

**From:** [Becky Boyle](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#)  
**Cc:** [GeneralPlan](#)  
**Subject:** So Co Gen. Plan  
**Date:** Thursday, August 7, 2025 5:30:36 PM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear SoCo Supervisors & SoCo General Plan,

We are writing to you today with an urgent request to address a critical public safety issue in west Sonoma County: the lack of adequate emergency egress routes, particularly along the Russian River corridor from the Laguna to the Sonoma Coast.

This issue is a matter of life and death, and we believe it requires your immediate attention and action.

Many of our local roads are narrow, steep and often serve as the sole point of travel in or out and In the event of a disaster. These roads quickly become impassable, leaving residents and first responders trapped.

In many cases, these routes have been obstructed with no public access across the width of a road's right-of-way. These actions effectively eliminate crucial escape paths for the public and emergency services.

For example: Terrace Drive. A locked gate has been erected across the road. This fence blocks a right-of-way; a vital alternate egress route for residents on Ogburn Court and Middle Terrace, connecting them to Woodside Drive via Ogburn Lane. Additionally, it is causing a direct and immediate hardship for an elderly couple living right next to it. It prevents them from using a ramp—required for the husband's mobility issues—to access their car and a portion of their own property. This is an unacceptable and dangerous situation that desperately needs your attention as this case screams of elder abuse.

We implore the Board of Supervisors and the Sonoma County General Plan to take swift action on this matter. We request that you:

Immediately address the situation on Terrace Drive in Forestville to restore access through the right-of-way.

Develop and implement a plan to identify, clear, and secure emergency egress routes throughout west Sonoma County, including those that have been blocked by private property owners.

Include clear language and enforceable policies in the General Plan that prevent the blocking of public rights-of-way and mandate the creation of alternative emergency egress routes.

The safety of our community cannot be compromised by private actions that block access to public rights-of-way. We urge you to act now before a disaster strikes.

This is just one of many examples, it serves as a starting place. Please care. Please show up.

Do not stand idly by while your constituents are abused, they need your help. We need you to show up and show them... show us... you care. We know you do, we just need to see actions vs 'talk'.... We need 'the walk' also.

Respectfully,  
Becky Boyle  
HCT COPE  
10825 Canyon Rd., Forestville

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**From:** [Cynthia Halliday](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [GeneralPlan](#)  
**Cc:** [Roberta MacIntyre](#); [Cyndi Foreman](#); [sheriff-outreach](#); [Amy](#); [Roxanne Ezzet](#); [samwallis@sonomacounty.gov](mailto:samwallis@sonomacounty.gov); [Nancy A. Brown](#); [Tracy.Lyons@sonomacounty.org](mailto:Tracy.Lyons@sonomacounty.org); [Hct Cope](#); [Fire Council](#); [Geoff Peters](#)  
**Subject:** Urgent request for Emergency and Safety needs of Elderly, disabled and many residents of West Sonoma County Russian River Corridor  
**Date:** Thursday, August 7, 2025 12:07:54 PM

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**EXTERNAL**

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Attachment available until Sep 6, 2025

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To the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and General Plan,  
We are aware of your upcoming meeting and want to make sure that our voices are heard regarding the urgent need for policy related to identifying and securing adequate emergency egress for all residents of Sonoma County. We call your attention to specific areas within the Russian River corridor. Please see attached letter regarding urgent need to address Emergency evacuation and Safety for the West County Residents of the Russian River.  
Please contact me with any questions or follow up needs.

