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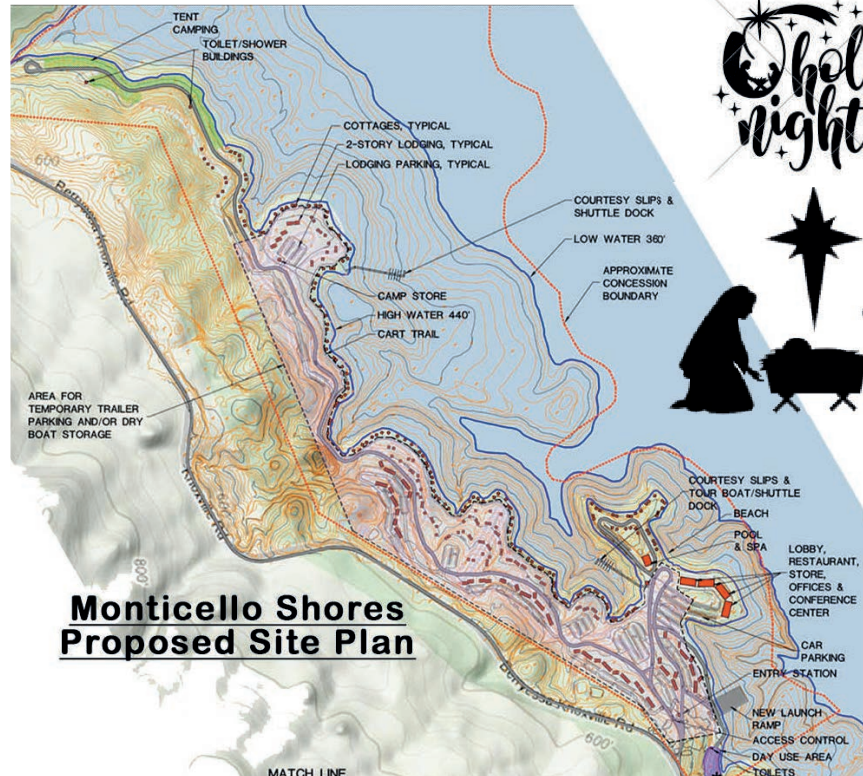
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The Lake Berryessa News

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December, 2019



Christmas 2019: The Promise of the Gift of Lake Berryessa Revitalization

Napa County is close to signing a 55-year agreement that would let it try to jumpstart the long-stalled Lake Berryessa resort revival starting next year. "We're not going to celebrate until we sign on the dotted line, which is close," Supervisor Alfredo Pedroza said. "I think every time we drive by the lake, we all get excited about the potential of what it could become,"

If all goes as county officials hope, the Board of Supervisors could vote on an agreement with the Bureau in January or February.

Lake Berryessa has seven resorts on federal land. The Bureau of Reclamation a decade ago razed five resorts and has unsuccessfully sought concessionaires to redevelop them. Napa County could try to succeed where the Bureau has failed. It would try to find concessionaires to build marinas, restaurants, stores and other amenities at three of those five resorts, with an option to take on the remaining two at a later date.

Reaching an agreement with the Bureau has proven difficult, with supervisors in May expressing disappointment with the terms being offered. Supervisors Pedroza and Dillon traveled to Washington, D.C and met with Bureau staff to try to work things out.

The County had previously entered into an MOU with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to discuss whether the County should assume management of one or more

concession areas and determine development interest.

The County is currently in discussions with the BOR regarding how to share the cost and risk of possible concession management as well as how to best manage and develop the Lake Berryessa area. According to Supervisor Ryan Gregory, "Although there is still much work to do, I'm excited to report that many of the proposed terms under the Managing Partner Agreement (MPA) with the BOR have been resolved, including the 55-year term expected to begin November 1, 2020.

Staff anticipates returning to the Board in January/February 2020 with the MPA for consideration and releasing a Request for Proposal in April/May 2020 for concessionaires at Steele Canyon, Spanish Flat, and Monticello Shores (Rancho Monticello). Several previous bid proposals and detailed plans are available to re-use. (See diagrams in this issue.)

County officials have also wanted the Bureau to share in the losses in the initial years of an agreement, before resorts are built and begin generating revenue. County expenses would include such things as management staff and Sheriff's law enforcement at a busier lake. The Bureau proposes to make available \$1 million over five years.

