



**FIREWISE USA<sup>®</sup>**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Surrey Junction, Sutter Creek and Pine  
Grove, California

**Community Wildfire Action Plan 2022-2025**

# CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES OF SURREY JUNCTION

## LOCATION

The residential neighborhood of Surrey Junction is located in both Sutter Creek and Pine Grove, California, in the foothill area of Amador County.

General site information-

The Surrey Junction neighborhood's borders are Ridge Road to the South, Tanyard Hill Subdivision to the East and the North and West boundaries end with undeveloped property at their border. See map (appendix A) The proposed Firewise neighborhood consists of 94 total parcels, 80 developed with homes or structures (one is a commercial veterinary clinic) and 14 currently undeveloped. Sixty five homes are occupied full time. Fifteen home sites are second homes. Parcels range in size from 2.5 acres to 44 acres. Homes are single family and private ownership.

Five of the roads within Surrey Junction are county maintained. These include Surrey Junction Lane, Surrey Court, Surrey Place, Dapple Drive and Dapple Court. Five roads are not county maintained and include Bonavera Way, Tony Lane, Sierra Court, Lorna Lane and Emily Way.

The neighborhood does not have any street lights.

## CHARACTERISTICS

Our southern border is along Ridge Road. The Cal Fire Hazard Severity Zones map in SRA shows our most southwest border is located in a moderate fire severity zone. 20% of the homes are in this zone, in the lowest elevation within the community. 80% of the homes and parcels are within the very high severity zone.

The topographical map of Surrey Junction (Appendix D) shows elevation changes from 1600 feet to 2200 feet, consisting of rolling hills and some steep drop offs. Along the main road through the subdivision, traveling north on Surrey Junction Lane there are several curves in the road with canyons toward the west creating chimney like potential fire conditions. Most properties have significant elevation changes, some rolling slopes and some with steep inclines and drop offs creating canyon like features. The steepest slopes face north and west. Surrey Junction is regularly exposed to winds. Prevailing winds blow east to west or west to east, although all wind directions have been noted. There has not been any recent wildfire in the neighborhood. Two recent fires, the Caldor and the Butte, were headed to Amador County and our would have been a danger to our Subdivision however wind changes shifted its direction away from Surrey Junction.

## VEGETATION

Vegetation in the southwestern area is mostly grassland with scattered stands of oak, fir, pine and manzanita. The remaining areas include (but are not limited to) dense

manzanita stands, numerous coniferous trees including pine and fir, multiple varieties of deciduous and non deciduous oak, toyon shrubs, and poison oak. The invasive non native species, Scotch Broom, has infested several parcels and has also grown along roadsides. Bark beetle damaged/dead pine trees are present in multiple areas. Moderate to heavy growth of vegetation along roads in Surrey Junction impact visibility and safe egress.

## SERVICES

There is no city water and no fire hydrants in Surrey Junction. All homes have well water access. There is no city sewer system. All homes utilize either individual septic units or an engineered community septic system. Garbage service is through ACES which picks up weekly. For heating, homes utilize electric, propane and/or wood burning stoves. Propane is stored in above ground tanks. Many homes have solar panels. Some have house batteries or generators for use during power outages, which are not infrequent.

Water supply: Water for firefighting is available through:

- \*Private residence wells and water tanks
- \*Some residents have dedicated water tanks for firefighting
- \*Some residents have pools and ponds which could be used for firefighting

Surrey Junction is in the Amador Fire Protection District. The Pine Grove Fire Department and the Jackson Rancheria Fire Department are the closest to our location, approximately 3 and 6 miles away. If a structure fire were to break out in Surrey Junction, these two departments would be called. If additional resources were necessary, the City of Jackson Fire Department would be activated. If a structure fire led to a designated wildfire then Cal Fire would respond; at that time, Calfire would have authority over the Amador Fire Protection District resources. Amador Fire Protection District has responsibility for structural defense and Cal Fire has jurisdiction over wood defense.

