

DATE: October 27, 2021

TO: Fire Marshal's Office – Appeal Hearing Officer (Chief Estrada)

FROM: Miriam Al Saadi and Adil Allawi, Saratoga, CA 95070

SUBJECT: Response to CAL Fire evidence in relation to Appeal of CAL Fire Exception Denial for PLN20-141-APL1

Dear Chief Estrada,

We wish to thank CAL Fire for taking their time to respond to this appeal and regret the tragic loss of life that set the context for their arguments.

It is clear that CAL Fire has made no attempt to consider our AMMR or the local conditions of our property. Their October 15 report is a direct copy and paste from the [Board of Forestry's Reasons document](#) for the State Minimum Fire Regulations¹.

We took time to review the evidence in the incident files for the Valley and Esperanza Fires that CAL Fire highlighted in their report. They cite roads as being a contributing factor.

The [Valley fire report](#)² referred to road access, but that was in mountainous areas and roads lined by timber and brush. This is very clearly not the case from the state highway to our part of Canon Drive. Our property is at the bottom of a small valley and at the edge of built-up residential areas. The Valley fire report goes further to highlight a property that survived the fire due to the kind of defensible space and fire-safe building design we are proposing in our plan.

The [Esperanza fire report](#)³ made only passing reference to the width of the road being a specific risk and more about the steep and rural nature of the area (Findings 14 and 24). Again, this is not a characteristic of our property location. The rural nature of the accident site is fundamentally different to our property.

Please see Illustrations 1. and 2. on Page 2.

¹ https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/gm3ghqI0/2-state-minimum-fire-safe-regulations-initial-statement-of-reasons_revised-04152021_ada.pdf

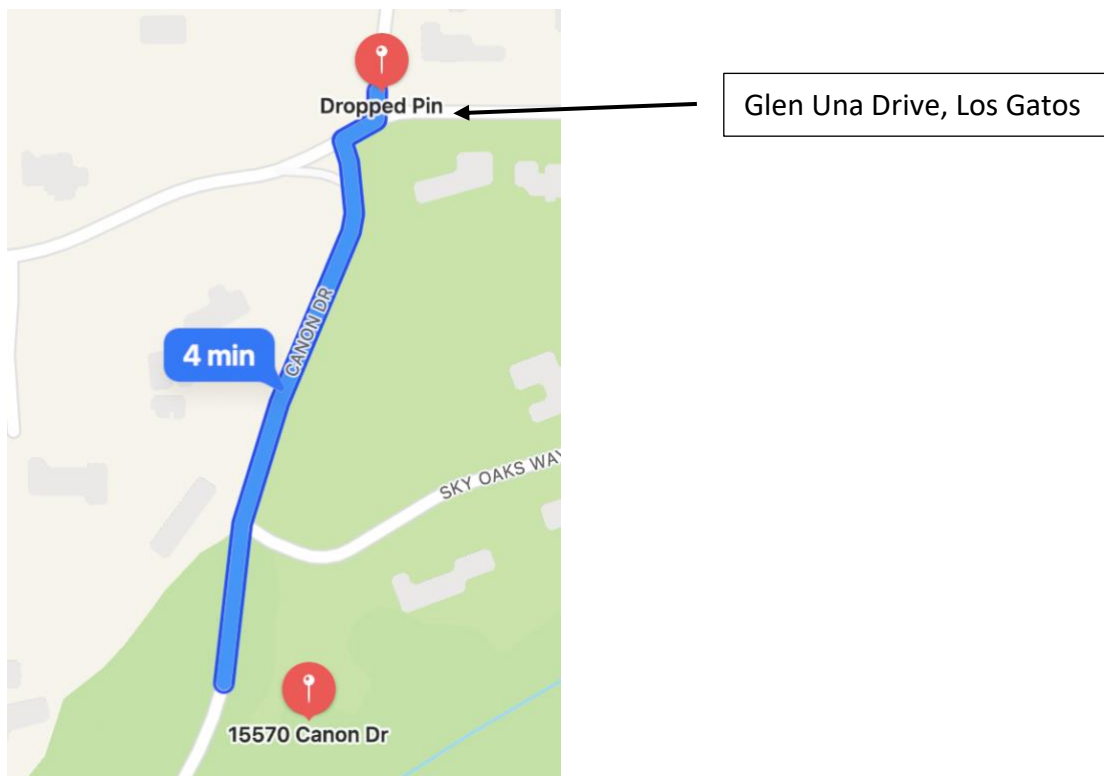
² <http://www.socminco.com/VALLEY-FIRE-FINAL-REPORT.pdf> (Note! The official link from CAL Fire's website to the **Valley Fire Incident Damage Inspection Report** at http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/pub/cdf/images/incidentfile1226_1957.pdf does not work)

³ https://wildfiretoday.com/documents/Esperanza_Factual_Report.pdf

Illustration 1. - From the Esperanza fire accident site it is a 20-minute drive through mountainous roads to the nearest urban area.



Illustration 2. - From our property at 15570 Canon Drive it is 4-minute walk on a flat road to a safe urban area.



The increased risk to firefighters and escaping residents from allowing us to build has not been established by CAL Fire in any conceivable way. By contrast, after reviewing the evidence of the incident reports they highlighted, our building design and our AMMR are contributing to making the area safer by adding passing points, reducing brush, and increasing defensible space.