After ten years of devastation and delay, people often forget what a wonderful place this was, especially for Berryessa Highlands and Spanish Flat residents.



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For those of us who are not religionists, the rules of moral and ethical human conduct are a bit more complicated than for those who may try to follow the Ten Commandments. Humanism is an alternative view of how to do the right thing - the Golden Rule.

Some people declare humanism to be a religion, a life stance, or a worldview, while others profess it to be a progressive philosophy, an ethical perspective, or a belief system. Usually, an array of principles is provided as a list of what's key to humanists—affirming human worth and dignity, reason, compassion, morality, ethics, democracy, scientific inquiry, naturalism, and critical thinking with no adherence or affirmation of a divine creator or other supernatural force.

Without a definitive set of beliefs, dogma, or scripture, humanism appears nebulous, which is the main reason the American Humanist Association has developed the Ten Commitments.

Whereas the Ten Commandments of the Hebrew Bible are a set of strict rules dictated by God, the Ten Commitments stand on their own as humanist values to maintain and strive to practice daily.

They propose we put our values into action to work towards positively impacting our communities and society. In their simplicity, the Ten Commitments ultimately define what we are about and what we stand for.

The Ten Commitments are less about absolutes and serve more as a guide to putting beliefs into action. They hold people accountable to their values. They ask non-religionists to be proactive versus reactive. They demonstrate that following humanist principles involves doing what is inherently right to ensure the well being of everyone and everything in this world.



The Ten Commitments

Critical Thinking

As we are each bombarded with a constant stream of information, it can become challenging to decide what is accurate and true. Thinking critically allows us to make sense of all this information and reason our way to good judgments and effective solutions to the problems we face while rigorously avoiding pitfalls like rationalization, conformity, and stereotyping.

This process forms the basis of the scientific method, which opens the door for new discoveries through hypothesizing and experimenting. Critical thinking is a skill that requires continued attention, practice, and reflection. Exercising our minds to build these skills enables us to challenge biases in ourselves and in others, paving the way for a fair, open-minded, and autonomous perspective that fosters a multicultural worldview.

Ethical Development

The key to understanding ethical development is acknowledging that nobody is perfect or has all the answers. Ethical development is a never-ending process that requires constant reflection and evaluation of our personal choices

and the consequences they have on others. Fairness, cooperation, and sharing are among the first moral issues we encounter in our ethical development as human beings and are often embraced intuitively, but each new day carries with it new challenges and new moral dilemmas. We should continually adapt and rebuild our moral frameworks with the goal of becoming better humans.

Peace and Social Justice

True peace involves an intense commitment to social justice and affirms the human rights and personal autonomy of all people. Any level of injustice against groups or individuals signifies existing conflict, even if the conflict isn't immediate or obvious. We attain peace only by consistently responding to injustice through thoughtful conflict resolution that aims to repair harms and ensure a fair and equitable society moving forward.

Service and Participation

Service and participation means putting values into action in ways that positively impact our communities and society as a whole. It fosters helping others, increasing social awareness, enhancing accountability, and many attributes of the other nine commitments. Engaging in service doesn't just make the recipients better off, but those who serve can develop new skills, experiences, and personal satisfaction that all promote personal growth. We must all recognize that we are members of a group, and engaging in service to benefit the group and the other individuals in it makes us better off.

Empathy

Empathy means entering imaginatively into another's situation in an attempt to understand their experience as though we are experiencing it ourselves. Empathy requires a person to step outside of their own perspective to consider someone else's thoughts, feelings, or circumstance from that person's point of view. In many ways, empathy is the first step to ethical behavior as it allows us to respond compassionately to the suffering of others and exercise good judgement when our actions may affect someone else. Understanding another's perspective is not only critical to building better relationships, but also makes us better citizens in our local and global communities. Empathy promotes tolerance, consideration, and compassion among us all.

Humility

Humility means displaying modesty about accomplishments, talents, gifts, or importance of self. It acknowledges we humans are fallible and have limitations in what we know and can do. Being humble isn't about having low self-esteem or denigrating oneself. Humility at its core is robust self-awareness—awareness of our strengths and weaknesses, our faults and our merits. Humility involves setting aside personal pride and overcoming our egos to embrace gratitude for what you have and appreciate others for who they are.

