

**Alto**

**Wildland Fire Safe Plan**

**Prepared for:**

**Alto LLC**

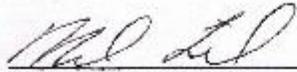
**Prepared by:**

**CDS Fire Prevention Planning  
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Placerville, CA 95667**

**January 22, 2014**

Alto

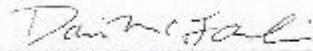
Approved By:



Michael Lilienthal, BC  
Fire Marshal  
El Dorado Hills Fire Department

1-28-14

Date

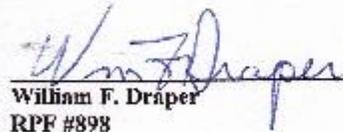


Darin McFarlin, FC  
Fire Prevention  
California Department of Forestry  
And Fire Protection

1-29-14

Date

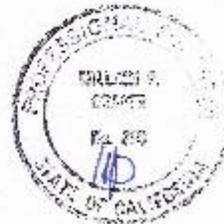
Prepared by:



William F. Draper  
RPF #898

1-29-14

Date



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## **I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

Communities are increasingly concerned about wildfire safety. Drought years coupled with flammable vegetation and annual periods of severe fire weather insure the potential for periodic wildfires.

The purpose of this plan is to assess the wildfire hazards and risks of the Alto subdivision, to identify measures to reduce these hazards and risks and protect the native vegetation. There are light to moderate fuel hazards and gentle topography associated with this proposed project both on and adjacent to the project.

The possibility of large fires occurring when the subdivision is complete will be greatly reduced. However, small wildfires in the open space areas and on the larger lots may occur due to the increase in public uses.

Incorporation of the fire hazard reduction measures into project final design (Approved TM 06-1408/PD06—0060) and maintenance of the future parcels will reduce the size and intensity of wildfires and help prevent catastrophic fire losses. State and County regulations provide the basic guidelines and requirements for fire safe mitigation measures and defensible space around dwellings. This plan builds on these basic rules and provides additional fire hazard reduction measures customized to the topography and vegetation of the development with special emphases on the interface of homes and wildland fuels.

The scope of the Alto Wildland Fire Safe Plan recognizes the extraordinary natural features of the project area and will provide for safety measures which are meant to compliment and become part of the project final design. The Plan contains measures for providing and maintaining defensible space around future homes and open space. Plan implementation measures must be maintained in order to assure adequate wildfire protection.

Homeowners who live in and adjacent to the wildfire environment must take primary responsibility along with the fire services for ensuring their homes have sufficient low ignitability and surrounding fuel reduction treatment. The fire services should become a community partner providing homeowners with technical assistance as well as fire response. For this to succeed it must be shared and implemented equally by homeowners and the fire services.

## **II. FIRE PLAN LIMITATIONS**

The Wildland Fire Safe Plan for the Alto development does not guarantee that wildfire will not threaten, damage or destroy natural resources, homes or endanger residents. However, the full implementation of the mitigation measures will greatly reduce the exposure of homes to potential loss from wildfire and provide defensible space for firefighters and residents as well as protect the native vegetation. Specific items are listed for homeowner's attention to aid in home wildfire safety.

### **III. ALTO WILDLAND FIRE SAFE PLAN**

#### **1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Alto subdivision is located North of Diamante Estates and Malcolm Dixon Road Estates. Access is being proposed to come in off of Malcolm Dixon Road by way of Chartraw Road which has not been completed. The subdivision will also connect to Malcolm Dixon Road by way of Diamante Road which has not been built. Diamante Road will be the second access for Alto's 23 lots when completed. The Alto project has an Emergency Vehicle Access (EVA) designed for a secondary access for Arroyo Vista community. The Arroyo Vista EVA will not be built until such time that the Arroyo Vista CSD improves / creates a roadway at Winding Oak (see Conditions of Approval). As approved, the roadways within Alto subdivision will be 24' and 36'. The EVA will be 18' (per 101C). There may be a gate proposed on the main access roads which must comply with Fire Department standards. The EVA may have a gate providing it opens with an opticon type opener that allows for passage from either direction. The opener would be controlled by the fire department and maintained by the Alto development. All roads will be constructed to El Dorado County Transportation Division (TD) and Fire Safe (LDMS) standards. All new roads will be either 24' or 36' of travel surface with rolled curbs. The project shall be served by El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) for water. All fire hydrant locations and spacing shall be determined by El Dorado Hills Fire Department and the Residential Fire Code. Any private residential gate shall meet the requirements of El Dorado Hills Fire Department. A fuel hazard reduction zone (FHRZ) along the entire length of the roads in and adjacent to the project and around the perimeter of the open space will be needed. The project sits above Salmon Falls Road. The project is proposing to split parcels APN: 126-100-19 totaling 81.62 acres into 23 residential lots and three open space lots containing 25.4 acres. The area is zoned RE-5PD. The developer is using a Planned Development (PD) to allow for preservation of open space and clustering of residential lots with an overall project density of 0.3 DU/ac (3.5ac per lot). All residential lots are subject to clearance requirements (See Appendix A) established by Public Resources Code (PRC) 4291. The smallest lot is 78,000+ sqft. El Dorado Hills has a weed abatement ordinance that is enforced. Residential fire sprinklers shall be required by the Residential Building Code as it currently exists or amended at the time of construction.

