, state, and federal agencies to help prevent catastrophic wildfires through projects related to public safety, fuel reduction, and public education. The San Benito-Monterey Unit personnel participate in monthly meetings as well as assisting the fire safe councils to write project grants.

Other Fire Prevention Projects in SRA:

The San Benito-Monterey Unit Strategic Fire Plan sets forth a vision to identify and evaluate wildland fire hazards and recognize life, property and natural resources at risk, including watershed, habitat, social and other values of functioning ecosystems. In 2013, the San Benito-Monterey Unit made great strides in fostering inter-agency relations, collaboration, and abiding by the goals and objectives set forth in the Strategic Fire Plan for California. The Gabilan Conservation Camp crews actively continued collaboration with neighboring agencies.

Unit Chief **Date**
Richard C. Hutchinson, Jr.