Environmentalism

Regardless of our individual identities, we all share the same home: planet Earth. Just as we depend on the planet to sustain us with its precious resources, this planet's ecosystems depend on us to be good stewards and take responsibility for the impact human activity has on our shared planet. Disregard for the large-scale impacts humans have on our environment has caused extensive harm to earth's ecosystems. Despite this, humanity is also capable of positive environmental change that values the interdependence of all life on this planet.

Update on Aetna Springs

Historic, deteriorating Aetna Springs resort in rural, remote Pope Valley got a new owner last year with the stated goal of creating a world-class luxury destination. In December, 2018 Alchemy Resorts bought 3,100 acres that included the 700-acre Aetna Springs property and 2,400 nearby acres.

Alchemy bought Aetna Springs for \$22 million from the Dallas Police and Fire Department Pension Fund, which took a huge loss. They had bought it for \$110 million in 2006 before the county denied plans to develop part of the property, formerly a portion of Juliana Vineyards, into 16 luxury homes around Lake Luciana and a vineyard.

David Wickline, owner of Alchemy Resorts, said he has planning permits that allow for 70 guest rooms and a couple dozen glamping tents, a small winery and 16 residential estate lots on the Aetna property. He does not plan to reopen a golf course there that closed in January. The plan is to “restore the historic property to its original grandeur through the development of a world-class luxury resort that showcases Napa’s food and wine combined with leading wellness programs,” the press release stated.

Napa County Traffic Trivia

What out-of-county city generates the most trips into Napa County during an average morning rush hour?

Vallejo is the leader, generating 3,500 peak morning rush hour trips, according to the Napa Valley Transportation Authority's updated Travel Behavior Study. That far outstrips Fairfield at 2,243, the Santa Rosa area at 1,837 and Vacaville at 1,217.

What are the top five counties coming into Napa County on a daily basis?

Solano County generates 28,900 trips or 55 percent, Sonoma County 9,900 trips or 19 percent, Contra Costa County 4,300 trips or 8 percent, Alameda County at 2,000 trips or 4 percent and Sacramento County at 1,700 trips or 3 percent.

What highway is entirely within Napa County?

Highway 221. It links Imola Avenue in the city of Napa with Highway 29 at Soscol Ferry Road near the Grapecrusher statue, running by Napa State Hospital and Napa Valley College along the way. This highway once was Highway 29. Then California opened the present-day Highway 29/Highway 12 “Southern Crossing” route in 1981 that traverses the Napa River on the Butler Bridge. The discarded Highway 29 route between Soscol Ferry Road and Imola Avenue became Highway 221.

What is the “other” Highway 221?

California in 1970 considered building a Highway 221 that would have started around Trancas Street near Silverado Trail and crossed the valley at Oak Knoll Avenue to join Highway 29 between the city of Napa and Yountville. The idea of losing vineyards to another car-carrying swathe of asphalt through the heart of the agricultural preserve didn't play well. The county Board of Supervisors told state planners to forget about it.

Onion Headlines

Jokes About '2020 Vision' Set To Skyrocket, Analysts Predict

Child Decides To Become Vegetarian After Forming Close Friendship With Roasted Turkey Leg

Christmas Conversation Devolves Into Just Stating Things Dog Is Currently Doing

‘Just Be Honest If This Looks Good,’ Girlfriend Wearing New Big Bird Outfit Asks Panicking Boyfriend

Computer Not Looking Forward To Having To Replace Man's Repetitive, Mindless Job

White House To Require Oath of Office For Staff "To Preserve, Protect And Defend The President From All Enemies, Journalistic, Executive, Legislative And Judicial"

‘I Could Spare Some Change,’ Says Man About To Become Buttigieg Campaign’s Top Black Donor

DNC Server Celebrates Escape From U.S. Jurisdiction Surrounded By Bikini-Clad Women On Yacht In Black Sea

Groundbreaking Chef Transforms Culinary World With Choice To Use Fresh, High-Quality Ingredients

Fox Preempts Jets-Redskins Game In First Quarter For More Exciting Shot Of Empty ‘NFL Sunday’ Studio

Case Tossed By Supreme Court Injures Unsuspecting Man Outside The Building

Forecasters Predict That Next Year, Instead Of Turkey On Thanksgiving, Americans Will Have A Lame Duck

American politics in review: Competent Evil vs. Comic Ineptitude

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6 Corporations ARE NOT People. Stupid! Repeal Citizens United

by Peter Kilkus

The 1880s and 1890s were the days of men such as John D. Rockefeller, J. Pierpont Morgan, Andrew Carnegie, James Mellon, and Cornelius Vanderbilt. Wealth begat wealth as corporations took advantage of government disarray to buy tariff, banking, railroad, labor, and public lands legislation that would further enrich them. Citizen groups committed to maintaining corporate accountability continued to battle corporate abuse at state levels, and both courts and state legislatures revoked corporate charters.