A large open space lot along the north and west sides of the project serves as a wildlife corridor, consisting of approximately 23 acres. Two smaller open space lots are on the east side of the development. Open space surrounds the EVA and consists of 2.1 acres. The third open space lot is in the southeast corner of the subdivision and is approximately .3 acres. The area is oak-woodland and primarily an old stand of liveoak with scattered gray pines and white oaks. This area is in need of rejuvenation. It is recommended that the open space area be thinned from below. All the dead limbs and dead trees need to be removed, thin the liveoak clumps and prune up the true oaks. The gray pines within residential lots should all be removed. Pines in the open space areas may be left if they are outside of the fuel hazard reduction zones. Currently the open space is an attractive nuisance with limited use by wildlife or the residences of the area. There is a prominent drainage bisecting the property in open space lot "A" and "B" that is also a wildlife corridor. There is evidence of seasonal flow. A buffer zone should be established for its protection. All fencing adjacent to any open space shall be constructed from nonflammable material. If any trail system is developed within the open space will be required to meet FHRZ requirements.

The FHRZ along the access roads shall be 10' from the edge of the roadway (edge of pavement). This may include sidewalks and landscaping. The zones along the perimeter and adjacent to

backyards shall be 30' in width. The EVA will need the canopy thinned so there is no crown closure over the road. All the vegetation adjacent to the road shall be removed for 20'.

An HOA will be established for the purpose of maintaining the fire safe requirements in the fuel hazard reduction zones, open space areas, EVA and a gate if installed. Maintenance of the FHRZ's is critical for the protection of the residences. This project will be developed in two phases.

The El Dorado Hills Fire Department provides all fire and emergency medical services to this project. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) has wildland fire responsibility in this state responsibility area (SRA).

## **2. PROJECT VEGETATION (FUELS)**

For wildfire planning purposes the vegetation is classified as follows:

- (a) ground fuels- annual grasses, toyon, poison oak, and buckeye and downed limbs (Brush)
- (b) overstory- scattered live oaks, white oaks and gray pine.

The property has varied terrain ranging from flat to mostly gentle slopes with steep slopes along the drainages. Slopes are generally west facing and up to 30%. Fire hazard reduction of the fuels will be extremely important to the house sites and surrounding areas. Much of the tree canopy is dense liveoak with open grown oaks and gray pines. These trees typically have limbs and canopy reaching the ground creating ladder fuels. Ladder fuels will need to be eliminated. Limbing of trees is important to reduce their susceptibility from a ground fire. Tree spacing on the slopes is a critical component to attaining the required fire safe clearances. A separation of the brush fuels and trees are essential for creating the defensible space around the residence and along the perimeter. Any trees adjacent to the roads need to be thinned so there is no crown closure and any limb hanging over the roadway must be at least 15' above the ground. CALFIRE guidelines for the 100 foot clearance requirements around structures are attached.

## **3. PROBLEM STATEMENTS**

### **A. The brush fuels on the slopes will ignite and have a rapid rate of spread.**

Fire in the grass and brush fuels on the slopes is the most serious wildfire problem for this project.

### **B. Risk of fire starts will increase with development.**

The greatest risk from fire ignition will be along roads and on large lots as human activity increases in these areas.

### **C. Provisions must be made to maintain all fuel treatments.**

The wildfire protection values of fuel reduction are rapidly lost if not maintained. Continued review of potential ladder fuels to maintain a fire safe environment is very important. Annual maintenance by June 1 of each year is necessary.

### **D. Typical home design and siting often does not recognize adequate wildfire mitigation measures.**

A review of many wildfires has conclusively shown that most home losses occur when: (1) there is inadequate clearing of flammable vegetation around a house, (2) roofs are not fire resistant, (3) homes are sited in hazardous locations, (4) firebrand ignition points and heat traps are not adequately protected and (5) there is a lack of water for suppression.

#### 4. **GOALS**

- A. Modify the continuity of high hazard vegetation fuels.
- B. Reduce the size and intensity of wildfires.
- C. Ensure defensible space is provided around all structures.
- D. Design fuel treatments to minimize tree removal.
- E. Ensure fuel treatment measures are maintained.
- F. Identify fire safe structural features.
- G. Help homeowners protect their homes from wildfire.

#### 5. **WILDFIRE MITIGATION MEASURES**

Wildfire mitigation measures are designed to accomplish the Goals by providing and maintaining defensible space and treating high hazard fuel areas. Fire hazard severity is reduced through these mitigation measures. The Wildland Fire Safe Plan places emphasis on defensible space around structures and project perimeter.

The residential construction materials, fire hydrant location and fuel treatment will be extremely important in the development of these new lots. Lot setback will vary depending on lot size and location.

Fuel hazard reduction zones (FHRZ) of at least 30 feet in width shall be installed around the perimeter of the project and a 10 foot fuel hazard reduction zone along both sides of all roads and hiking trails. All interior open space perimeters shall have a 30' FHRZ adjacent to backyards. Sidewalks and planted landscaping may be a part of the FHRZ. Any tree canopy over the roads and driveways will have 15' of vertical clearance over the roadways. Nonflammable fencing shall be used adjacent to all open space areas.