Sincerely,

[Click to Download](#)

Letter to BOS and General Plan Emergency Egress: Private Property policy needed.pdf  
139.8 MB

Cynthia Halliday  
HCT COPE representative and Russian River Community Resident Cell # 707-321-6050

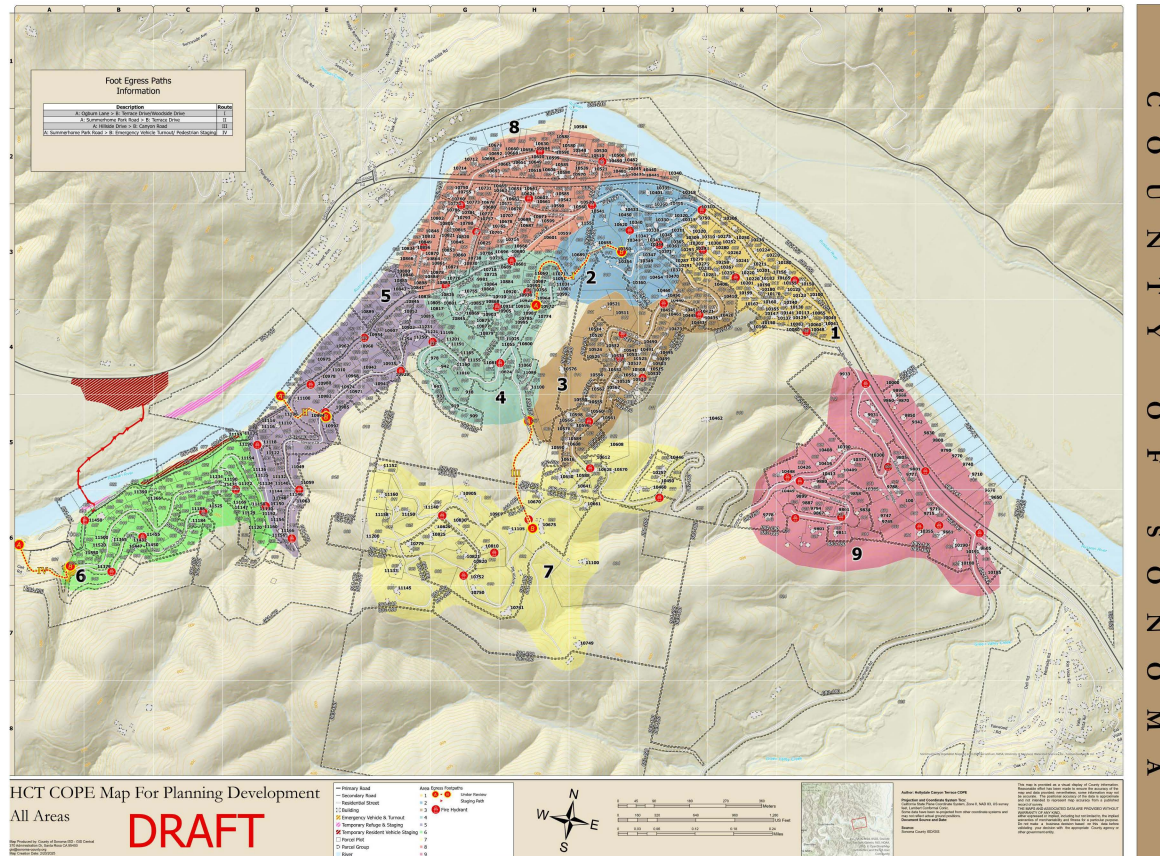
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To the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and Sonoma County General Plan,