## FIREWISE COMMUNITY BOARD

Our board consists of the following members:

**President**-Susan DuBois [dubois@volcano.net](mailto:dubois@volcano.net), 209-918-6360

**Communications/Secretary**-Lucy Miller and Mark Miller

They will also be responsible for website and newsletter communications.

[mark@marklucy.com](mailto:mark@marklucy.com); [lucymiller101@yahoo.com](mailto:lucymiller101@yahoo.com) 209-296-5211

**Treasurer**- Elisabeth Breegle [elisabethbreegle@gmail.com](mailto:elisabethbreegle@gmail.com) 209-332-0321

**Community Event Coordinator**- Teri Hood [terimaehood@yahoo.com](mailto:terimaehood@yahoo.com) 209-765-3210

## ASSESSMENT/OBSERVATIONS

The community wildfire risk assessment of properties was completed by two members of the Firewise committee. Teri Hood, Event Coordinator, [-terimaehood@yahoo.com](mailto:-terimaehood@yahoo.com), 209-765-3210, Susan DuBois-President, [dubois@volcano.net](mailto:dubois@volcano.net), 209-918-6360 and neighborhood member Kassidy DuBois. Map of parcels for Surrey Junction. (Appendix E)

Survey: 68 of 80 homes in Surrey Junction were surveyed.

Construction: Exterior siding includes stucco, hardi-plank, redwood and vinyl siding, masonry and rock. Between 50-74% of homes have non-combustible siding.

Roofing materials : Greater than 75 % of homes have either metal, tile, asphalt/composite/cement and fiberglass shingles. No homes have wood shingles

Non combustible Soffit vents are present on 50-74% of homes . Several homes (16) do not have protection of their eaves.

25-50% of homes with decks have skirting material underneath. Most are lattice type enclosures. A few are wire mesh.

Attachments: Many homes have decking or fencing attachments

Plastic 12 homes

Wood 15 homes

Metal 14 homes

No decking or attachments 27 homes

Greater than 75% of homes have no wooden attachments

Greater than 75% of homes have multi-paned windows

Greater than 75% of homes have non combustible metal gutters

50-74% of homes have cleaned and maintained their roofs and gutters (Note - assessment occurred after wind storm which may have skewed results)

15 homes are part time occupancy, which may limit maintenance.

### Description of Defensive Fire Zones

Immediate Zone 1 (0-5 feet from home): 50-74% of homes have created a combustible free area up to 5 feet from structure. Most homes have rock and cement walkways within

this zone and plantings are green and maintained. Most homes are well kept. Over 60% of homes were clear and maintained to optimum fire safe standards. Twenty five percent of homes had some pine needle retention and leaves against the house or in the valleys of roof. As we assessed our neighbor homes after a wind storm we expected to find some leaf and pine needle debris. One home had branches within 10 feet of their chimney. Decks have mostly lattice type skirting.

Intermediate Zone 2 (5-30 feet): Most homes are cleared out to 30 feet along the ground. Most homes have healthy plantings without dead or dying debris. Most have significant rock or cement walkways and driveways creating needed fire breaks. Fewer than 5% of homes have dead and dying fuels and ladder fuels in this zone. The main issue in this zone is the recommended space between tree crowns of 18 feet. Only 10% of homes have trees with 18 feet between crowns.

Extended Zone 3 (30-100 feet): Heavy accumulations of ground litter were found on 23% of parcels. 16 homes surveyed in this zone have heavy growth and debris. Storage sheds and other out buildings in this zone were clear of vegetation. The majority of properties have cleared all ladder fuels from under trees, however recommended 6-12 feet of space between canopy tops has not been achieved in the majority. Just under 10% have this zone cleared optimally. At these distances property lines may overlap, presenting the opportunity and need to work collaboratively with neighbors.

Due to the size of properties (5-44 acres) zones 1-3 do not fully include the parcels, leaving swaths of uncleared area. There are 12 undeveloped parcels within Surrey Junction, and there is extensive undeveloped property along the north and western borders of the community. These undeveloped areas are predominantly forested including dense manzanita and heavy ground debris.

