

# Woolsey Fire

*(11/8/2018)*

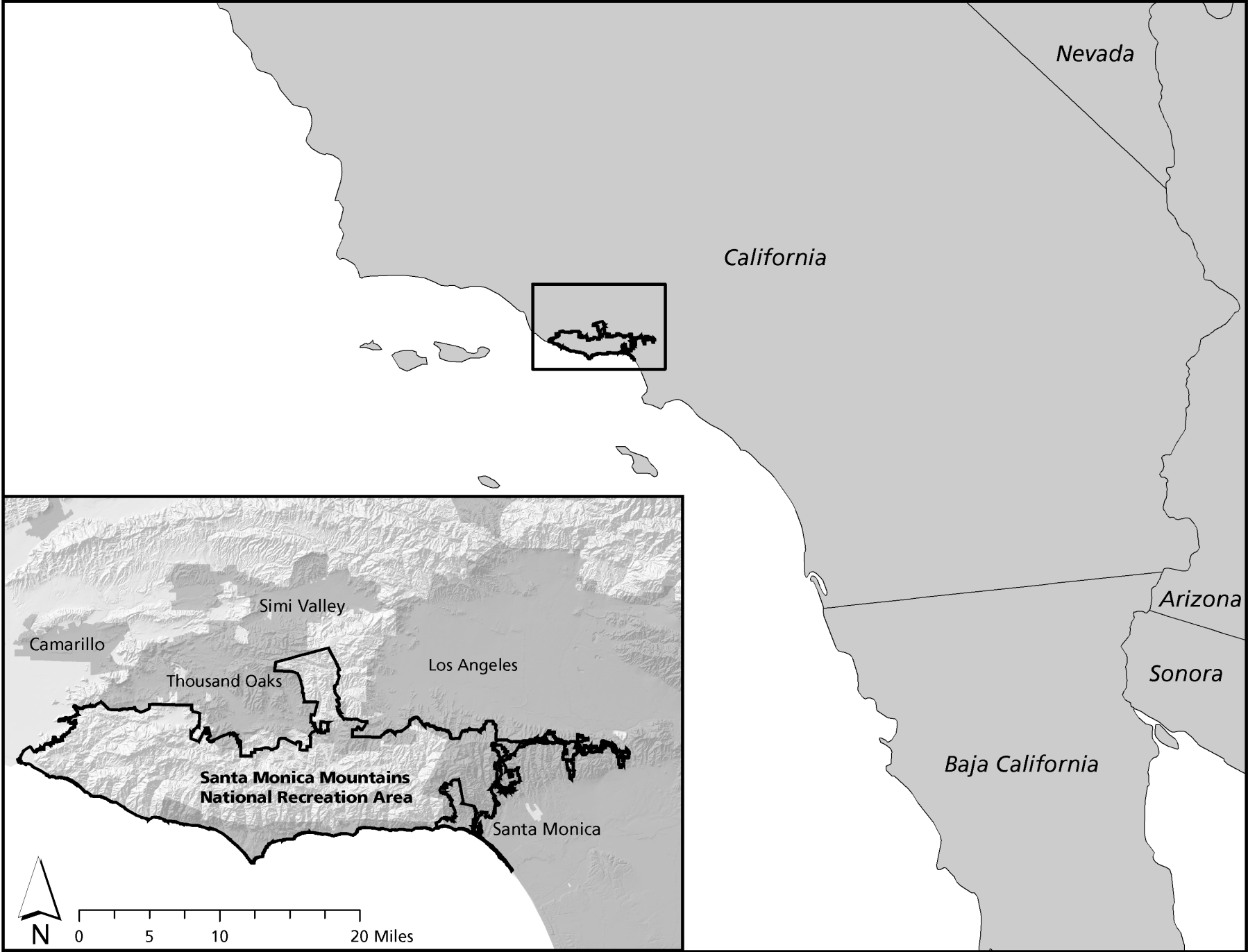


NPS Paramount Ranch, 11/9/2018 7:07AM

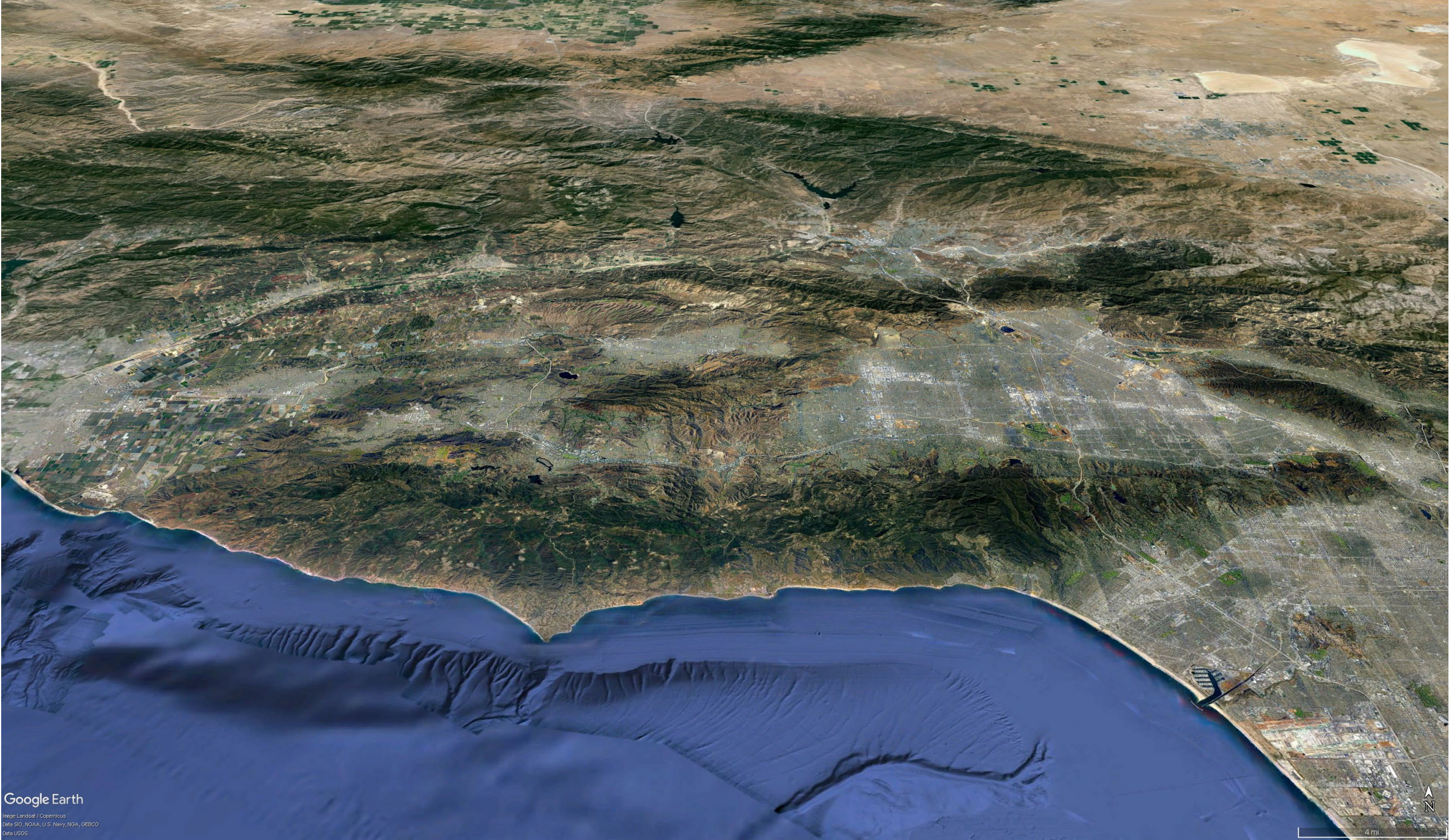
# Woolsey Fire facts

- Biggest Santa Monica Mountains fire in living memory.
- Started: 11/8/2018 1432hr
- Declared contained: 11/22/2018 (14 days later)
- Started on Boeing property, Santa Susanna Field Lab in the Simi Hills.
- Cause: sparks from SCE power line near Chatsworth Substation.
- IMT-reported area burned: 96,949 acres.
- 47% of the whole Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area burned.
- 87% of all NPS land in the area burned.

