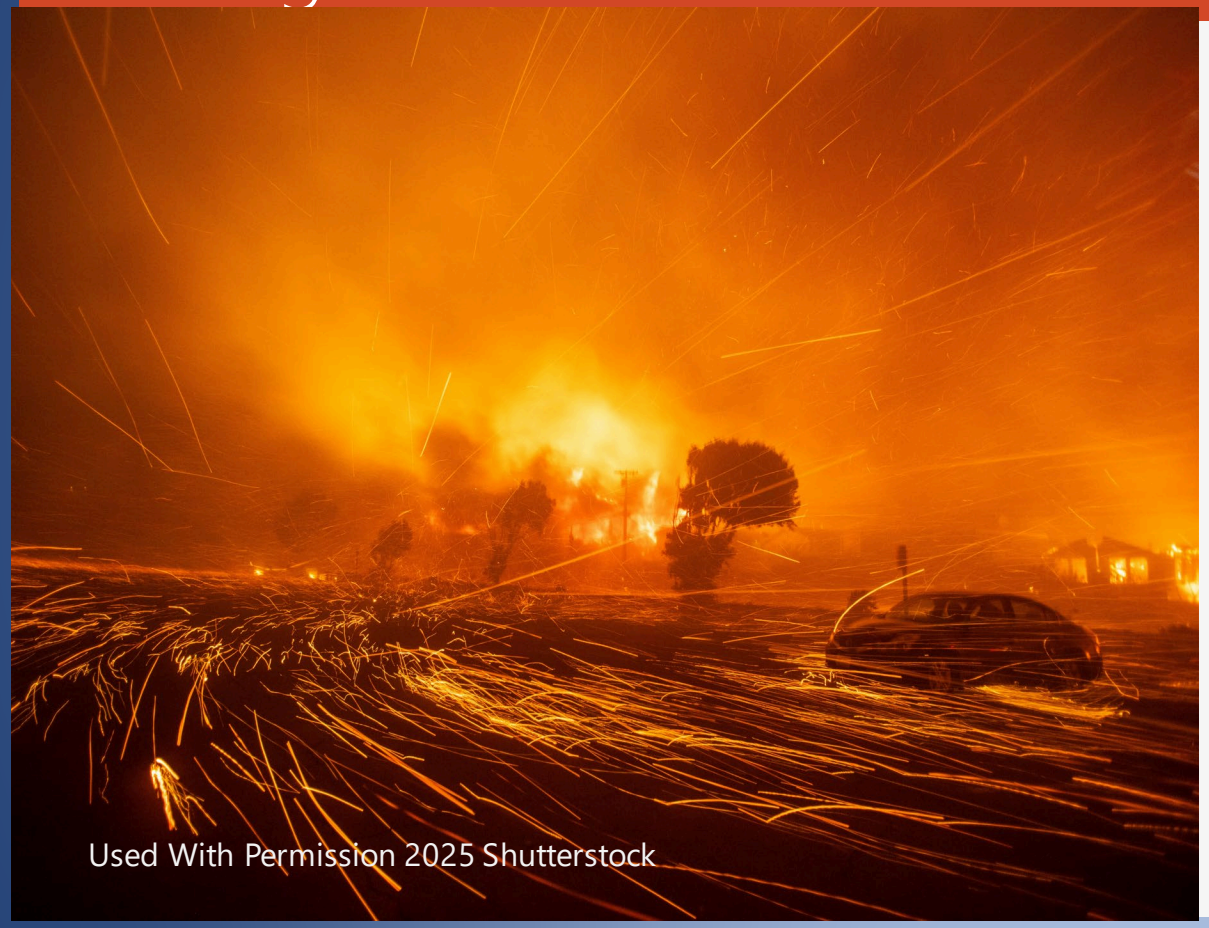
# SRA WUI & VHFHSZ PUBLIC WILDFIRE EVACUATION POLICY CONSIDERATIONS GOING FORWARD

## When Prevention, Vegetation Removal & Resources Are Not Enough



Used With Permission 2025 Shutterstock

TAHOECLEANAIR.ORG


Doug Flaherty (Bio)
President
Tahoe Sierra Clean Air Coalition
DBA TahoeCleanAir.org
Nevada 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation
Registered to do Business in California

# SRA WUI & VHFHSZ PUBLIC WILDFIRE EVACUATION POLICY CONSIDERATIONS GOING FORWARD

## When Prevention, Vegetation Removal & Resources Are Not Enough

Used With Permisson 2025 Shuterstock

"No developer should be allowed to make it harder for people to escape deadly fires."