## SUMMARY OF FIRE HAZARDS WITHIN SURREY JUNCTION

Many, but not all homes are constructed with fire resistant material.

Most homes are well maintained in Zone 1 and 2. Tree spacing is a challenge in the heavily forested areas. Most homes do not conform to optimum fuel reduction guidelines in Zone 3.

Even with optimum clearing and maintenance around structures in Zones 1-3 of the developed properties, there are extensive undeveloped areas within and around Surrey Junction which pose a fire risk in this residential/wildland interface community. Most of the community is located in the Cal Fire Very High Severity Zone. Steep terrain and limited roadway/vehicle access are obstacles to development and clearing in these areas. These same factors limit firefighting equipment access. Surrey Junction does benefit from the recently completed Mitchell Mine Fire Break, a 300 foot wide break which begins at Pioneer and runs north of the neighborhood extending through Surrey Junction

properties at its western extent (Appendix F).

Evacuation routes are unlighted and unmarked, with some areas of vegetation encroachment. Many driveways/addresses are poorly visible at night. Roadway from Surrey Junction to Tanyard Hill is blocked by a locked gate.



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## **SURREY JUNCTION 3-YEAR ACTION PLAN**

### **YEAR 1 2022-2023**

1. Develop contact list of property owners to allow for communication and coordination of community action.
2. Develop website to facilitate community interaction and information sharing.
3. Develop newsletter for promotion, communication, and disbursement of information regarding fire prevention and preparedness resources.
4. Develop community Kiosk for promotion and outreach
5. Host educational event for the community to promote awareness of the program and provide education about guidelines and resources available in conjunction with Amador County Fire Chief . Include information regarding Code Red notification system, reflective signage, fire hardening products and resources, evacuation preparedness.
6. Plan and implement a community clean up day
7. Develop/improve evacuation route and evacuation plan in conjunction with Amador County Fire Chief. Include attention to signage, access of alternative egress via Tanyard Hill, seek grant support for mitigation of vegetation along roadways.
8. Investigate and apply for grant assistance for mitigation of hazardous undeveloped areas in and adjacent to Surrey Junction.

