

SAFETY ELEMENT

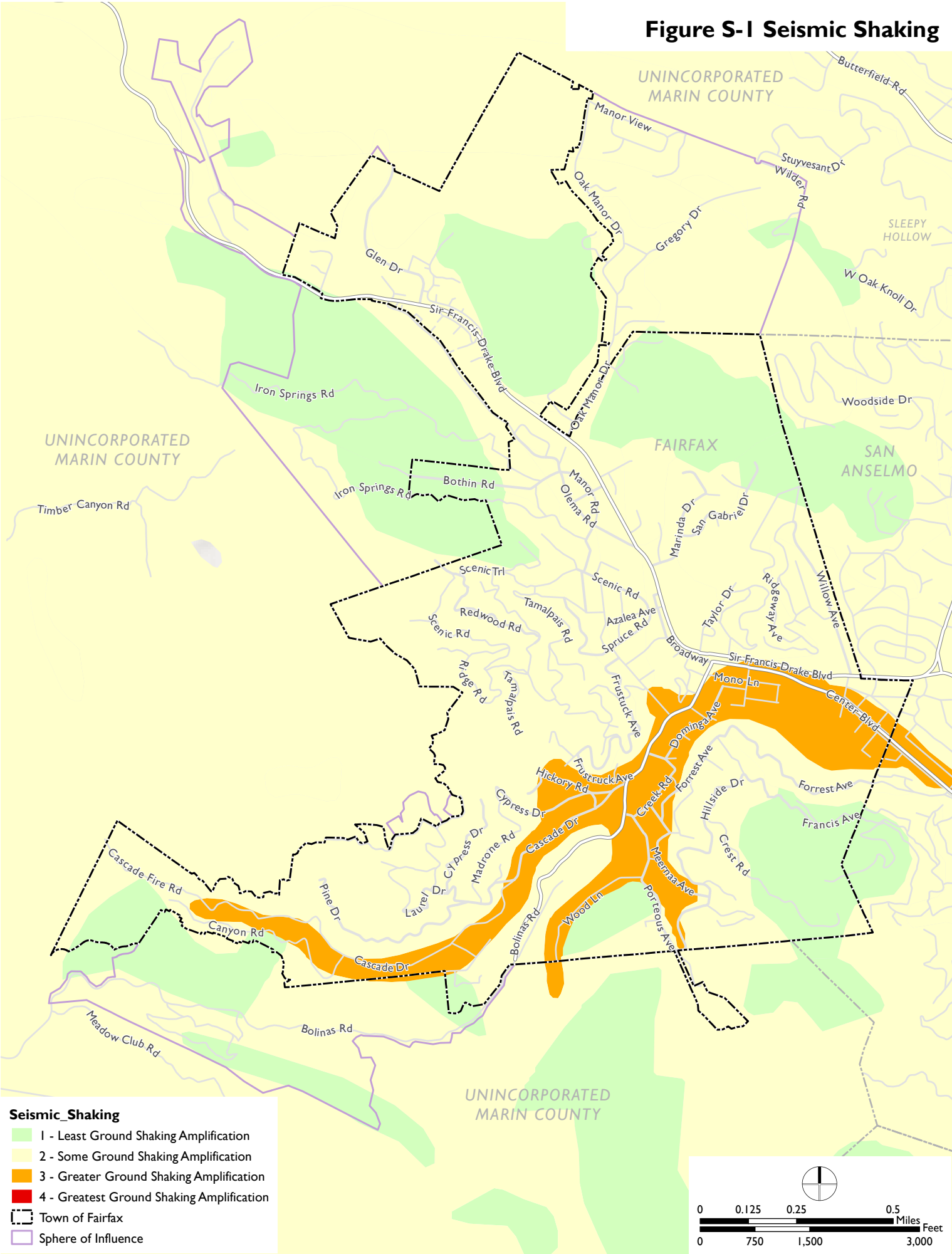
Fairfax is located in the Upper Ross Valley, set amid scenic hills that rise dramatically from the valley floor. The town is also at the head of the Ross Valley watershed and lies at the confluence of San Anselmo Creek and Fairfax Creek. These natural resources help define the community but also hold the potential for natural hazards that pose risk to human health and property, including earthquakes, landslides, flooding, and wildfire hazards. These risks are compounded by the warming of the climate, which is projected to bring increased rainfall intensity, hotter average daily temperatures, and more extreme weather events. Urban development in the area has also brought the potential for human-made disasters. The Safety Element identifies natural and human-made hazards in Fairfax as well as measures to promote public safety and effective emergency response and recovery.

Natural and Humanmade Hazards

Like other communities in Central Marin County, Fairfax located in a seismically active region and much of the community is susceptible to ground shaking in the event of fault rupture. Other related seismic and geologic hazards include the potential for landslides in steep terrain and liquefaction, a seismic phenomenon in which loose, saturated, granular soils behave similarly to a fluid when subject to high-intensity ground shaking. Landslide risk occurs mainly in the steep hills at the southern and western edges of the community, with small pockets of landslide risk also evident in the northern hills and eastern boundary. Liquefaction risk is highest on the valley floor surrounding Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and along the courses of Fairfax, Bothin, San Anselmo, and Deer Park Creeks. Flood hazard risk is also generally highest in these areas. With the exception of the Town Center area, most of Fairfax is within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), where human development transitions to undeveloped wildlands and where risk of catastrophic wildfire is greater. Much of the area west of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and north of Bolinas Road is categorized as a High Fire Hazard Severity Zone by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) due to the presence of fire fuels, steep topography, prevailing weather patterns, access and other factors. **Figures S-1 through S-6** characterize the risk of natural hazards in the Planning Area.

In response to the risk of natural hazards in Marin, a range of public agencies and organizations have established an inter-jurisdictional framework for coordinated hazard planning and mitigation. The Town is party to the Marin County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023 (MJHMP), a regional effort that articulates a plan for reducing and/or eliminating risk from natural

Figure S-I Seismic Shaking



Sources: Marin County Open GIS Data, 2023; MarinMap, 2022; Marin County GIS, 2022; Town of Fairfax, 2022; Dyett & Bhatia, 2022