Gradually, however, corporations gained sufficient control over key state legislative bodies to virtually rewrite the laws governing their own creation. They limited the liability of corporate owners and managers and issued charters in perpetuity. Corporations soon had the right to operate in any fashion not explicitly prohibited by law.

Step-by-step, the court system put in place new precedents that made the protection of corporations and corporate property a centerpiece of constitutional law. Judges sympathetic to corporate interests ruled that workers were responsible for causing their own injuries on the job, limited the liability of corporations for damages they might cause, and declared wage and hours laws unconstitutional.

In 1886, in a stunning victory for the proponents of corporate sovereignty, the Supreme Court ruled in Santa Clara County V. Southern Pacific Railroad that a private corporation is a natural person under the U.S. Constitution - although, as noted above, the Constitution makes no mention of corporations - and is thereby entitled to the protections of the Bill of Rights, including the right to free speech and other constitutional protections extended to individuals.

Thus corporations finally claimed the full rights enjoyed by individual citizens while being exempted from many of the responsibilities and liabilities of citizenship. The subsequent claim by

corporations that they have the same right as any individual to influence the government in their own interest pits the individual citizen against the vast financial and communications resources of the corporation and mocks the constitutional intent that all citizens have an equal voice in the political debates surrounding important issues.

Markets and politics are both about governance, power, and the allocation of society's resources. But the political reality is that in a political democracy, each person gets one vote. In the market, one dollar is one vote, and you get as many votes as you have dollars.



No dollar, no vote.

Behind its carefully crafted public-relations image and the many fine and ethical people it may employ, the body of a corporation is its corporate charter, a legal document, and money is its blood. It is at its core an alien entity with one goal: to reproduce money to nourish and replicate itself. Individuals are dispensable. It owes only one true allegiance: to the financial markets, which are more totally creatures of money than even the corporation itself.

The marvel of the corporation as a social innovation is that it has the ability to bring together thousands of people within a single structure and compel them to act in concert in accordance with a corporate purpose that is not necessarily their own. Those who revolt or fail to comply are expelled and replaced by others who are more compliant.

The contemporary corporation increasingly exists as an entity apart - even from the people who compose it. Every member of the corporate class, no matter how powerful his or her position within the corporation, has become expendable - as growing numbers of top executives are learning. As corporations gain in autonomous institutional power and become more detached from people and place, the human interest and the corporate interest increasingly diverge. It is almost as though we were being invaded by alien beings intent on colonizing our planet, reducing us to serfs, and then excluding as many of us as possible.

Citizens United: Perversion of Democracy - One Dollar, One Vote!

The Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, the court opened the campaign spending floodgates. The justices' ruling said political spending is protected under the First Amendment, meaning corporations and unions could spend unlimited amounts of money on political activities...Disembodied corporations were now transformed into real people.

In his opposing argument, Supreme Court Justice Stevens statement is still relevant 10 years later:

"...corporations have no consciences, no beliefs, no feelings, no thoughts, no desires. Corporations help structure and facilitate the activities of human beings, to be sure, and their 'personhood' often serves as a useful legal fiction. But they are not themselves members of 'We the People'"

by whom and for whom our Constitution was established."

Corporation Runs for Congress Based on Citizens United (True)

"Murray Hill Inc. for Congress" was ready to hit the campaign trail running, armed with a dynamic strategy and catchy campaign slogans like "Corporations are People Too," "Privatize Gain...Socialize Risk," and the surefire vote-getter, "The People Should Always Come 2nd or 3rd." Murray Hill Inc., the first American corporation to openly run for Congress (as opposed to the more traditional "candidate-as-corporateproxy" model) has had its hopes of corporate candidacy dashed by the Maryland State Board of Elections...on a technicality.

According to its advertising, Murray Hill, a public-relations firm, is usinf a recent Supreme Court ruling that granted corporations full first-amendment political rights as people, to create "the best democracy money can buy."