All residences shall be required to have NFPA 13D fire sprinkler systems. The project is located in a Moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Implementation of Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area Building Standards will be required for the construction of new residences. These standards address roofing, venting, eave enclosure, windows, exterior doors, siding, and decking.

Clearance along the road and around structures is very important and necessary. Fire Safe specifications state that all trees in the fuel hazard reduction zones shall be thinned so the crowns are not touching. Branches on remaining trees shall be pruned up 10 feet as measured on the uphill side of the tree. Brush shall be removed. Grasses shall be kept mowed to a 2 inch stubble annually by June 1. Any tree crown canopy over the driveways shall be pruned at least 15 feet up from the driveway surface.

This zone is in addition to the clearances required by state law. The State required Fire Safe clearances (PRC 4291) shall be implemented around all structures (See CALFIRE Guideline). Clearances may be required at the time of construction by the County.

**More restrictive standards may be applied by approving El Dorado County Authorities. Approval of this plan does not by itself guarantee approval of this project.**

## **Mitigation Measures:**

- **All lots one acre and larger shall be landscaped to Firescaping Standards Zones I and II (Appendix A).**
  - a. **Responsibility- homeowner within one year of occupancy**
  
- **Driveways shall be 12 feet wide. Driveways shall comply with the DOT weight standards.**
  - a. **Responsibility- homeowner**
  
- **All private driveway gates shall be inset on the driveway at least 30 feet from the road. Gate openings shall be 2 feet wider than the driveway. Knox lock access shall be provided to the fire department.**
  - a. **Responsibility- homeowner**
  
- **All homes shall have Class A listed roof covering.**
  - a. **Responsibility- homeowner**
  
- **Decks that are cantilevered over the natural slope shall be enclosed.**
  - a. **Responsibility- homeowner (See Appendix C for guidelines)**
  
- **The houses shall be constructed with exterior wall sheathing that shall be rated noncombustible.**
  - a. **Responsibility-builder**
  
- **Windows and glass doors on the sides of the structure shall have tempered glass and fire resistant frames.**
  - a. **Responsibility-builder**
  
- **Rafter tails shall be enclosed with noncombustible material on the sides of the structure.**
  - a. **Responsibility-builder**
  
- **Gutters and downspouts shall be noncombustible.**
  - a. **Responsibility-builder**
  
- **Attic and floor vents shall be covered with ¼ inch, or less, noncombustible mesh and horizontal to the ground.**
  - a. **Responsibility-builder**
  
- **The fire department shall review the Wildland Fire Safe Plan within 5 years after completion of Phase I to determine its adequacy. It may require modification as necessary.**
  - a. **Responsibility- fire department**

## **6. BUILDING SETBACKS ON ONE ACRE OR LARGER LOTS**

State SRA Regulations (1276.01) requires a minimum of a 30 foot setback from all property lines or to the center of the road for lots 1 acre or larger. Setback of less than 30' may be necessary due to

natural features and lot design. As approved, the project building setbacks will be as follows: 30' front, 15' sides and 30' back.

**7. OTHER FIRE SAFE REQUIREMENTS**

- A. New roadways, turnouts, gates and driveways shall be constructed only after consulting with El Dorado Hills Fire Department and TD. A design waiver may be requested.**
- B. Each new property owner prior to construction shall be required to contact El Dorado County Community Services Agency/Building Division to have the residential fire sprinklers plans approved. All fire sprinkler systems shall be designed and installed by a licensed contractor.**
- C. Any new road and turnout shall be built to TD standards, Title 14 and Conditions of Approval.**
- D. The developer shall provide a 30' fuel hazard reduction zone along the perimeter of the project, 30' adjacent to backyard fences, 10' on both sides of the roads shall be installed and annually maintained by June 1 to the Fire Safe specifications. Sidewalks and landscaping are acceptable in the zone along the roadways. Tree canopy over the road and driveways shall be cleared up 15'.**
- E. Any trail within the open space shall have a 10' FHRZ along both sides of the trail that is maintained. Trail access points shall be posted "No Smoking".**
- F. The developer shall form a Home Owners Association (HOA) for the purpose of maintaining the FHRZ's and EVA. Annual maintenance is required by June 1 and may need to be repeated more often during hazardous times.**
- G. The developer shall file with TD to get the roads named and have the names posted at the intersections.**
- H. The owner/HOA of the property shall be responsible for maintaining the fuel hazard reduction zones along the road and in the open spaces annually by June 1.**
- I. If roads are 24' wide, they shall be posted "No Parking" on both sides of the road unless a design waiver is approved. If parking is approved for one side of the road, posting on the one side shall be determined by fire hydrant placement and consulting with the El Dorado Hills Fire Department. Rolled curbs should be used.**
- J. If a parking design waiver is granted, turnouts at each fire hydrant location shall be installed and meet El Dorado Hills Fire Department specifications.**
- K. A Notice of Restriction shall be filed with the final parcel map which stipulates that a Wildland Fire Safe Plan has been prepared and wildfire mitigation measures must be implemented.**
- L. The project shall meet all the Public Resource Codes 4290 as amended (the 1991 SRA Fire Safe Regulations- Article 2 Access, Article 3 Signing, Article 4 Water,**

Article 5 Fuels), County and fire department ordinances unless amended, revised or waived.

