



Sonoma Valley Fire District

Proudly Serving the Communities of
Sonoma, Valley of the Moon, Glen Ellen, Kenwood, and Mayacamas

SVFD Response / Comment “Sonoma Mountain Community Services District”

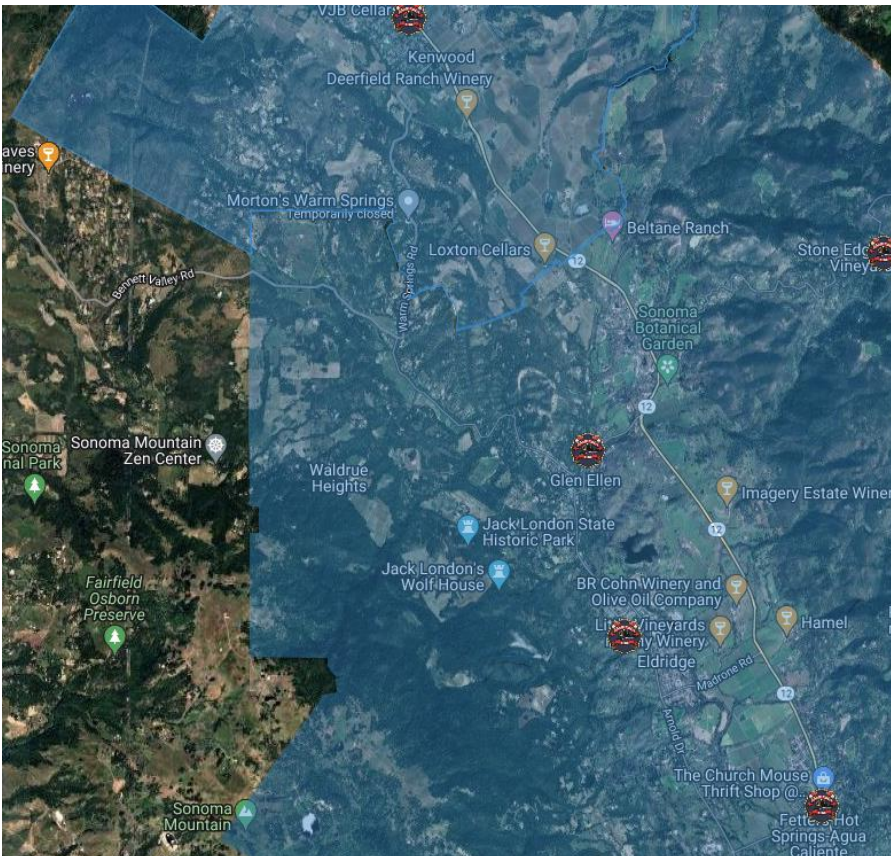
November 20, 2024

In making this proposal, it should be clear that it is the intention that the District will not engage in any of the following:

- **Overlapping of territory** where it would interfere with the jurisdiction and functions of other established agencies. The boundary of the District has been shaped to avoid potential overlaps with a future annexation of the Springs area to the City of Sonoma and, where territorial overlaps occur with agencies that provide services like water and sanitation, it will be made clear that the District will not have authority for, nor does it intend to provide, competing services in those areas.

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- The Sonoma Valley Fire District’s Boundary (Service Area – Formerly GEFPD)
 - Directly overlaps with the proposed new Special District. This contradicts the statements made in the proposal.
 - The SVFD Fire Impact fee is assessed in this area.





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- Direct engagement in the building of housing. Current State law does not provide direct authority to Special Districts to engage in the building of housing, though the State has recently placed a high priority on the provision of affordable housing both, in the incorporated areas of California and in unincorporated areas like the Sonoma Valley.

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The Sonoma Valley Fire District is an active participant in planning and building permit issuance at all phases of the development process

- Ensure compliance with State Law / Building Codes
- Ensure for a safe community and emergency response force

Community Network.

The District will also work to provide a community network hub that links district stakeholders and voters to provide information, obtain citizen input, and provide access to resources and support from the District and partnering agencies. A critical role of the District will be to unify, and give voice to, District residents so they can effectively participate in the stewardship and protection of shared community resources, particularly on Sonoma Mountain. To achieve this aim, the community must have the opportunity to engage in the discussions and development of priorities and plans of action.

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The Sonoma Valley Fire District is already doing this:

- Engaged with residents on Emery Rd –
 - Wildfire Preparedness
 - Possible Firewise Community creation
- Engaged with residents South of Warm Springs Rd including the neighborhoods of
 - Jack London Estates, O'Donnell Lane, London Ranch Rd, Williams Rd
 - Creating a Firewise Community
- Engaged with multiple property owners throughout Sonoma Mountain:
 - Vegetation Management Practices
 - Home Hardening
 - Defensible Space
- Social Media / Website Outreach to ALL residents within the SVFD
 - This will continue as new development occurs in the project footprint.
- Participation / Engagement with community groups:
 - North Valley Municipal Advisory Committee
 - Glen Ellen Forum
 - Kenwood Press
- SVFD worked with two community members and Fire Safe Sonoma to create the Glen Ellen Community Wildfire Protection Plan
 - Continuing work to form Fire Safe Council



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Sonoma Mountain Community Services District – September 16, 2024

Recent data indicates that, in the case of a wildfire or

earthquake, evacuation times could rise to as high as six to nine hours.