*January 6, 2022 Press Release - Center for Biological Diversity Atty Peter Broderick in connection with the January 4, 2022 Superior Court Guenoc Valley ruling*

*Eventual October 23, 2024 First Appellate Court District Six Ruling 20241023_docket-A165677-_opinion.pdf*

TAHOECLEANAIR.ORG

# SHAPING THE LAND USE EVACUATION PLANNING WORLD TO COME

People of the State of California ex rel. Rob Bonta, Attorney General, et al., v. County of Lake (Link Here) *First Appellate District – Division Four*

Significant and Groundbreaking

Used With Permission 2025 Shutterstock

- **First time CA Appellate Court ruled on addressing EIR wildfire risks in depth.** 1.2.
- **Precedent for future development projects** 1. 2.
- **Public safety emphasis on the need to protect public during wildfire evacuations.** 1.2.
- **Ruling supports advocacy of environmental groups advocating for more responsible development.** 1.2.

1. Unicourt 2. Justia

TAHOECLEANAIR.ORG

# Current Government Boiler Plate Evacuation Plans Often Void of Roadway-by-Roadway Evacuation Capacity Timing Analysis Driven by Up-to-Date Traffic Data Utilizing the Best Available Technology

Used With Permission 2025 Shutterstock

**Usually based on planned and phased evacuations - Fail to consider No-Notice Evacuations under 95th percentile Red Flag Days**

**A no-notice wildfire evacuation** refers to an evacuation that occurs with little or no warning due to an unexpected or rapidly developing fire incident. These situations require quick action and immediate response because there is not enough time for emergency responders to prepare or for residents to receive advance notice.

**No-notice evacuations** can be particularly challenging because they demand rapid assessment, quick decision-making, and efficient coordination to ensure the safety of affected populations. Examples of such incidents include wildfires that suddenly change direction and move toward populated areas. USDOT FHA No Notice Evacuations

TAHOECLEANAIR.ORG

# 95th Percentile Red Flag Days

Used With Permission 2025 Shutterstock

A **95th percentile red flag warning day** is a term used in fire weather forecasting. It indicates a day when the fire danger is extremely high, with conditions that are only expected to be exceeded 5% of the time under similar circumstances. Essentially, it means that the fire danger on that day is among the highest 5% of all days, making it critical to take extra precautions.

Red Flag Weather National Weather Service

TAHOECLEANAIR.ORG

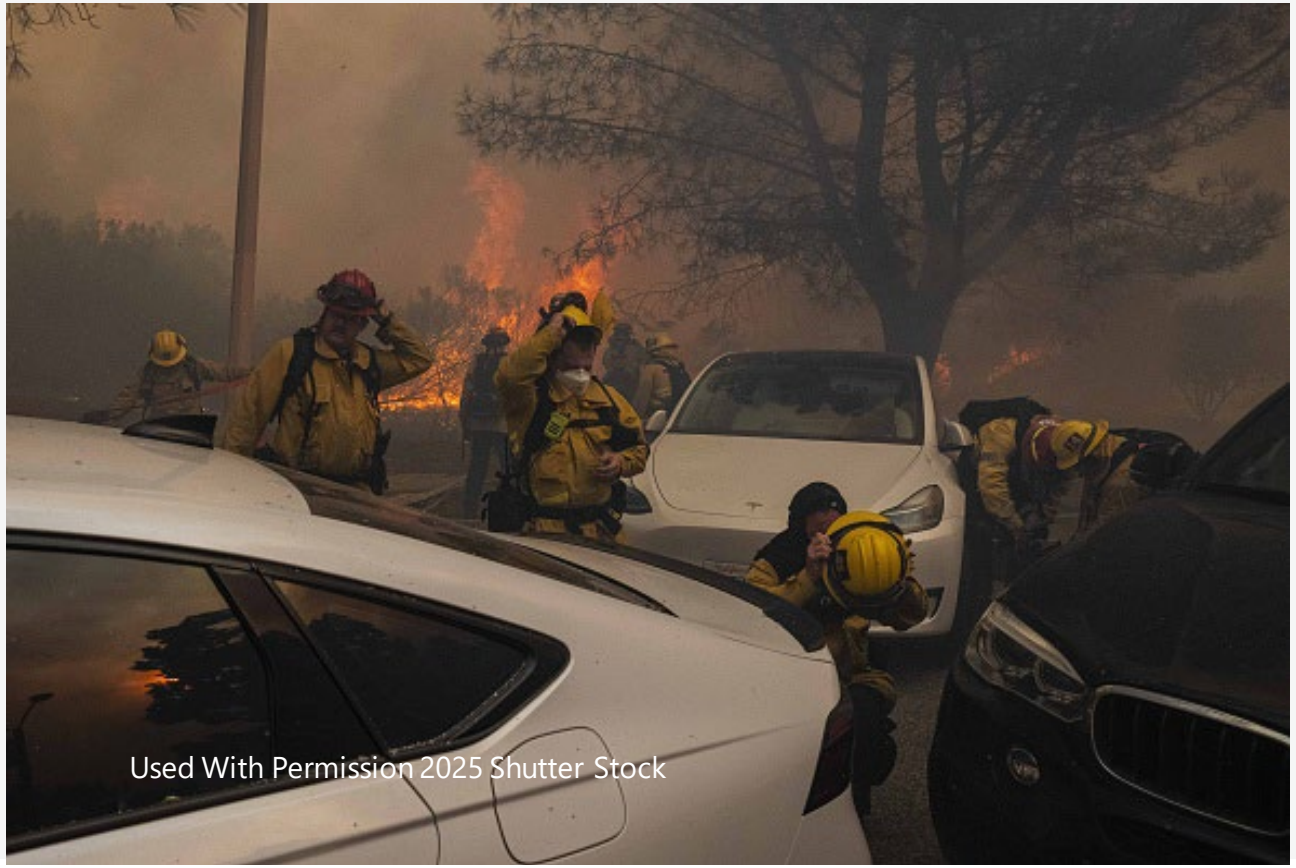
# SRA, WUI & VHFHSZ WILDFIRE EVACUATION POLICY AND REGULATORY SUGGESTIONS GOING FORWARD – Codify CEQA Evacuation Guidelines – Require Roadway Capacity Evacuation Analysis based on up-to-date data, utilizing the best available technology.