- M. The home/property owners are responsible for any future fire safe or building code changes adopted by the State or local authority.
- N. Only fire rated composite deck material, wood or non-combustibles shall be allowed for decks.
- O. All fencing adjacent to open space shall be noncombustible.
- P. All vacant lots shall be treated to the standard established by the Weed Abatement Ordinance of the El Dorado Hills Fire Department.

## **8. OPEN SPACE GUIDELINES**

- A. Remove all gray pines within 100' of all property lines (outer and inner lines).
- B. Remove all dead trees within 100' of all property lines (outer and inner lines).
- C. Remove all dead limbs from live trees that are within 10' of the ground.
- D. Limb all trees within 30' of the inner property lines at least 10' above the ground as measured on the uphill side of the tree.
- E. Remove all dead limbs and trees laying on the ground within 100' of all property lines (outer and inner lines).
- F. Annually by June 1 cut or remove all grass and brush to a 4" stubble within 30' along the inner property lines adjacent to the residential lots and along streets.
- G. Mature or multi stemmed oaks can present a serious wildfire problem if untreated. Treat the oaks as to the following specifications: (a) remove all dead limbs and stems and (b) cut off green stems at 10' above the ground that arch over and are growing down towards the ground. Measure from the uphill side of the tree to determine the appropriate height.

## **9. PHASED DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES**

This phasing plan is approved El Dorado Hills Fire Department and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as approved by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors with the exception of 12 lots (rather than 14 lots) due to limits of the dead end road requirements.

As approved, Alto will be developed in two phases. Phase I will consist of 12 lots (lots 1-4 & 7-14) located at the southern part of the property. Phase II will include the remaining 9 lots (lots 5-6 & 15-23). Water will be installed as needed and all roads will be completed. Full implementation of the Wildland Fire Safe Plan will apply to the developed lots at each phase as well as the adjoining open space. The formation of the HOA will be required with the initial phase of the development.

## **Phase I**

- 1. Construction of Road A to the intersection with Road B and a part of Road B to the southern border of the development. (24' wide)**
- 2. Road B will be connected to Malcolm Dixon Road by completing Chartraw Road. (24' wide)**
- 3. Road A will temporarily connect to the southern end of Road B to provide looped circulation with an 18' EVA (EID access road).**

## **Phase II**

- 1. Road B will be extended to develop the remaining 9 lots to the north. (36' wide)**
- 2. Road A will be connected to Malcolm Dixon Road by constructing Diamante Road or going west through LaCanada to Salmon Falls Road.**
- 3. Dedication of a 40' EVA easement and deposit of funds per the Conditions of Approval for the connection to Arroyo Vista.**

## **V. Appendix**

## APPENDIX A

### ALTO FIRESCAPING STANDARDS

Firescaping is an approach to landscaping to help protect homes from wildland fires. The goal is to create a landscape that will slow the advance of a wildfire and create a Defensible Space that provides the key point for firefighting agencies to defend the home. This approach has a landscape zone surrounding the home containing a balance of native and exotic plants that are fire and drought resistant, help control erosion, and are visually pleasing. Firescaping is designed not only to protect the home but to reduce damage to oaks and other plants.

#### Zone I

The zone extends to not less than 30 feet from the house **or to the property line whichever is less** in all directions and has a traditional look of irrigated shrubs, flowers gardens, trees and lawns. All dead trees, brush, concentrations of dead ground fuels (tree limbs, logs etc. exceeding 1 inch in diameter) shall be removed. All native oak trees, conifers and brush species are pruned up to 10 feet above the ground as measured on the uphill side but no more than 1/3 of the live crown. The plants in this zone are generally less than 18 inches in height, must be slow to ignite from windblown sparks and flames. Such plants should produce only small amounts of litter and retain high levels of moisture in their foliage year around. Native and exotic trees are permitted inside the Zone, but foliage may not be within 10 feet of the roof or chimney. Grass and other herbaceous growth within this zone must be irrigated or if left to cure must be mowed to a 2 inch stubble, chemically treated or removed. Such treatment must be accomplished by June 1, annually. This zone has built in firebreaks created by driveways, sidewalks etc.