Even though Murray Hill Inc. did have a "DesignatedHuman"(DH) representative, the Board rejected the corporation's application on the groundsthat it was "not a human being."

Despite the Supreme Court's controversial 5-4 ruling in the "Citizens United" case, which removed longstanding restrictions on political activism by companies, these bids for office still face significant obstacles—not least the requirement that candidates in Maryland be at least 18 years old. Murray Hill is just five.

It would become the first elected official truly available to constituents 24 hours a day, seven days aweek. Nor is it alone: according to the Washington Post, a firm called Computer Umbrella is now running for Congress in Virginia. Many legal scholars, as opposed to corporate lobbyists, are shocked that the Supreme Court ruled that Congress cannot limit the rights of corporations that are invented by man and controlled by man. To endow those legal fictions with the same natural rights as living, human beings is absurd. To claim the U.S. Constitution as the basis for that ruling is an outright fabrication.

The Ten Corporations (Continued from Page 2) Responsibility

Every day, each of us makes choices. These choices, large and small, all have consequences—for ourselves and for the world around us. Moral responsibility involves taking conscious ownership of one's intentions and actions, and being accountable for the resulting consequences. Although we all live in a society with various cultural values, expectations, codes of conduct, and social mores, ultimately we all decide for ourselves what is right and wrong. Being a responsible person involves steadfast attention to what is right and willfully bearing the blame or praise for our own actions.

Altruism

Altruism is the selfless concern for the welfare of other living beings without expectation of reward, recognition, or return. The collective welfare of our communities and society depends on the welfare of each individual person. We should always seek to alleviate the suffering and hardships of others with compassionate action. By caring for others around us and lifting each other up, we reinforce healthy connections and contribute to the betterment of our community, society, and the world.

Global Awareness

We live in a world that is rich in cultural, social, and individual diversity—a world with rapidly increasing interdependence. As a result, events anywhere are more likely to have consequences everywhere. Global awareness broadens our knowledge of cultures and perspectives that are outside of our own experience. A true global awareness includes attention to both current and historical events, and acknowledges how we affect—and how we are affected by—the interconnected social, political, and economic systems in which we reside. The end-goal of global awareness is global citizenship, which recognizes our personal responsibility to foster a healthy and dignified life for everyone in our global community.



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December 2019 Horoscopes

Aquarius (1/20-2/18): The powers that be are in fact watching you at all hours and tracking your every move, but only because they're hoping you'll slip on the ice and drop your groceries.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): You will realize too late that an absolute monarch is still in thrall to the needs of his subjects when your hamsters start starving to death.

Aries (3/21-4/19): Earth and Water magics are very strong in your sign this week, indicating that this is a good time to do mud-related activities.

Taurus (4/20 – 5/20): After years of work hard work in Pope Valley, you will be asked to submit your paper, "There Is Nothing Like A Good Plate Of Bacon And Eggs," by Phil Burton to the philosophy department at the University of Lake Berryessaa.

Gemini (5/21 – 6/21): An angel will appear to you in glory and foretell that you shall have happiness, peace, and the riches of the world, which would be better if he didn't keep getting your name wrong.

Cancer (6/22-7/22): Everyone will think you're just making a hilarious reference, undermining your efforts to warn everyone that the alien manifesto is, in fact, actually a cookbook.

Leo (7/23-8/22): Don't worry: They're not laughing at your repeated and costly failures. They're laughing with your repeated and costly failures.

Virgo (8/23-9/22): Most women are attracted to power and status, but then the stars don't need to tell you that, Mr. General Manager of the Lake Berryessa Baskin-Robbins.

Libra (9/23-10/22): The presence of Jupiter in your fourth house indicates newfound personal maturity. The presence of empty pizza boxes in your first apartment, however, suggests otherwise.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): There's nothing harder in the world than losing a child, especially when wagering with a full house - or triple 8s.

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): It will be born with 10 perfect little fingers and 10 perfect little toes, much to the horror of everyone at the reptile breeding center.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): You'll soon have the opportunity to reflect on all the crucial moments of your youth when a chunk of flying rebar erases all your memories after age 12.

3

By Gary Howes (Berryessa Pines)

This article was originally written in 2018 after the Atlas Fire, for my blog on GunsmithUSA.com. Although the rains have finally come to Lake Berryessa this year and fire season is over, the information is still relevant today. Maybe you might get some ideas on preparing for the next fire season. (And there will most likely be another one!)