1. **Do No Harm to the current Board of Forestry and Fire Protection State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations Standards under – Title 14 1270 – 1276**

2. **<u>As applied to SRA's, WUI's and VHFHSZ's codify</u> the current the <u>wildfire evacuation planning language</u> within the CA State Atty General Best Practices for Analyzing and Mitigating Wildfire Impacts of Development Projects Under the California Environmental Quality Act as follows:**

TAHOECLEANAIR.ORG

# SRA, WUI & VHFHSZ WILDFIRE EVACUATION POLICY AND REGULATORY SUGGESTIONS GOING FORWARD – Codify Current CEQA Evacuation Guidelines (CONT)



Used With Permission 2025 Shutter Stock

- For projects located in high wildfire risk areas that present an increased risk of ignition and/or evacuation impacts, evacuation modeling and planning ~~**should**~~ **must be** ~~**considered and**~~ developed at the time of project review and approval. Evacuation modeling and analysis ~~**should**~~ **must** include the following:

1. Technology driven evaluation of the capacity of roadways to accommodate project and community evacuation and simultaneous emergency access.

# Evacuation Modeling Must Include: (CONT)

Used With Permission 2025 Shutterstock

**2. Assessment of the timing for evacuation.**

**3. Evaluation of the project's impacts on existing evacuation plans.**

**4. Consideration of the adequacy of emergency access, including the project's proximity to existing fire services and the capacity of existing services.**

**5. Traffic modeling to quantify travel times under various likely scenarios.**

# RELEVANT LINKS
# Litigation, Technology & Some Suggested CA Atty General Guideline Codification Modifications

**CURRENT LITIGATION**

FRIENDS OF THE WEST SHORE, TAHOECLEARNAIR.ORG; AND NORTH TAHOE PRESERVATION ALLIANCE V COUNTY OF PLACER; PLACER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CEQA **Code, § 21000**
**https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K_4MGJ0YHCw1ZDBQfsBp__hoCmTocWuG/view?usp=sharing**

PALISADES, CA (FORMALLY SQUAW VALLEY) SIERRA WATCH, LEAGUE TO SAVE LAKE TAHOE V PLACER COUNTY
**https://www.sierrawatch.org/palisades-tahoe-seeks-exception-to-fire-safe-regulations/**
**https://www.sfgate.com/renotahoe/article/league-lake-tahoe-sues-placer-county-palisades-19962119.php**

**PREVIOUS LITIGATION**

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA EX REL. ROB BONTA, ATTORNEY GENERAL, ET AL., V. COUNTY OF LAKE
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lsMH3OO1g0IYajSRLttAMuqCywBnUdFl/view?usp=sharing

**TECHNOLOGY (Current Readily Available Data + AI)**

INDEPENDENT LAKE TAHOE BASIN WILDFIRE EVACUATION ANALYSES – OCTOBER 2024
https://drive.google.com/file/d/18fRMqrc1XvCfz9235iqEJ1imDYgMSyNd/view

Used With Permission 2025 Shutter Stock

**CONCEPTUAL EXAMPLE OF SUGGESTED EVACUATION CODIFICATION LANGUAGE - CA ATTY GENERAL CEQA GUIDELINES Best Practices for Analyzing and Mitigating Wildfire Impacts (Link Here) Pages 10, 11 and 12**

TAHOECLEANAIR.ORG