



Save Open Space
P.O. Box 1284
Agoura Hills, CA 91376

*"Never doubt that a small group of
concerned people can change the world.
Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*
—Margaret Mead

June 26, 2025

Dear Oak Park MAC:

Besides being a long-time Board member of Save Open Space, I have been very active in the Oak Park community and very involved on the Board of my Homeowner's Association.

The City of Agoura Hills Planning Commission recently voted to recommend the new Evacuation Analysis and other additions to the Agoura Hills General Plan Safety Element (the Plan) to be a project, but exempt from CEQA.

We are concerned about evacuating safely from a fire if the planned buildout 2035 of Agoura Hills is allowed to happen.

This new evacuation analysis reveals that 10,503 cars will need to evacuate on Kanan to the 101 when Oak Park and Agoura Hills residents need to evacuate at once at the 5 am scenario. We know from everyday usage of Kanan in normal circumstances that this would be disastrous. The planned 2035 buildout of Agoura Hills will cause an extreme life-threatening evacuation situation and expose Oak Park residents to a significant risk of injury and/or death.

We respectfully request that Oak Park MAC and Ventura County Planning turn in comments opposing this Plan when it is agenized by the Agoura Hills City Council. We believe this is necessary not only due to the risk the buildout would pose to our residents, but also because the Plan is not in conformity with CEQA.

We look to you, our leaders in this community and in Ventura County, to advocate for our safety in this matter and we are thankful for your support.

Respectfully,

Dr. H. Drew Fountaine
Board Member and Co-Treasurer

P.O. BOX 1284 AGOURA HILLS, CA 91376

June 26, 2025

TO: Supervisor Jeff Gorell
Members, Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council

FROM: Janna Orkney
48 Kanan Road
Oak Park, CA 91377

Dear Supervisor Gorell and Oak Park MAC members:

The Agoura Hills City Council will soon be considering whether or not to approve a General Plan Safety Element Amendment that includes analysis of their Emergency Evacuation Plan.

I attended the Agoura Hills Planning Commission meeting a few months ago, when staff presented the Amendment, including Evacuation Plan. I consider it inadequate and incomplete. I am bringing this to your attention, because we know that how Agoura Hills handles the next emergency evacuation on Kanan Road will profoundly affect Oak Park residents using that route! For our safety, the plan has to use the best data and analysis possible, and should include working with Ventura County to arrive at this data and analysis. I understand that Agoura Hills staff did not consult Ventura County at all, even though perhaps half of the evacuees on Kanan would be from Oak Park.

Please, Supervisor Gorell, and Oak Park MAC members, write a letter to the Agoura Hills City Council and city staff, asking to have an opportunity to review the General Plan Safety Element Amendment and make comments! The City Council approval in 2022 of the possibility of building over 500 housing units in the three Kanan Road Shopping Centers adjacent to Thousand Oaks Blvd. is still in effect. If these units were built, in my opinion, it would have a disastrous affect on folks from Oak Park evacuating, by severely slowing the transit time to the 101 Freeway.

Also, for your information, a group I formed in 2021 called Preserve our Emergency Corridor on Kanan (PECK), collected approximately 1,000 signatures from residents of Oak Park and Agoura Hills who were concerned about the Kanan Evacuation Route being disastrously affected by the possible building of housing units at the shopping centers.

Sincerely,
Janna Orkney



June 26, 2025

Re: Agoura Hills' Evacuation Analysis/ Amendment to General Plan Safety Element

Dear Oak Park MAC Chair Brian Trushinski, Vice-Chair Michelle Santucci, J.L. Diaz, Jane Nye, Brianna Adams:

Save Open Space/Santa Monica Mountains has three board members who reside in Oak Park. I live in the Fountainwood neighborhood of Agoura Hills. All of us need to use Kanan Road as our primary evacuation route in the event of an emergency, such as a wildfire.

Save Open Space requests that Ventura County MAC send a letter requesting a full analysis and disclosure of the significance of the safety impacts in particular on Kanan Road. We also request Ventura County planning weighing-in with their comments on this Agoura Hills project: an amendment to their General Plan Safety Element including Evacuation Analysis.

Thanks!

Mary Wiesbrock
Mary Wiesbrock, Chair Save Open Space/Santa Monica Mountains

Dear Oak Park MAC:

The proposed amendments to the Agoura Hills General Plan Safety Element are insufficient protection for Oak Park. Kanan Road was gridlocked during the 2018 Woolsey Fire mandatory evacuation event and we were in the gridlock. Currently, the Pacific Palisades fire had several people die during the 80 mile an hour winds, when everyone had to evacuate immediately this January. Our fires are now hotter, vegetation dryer and winds stronger, under our new phenomenon of climate change.

We ask that Ventura County MAC request a full analysis and disclosure of the impacts that we are facing, including Ventura County with their Planning Department weighing-in on this General Plan, Amendment Safety Element. It is imperative to the safety all Oak Park residents that feasible alternatives mentioned in the 2022 General Plan SEIR which will protect Kanan Road from more density are fully explored now and those needed for our safety are adopted.

Thanks!

Bob and Fran Coutts, SOS Board members, and Oak Park residents since 1987.