Figure S-2 Landslide Hazard

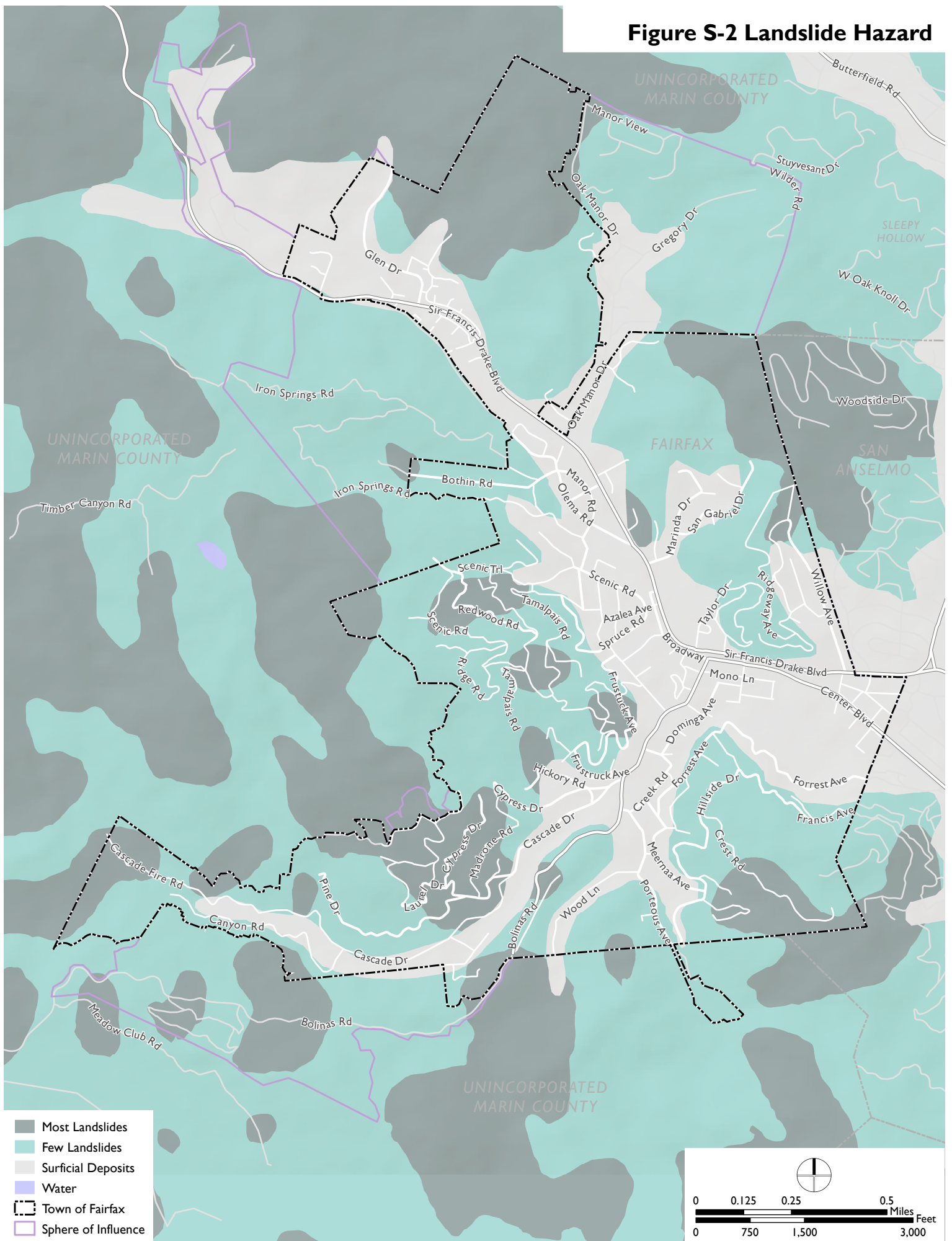
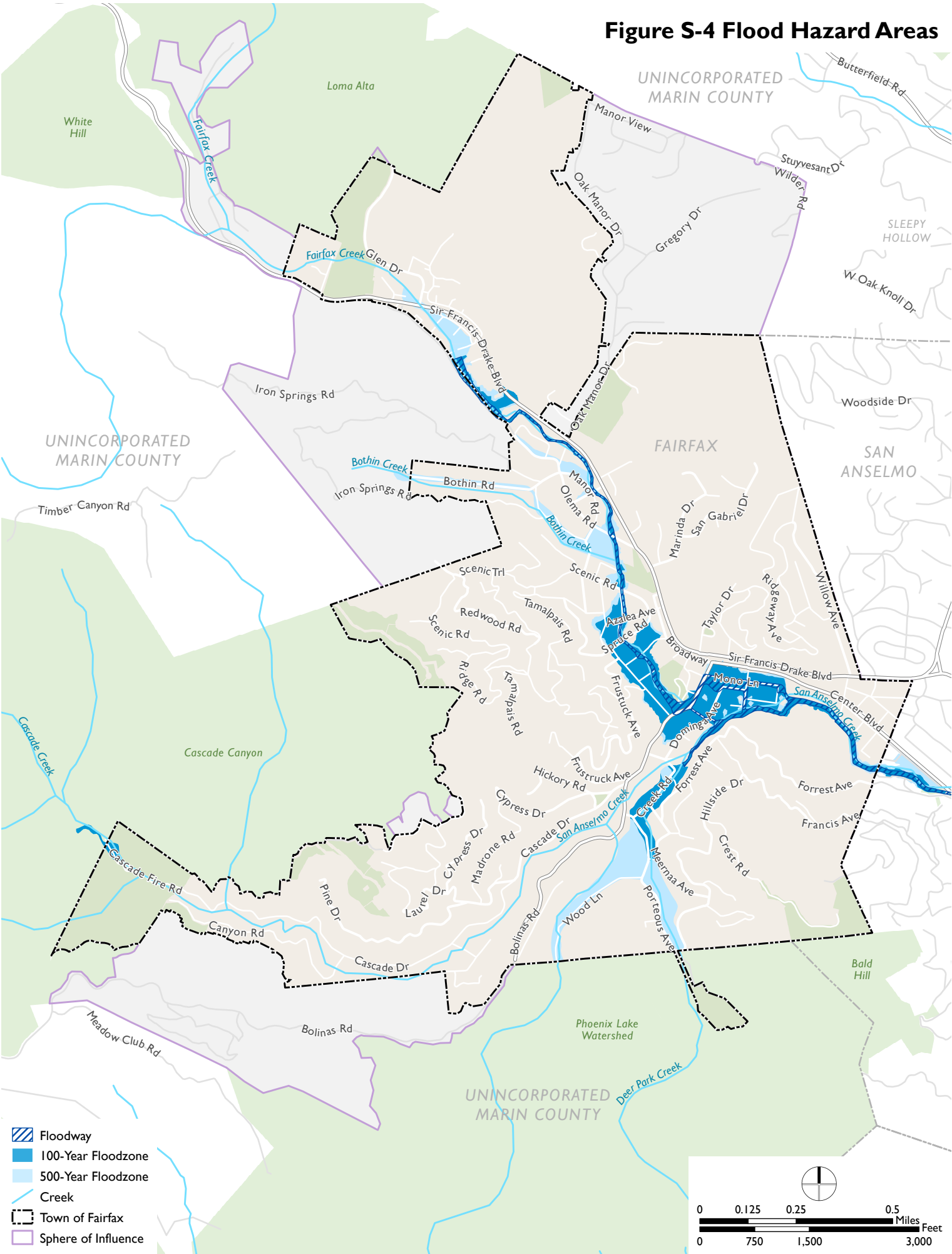