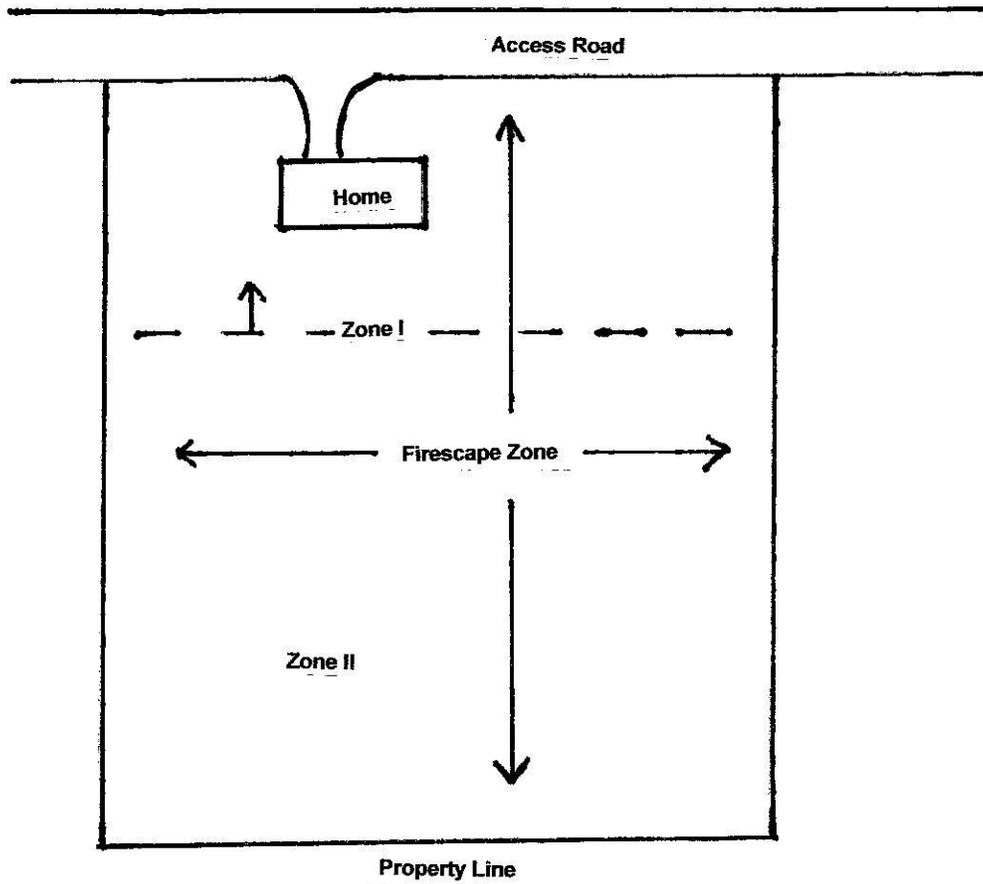
#### Zone II

This Zone adds 70 feet to Zone I and extends a minimum of 100 feet from the house in all directions, **or to the property line whichever is less**, and is a transition area to the outlying vegetation. The zone is a band of low growing succulent ground covers designed to reduce the intensity, flame length and rate of spread of an approaching wildfire. Irrigation may be necessary to maintain a quality appearance and retain the retardant ability of the plants. All dead trees, brush, concentration of dead ground fuels (tree limbs, logs etc.) exceeding 2 inches in diameter shall be removed. Annual grasses shall be mowed after they have cured to a 2 inch stubble by June 1, annually. Native trees and brush species may be preserved and pruned of limbs up to 8 feet above the ground as measured on the uphill side.

#### For All Zones With Oaks

Mature, multi stemmed Oaks can present a serious wildfire problem if untreated. Treat the Oaks as to the following specifications: (a) remove all dead limbs and stems and (b) cut off green stems at 10 feet above the ground as measured on the uphill side that arch over and are growing down towards the ground.

**APPENDIX A-1  
FIRESCAPING ZONES  
EXHIBIT**



**Typical Lot in Oak Woodland**  
(Schematic, not to scale)

## **APPENDIX B**

### **ALTO**

#### **FUEL TREATMENT SPECIFICATIONS**

##### **For**

##### **OAK WOODLAND**

##### **Within The Designated Fuel Treatment Areas**

1. Leave all live trees where possible.
2. Remove all dead trees.
3. Remove all brush.
4. Prune all live trees of dead branches and green branches 10 feet from the ground as measured on the uphill side of the tree, except no more than 1/3 of the live crown is removed. All slash created by pruning must be disposed of by chipping or hauling off site.
5. Annually by June 1, reduce the grass or weeds to a 2 inch stubble by mowing, chemical treatment, disking or a combination of treatments.
6. Conifers within 30 feet of a house shall be removed. Those pines in the open space shall be isolated with no brush understory within the dripline of the tree.

