

Wine Country Evacuation Routes. Written Comments to go with the Minutes by JoEva Peabody

You still have not addressed Gov. Code 65302(g) (5): that states in part, you must “identify residential developments in any hazard area identified in the safety element that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes.”

The CAL FIRE Safety Element checklist also requires cities to address evacuation routes. ...” This completed checklist still has not been provided nor posted as previously requested.

Wine Country, is in a “Very High Fire Hazard” area. Oak Glen Road is one designated evacuation route. Oak Glen Road, and the small side streets of Ivy, Carter, and Fir, which are *not* designated evacuation routes, will not be sufficient to accommodate your potential minimum 2,182, vehicles/residents (629 Villas, 462 Estates = 1,091 homes with minimum two vehicles and two people per home); along with the current residents, all trying to get down Oak Glen Road or the small non-designated evacuation roads, to get to Bryant, and then to the other exit routes. You state that evacuation streets Bryant and Oak Glen Road are located adjacent to the wine country area, but you don’t address the issues of *HOW* residents will be able to safely evacuate with only one evacuation road (and small non-evacuation roads) before they reach another evacuation road.

You say that you have enough fire response capability for the proposed area? I don’t think so. Fire departments can only respond as fast as they are able. What if the closest fire response is at another fire? If a fire happens in the proposed area, it is highly likely that enough engines will not be able to get there fast enough to save lives and property.

Fire spreads very quickly as we saw with Paradise. That fire spread so quickly, there was no time for many to get out, even with at least two evacuation routes. God forbid a fire happens in your proposed area with insufficient ways to get out. Vineyards burn quickly as seen in Napa Valley. By putting in 1,091 homes surrounded by vineyards, you are setting up your wine country for the loss of many lives if the surrounding mountains and vineyards catch fire. Which as we all know happens more often than we care for. There will be no way to stop a fire spread of that magnitude and folks will not be able to get out.

And what about flooding and mud over Oak Glen Road? That happens. Clean up from the last flooding is still ongoing as seen when you go up Potato Canyon Road and other streets. What then?

Mark my words, people will die if this is not resolved and their lives will be on your heads if this is approved before proper evacuation routes are put into place.

JoEva Peabody