



Conejo Simi Moorpark Association of REALTORS®

HOT ISSUES

Fire Prevention and Loss of Lives, Resources, and Homes – Position Updated 7.13.2022

CSMAR is urging conservancies, public agencies, and all public servants who manage and control public land and/or open space, to prioritize their attention to controlling the spread of wildfires. Time is of the essence, and CSMAR is requesting urgent creation of action plans from all agencies and government officials to implement wildfire mitigation measures. These measures may include vegetation and brush clearance, creation of effective defensible fire space for all residences, creation of fire roads and fuel breaks, and performance of strategic prescribed burns.

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

Two recent Ventura County fires (Thomas fire in 2017 and Woolsey fire in 2018) scorched a combined total of 378,842, representing 27% of the entire Ventura County acreage. 2,706 structures were destroyed. The very destructive Thomas fire, which at the time was the largest wildfire in California, now ranks 8th among the top 20 most destructive wildfires in California. The 97,000-acre Woolsey fire did not even make the top-20 list. Due to continuing droughts, preparation for the future is critical. Wildfires are a Federal, State, and local, and homeowner problem. All government agencies need to do their part to protect our local resources and properties.

These fires destroy everything in their path, including everything that government officials and agencies are working to preserve. Wildfires result in the loss of human lives, loss of animal lives, loss of resources, loss of homes, the devastation of open space, and the loss of thousands of trees.

The spread of wildfires has historically taken regular pathways to spread. Those pathways need to be identified and managed under fire department supervision. Individual homes need to be inspected and hardened against wildfires. This is a problem involving a wide range of measures.

All properties, even those not physically damaged by wildfires, have been impacted due to large insurance coverage increases. Due to our recent experience with wildfires, and the continuing threat of uncontrolled wildfires, insurance rates have climbed dramatically, increasing costs for homeowners, HOAs and apartment owners. Many have had their policies cancelled and are forced to turn to the State Fair Plan, a plan of last resort. Every resident of California is impacted by these increased rates, drastically increasing the cost of housing for each and every California family.

We are dedicated to working with local government, particularly the fire department, to mitigate the spread of wildfires through a variety of measures, basically reducing fuel in areas through which fires have historically spread.

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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.

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