## **Year 2 2023-2024**

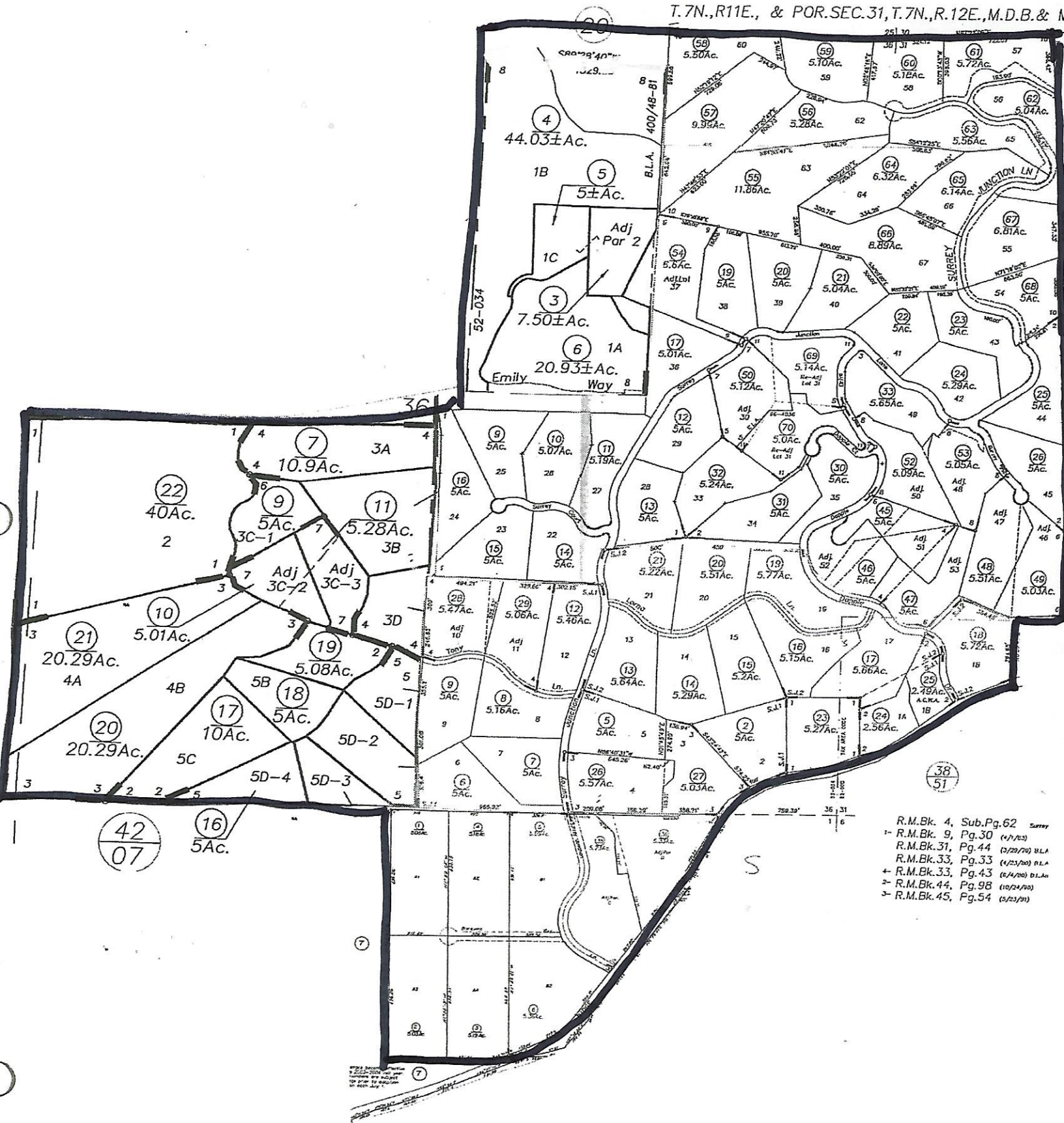
1. Update contact list
2. Maintain website updates
3. Newsletter by mail or email 2-4 times per year to promote fire hardening activities and report progress of ongoing projects
4. Committee meeting to evaluate results of year one and revise plan as needed to complete goals or continue progress
5. Host annual community event for education, outreach
6. Community clean up day - identify neighbors in need of assistance with clean up
7. Develop evacuation plan including identification of neighbors in need of assistance. Consider evacuation drill

## **Year 3 2024-2025**

1. Update contact list
2. Maintain website updates
3. Newsletter by mail or email 2-4 times per year to promote fire hardening activities and report progress of ongoing projects
4. Committee meeting to evaluate results of year two and revise plan as needed to complete goals or continue progress
5. Host annual community event for education, outreach
6. Community clean up day - identify neighbors in need of assistance with clean up
7. Consider extension of community to include Tanyard Hill
8. Identify new projects