## **APPENDIX C**

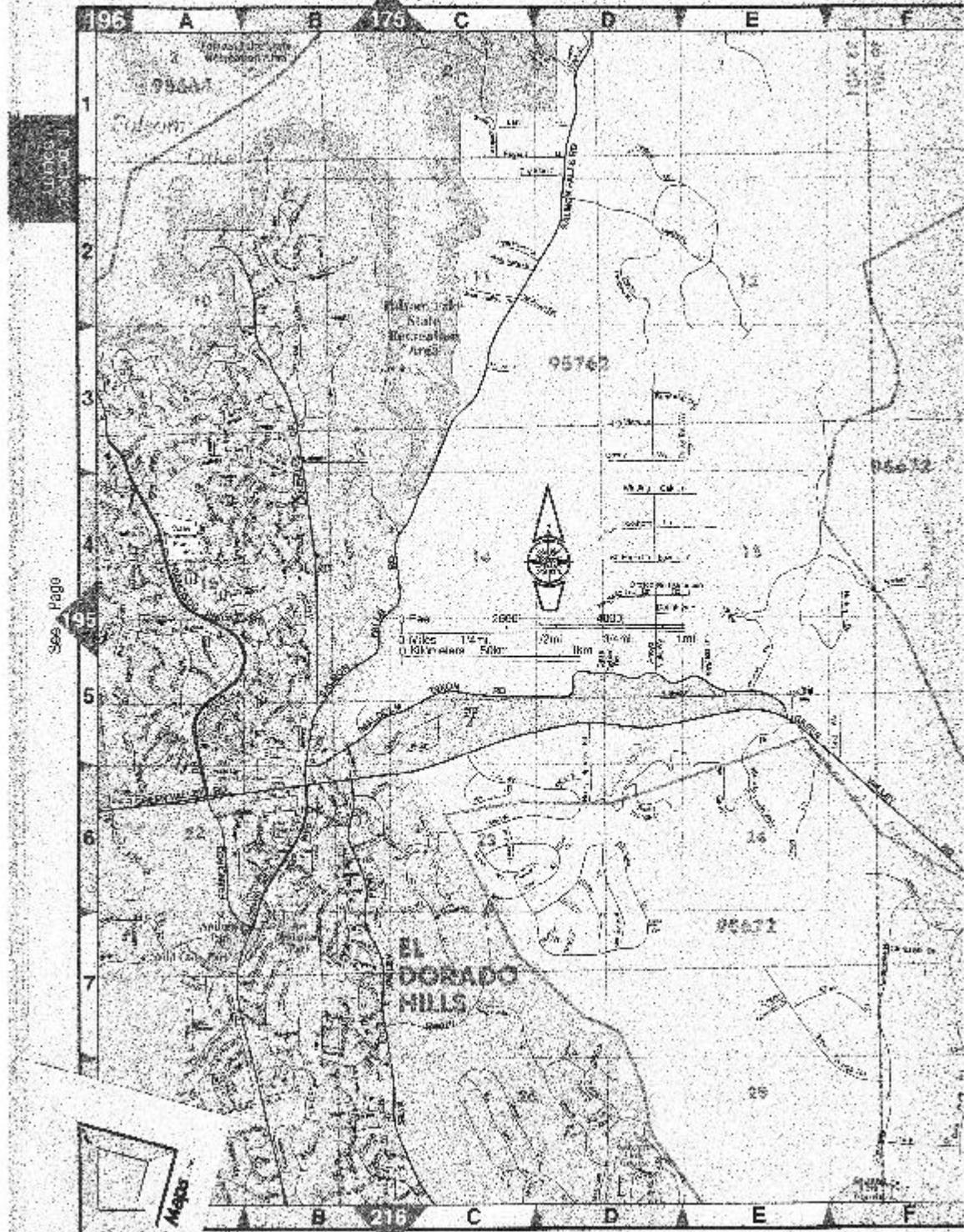
### **ALTO**

#### **ENCLOSED DECK GUIDELINES**

The purpose of enclosing the underside of decks that are cantilevered out over the natural slope is to help prevent heat traps and fire brands from a wildfire igniting the deck or fuels under the deck.

1. Does not apply to decks that are constructed using fire resistant materials such as concrete, steel, stucco etc.
2. Any deck shall not include non fire rated composite deck material.
3. This applies to decks one story or less above natural slopes.
4. Combustible material must not be stored under the deck.

See Page



# APN 12610019



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Printed on 10/20/11 from El Dorado County Surveyors Office



0 250 500 750  
Feet  
Map displayed in State Plane Coordinate System  
(NAD 1983 California Zone 2 feet)

TENTATIVE MAP  
**ALTO L.L.C. PROPERTY**  
 SECTIONS 14, 22 & 23, T. 10N., R. 8E., M.D.M.  
 RS 16/101/1

COUNTY OF INDIAN

COUNTY OF INDIAN

SEP 16 4 30 1999

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

APPLICANT  
 ALTO L.L.C.

PROJECT  
 ALTO L.L.C.

DATE  
 9/16/99

ENGINEER  
 J. R. ...

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER  
 No. ...

