

From: [Ward, Jeremy@CALFIRE](mailto:Ward_Jeremy@CALFIRE)
To: [Whitney, Andrew](mailto:Whitney_Andrew)
Cc: [Kilbury, Jordan@CALFIRE](mailto:Kilbury_Jordan@CALFIRE)
Subject: Conditional Use Permit
Date: Thursday, October 3, 2024 9:09:44 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

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Good morning,

I was provided a notice of public hearing regarding a Conditional Use Permit for Ten Redwoods LLC (PLN-11737-CUP) on Humboldt County APN 208-241-017.

I understand that hearing is scheduled for tonight.

I would suggest the county consider an incident that occurred on the property yesterday, in which a fire occurred and burned approximately 18 acres of vegetation and an unknown number of outbuildings and possibly a travel trailer.

Feel free to call my cell if you have questions.

Thank you,



Jeremy Ward

Battalion Chief – Fire Prevention/Law Enforcement
118 S. Fortuna Blvd.
Fortuna, CA. 95540
(707) 726-1220 Office
(707) 499-7929 Cell
(707) 725-1345 Fax



SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION #1

For Planning Commission Agenda of:
November 7, 2024

- Consent Agenda Item F-3
- Continued Hearing Item
- Public Hearing Item
- Department Report
- Old Business

Project Title: **Ten Redwoods LLC Conditional Use Permit and Special Permit**

Record Number: PLN-11737-CUP
Assessor Parcel Number: 208-241-017
Area: Dinsmore Area

Attached for the Planning Commission's record and review is the following supplementary information:

- A. Excerpts from CalFire Incident Report
- B. Testimony from Nicholas Paissos



CAL FIRE

715 P Street, P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA, 94244-2460
(916) 902-5162

Incident Report 24CASRF000951-1

Incident Report 24CASRF000951-1

Fire Investigation

Fire Event Information

Ignition Source

Structure into vegetation.

Origin Location Description: North of the Mad River, West of Ridge Road, South of Forest 2N12 Road

Property Burned: Approximately 18 acres vegetation and several structures.

Legal Owner - TEN REDWOODS LLC CO Author: Ward, Jeremy

Involvement

Role: Legal Owner

Victim Details

Victim Type: Business

Contact

Location Type: 15725 Orlan Brook Drive #73, Orland Park IL 60462

Location Note: Per Parcel Quest data, owner of Humboldt County APN 208-241-017. Name: TEN REDWOODS LLC CO

On Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024, I was assigned fire prevention coverage for the CAL FIRE Humboldt – Del Norte Unit. At approximately 1:58 PM, the Fortuna Emergency Command Center (ECC) received a report of a vegetation fire in eastern Humboldt County near the community of Dinsmore. The exact location of the fire was unknown. The United States Forest Service (USFS) Six Rivers Forest dispatch was notified as the reported area was close to the border of State and Federal Direct Protection Areas (DPA). The ECC dispatched a full wildland response and named the incident, "Bear". I responded to investigate (Attachment 1).

While responding, I overheard radio traffic from a CAL FIRE aircraft at scene that there was a structure located at the heel of the fire. The fire was located on Ridge Road approximately eight miles from Highway 36 via County Line Creek Road and Slayer Mad River Road. I arrived at scene along with several other CAL FIRE chief officers. We met with CAL FIRE Unit Chief Kurt McCRAY who was parked at an intersection speaking with a USFS chief officer, Tad HEIR. McCRAY told me they determined the

fire was in Federal DPA and that CAL FIRE would assist with suppression. HEIR believed the origin was on private property and that the USFS would not investigate.

After meeting with the other chief officers, I continued from the intersection on Ridge Road toward the fire. The driveway led across a bridge where the fire had burned around it and then to several structures just beyond the bridge. These structures were not burned but were around the left flank of the fire. Approximately three wood-framed structures were on the north side of the driveway. They appeared to be used as residences and moderate to good clearance from surrounding vegetation. I attempted to contact any possible witnesses at the main residence, but there was no answer, and no civilians appeared to be in the area.