# Appendix A

T.7N.,R.11E., & POR.SEC.31,T.7N.,R.12E.,M.D.B.& M

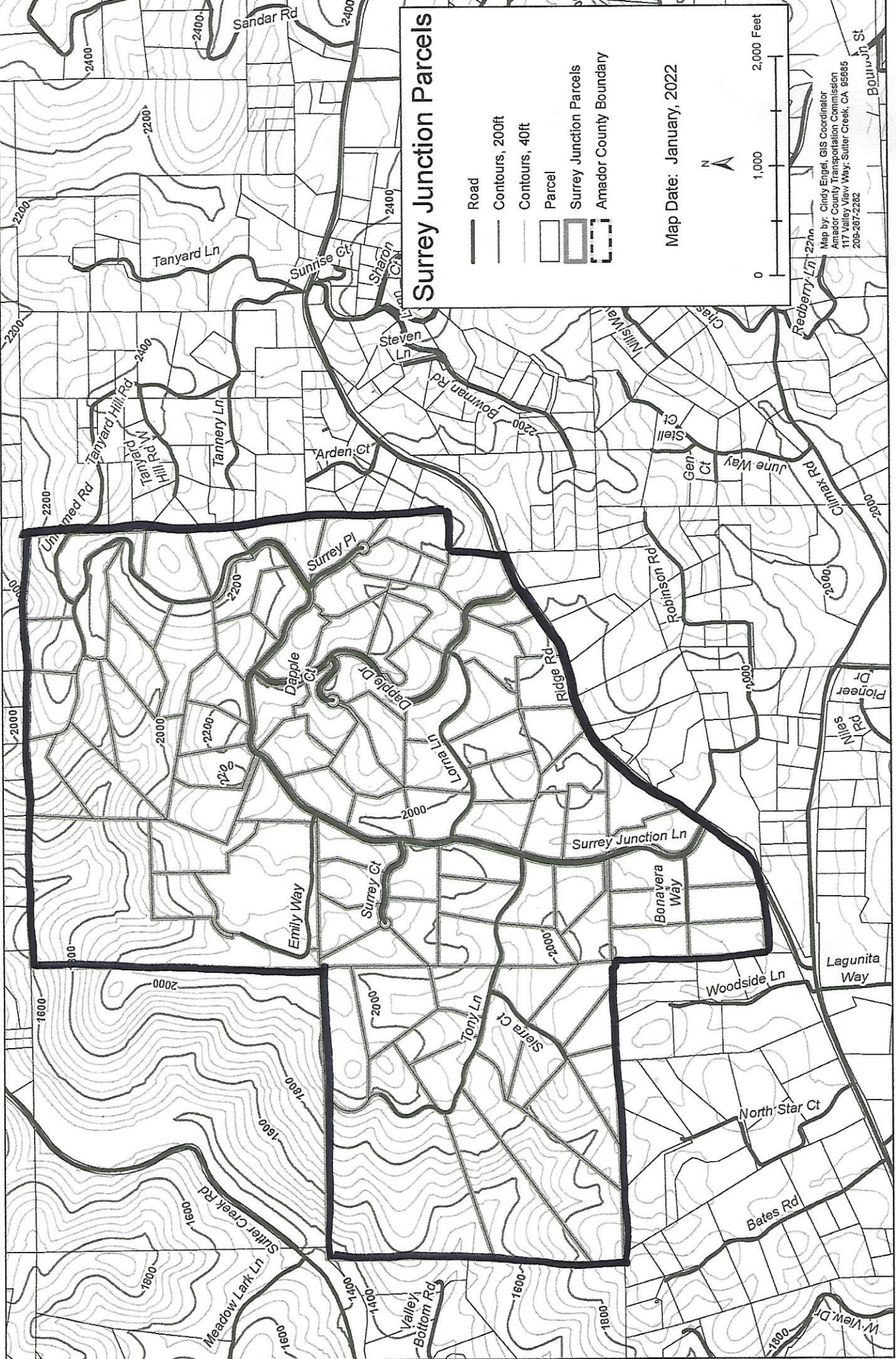


- R.M.Bk. 4, Sub.Pg.62 Survey
- R.M.Bk. 9, Pg.30 (1/1/00)
- R.M.Bk.31, Pg.44 (1/20/00) B.L.A.
- R.M.Bk.33, Pg.33 (1/23/00) B.L.A.
- R.M.Bk.33, Pg.43 (6/14/00) B.L.A.
- R.M.Bk.44, Pg.98 (10/24/00)
- R.M.Bk.45, Pg.54 (1/21/01)