Well, we have survived what has probably been the worst set of wildfires in California history—over 214,000 acres burned along with over 5,700 houses and businesses destroyed and the tragic loss of at least 40 lives at this time. And as I write this, some areas are still burning.

We were very lucky here at Lake Berryessa with only two homes burned that I am aware of, but it was a tough week with choking smoke, closed roads, no electricity for 6 days, mandatory evacuations in some areas, and all of the stress that goes along with that.

Now it is time to take stock and reflect on what happened, including any lessons learned. Here are a few of my thoughts, plus some more from a local retired firefighter. Remember that these ideas are also mostly applicable to your preparations for ANY natural disaster—floods, storms, hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes and more.

HAVE A PLAN

We were woken up by deputy sheriffs at 11:30 at night and told that we needed to evacuate. Because my wife and I had already had this discussion, we knew exactly what we needed to grab and were able to be packed into our cars and out of the area in less than 30 minutes. You do NOT want to be trying to figure this out at the time and when you are half asleep. Things you need to pack include people, pets, paperwork (including insurance details), prescriptions, cash and some clothing. If you have the time and space to pack anything else that is a bonus.

When it comes to firearms, many of us have an extensive collection so decide now which ones you would be able to take along and how much ammo to take as well. If you can't take them all, you need a good fire rated safe that may protect them if the fire is not too intense.

You should also discuss with your family where you could meet up in case you are not all together at the time of evacuation.

COMMUNICATION

One of the worst feelings is not knowing what is going on. Phone lines and cell phone towers are destroyed, electricity outages means no TV news. Keep a battery or crank powered radio in your house so you can at least listen to news reports, and consider if walkie-talkies might be good in your situation, or even a satellite-based device such as the In-Reach unit that I have discussed her before.

THINGS TO HAVE IN YOUR PREP EQUIPMENT

By far the best thing we had in this fire was a small generator. You don't necessarily need one big enough to run your entire house—ours is a 2,000 watt Honda, which is quiet enough to not be annoying and enough output to keep a refrigerator, a freezer, a couple of lights and even the TV running (but not all at the same time). Of course you also need fuel for your generator. We ran ours for about 12 hours a day and it used close to 1-1/2 gallons each day. Plan on storing at least 10 gallons in approved containers.

One thing we did not have, and now have stocked up on, are good quality N95 particle masks.

Having a supply of clean water and freeze-dried food has always been a part of my preparation plan. As it was, we did have limited access to a small market about 15 miles away, so food was not an issue. But our small water district got very close to running dry the last day before power came back on. Fortunately I live next to a large lake and have a good water filtration system so I knew I would not get too thirsty, but after 6 days I was starting to get a little ripe.

Lastly make sure you have a number of flashlights (LED lights last the longest) and a supply of batteries. Have one light for every person and make sure they understand that is THEIR light and they are responsible for knowing where it is at all times.

ADVICE FROM A PROFESSIONAL

Lastly, following is a list of things to remember from a local retired firefighter. Great advice from someone who knows their stuff!

Simple Preparations for Wild Land Fires

Know your evacuations routes, at least two different directions in case you can't evacuate as planned.

Back your vehicles in the driveway for fast use under limited visibility conditions. Park extra vehicles at the curb to keep them from being exposures from your home or visa versa.

If you have ladders that can reach your roof deploy them at opposite ends of your home. This will allow quick access to you roof if embers are blown on your roof.

Flying embers ignite most homes, they will exploit weaknesses of your home. Remove combustible debris on roof/gutters, roof vents, wood stacks and fences.

If you are trapped by the fire, based on individual circumstance, it is usually best to remain inside a structure as it will typically burn slower that the vegetation around the build. Allowing you to escape after the main body of the fire has passed.

It is less desirable to remain in your vehicle and worse yet to be exposed without cover at all. This can change based on your distance from fuels, wind strength/direction and slope.

In the event you are trapped by the fire call 911 and be able to provide them with your exact location and situation. Tell them "YOU ARE TRAPPED".