Figure S-3 Liquefaction Risk



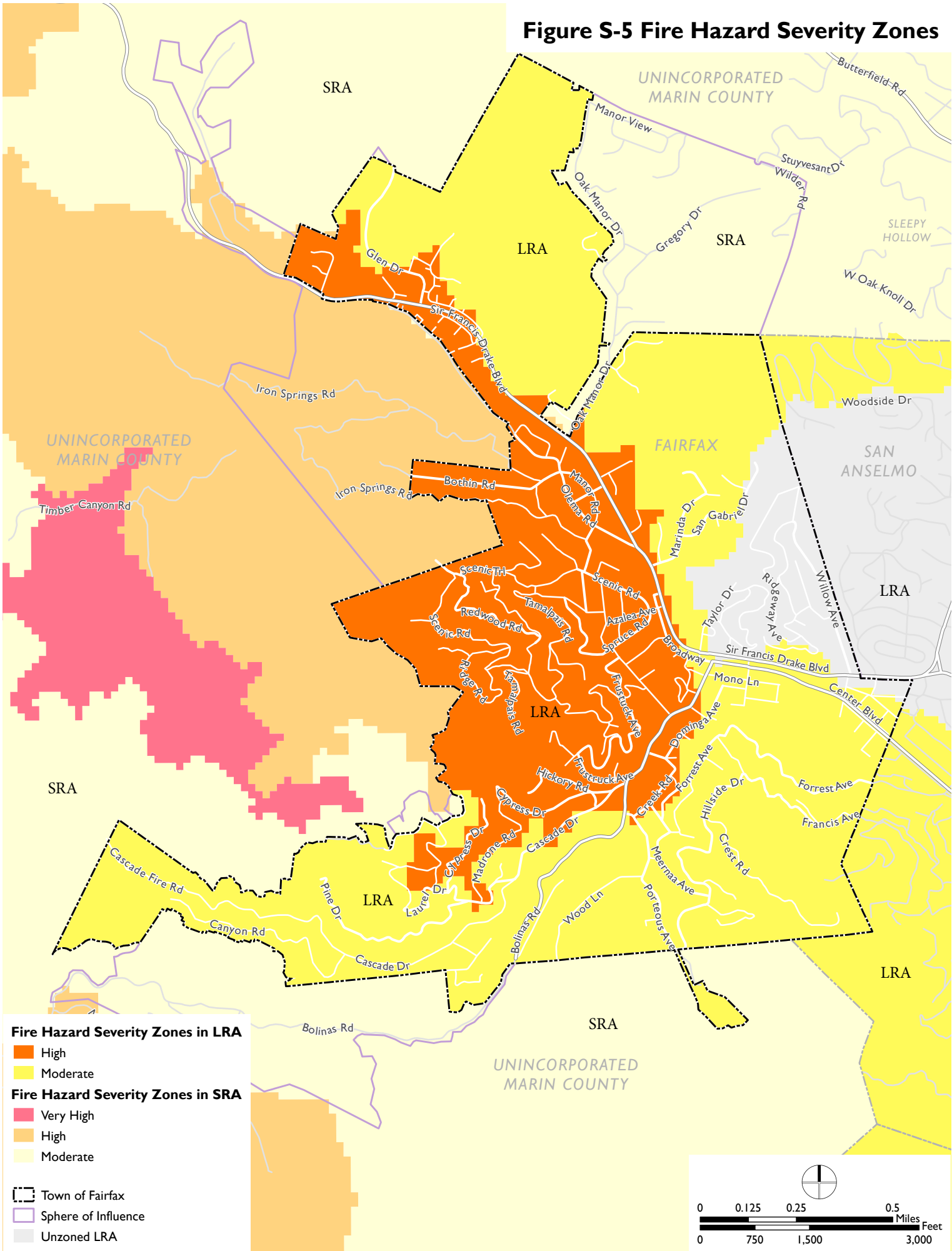
Sources: MarinMap, 2022; Marin County GIS, 2022; Town of Fairfax, 2022; Dyett & Bhatia, 2022

Figure S-4 Flood Hazard Areas



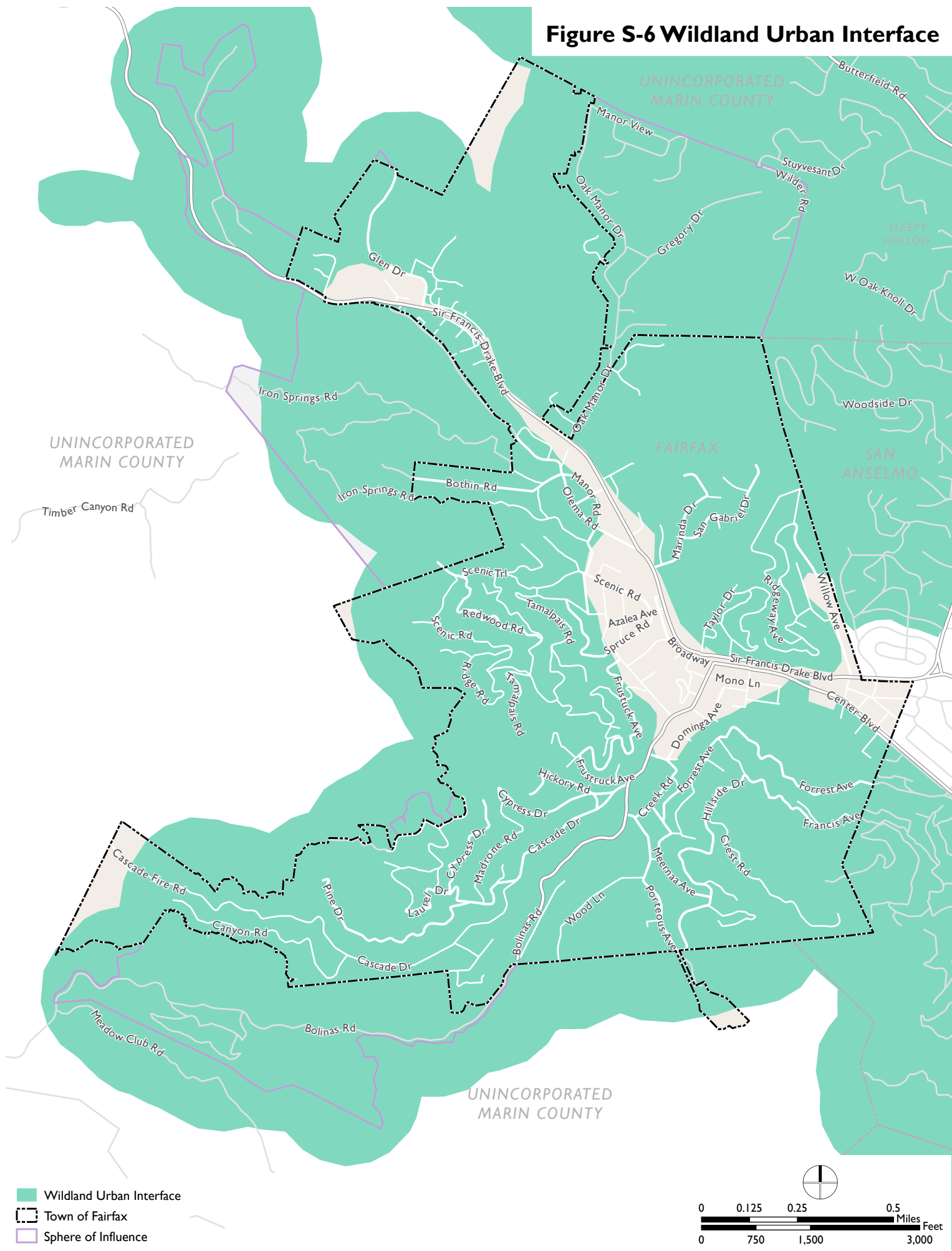
Sources: FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer, 2022; MarinMap, 2022; Marin County GIS, 2022; Town of Fairfax, 2022; Dyett & Bhatia, 2022

Figure S-5 Fire Hazard Severity Zones



Sources: FHSZ in SRA and LRA, Calfire GIS Data, 2024 & 2025; MarinMap, 2022; Marin County GIS, 2022; Town of Fairfax, 2022; Dyett & Bhatia, 2022

Figure S-6 Wildland Urban Interface



Sources: Marin Wildfire, 2023; MarinMap, 2022; Marin County GIS, 2022; Town of Fairfax, 2022; Dyett & Bhatia, 2022

and humanmade hazards. The MJHMP includes a local Town of Fairfax annex assessing risks associated with debris flows, drought, earthquake, flooding, land subsidence/sinkholes, severe weather, and wildfire, and it identifies mitigation goals, objectives, and projects to reduce those risks. The MJHMP and the Town of Fairfax local annex are incorporated by reference into the Safety Element of the General Plan. The Town is also a party to the Marin County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), which provides a science-based assessment of wildfire hazards and threats to homes in the WUI of Marin County. Originally adopted in 2016 and updated in the wake of North Bay fires of 2017, which included five of the top twenty most destructive WUI fires in history, the purpose of the CWPP is to provide fire agencies, land managers, and other stakeholders in Marin County with guidance and strategies to reduce fire hazard and the risk of catastrophic wildfires in the WUI, while promoting the protection and enhancement of the county's economic assets and ecological resources.