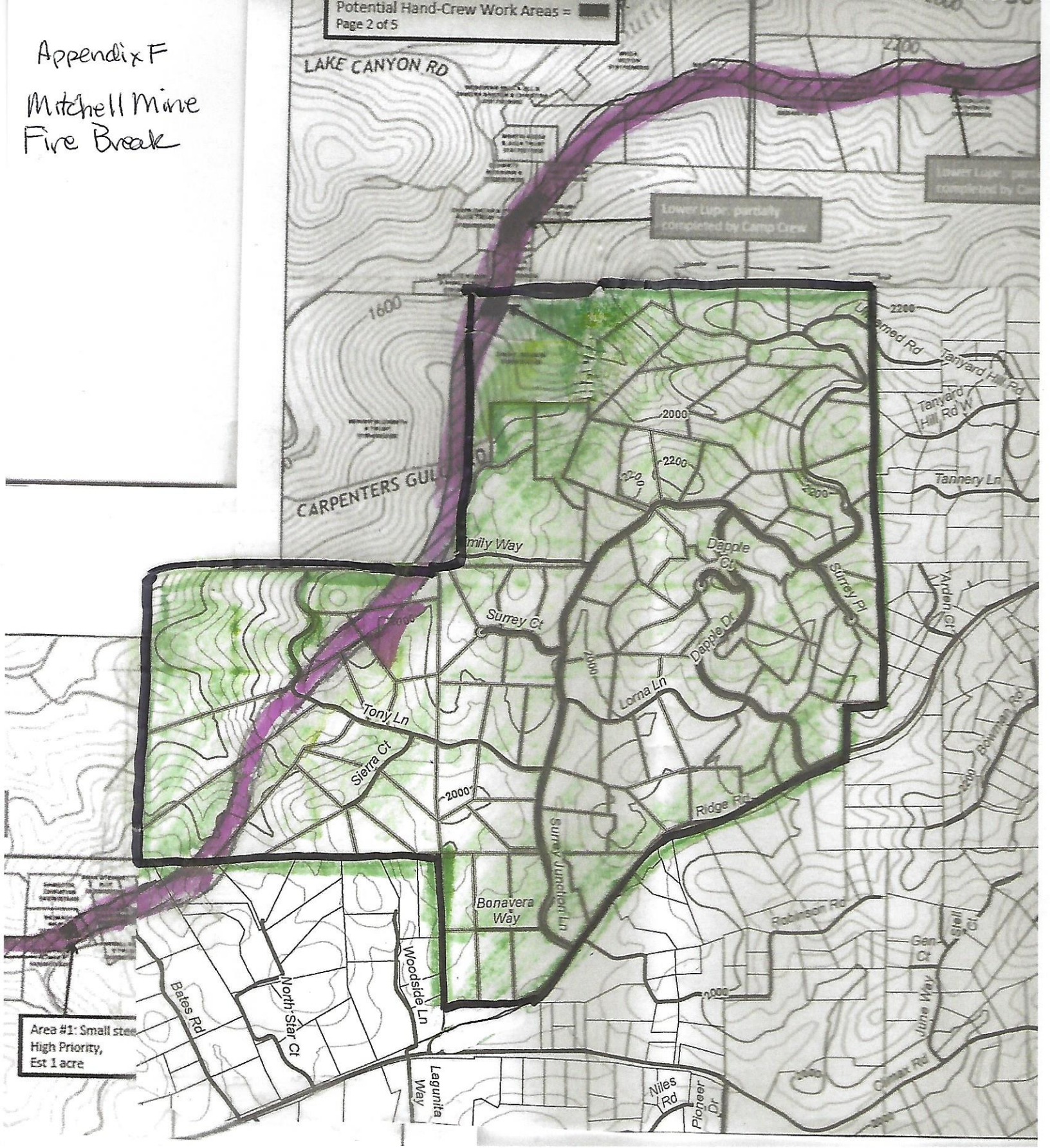


TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP  
SURREY JUNCTION FIREWISE NEIGHBORHOOD BOUNDARY

APPENDIX D



Appendix F  
Mitchell Mine  
Fire Break



Area #1: Small steep  
High Priority,  
Est 1 acre