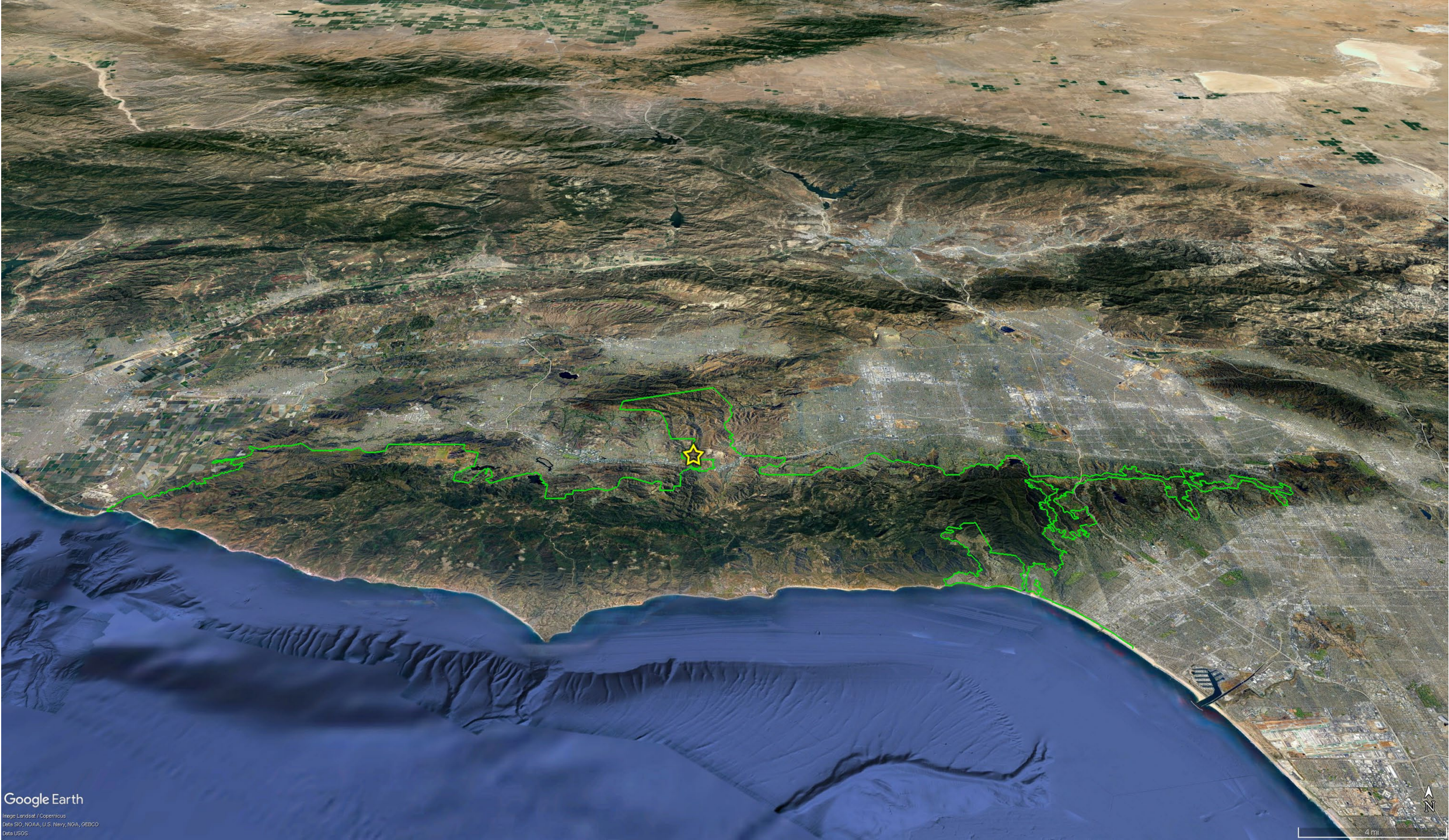
Santa Monica Mountains  
National Recreation Area



