



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Department of Public Works

1195 Third Street, Suite 101
Napa, CA 94559-3092
www.countyofnapa.org/publicworks

Main: (707) 253-4351
Fax: (707) 253-4627

Steven E. Lederer
Director

Date: October 7, 2020

Subject: Survey Monument Conservation during Property Cleanup and Rebuild Efforts

Many of the properties that sustained damage in the recent wildfires are in the process of having household hazardous waste, ash, and debris removed from the site. Once removed, rebuilding efforts will follow and each of these activities poses a potential risk to existing property corners or other survey monumentation.

Property owners and contractors alike need to be aware of the need to protect and preserve any survey monuments that remain in the affected neighborhoods. Preservation of these monuments benefit the property owners by facilitating the efforts of land surveyors that may be hired to retrace parcel boundaries or lay out proposed building locations, and is also a provision of State law.

Section 8771 of the Professional Land Surveyors Act states, in part:

"(c) A permanent monument shall be reset in the surface of the new construction or a witness monument or monuments set to perpetuate the location if any monument could be destroyed, damaged, covered, disturbed, or otherwise obliterated, and a corner record or record of survey shall be filed with the county surveyor prior to the recording of a certificate of completion for the project. Sufficient controlling monuments shall be retained or replaced in their original positions to enable property, right-of-way and easement lines, property corners, and subdivision and tract boundaries to be reestablished without devious surveys necessarily originating on monuments differing from those that currently control the area

(d) The governmental agency performing or permitting construction or maintenance work is responsible for ensuring that either the governmental agency or landowner performing the construction or maintenance work provides for monument perpetuation required by this section."

Lots within subdivisions may benefit from street monuments that should provide 'sufficient controlling monuments' as outlined in 8771(c), however much of the damage was sustained in rural areas where no such monumentation is available. The requirement to replace any destroyed property corners and to file the necessary Corner Record or Record of Survey remains regardless of the difficulty encountered. I am in contact with the County Surveyors of Sonoma, Lake, Yolo, and Solano counties, as well as impacted Cities, and local private surveyors to work towards a coordinated effort, but the urgency of this matter is such that I wanted to draw attention to it now. The Surveying Services division is available to provide research assistance of existing mapping records and you may contact me directly if there are any questions or concerns regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Danielle L. Goshert".

Danielle L. Goshert, PLS
County Surveyor



10/7/2020