The North Bay fires heightened awareness of fire hazards in Marin and potential vulnerabilities. In 2018, the Marin County Board of Supervisors published a report that discussed the lessons learned from the North Bay fires, and the following year, the Marin Civil Grand Jury published a report entitled *Wildfire Preparedness: A New Approach*, that outlined a more proactive and consistent approach to public education, wildfire preparedness, and vegetation management. The Grand Jury report led to tax Measure C, a bond measure passed by voters in 2020 to fund wildland fire hazard mitigation efforts throughout the county. Funds raised through Measure C are managed by the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA), a joint power agency formed following the passage of Measure C to develop and implement a comprehensive wildfire prevention and emergency preparedness plan for most of Marin County. The MWPA consists of seventeen-member agencies, including the Town of Fairfax, and leads the development of fire adapted communities using sound scientific, financial, programmatic, ecological practices, vegetation management, community education, and evacuation and warning systems with the support of its member and partner agencies. MWPA works in close collaboration with Fire Safe Marin, a non-profit organization dedicated to creating a safe, fire-adapted communities. The organization offers a wide range of programs and resources, which promote wildfire safety preparedness, reduce fuel loads and fire hazards, build community cooperation, and encourage environmentally sound fire mitigation practices. Fire Safe Marin is the official outreach arm of the MWPA.

Established in 1953, the Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District works to reduce the risk of flooding for the protection of life and property while utilizing sustainable practices. The District leads the Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program, a regional effort initiated following the 2005 flooding that caused nearly \$95 million in damages in the communities of Fairfax, San Anselmo, Ross, Kentfield and Larkspur. The objective of the initiative is to substantially reduce the frequency and severity of flooding throughout the Ross Valley Watershed in an economically viable manner while prioritizing public safety and minimizing environmental impacts.

Locally, the Town of Fairfax Municipal Code also incorporates development standards and hazard risk mitigation protocols that address natural and humanmade hazards in the community. Safety Element policies provide a framework to guide Town planning and decision-making related to natural and humanmade hazards.

GOAL S-1: Protect life and property from natural and humanmade hazards.

Seismic and Geologic Hazards

Policy S-1.1: Require that new development be designed and sited to minimize risks from seismic events, including ground shaking, liquefaction, and landslides.

Program S-1.1.1: Provide educational materials to homeowners about geologic and seismic risks in the community, grants available to assist with retrofits, and techniques to mitigate liquefaction risk on their property.

Policy S-1.2: For new development within seismic and geologic hazard zones, including existing landslide areas, areas of high and moderate liquefaction risk, and areas of greater ground shaking amplification, require that project proponents submit geotechnical investigation reports prepared by qualified professionals and demonstration that the project conforms to all mitigation measures recommended by the reports prior to approval.

Policy S-1.3: Require geotechnical studies for new development in areas where sewers are not available to ensure that the surrounding soil can support alternative wastewater disposal systems.

Policy S-1.4: Ensure that structures intended for human occupancy are designed and constructed to retain their structural integrity when subjected to seismic activity, in accordance with the California Building Code.

Program S-1.4.1: Use the resale inspection program to perform basic assessments of earthquake hazards in existing residential buildings, especially buildings with unreinforced masonry (URM), and make recommendations as appropriate for follow-up inspections by a structural engineer.

Program S-1.4.2: Explore measures to encourage building owners to upgrade and retrofit structures to render them seismically safe, which may include the use of variances, tax rebates, fee waivers, credits, or public recognition.

Policy S-1.5: Continue to regulate development on hillsides where average slope is greater than 15 percent and limit the removal of natural vegetation in hillside areas when retaining natural habitat does not pose threats to public safety.

Policy S-1.6: Require project applicants to minimize grading in hillside areas and mitigate erosion risk by revegetation or other acceptable methods. Permit grading operations only in areas scheduled for immediate construction or paving.

Flooding Hazards

Policy S-1.7: Coordinate with the Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to address storm drainage and flood control on a sub-regional basis

within the Ross Valley Watershed in order to optimize the use of existing and planned conveyance facilities.

Program S-1.7.1: Periodically review the risk of increased flooding hazards due to climate change and develop strategies to adapt to changing flood hazard conditions, including those related to monitoring, emergency preparedness, vegetation management, and development policies, and ensure that the Town's hazard information is up-to-date regarding climate trends.

Policy S-1.8: Design, construct, and maintain street and storm drain flood control systems to accommodate storm flows and prevent water pollution, employing "green infrastructure" techniques as feasible and appropriate.

Program S-1.8.1: Pursue funding individually and in collaboration with the Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation to finance improvements to storm drainage and flood control facilities in Fairfax.

Program S-1.8.2: Map the location of Town-owned storm drain infrastructure in key locations and inventory pipe size and other parameters.

Program S-1.8.3: Clear debris from the creeks and culverts on an annual basis, with assistance from the North Bay Conservation Corps, other contractors, or volunteers.

Policy S-1.9: Continue participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the Community Rating System to ensure that property owners in Fairfax can obtain flood insurance and to improve flood preparedness.

Policy S-1.10: Require new development in the 100-year and 500-year flood hazard zones to comply with applicable provisions for flood hazard control in the Town Code.

Policy S-1.11: Review all development applications for areas within a 100-year flood hazard zone for consistency with FEMA National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) standards to mitigate flood hazard potential.

Policy S-1.12: Through development agreements and compliance with existing environmental regulations, require new development and redevelopment to provide necessary storm drainage improvements - including through low impact development (LID) design strategies - and ensure that upstream stormwater generators fully address stormwater needs on their property.

Program S-1.12.1: Work with creekside property owners to reduce and mitigate flood hazards, such as opening up box culverts when beneficial for flood control. Promote the use of green infrastructure to convey stormwater and reduce flooding.

Wildfire Hazards

Policy S-1.13: Continue to participate in regional wildfire prevention initiatives and work to prevent wildland fire and to protect lives, property, and watersheds from fire dangers.

Program S-1.13.1: Use Measure C funding from the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority to reduce wildfire hazards and achieve measurable fuel reduction in Fairfax.

Policy S-1.14: Maintain regulations and standards designed to achieve the greatest practical level of built-in fire protection to confine fires, including requirements for compliance with applicable provisions of the California Building Code and the California Fire Code.

Policy S-1.15: Jointly with State, County, local and other agencies, inform property owners of wildfire risks and measures to reduce those risks, including by:

- Maintaining and making publicly available an up-to-date map of high and very high fire hazard areas consistent with CAL FIRE designations; and
- Disseminating information on fire weather watches and fire risks via the Town's website and encouraging all Fairfax residents to engage in risk reduction and fire preparedness activities.

