

Wildfire Evacuation

CEQA Thresholds of Significance Checklist (Preliminary – Not for Application)

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As part of our evacuation impact analysis project work, Fehr & Peers has developed the following interim guidance about technical approach considerations for CEQA evacuation impact analysis.

The following checklist outlines seven categories and subsequent yes/no questions to determine a project's potential CEQA evacuation impacts. Categories 1-6 examine project and demographic conditions that may increase wildfire risk, while Category 7 considers measures that may reduce wildfire risk.

Guidance for interpreting the checklist is as follows:



Numerous positive responses in topic areas 1-6 would lead to a **significant impact conclusion**.

Numerous positive responses to questions in category 7, in combination with limited positive responses in topic areas 1-6, could lead to a **less-than-significant impact conclusion**.

The checklist could be used as screening criteria to determine if a project has characteristics that readily lead to the conclusion that they would (or would not) cause a wildfire evacuation impact and, therefore, be screened out of doing a detailed evacuation analysis.

CEQA Wildfire Evacuation Checklist

[Preliminary – Not for Application] V08232023

WILDFIRE EVACUATION THRESHOLD CATEGORY/QUESTION(S)	Yes	No	Requires Further Analysis
1 Proximity to Hazard			
Is the project located within a state responsibility area or local responsibility area ¹ and within or near an area designated as a high or very high fire hazard severity zone ² ?			
Is the project located in or near any other defined hazard zone (e.g., flood plain, seismic fault zone, liquefaction zone) that may affect existing evacuation routes to be used during a wildfire evacuation?			
2 Project Density			
Is the project characterized by low- to intermediate-density uses that are dispersed and increase the potential for wildfires to start or spread?			
3 Project Location			
Is the project located at the periphery of an existing community or in the wildland urban interface?			
Is the project located on ridges, on rugged terrain, or along high wind corridors?			
4 Demographics			
Does the project population and/or surrounding community meet or exceed the city/county/regional average share of senior citizen (65 years of age or more) householders living alone?			
Does the project population and/or surrounding community meet or exceed the city/county/regional average share of households with adults speaking limited English?			
Does the project population and/or surrounding community meet or exceed the city/county/regional average share of households with limited internet access?			
Does the project population and/or surrounding community meet or exceed the city/county/regional average share of households with children under 5 years of age?			
Does the project population and/or surrounding community meet or exceed the city/county/regional average share of households with limited access to vehicles (e.g., 0-1 vehicles per household)?			
Does the project population and/or surrounding community meet or exceed the city/county/regional average share of population with a disability that may inhibit their ability to evacuate?			
5 Evacuation Access			
Does the project have only one access route for emergency vehicles?			
Would the project generate a level of evacuation traffic that would require multiple access roads where only one is proposed?			
Is the project located in an area that is within the average response time of the nearest fire station?			
Does the road network and street design meet all California Fire Safe Regulations (Public Resources Code Section 4290) (e.g., roadway surface, grade, width, length)?			
Does the project's jurisdiction have a current safety element compliant with AB 747, AB 1409, SB 99, and SB 1241?			
6 Evacuation Egress			
Would the project conflict with or remove any previously identified community evacuation routes?			
Have prior wildfire evacuations resulted in fatalities and/or significant injuries?			
Would a project substantially change the emergency response or evacuation plan for a community given its location and scale?			
Is there data that indicates wildfire spread would affect and could result in closure of key evacuation routes prior to a full community evacuation?			
Would the project worsen baseline evacuation times for existing community?			
7 Consideration of Project Wildfire Risk Reduction Measures			
Would the project meet all California Fire Safe Regulations (Public Resources Code Section 4290) for new streets and buildings?			
Does the project have multiple emergency access routes?			
Would the project provide new firefighting facilities or staffing?			
Would the project provide wildfire fuel breaks along roads or open space areas?			
Would the project provide early detection and/or enhanced notification systems?			
Does the project have sufficient on-site water sources for firefighting?			
Have first responders indicated in writing that they have significant resources to manage evacuation traffic, such that strategies like contraflow are feasible?			
Does the project or jurisdiction provide emergency evacuation buses and pickup sites through the school district or through public transportation?			

 Numerous positive responses in topic areas 1-6 would lead to a **significant impact conclusion**.
 Numerous positive responses to questions in category 7, in combination with limited positive responses in topic areas 1-5, could lead to a **less-than-significant impact conclusion**.

¹ <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/state-responsibility-area-viewer/>
² <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/wildfire-preparedness/fire-hazard-severity-zones/>