I then began to examine the fire. I walked around most of the heel of the fire, including around the wood-framed structures. I avoided a steep drainage that was along and within the right flank of the fire due to the steep terrain and still-burning vegetation. From the observations I made of the fire perimeter while driving in and walking around the heel, I determined the fire had an overall V-pattern. The base of the V was below the driveway. The side of the V, or flanks of the fire, generally led uphill toward the north-northeast where the fire had crossed the driveway. The V-pattern was inline with the wind as I observed it upon my arrival. Within the fire perimeter below the driveway were the remains of several burned structures. I observed macroscale fire pattern indicators in the area that demonstrated fire originated below the driveway (Attachment 2, Photos 001 through 005). I also observed several indicators of possible fire suppression attempts prior to arrival of firefighters (Photos 006 through 011). This included two partially discharged fire extinguishers and a black polyethylene pipe along the edge of the driveway and beside the fire below the driveway. The pipe had a valve on the end that was still in the open position. There was also a backpack sprayer on a trailer in the same area that may also have been used to attempt to control the fire.

Within the burned area below the driveway, I also observed a relative difference in the degree of consumption of vegetation on the north and south sides of the burned structures. Generally south of the burned structures there was less consumption (Photo 012). There were more low hanging branches with lesser damage and more needles remaining, as well as grass stems that remained. Generally north of the structures, consumption was higher (Photo 013). There was more white ash, higher damage on tree trunks, less remaining portions of smaller vegetation on the ground. The right flank of the fire, adjacent and into the drainage was more heavily vegetated. The degree of damage here was also less than the apparent area of advancing fire north of the burned structures. This is consistent with the lesser intensity of the flanking fire behavior as well as fire spreading downslope into the drainage.

I continued examining the burned area below the driveway and began placing fire pattern indicator flags in the General Origin Area (GOA). Based on macroscale fire pattern indicators, I determined the GOA was an area within the area of fire below the road and did not include the drainage. Those indicators included angle of char, white ash, grass stem-fall, foliage freeze, and protection. While I was placing indicator flags, I observed a white male adult driving an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) on the driveway near the residence. I contacted the male to see if he could provide any information about the fire or the property.

I returned to identifying fire pattern indicators in the GOA. I had begun in the area of advancing (or head) fire that was south of the driveway. I worked through the GOA in an S-pattern moving back and forth between areas identified as lateral fire progression. Advancing indicators were marked with red flags. Lateral fire pattern indicators were marked with yellow flags. Backing indicators were also identified in the GOA and marked with blue flags. In the advancing area, I observed indicators of protection, cupping, white ash deposits and exposure, angle of char, sooting, and foliage freeze. Lateral areas of progression were identified towards the drainage to the northeast and east for the right flank and to west and southwest for the left flank. Lateral area indicators included white ash deposit, protection, and sooting. Backing fire pattern indicators were observed generally along the south perimeter of the fire, and included grass stem-fall, protection, and angle of char. See Attachment 3 for sketch for approximate location of flagged fire pattern indicators, as well as Photos 015 through 020.

Observed fire pattern indicators demonstrated the Bear Fire originated from a structure within the GOA. There appeared to be one main structure burned at the origin (Photos 012 and 013), but there also appeared to be a trailer or some other type of structure burned closer to the driveway (Photos 004 and 005). This other structure was not at the origin. There was also a small, wood-framed structure roughly south of the main burned structure. The smaller structure appeared to be primarily a frame. It did not appear to have enclosed walls due to a lack of other material remains. The main burned structure appears to be a drying shed used for cannabis cultivation. Within the remains appeared to be multiple fans, lights, and possibly a dehumidifier and heater. The remains of electrical wires ran from both northern corners of the shed toward a portable generator near the driveway (Photos 021 through 029). One heavy gauge wire ran from the northeastern corner (Photo 022). Its opposite end was near the portable generator, but was so heavily damaged, I did not determine where it led (Photo 028). Four other smaller wires ran from the northwestern corner (Photo 023). It appeared all four of these wires ran to and were plugged into the portable generator (Photo 029).