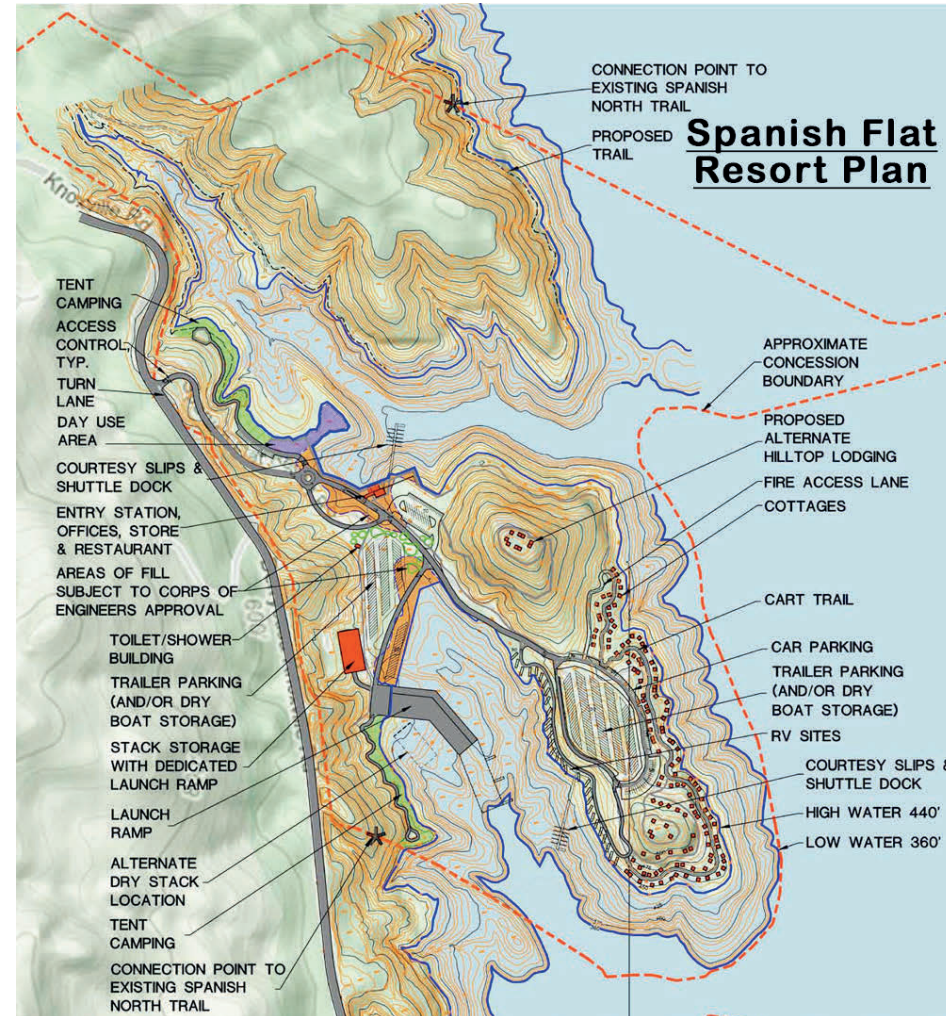
As the fire approaches it will become dark and visibility will drastically decrease due to smoke. Your eyes will burn from embers and blown debris, best to have goggles. The wind may drastically increase because of the fire conditions and it will become very loud.

Be prepared and expect this, remain calm. Think, plan then act. Don't drive your vehicle too fast for conditions, roll up windows, head lights on, put your air conditioner on recirculate.

Above all, don't wait till the last minute to leave. No house is worth your life. Prepare your clothes, medications, non-replaceable items, and pets/food early. Have them ready to go so you don't waste time when ordered to evacuate.

Sign up for Nixle alerts by texting your zip code to 888-777. Listen to your local radio with a battery powered radio.

The Lake is Rising!: Lake Level as of 12/5/19:
Lake Berryessa is now at 430.9 feet above msl (mean sea level) - 9.1 feet below Glory Hole. The lake has risen about 5 inches in the last 3 days. It usually takes about 3 inches of rain before the ground is saturated enough for new rain to run off into the lake. On average, once the ground is saturated, the lake rises about 7 inches per 1 inch of additional rainfall. The latest rainfall data shows that the official rainfall at Monticello Dam has reached 3.15 inches. The Lake Berryessa News weather station above the Berryessa Highlands shows a 3.56 inch rainfall total. Water temperature has dropped to a uniform 55 degrees from the surface to 70 feet.



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