Program S-1.15.1: Promote the availability of Wildfire Risk Home Evaluations from the Ross Valley Fire Department and home hardening and defensible space grants from the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority in Townwide email newsletters and at public contact events.

Program S-1.15.2: Encourage the formation of Firewise community groups within Fairfax, where residents and businesses work together to prepare themselves, their homes and their properties against the threat of wildfire with guidance from Fire Safe Marin.

Program S-1.15.3: Continue to promote the Curbside Chipper Day Program (also known as "Chipper Days") that provides free curbside pickup and disposal of excess vegetation from residential properties in Fairfax.

Policy S-1.16: Continue to collaborate with the Ross Valley Fire Department to require proactive weed abatement and, brush thinning, and removal services on new and existing development in areas of elevated wildfire risk in order to curb potential fire hazards.

Policy S-1.17: Cooperate with the CAL FIRE and the Ross Valley Fire Department to ensure that all portions of the Planning Area are served and accessible within an effective response time and to address regional wildfire threats.

Policy S-1.18: Coordinate with the Marin Municipal Water District to ensure planning for an adequate and sustainable water supply to meet fire suppression needs within Fairfax over the long term.

Program S-1.18.1: Work with the Ross Valley Fire Department to identify additional sources of local water supply in Fairfax that can be used to supplement the supply available for fire suppression in the event of an emergency.

Wind Hazards

Policy S-1.19: Monitor issues related to damage from windstorms and undertake precautionary measures as needed, such as tree trimming in the public right-of-way.

Policy S-1.20: To the extent feasible, ensure that housing, hospitals, care facilities, community centers, places of worship, and other facilities where people gather are set a minimum of 100 feet back from high voltage power lines or substations.

Humanmade Hazards

Policy S-1.21: Continue to require remediation of hazardous material releases from previous land uses as part of any redevelopment activities.

Policy S-1.22: Regulate development on sites with known contamination of soil or groundwater to ensure that construction workers, future occupants, adjacent residents, and the environment are adequately protected from hazards associated with contamination.

Policy S-1.23: Consistent with State regulations, require proper storage and disposal of hazardous materials to reduce the likelihood of leakage, explosions, or fire, and to properly contain potential spills from leaving the site.

Community Resilience

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in weather patterns, including temperature and precipitation. Over the course of the Earth's history, climate shifts have occurred naturally, but since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to burning fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas. Burning fossil fuels generates greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that act like a blanket wrapped around the Earth, trapping the sun's heat and raising temperatures. As climate change progresses, it will continue to increase the frequency and severity of flooding and rain events, landslides, droughts, wildfires, and extreme heat events, that will both individually and collectively have increasing impacts on vulnerable populations, critical services, and infrastructure in Fairfax. While comprehensive, coordinated actions to reduce GHG emissions can help mitigate the extent of these impacts over the long term, additional actions must be taken to address the people, places, and infrastructure most at risk and to leverage other opportunities to effectively build community resilience to natural hazards and the effects of climate change.

Rising temperatures and changes in precipitation projected with climate change will exacerbate the risk of loss and damage from natural hazards in Fairfax, leading to more frequent and more intense wildfires and storm events, as well as increased risk of severe landslides. The MJHMP includes a climate vulnerability assessment that identifies risks to homes, businesses, infrastructure, utilities, transportation systems, and critical facilities. In Fairfax, critical community facilities such as Town Hall, Fire Station 21, and the Fairfax Women's Club are located in areas of flood and liquefaction risk. Additionally, older bridges in town are in need of retrofit and repair, while roadways and retaining walls in steeper terrain need reinforcement and stabilization. Safety Element policies address these priorities.

Equally important is a focus on actions to increase public awareness of risks and build community response capacity. The Town Code provides for a Citizen's Disaster Council (CDC) consisting of the current mayor, vice mayor, emergency responders (fire/police) and other key groups that meets on an as-needed basis to develop emergency plans and related recommendations. In 2019, the CDC updated the Town's Emergency Operations Plan and created first of its kind community-friendly evacuation maps for distribution to residents. Fairfax also boasts eight Firewise communities of neighbors helping neighbors take actions to prepare themselves, their homes and their properties against the threat of wildfire. Through the Firewise program, Fire Safe Marin provides residents who organize as Firewise communities with resources and support for personal preparedness, alerts and warning, and strategies to make their community more fire-resistant. *ReadyMarin*, a public emergency preparedness program overseen by the Marin County Office of Emergency Management in collaboration with local emergency response partners, also provides programs and services to help residents and businesses plan and prepare for emergencies. Through the activities of *ReadyMarin* partners, membership in Neighborhood Response Groups also continues to grow in Fairfax, bringing together volunteers who help connect with and support their neighbors before, during, and after disasters of all kinds. Free Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training is also available to teach residents how to take care of themselves, their family, and community until first responders can assist.

GOAL S-2: Build community resilience to natural disasters and the effects of climate change.

Resilient Infrastructure

Policy S-2.1: Consider climate impacts, risk, and uncertainty in designing and evaluating capital improvement projects and adjust infrastructure design standards and project locations to address asset- and site-specific vulnerabilities.

Program S-2.1.1: Complete the bridge repair and roadway stabilization projects identified in the Capital Improvement Program, pursuing grant funding as needed to support project completion.

Program S-2.1.2: Prepare a prioritized list of roadway and retaining wall stabilization projects to inform planning for the Capital Improvement Program. Prioritization should consider factors such as roadway classification, traffic volume, and importance of the role in evacuation, as well as maintenance conditions, structural integrity, and magnitude of risk in the event of failure.

- Policy S-2.2:** Explore opportunities to increase the resiliency of Town-owned facilities and infrastructure to severe weather events and support homeowners and business owners in increasing the resilience of their buildings and properties, through retrofits, weatherization, and other improvements.
- Program S-2.2.1: Seek grant funding for seismic retrofit and renovation of the Town Pavilion and Fairfax Women's Club.
- Program S-2.2.2: Explore the feasibility of establishing assessment districts or other mechanisms to fund the undergrounding of utility lines, recognizing that undergrounding reduces risks during fires, earthquakes, and storms, improves the town's aesthetics, and reduces utility company maintenance costs for tree trimming.
- Policy S-2.3:** Plan for the continuity of operations for critical facilities following a disaster to help prevent interruption of emergency response related to life, property, and environment preservation. Evaluate options for ensuring emergency power at critical facilities, including microgrids, solar capture and storage, distributed energy, and backup generators. Consider the ability to reduce utility costs and carbon emissions in the assessment.
- Policy S-2.4:** Partner with utility providers, regional agencies, and neighboring jurisdictions to assess the vulnerability of energy infrastructure and identify improvements that increase resilience of local energy infrastructure.
- Policy S-2.5:** Require new development to underground utility lines wherever feasible and continue to coordinate with electricity and telecommunications providers to underground existing overhead lines throughout Fairfax.

Community Preparedness

- Policy S-2.6:** Enhance collaboration with neighboring communities and agencies responsible for public safety in the region to closely coordinate and implement disaster-related plans, exercises, and training.
- Program S-2.6.1: Through the Marin Emergency Radio Authority (MERA) continue to collaborate with regional public safety partners to maintain and periodically upgrade a fully functional, interoperable radio and communication system.
- Policy S-2.7:** Promote community awareness and understanding of threat hazards, disaster response, and steps that can be taken to reduce personal and business risk by:
- Disseminating information in multiple formats to reach all segments of the community;
 - Providing emergency preparedness and emergency alert information through social media, traditional media, community fairs, and direct information to neighborhood groups, residents, service clubs, and other community organizations; and

- Conducting educational seminars or evacuation practice events to enhance preparedness and response.