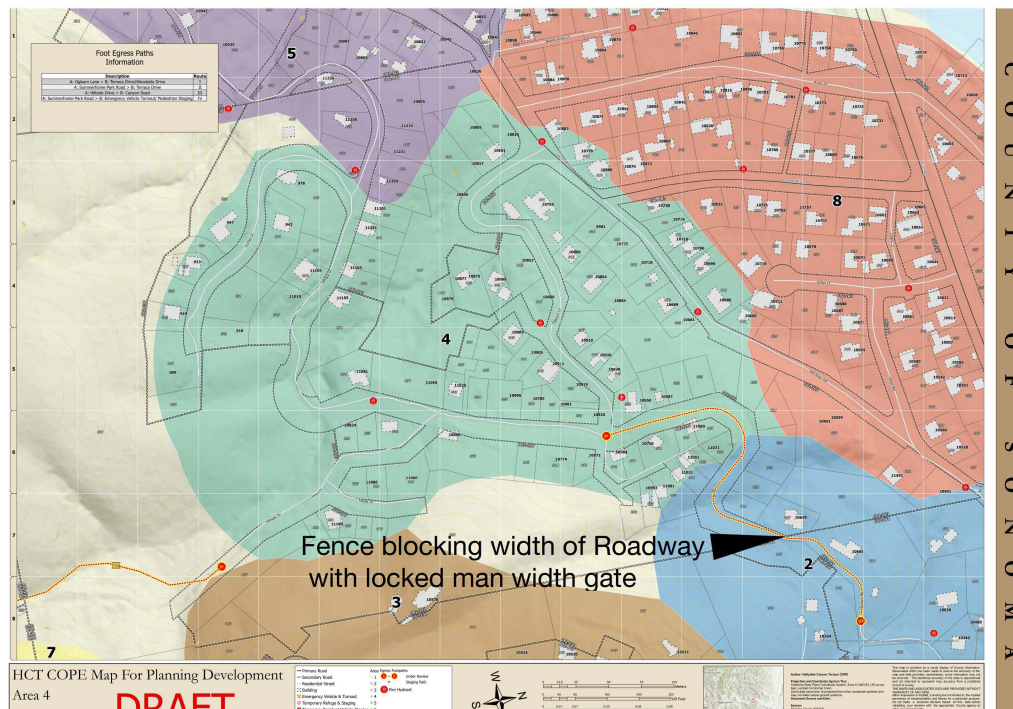
We are writing to you today with an urgent request to address a critical public safety issue in west Sonoma County: the lack of adequate emergency egress routes, particularly along the Russian River corridor from the Laguna to the Sonoma Coast. This issue is a matter of life and death, and we believe it requires your immediate attention and action.



HCT COPE Community of Neighborhoods #1-#9

Many of our local roads are narrow, steep, and often serve as the sole point of entry and exit for entire neighborhoods. In the event of a wildfire or other disaster, these roads would quickly become impassable, trapping residents and first responders. This situation is made even more dangerous by a pervasive issue that we are requesting the General Plan to address: **the blocking of potential alternative egress routes that cross over private property.**

In many cases, these routes have been obstructed either verbally by property owners, by physical gates with no public access, or by fences built directly across the width of a road's right-of-way. These actions effectively eliminate crucial escape paths for the public and emergency services.



Elderly safety and welfare danger and Ogburn to Woodside Alternate Emergency Egress concern area for immediate attention shown on HCT COPE Neighborhood Map Area #4 and #2

There is a pressing example of this on **Terrace Drive in Forestville** that demands immediate intervention. A fence with a locked, man-width gate has been erected across the full width of Terrace Drive. This fence blocks a right-of-way that could serve as a vital alternate egress route for residents on Ogburn Court and Middle Terrace, connecting them to Woodside Drive via Ogburn Lane.

Furthermore, this specific fence is causing a direct and immediate hardship for an elderly couple living right next to it. It prevents them from using a ramp—required for the husband's mobility issues—to access their car and a portion of their own property. This is an unacceptable and dangerous situation.

We implore the Board of Supervisors and the Sonoma County General Plan to take swift action on this matter.



We request that you:

1. **Immediately address the situation on Terrace Drive in Forestville** to restore access through the right-of-way.
2. **Develop and implement a plan** to identify, clear, and secure emergency egress routes throughout west Sonoma County, including those that have been blocked by private property owners.
3. **Include clear language and enforceable policies in the General Plan** that prevent the blocking of public rights-of-way and mandate the creation of alternative emergency egress routes.

The safety of our community cannot be compromised by private actions that block access to public rights-of-way. We urge you to act now before a disaster strikes.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Resident of West Sonoma County