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The SVFD has been an active participant in the County's improved evacuation planning and mitigation program.

- This new system has been tested multiple times in the County and has proven to significantly reduce evacuation times and congestion. (Clarify authority / new zones / early notification / Ready-Set-Go / community outreach)
 - Improved Zone Identification
 - Better communications with residents
 - Increased resident participation and awareness
- Direct participation with the community of Glen Ellen
 - O'Donnell Bridge Closure and solution
- Direct Participation in the SDC Evacuation Planning Model Based on the Counties new deployment.
- Based on the proposed development in the area including more stringent requirements for vegetation management / defensible space / fire resistive construction / fire breaks, it is highly unlikely the residents in this new development will require evacuation.

Sonoma Mountain Community Services District – September 16, 2024

The impact of wildfires has led to insurance companies either canceling home insurance policies or passing on significant rate increases. In April 2024 State Farm announced that 21.7% of homes within the 95442 zip-code (Glen Ellen) would have their policies cancelled. Recently insurance companies (including State Farm) have begun offering wildfire mitigation discounts with up to 8% discounts for a home with an IBHS Wildfire Prepared Home designation

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The SVFD has been actively engaged with The California Department of Insurance local insurance providers, and property owners to ensure insurance is accessible to all residents in our District.

- In compliance with "SAFER FOR WILDFIRES" - Title 10, California Code of Regulations 2644.9
 - The SVFD Applied for and was listed as a "Fire Risk Reduction Community"
 - Board of Forestry Issued, were one of only 50 agencies in California to be placed on this list to date.
 - This highlights our efforts in a broad range of wildfire mitigation and prevention activities within our District.

In addition to being recognized as a "Fire Risk Reduction Community," our District's efforts—such as Defensible Space and Hazardous Vegetation Inspections, the Chipper Program, excellent ratings with the Insurance Services Organization (ISO), and the ongoing establishment of Firewise Communities—have equipped our residents with the tools and resources to secure and maintain more affordable property insurance.



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While it is: a) the responsibility of the Sonoma Valley Fire District to respond to fires, and b) the responsibility of the Sheriff's office and our local police officers to monitor evacuation in the event of a fire, it is the responsibility of the community itself, in its many forms, to prepare for evacuation in the event of a fire. Local fire prevention strategies have been initiated in various parts of the community on the west side of the Sonoma Valley, but there is presently no coordinated action to consolidate and combine those strategies into a unified and integrated whole led by an agency with area-wide authority on Sonoma Mountain and on the valley floor at its base.

Remainder of this page.....

The SVFD has initiated the various fire prevention strategies mentioned in this section. We plan to continue and improve these efforts in the totality of our District. The SDC property additionally affords us an opportunity to create more cohesive community groups as this development is "ground up". We have already actively planned for this and have developed these strategies as part of the planning process and while working directly with the development contractor.

The SVFD has been a direct partner in the establishment of many Fire Safe Councils and Firewise Communities both within and adjacent to our Fire District. These are on both the East and West sides of our District and include: Mayacamas, Grove St, and Gehricke Fire Safe Councils, and the George Ranch, and Sonoma Greens Firewise Communities. The SVFD is already in a coordinating role with these Fire Safe Councils and Firewise Communities and will continue these efforts within any new developed areas of our District.

A CWPP for Glen Ellen has already been completed and approved. In Addition the Sonoma County CWPP has been completed, maintained and is adopted for use in the totality of the County.

The SVFD has adopted the County Multi Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan and is actively engaged with the 2025 update.

There is mention of a COPE program. The SVFD has an existing SCOPE (Sonoma Citizens Organized and Prepared for Emergencies) Program.

A PEP or Personal Evacuation Plan exists and is organized by Cal Fire. It is also part of the Sonoma County Evacuation Program

- Ready, Set – GO

Implementation of such a program in the Sonoma Valley will be accomplished through a cooperative agreement or other alignment to be negotiated with the Sonoma Valley Fire District. Preliminary discussions in principle will take place during the period of LAFCO review, and final negotiations for implementation by the District will occur when the elected Board is in place.

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Such programs already exist with collaborative partnerships with the SVFD, Fire Safe Sonoma, CalFire, Sonoma County Fire Prevention, existing community groups, existing Fire Wise Communities, and Federally funded programs for defensible space and home hardening. The SVFD will continue pursuit of additional community groups and partners per the recently updated SVFD Community Driven Strategic Plan.