DATE OF PREPARATION  
 9/16/99

DATE OF RECORDING  
 9/16/99

SOURCE OF TOPOGRAPHY  
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SECTION, TOWNSHIP AND RANGE  
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ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER  
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PROPOSED ZONING  
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TOTAL AREA  
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TOTAL NO. OF LOTS  
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MINIMUM LOT AREA  
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WATER SUPPLY  
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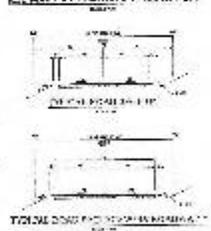
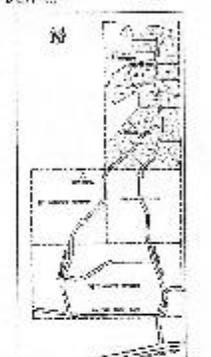
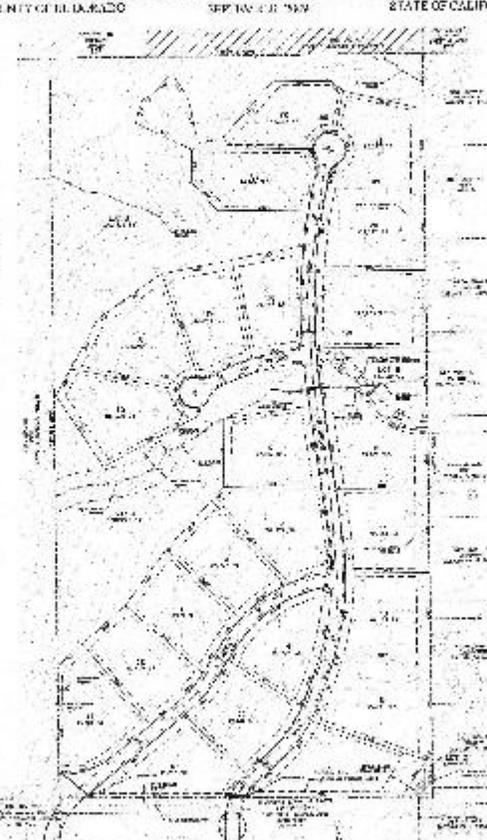
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EROSION CONTROL  
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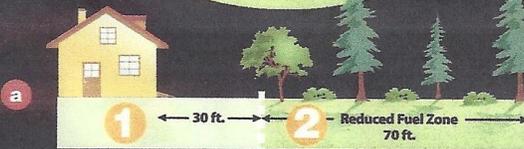
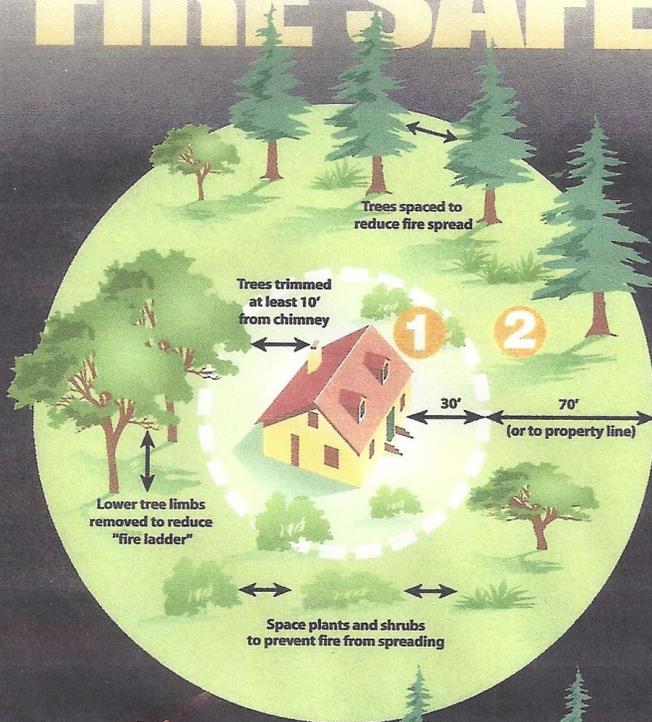


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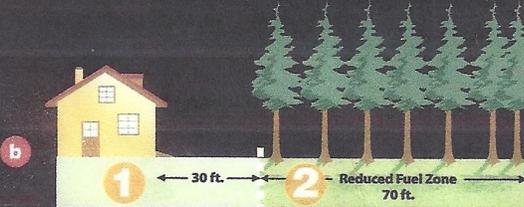
- PROPOSED EASEMENT
- EXISTING EASEMENT
- EXISTING BOUNDARY
- EXISTING ROAD
- EXISTING SIDEWALK
- EXISTING UTILITY
- EXISTING FENCE
- EXISTING CURB
- EXISTING DRIVE
- EXISTING WALKWAY
- EXISTING BIKEWAY
- EXISTING TRAIL
- EXISTING PATH
- EXISTING BRIDGE
- EXISTING TUNNEL
- EXISTING STRUCTURE
- EXISTING OBSTACLE
- EXISTING HAZARD
- EXISTING DEFECT
- EXISTING DAMAGE
- EXISTING LIABILITY
- EXISTING RISK
- EXISTING COST
- EXISTING BENEFIT
- EXISTING VALUE
- EXISTING PRICE
- EXISTING MARKET
- EXISTING ECONOMY
- EXISTING SOCIETY
- EXISTING CULTURE
- EXISTING HISTORY
- EXISTING HERITAGE
- EXISTING IDENTITY
- EXISTING CHARACTER
- EXISTING DISTRICT
- EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD
- EXISTING COMMUNITY
- EXISTING ORGANIZATION
- EXISTING GROUP
- EXISTING ASSOCIATION
- EXISTING UNION
- EXISTING COOPERATIVE
- EXISTING PARTNERSHIP
- EXISTING JOINT VENTURE
- EXISTING CONSORTIUM
- EXISTING ALLIANCE
- EXISTING COALITION
- EXISTING NETWORK
- EXISTING SYSTEM
- EXISTING FRAMEWORK
- EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE
- EXISTING SUPPORT
- EXISTING ASSISTANCE
- EXISTING HELP
- EXISTING AID
- EXISTING SUPPORTIVE
- EXISTING ASSISTIVE
- EXISTING HELPFUL
- EXISTING SUPPORTIVE
- EXISTING ASSISTIVE
- EXISTING HELPFUL

## CAL FIRE GUIDELINE

# 100' DEFENSIBLE SPACE Make Your Home FIRE SAFE



or



Contact your local CDF office, fire department,  
or Fire Safe Council for tips and assistance.  
[www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)

## Why 100 Feet?

Following these simple steps can dramatically increase the chance of your home surviving a wildfire!

A Defensible Space of 100 feet around your home is required by law.<sup>1</sup> The goal is to protect your home while providing a safe area for firefighters.

### 1 "Lean, Clean and Green Zone."

— Clearing an area of 30 feet immediately surrounding your home is critical. This area requires the greatest reduction in flammable vegetation.

### 2 "Reduced Fuel Zone."

— The fuel reduction zone in the remaining 70 feet (or to property line) will depend on the steepness of your property and the vegetation.