Based on the investigation of the Bear Fire, the fire was determined to have originated from the structure apparently used as a cannabis drying shed. The fire then spread to surrounding vegetation and burned approximately 18 acres of grass, brush, timber understory, as well as the structures and possible trailer. The cause of the original structure fire is undetermined, however electrical power is a possible cause. Multiple extension cords were used to provide power to the shed. At least four cords ran from a portable generator to the shed. These cords, and the one heavy gauge wire ran across open ground approximately 100 feet toward the generator. It is likely the extension cords were used more as a permanent or semi-permanent fixture to supply power to the shed. Extension cords are meant for temporary means of power. There did not appear to be another source of power coming through any type of conduit to protect wiring from elements and other damage. Additionally, the number of powered fixtures within the remains of the shed appeared substantial for the size of the structure compared to a similarly sized residence. The electrical loading may have caused overloading that resulted in overheating or failure of the extension cords or other electrical components. In my experience, I have responded to multiple fires related to cannabis cultivation where questionable electrical installations and or practices have been observed and where fires originated under similar circumstances.

From: [Nicholas Paissios](#)
To: [Whitney, Andrew](#)
Subject: RE: Ten Redwood Project PLN-11737-CUP
Date: Monday, November 4, 2024 7:12:04 PM

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11/04/24

To Whom It May Concern:

On October 2, 2024, around 1:30 pm, I noticed smoke. Around that time, Aaron Eib informed me that there was fire to his northwest. He also told me that he had seen Marco's workers in two trucks speeding past him less than five minutes prior. I told him to load the trailer and come to my property so we could load water to go fight the fire. While he was loading 1500 gallons of water, I drove back up the road in the direction of the fire and directed some of the fire trucks which road to take.

For the first couple of hours, we just watched the firefighters doing their job which they did exceptionally well. During this time, we noticed just 20 yards away from the road, that there was a well with a generator on an adjacent property East of Marco's place. The generator did not have gas, so I went and got some from Mrs. DeMauro's property. After I arrived with the gas, we followed the water line and realized that it went to Marco's property. This was the first time I had physically been on this property. When I returned to the well, we started the generator to power the well.

I spent the next three hours driving my quad to the Northeast of the fire to see if there were any spot fires, or places that the fire was not completely extinguished. During this time, I spoke to multiple firefighters and found out that there was an investigator for the fire department and that I should speak to him. I was deeply distressed that we had been abandoned with no warning by Marco's people to burn up or survive, and wanted him to know that the workers left without alerting any neighbors of the fire they had burning on the property they lived. The firemen contacted the investigator with their radios, and he asked me to come to his location where the fire started.

The fire investigator informed me that the cause of the fire was electrical, and he took me to the location. It was during this conversation that I informed him that this looked exactly like a dry shed, but they did not appear to be drying at the time. Upon leaving the burn sight, the firemen informed me that the water tanks were full and that they did not need any more water from the well. We turned off the generator, and I spent the next four hours looking and directing the firemen to different locations where the fire was still active. During these drives up and down the surrounding property, I met Ivan the owner of the adjacent property to Marco's. Ivan

proceeded to inform me about all the alleged problems that Marco's workers had caused him. The following day, I returned to the location of the well on the adjacent property East of Marco's property line and not owned by Marco, and I made a video that follows the water line from the well to the six 5000-gallon water tanks that are on Marco's property. This appears to have been his main source of water.

Marco's workers appear to have definitely caused the fire, but more importantly, abjectly fled and abandoned the property without informing the people living here or asking anyone for help once they deemed the fire out of control. Aaron Eib saw Marco's workers leave and driving unusually fast fleeing the scene. I have spoken to five other property owners, and they all feel as I do. Marco should have his permit revoked. He does not follow the county rules, but more importantly does not care about his neighbor's wellbeing or the mountain. Just my family would have lost all our possessions and 120 acres of beautiful flora and fauna. This is negligence to the highest degree, and no one needs reckless and delinquent actions threatening our lives and all that is here. Marco needs to face consequences for he and his delinquent workers.

Feel free to call me at (916) 439 9079.

Thank you

Nicholas Paissios



Looking west at the fire



Fire crew works the perimeter 10/2/24



Looking North from the well on 208-241-011-000



Wellhead and generator 208-241-011-000



Well/Generator on parcel 208-241-011-000

Location of well

