



# INLINE ENGINEERING, INC.

790 Laurel Street, Suite 111  
San Carlos, California 94070

TEL 650.591.2700 • FAX 650.591.2777

December 3, 2019

Re: Fire Prevention  
Devonshire Canyon, San Carlos

Via: By e-mail

To Whom It May Concern:

As a 23 year resident of the Devonshire Canyon area, I have seen numerous issues relating to the potential for wildfire in this region. My neighbors and I have major concerns over the proliferation of extremely dry brush. There is a longstanding neglect in managing the vegetation. The situation is hazardous and that could easily lead to disaster.

One of those scenarios involved someone setting up a campsite, complete with overnight tent, picnic table and portable barbecue, right in the middle of some of the driest vegetation on a steep slope below our home on Club Drive in San Carlos. People have camped there overnight and cooked meals on this small, kettle-style barbecue. All that it would take to start a fire would be a strong wind blowing off the lid and spreading charcoal into the brush. Or, an animal overturning the BBQ after the meal.

We were informed that the campsite is perfectly legal because it is on private property – although it is not obviously connected to any nearby buildings.

The problem we have faced is that whenever we contact local government, including a fire marshal, we are told that the mix of jurisdictions in the Canyon – involving two cities and the County of San Mateo – makes it difficult if not impossible for any agency to act unilaterally on what is clearly a hazard.

This jurisdictional scenario has meant that no single agency can take on one of the highest wildfire danger zones in San Mateo County, leaving the potential for a repeat of the 1970 blaze that engulfed hundreds of acres in Devonshire Canyon.

During the driest period of the year, we and our neighbors live in constant fear that someone will toss a cigarette from a vehicle or during a hike, or set off illegal fireworks or firecrackers during the Fourth of July, or allow winds to spread hot coals from an unprotected barbecue.

There are hundreds of single-family homes and townhouses spread along the rim and adjoining Devonshire Canyon, and it is my fervent hope that the State of California will



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finally provide the encouragement and financial support to perform major vegetation removal. We also hope to receive other wildfire safeguards and warning mechanisms.

While we are in the early stages of forming a hillside residents association, please be assured that we are ready to call on our respective local governments to work cooperatively on any state-supported initiative aimed at preventing a wildfire emergency.

We believe that this is an ideal project to be overseen by the FireSAFE San Mateo County Council, which can coordinate with the various jurisdictions.

Sincerely:

INLINE ENGINEERING INC.

Vesna Obradovic, P.E.  
Principal

Attachment: Photos







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