Policy S-2.8: Proactively engage residents and businesses in supporting and helping coordinate collaborative town-wide efforts to prepare residents to respond to emergencies of all kinds.

Program S-2.8.1: Coordinate with the Ross Valley Fire Department to promote and facilitate formation of Firewise community groups throughout Fairfax and for the establishment of Neighborhood Response Groups, targeting neighborhoods and areas that face the greatest evacuation challenges (**Figures S-8 and S-9**) as a priority.

Program S-2.8.2: As a JPA member, support Ross Valley Fire Department efforts to recruit and retain Neighborhood Response Group Coordinator to facilitate neighborhood level emergency preparedness and response activities in Fairfax.

Program S-2.8.3: Identify a network of resilience hubs, such as the library, the Pavilion, the Fairfax Women's Club, and other Town and County facilities throughout Fairfax, to serve as central points for gathering, sharing information, and accessing resources in the event of a natural or human-made disaster. Resilience hubs should be situated away from areas at risk of hazard impacts to the extent possible, located in easily accessible locations, and equipped with backup power supplies.

Program S-2.8.4: Increase participation in the Community Emergency Response Team program administered by the Ross Valley Fire Department to train residents in the basic skills required to respond to their community's immediate needs in the aftermath of a disaster.

Policy S-2.9: Work with responsible agencies and nongovernmental organizations to plan for post-disaster recovery in a manner that reduces further losses or damages from future fires.

Emergency Response

OEM has the authority to establish an emergency operations center to serve as the location from which centralized emergency management can be performed during a major emergency or disaster, facilitating a coordinated response by community, local, state, and federal agencies. OEM maintains the Marin County Emergency Portal, a website which houses the latest information on emergencies, and AlertMarin, the county's primary system to alert residents of emergencies in which the public may need to evacuate, shelter in place, or take some other protective action. Other public safety agencies in Marin County use Nixle, which provides other, typically less urgent information including major traffic disruptions, drift smoke from a distant fire, and to let the public know about missing persons.

The Town of Fairfax also recognizes its inherent role in preserving life, property, and the environment through its emergency operations plan (EOP), developed to ensure the most effective and economical allocation of resources for the maximum benefit and protection of the community in time of emergency. The EOP establishes the emergency organization, assigns tasks, specifies policies and general procedures, outlines evacuation routes and provides for coordination of planning efforts of the various emergency staff and service elements utilizing the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS). Updated periodically to as necessary to meet changing conditions, the EOP is an extension of the Marin Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan, allowing Fairfax to operate and communicate more effectively in multi-jurisdictional responses.

The primary emergency evacuation routes in Fairfax are shown on **Figure S-7**. Major and minor evacuation routes in Fairfax could face potential disruption from a wildfire, earthquake, or flood event, which may block roadways or damage the roadway surfaces. In the event of widespread disruption to local evacuation routes, major and minor routes may become more congested, slowing down evacuation of the community or specific neighborhoods. This issue may be compounded since Sir Francis Drake Boulevard serves as the primary evacuation route for neighboring communities, and so potential disruptions may have regional effects.

An analysis of existing development patterns and roadway connectivity completed with the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) software indicates that some residential areas of the town have constrained emergency access. Shown on **Figure S-8**, these evacuation-constrained properties are all located in at least one hazard-prone area and may have access to only one emergency evacuation route, which can significantly impede the swift and orderly movement of residents to safer locations and can lead to congestion, delayed emergency response times, and heightened risk to life and property. Additionally, in the event of a natural hazard involving wildfire, earthquake, or flooding, relatively more difficult to evacuate areas of Fairfax are shown on **Figure S-9**. Difficulty was assessed in consideration of roadway conditions, communications difficulty, and presence of fire fuels using MWPA's scenario planning tool. Key factors that contribute to evacuation difficulty include heavy vegetation and steep elevations which increase burn probability, and roadway conditions such as slope, elevation, geometry, and lack of intersections, as well as distance to key infrastructure. The most difficult to evacuate areas are located in areas of steep topography and winding roads, including neighborhoods in the steep hillsides around San Gabriel Drive, Tailor Drive, and Ridgeway Avenue north of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, and around Frustuck Avenue, Hickory Road, Madrone Road, and Bolinas Road southwest of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. Although not fully reflected in MWPA scenario planning tool, some locations in Fairfax, such as areas along Cascade Drive and the northern part of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard have limited cellphone coverage, which can make access to information difficult if the power is out following a natural hazard event.

Safety Element policies focus on vegetation management and fire fuel abatement as well as repairing and maintaining roadway infrastructure, particularly along evacuation routes. Above all, ensuring that community members are prepared for emergency evacuation events and understand what to do is of critical importance.

