



Association of
REALTORS®

Conejo Simi Moorpark Association of REALTORS®

HOT ISSUES

Fire Prevention and Loss of Lives, Resources, and Homes – Position Updated 5.20.21

CSMAR is urging and is in favor of mandating conservancies, agencies, and all those public servants who manage, and control public land and/or open space, to have the higher or same obligation as the private sector, and to be held individually and collectively accountable for public fire safety, loss of lives, loss of resources, loss of homes and property damage. Time is of the essence and CSMAR is demanding creation of the action plan from all agencies and government officials to urgently implement fire prevention such as: regular vegetation and brush clearance, creation of effective defensible fire space, creation of fire roads, and performance of regular controlled burns. Revise current and create the new policies that will be focused to protect from forest fires: human lives, natural resources, homes, property, lives of animals, trees, and save forest land from fire destruction.

Why CSMAR is in favor of Fire Prevention, Reducing Loss of Lives, Resources, and Homes

- Living surrounded by mountains and open space is something we all value and enjoy. However, it has proven over and over that management of that open space should be government's priority.
- Major fires in our service area have cost billions of dollars and affected thousands of lives.
- These major fires happen every 10 to 15 years. If nothing is done, as vegetation grows and accumulates, it will happen again at possibly even greater colossal destruction of trees, vegetation as well as loss of human and animal lives. Those who advocate for keeping open space in its natural uncontrolled state without fire management witnessed how the Thompson fire scorched 281,893 acres while destroyed at least 1,063 structures, and Woolsey fire scorched over 98,000 acres of land, and destroyed at least 1,600 buildings, and just destroyed all which government was trying to preserve. This includes the loss of human lives, loss of animal lives, loss of resources, loss of homes, and loss of tens of thousands of trees.
- Chaparral and vegetation hold saturated oils which contain enormous amounts of fuel that is explosive and spreads with destructive speed.
- Private owners and communities bordering open-space are required to do brush clearance and create defensible fire space around their property. As stewards of open space, government must have the same reciprocal requirements to protect each endangered community and homes adjacent to their open space and land.
- Since last 2019's there has been a wave of massive devastating fires across the state, very little was done by the way of passage of laws to help and enforce fire prevention.

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The Conejo Simi Moorpark Association of Realtors® (CSMAR) boundaries contain five cities, Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley, Moorpark, Westlake Village, Agoura Hills and two Counties, Ventura County, and Los Angeles County. We also have three (3) MAC areas; Oak Park, Santa Rosa Valley and Casa Conejo. With multitude of elected and employed officials representing those cities, counties, and MAC areas, we recognize the effort it takes to know which of these elected bodies are considering rules, regulations or ordinances which may affect the Real Estate industry. The Association has adopted a position on local issues which affect us the most. We believe it is important to articulate our positions on local Real Estate issues within our boundaries to all membership, along with those in leadership positions, elected officials, and their staff.