Spacing between plants improves the chance of stopping a wildfire before it destroys your home. You have two options in this area:

**a** Create horizontal and vertical spacing between plants. The amount of space will depend on how steep the slope is and the size of the plants.

**b** Large trees do not have to be cut and removed as long as all of the plants beneath them are removed. This eliminates a vertical "fire ladder."

When clearing vegetation, use care when operating equipment such as lawnmowers. One small spark may start a fire; a string trimmer is much safer.

Remove all build-up of needles and leaves from your roof and gutters. Keep tree limbs trimmed at least 10 feet from any chimneys and remove dead limbs that hang over your home or garage. The law also requires a screen over your chimney outlet of not more than ½ inch mesh.

<sup>1</sup> These regulations affect most of the grass, brush, and timber-covered private lands in the State. Some fire department jurisdictions may have additional requirements. Some activities may require permits for tree removal. Also, some activities may require special procedures for, 1) threatened and endangered species, 2) avoiding erosion, and 3) protection of water quality. Check with local officials if in doubt. Current regulations allow an insurance company to require additional clearance. The area to be treated does not extend beyond your property. The State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection has approved Guidelines to assist you in complying with the new law. Contact your local CDF office for more details.



April 2006



State of California  
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

## NOTICE OF FIRE HAZARD INSPECTION

A fire department representative has inspected your property for fire hazards. You are hereby notified to correct the violation(s) indicated below.  
**Failure to correct these violations may result in a citation and fine.**

Occupant:		Physical Address:			Phone #:	
Occupant Not Home: 1 <sup>st</sup> Attempt: / /	Occupant Not Home: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Attempt: / /	Refused Inspection: / /	For Questions, Contact Inspector at: ( ) -			
Roof Construction Combustible/Non-Combustible	Exterior Siding Combustible/Non-Combustible	Window Panes Single Pane/Multi-Pane	Eaves Enclosed/Unenclosed	Decks or Porches Masonry/Composite/Wood	Location of Structure Flat Ground/Slope/Ridge Top	

- Checked boxes indicate violations.
- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| Corrected  |   | <b>Defensible Space Zone (within 30 feet of all structures or to property line):</b> |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | 2 3   | A.   | Remove all branches within 10 feet of any stovepipe or chimney outlet. PRC §4291(a)(4)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | 2 3   | B.   | Remove leaves, needles or other vegetation on roofs, gutters, decks, porches and stairways etc. PRC §4291(a)(6)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | 2 3   | C.   | Remove all dead or dying trees, branches, shrubs or other plants adjacent to or overhanging buildings. PRC §4291(a)(5)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | 2 3   | D.   | Prune lower branches of trees to a height of 6 to 15 feet (or 1/3 tree height for trees under 18 feet). PRC §4291(a)(1)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | 2 3   | E.   | Remove all dead or dying grass, leaves, needles or other vegetation. PRC §4291(a)(1)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | 2 3   | F.   | Remove or separate live flammable ground cover and shrubs. PRC §4291(a)(1)   |
| <b>Reduced Fuel Zone (within 30 - 100 feet of all structures or to property line):</b>           |   |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | 2 3   | G.   | Mow dead or dying grass to a maximum of 4 inches in height. Trimmings may remain on the ground. PRC §4291(a)(1)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | 2 3   | H.   | Live flammable ground cover less than 18 inches in height may remain, but overhanging and adjacent trees must be pruned to a height of 6 to 15 feet. PRC §4291(a)(1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | 2 3   | I.   | Reduce fuels in accordance with the Continuous Tree Canopy Standard (see back). PRC §4291(a)(1)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | 2 3   | J.   | Reduce fuels in accordance with the Horizontal Spacing Standard (see back). PRC §4291(a)(1)  |
| <b>Defensible and Reduced Fuel Zone (within 100 feet of all structures or to property line):</b> |   |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | 2 3   | K.   | Logs or stumps embedded in the soil must be removed or isolated from structures and other vegetation. PRC §4291(a)(1)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | 2 3   | L.   | Remove all dead or dying brush and trees, and all dead or dying tree branches within 15 feet of the ground. PRC §4291(a)(1)  |
| <b>Other Requirements:</b>   |   |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | 2 3   | M.   | Clear all flammable vegetation, trash and other combustible materials 10 feet around and above propane tanks. CFC §3807.3  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | 2 3   | N.   | Address numbers shall be displayed in contrasting colors (4" Min. Size) and readable from the street or access road. CFC §505.1                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | 2 3   | O.   | Equip chimney or stovepipe openings with a metal screen having openings between 3/8 inch and 1/2 inch. CBC §2113.9.1   |
| <b>Recommendations:</b>  |   |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Clear 10 feet around and 15 feet above fuels (e.g. Woodpiles, lumber, scrap etc.). Move woodpiles as far as possible from structures. |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Remove flammable materials stored under decks and similar overhangs of structures.  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Clear vegetation 10 feet from sides and 15 feet above all driveways and turnaround areas.   |  |  |

No violations observed.

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Information on Back

1. Inspector: _____	Date: ___/___/___	A re-inspection will occur on/after: ___/___/___
2. Inspector: _____	Date: ___/___/___	A re-inspection will occur on/after: ___/___/___
3. Inspector: _____	Date: ___/___/___	