Figure S-7 Emergency Evacuation Routes

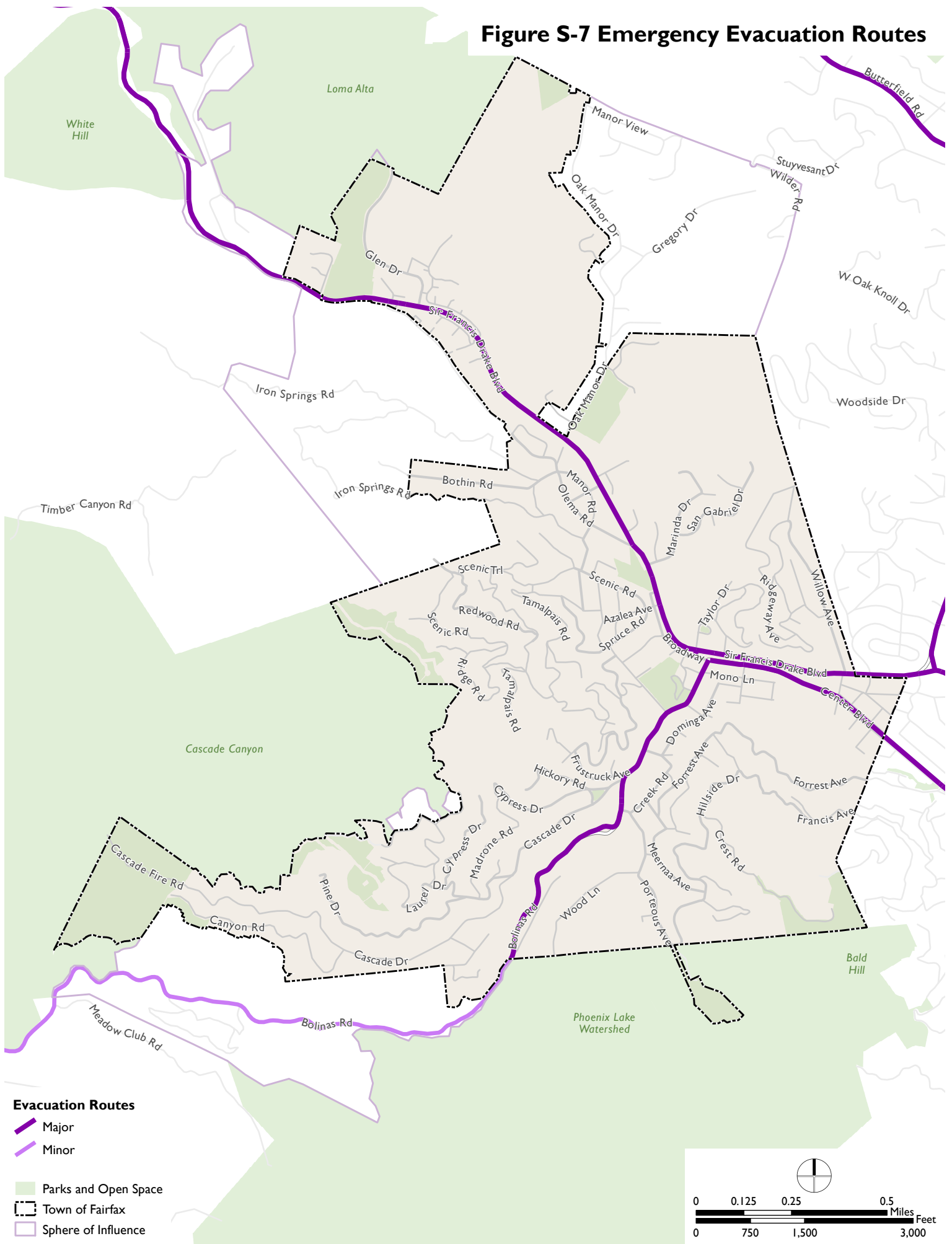


Figure S-8 Evacuation Constrained Residential Parcels

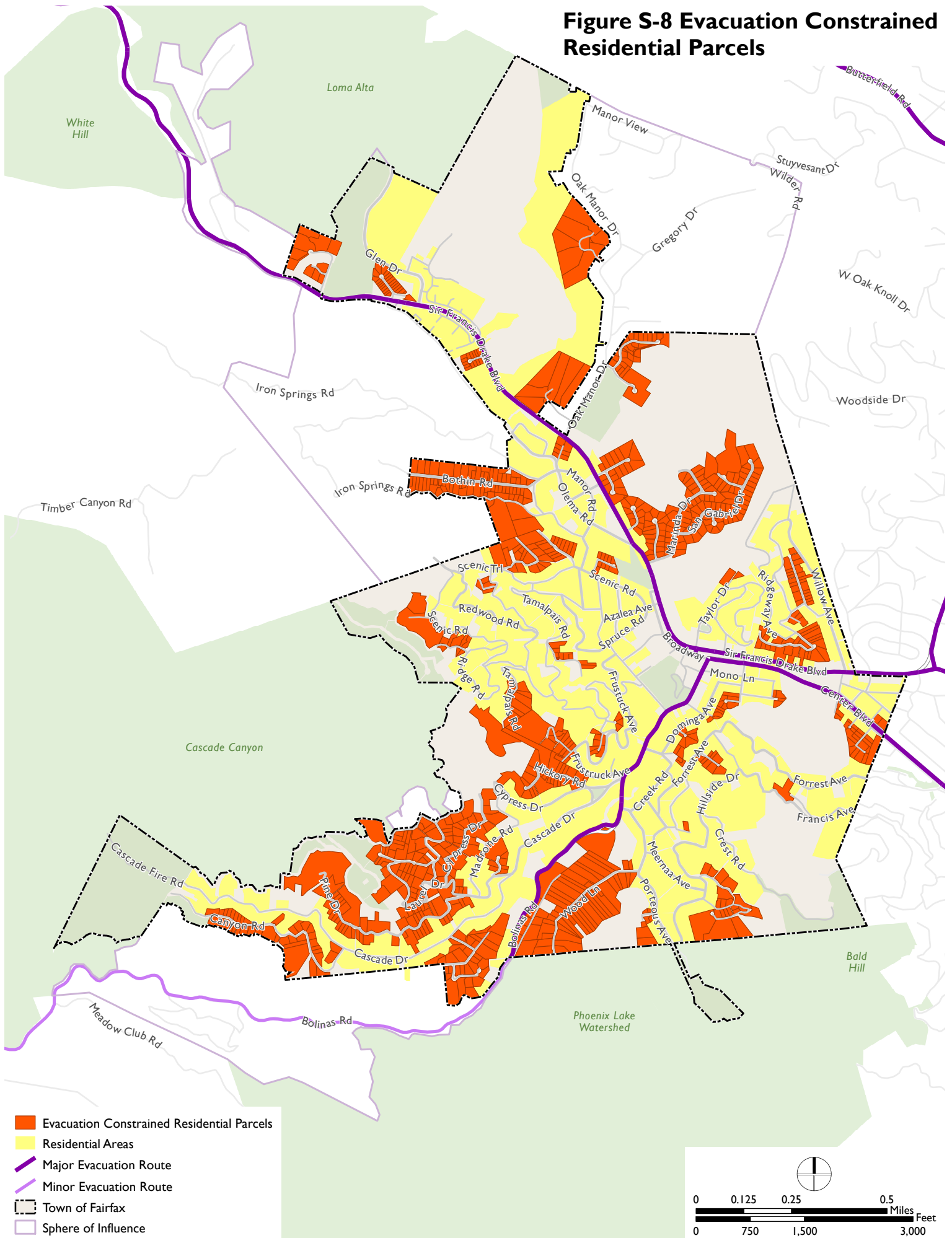
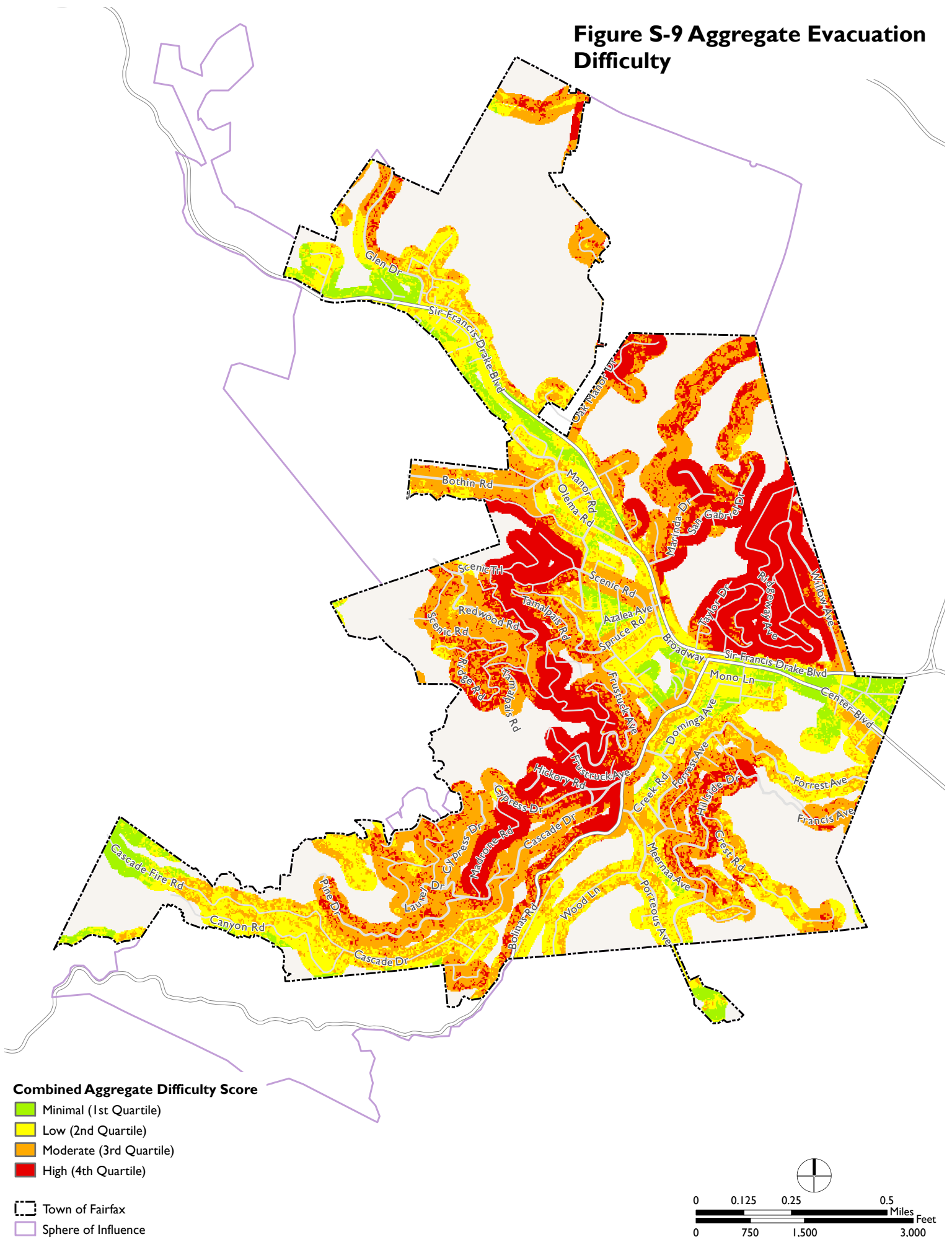


Figure S-9 Aggregate Evacuation Difficulty



GOAL S-3: Effective emergency response to disasters and emergencies.

- Policy S-3.1:** Use the adopted Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and Emergency Operations Plan to guide actions and investments for emergency preparedness and response.
- Program S-3.1.1: Periodically update the Emergency Operations Plan with technical assistance from the Marin County Office of Emergency Management.
- Policy S-3.2:** Maintain mutual aid agreements and communication links with the County of Marin and other surrounding jurisdictions that allow for supplemental aid from other police and fire personnel in the event of emergencies.
- Policy S-3.3:** To facilitate the orderly evacuation of residential areas, maintain minimum standards for roadway design, maintenance, and vegetation management.
- Program S-3.3.1: Pursue funding to facilitate structural retrofits, roadway improvements, and abatement of vegetative hazards, including in existing residential neighborhoods without two points of emergency ingress/egress.
- Policy S-3.4:** Require new residential subdivisions to have at least two ingress and egress routes that account for existing and proposed traffic evacuation volumes at buildout.
- Policy S-3.5:** Ensure road surfaces on designated evacuation routes can withstand extreme weather conditions and are maintained to accommodate increased traffic during evacuations.
- Program S-3.5.1: In future updates to the Capital Improvement Program, prioritize preventative maintenance and repair on roadway segments designated as evacuation routes.
- Policy S-3.6:** Work with telecommunications providers and improve cellphone coverage in areas with known deficiencies, including along Cascade Drive and the northern part of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard.
- Policy S-3.7:** Continue to collaborate in regional emergency planning initiatives.
- Program S-3.7.1: Partner with the Ross Valley Fire Department, the Marin County Office of Emergency Management, and neighboring jurisdictions on measures to protect critical evacuation routes such as Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, Broadway, Center Boulevard, and Bolinas Road and to develop contingency plans for operations when these and other roads are inoperable due to flooding or wildfire.
- Program S-3.7.2: Identify traffic management strategies to ensure efficient access from feeder streets onto critical evacuation routes during an emergency evacuation event in coordination with public safety partners and neighboring jurisdictions.

Responsibility for implementation should be clearly identified and the strategies should be incorporated into the Emergency Operations Plan.

Program S-3.7.3: Periodically conduct outreach to community groups in Fairfax, such as Fire-wise Communities or Neighborhood Response Groups, to promote a "help your neighbors" approach that accounts for residents in their areas with access and functional needs in community resilience building initiatives.

Policy S-3.8: Provide information on and build community awareness of major evacuation routes and notification systems used for emergency alerts to residents and businesses in Fairfax.

Program S-3.8.1: Study the feasibility of deploying dynamic message signs, roadway sensors, and other Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) tools to disseminate real-time traffic conditions, alternative routes, and delays to drivers, enhancing situational awareness and decision-making.

Policy S-3.9: Support the use of Alert Marin, the countywide alert and early warning system, to notify residents by phone, text, or email of extreme weather conditions and/or the need to evacuate in the event of emergency. The system should also be used to broadcast the location of evacuation centers, particularly for residents of vulnerable areas and neighborhoods with constrained emergency access.

Program S-3.9.1: Target efforts to increase registration to residential areas that face the greatest evacuation challenges (**Figures S-8 and S-9**) as a priority.

Public Safety Services

Responsive public safety services are integral to maintaining and strengthening quality of life in Fairfax. Law enforcement and fire protection services rooted in community-based approaches help to ensure that neighborhoods remain safe, engaged, and ready to respond in the event of an emergency. It is critical that we make wise investments in public facilities and safety to provide for our community's existing and future needs.

The Town operates the Fairfax Police Department (FPD) which is headquartered at the Fairfax Town Hall, at 144 Bolinas Road. The Ross Valley Fire Department (RVFD) is a separate Joint Powers Authority (JPA) consolidated department that services Ross, San Anselmo, Sleepy Hollow, and Fairfax. The department currently has three fire stations, with Station 21 located in the Town of Fairfax at 10 Park Road. RVDF participates in county-wide and State mutual aid systems, through which fire departments from different jurisdictions agree to assist one another during emergencies. Mutual aid is crucial in California, where large-scale disasters can quickly overwhelm local resources, necessitating a coordinated, multi-jurisdictional response.

Design of the built environment can also help prevent crime, reduce the fear of crime, and improve the quality of life in urban areas. Research has shown that the most effective deterrent to criminal

activity is the risk of being caught, and design of public spaces that places more eyes on the street and limits access points can create safer environments. Strategies for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) include locating windows to overlook sidewalks and parking lots, increasing pedestrian and bicycle traffic, and selectively installing fencing, landscaping, or lighting to control access. Well-maintained buildings and grounds also signal alert, active owners and can deter criminal activity.

Safety Element policies focus on ensuring that responsive police and fire services that achieve a high level of policy safety through proactive, preventative strategies and collaboration with partner agencies and the community.

GOAL S-4: Responsive police and fire services that ensure a high level of public safety.

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| Policy S-4.1: | Provide responsive, efficient, and effective police services that promote a high level of public safety. |
| Policy S-4.2: | Provide for fire prevention and emergency response services that minimize fire risks and protect life and property, including fire prevention, fire-related law enforcement, and public education and information programs. |
| Policy S-4.3: | Locate and maintain police and fire equipment, facilities, and staffing at locations and levels that allow for effective service delivery. |
| Policy S-4.4: | Require that new development contribute funds to ensure the provision of adequate police and fire services. |
| Policy S-4.5: | Continue to engage the Police and Fire Departments in the development review process to ensure that projects are designed and operated in a manner that minimizes the potential for criminal activity and fire hazards and maximizes the potential for responsive police and fire services. |
| Policy S-4.6: | Apply Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles in the design of new development and encourage the provision of adequate public lighting; windows overlooking streets or parking lots; and paths to increase pedestrian activity within private development projects and public facilities in order to enhance public safety and reduce calls for service. |
| Policy S-4.7: | Employ community-based policing strategies and encourage partnerships between community groups and the Fairfax Police Department. |