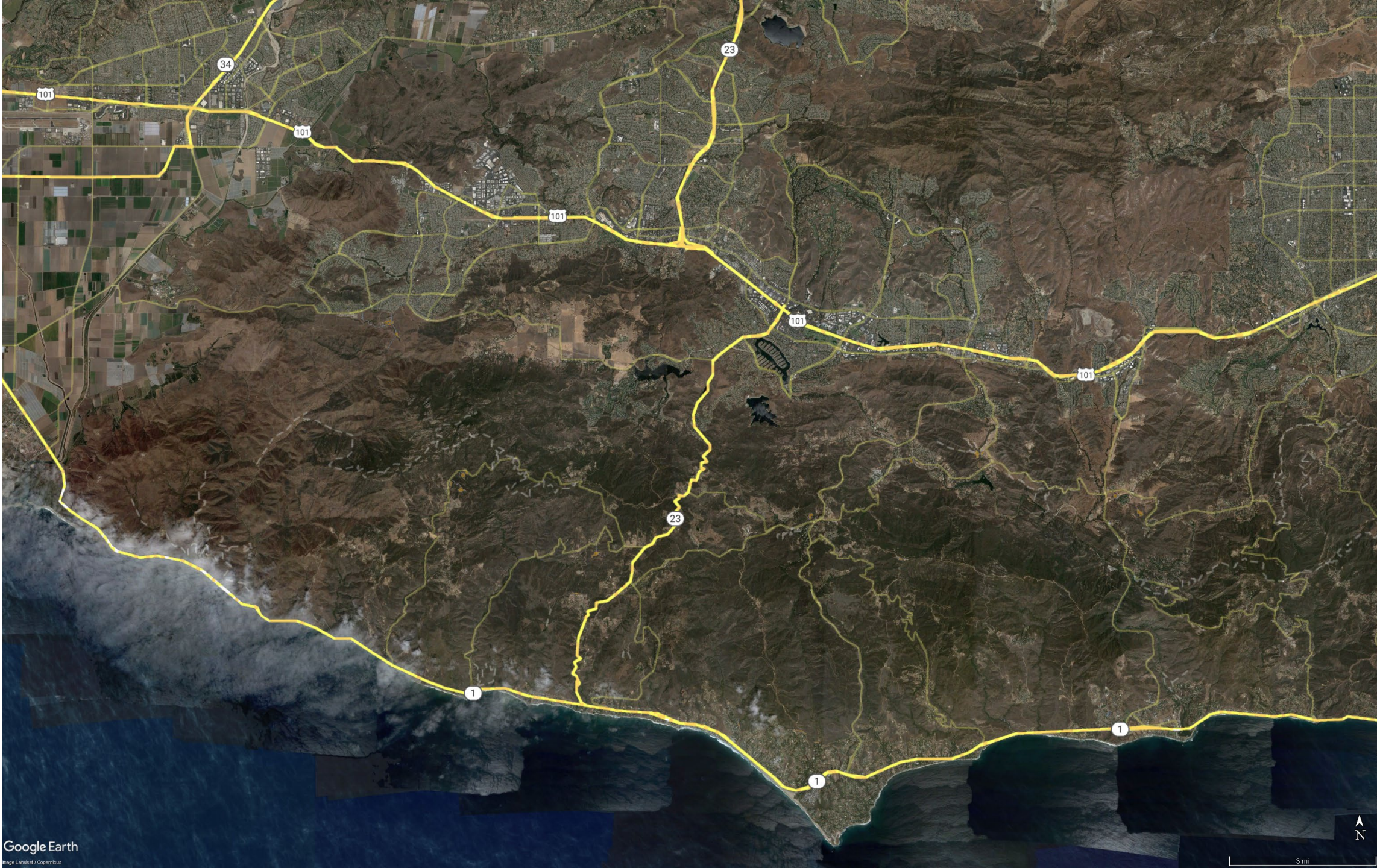














Hill Fire 2:03PM





Hill Fire 2:03PM





Hill Fire 2:03PM

Woolsey Fire  
2:24PM

11/8 2:24PM

Google Earth  
Image Landsat / Copernicus

N

3 mi



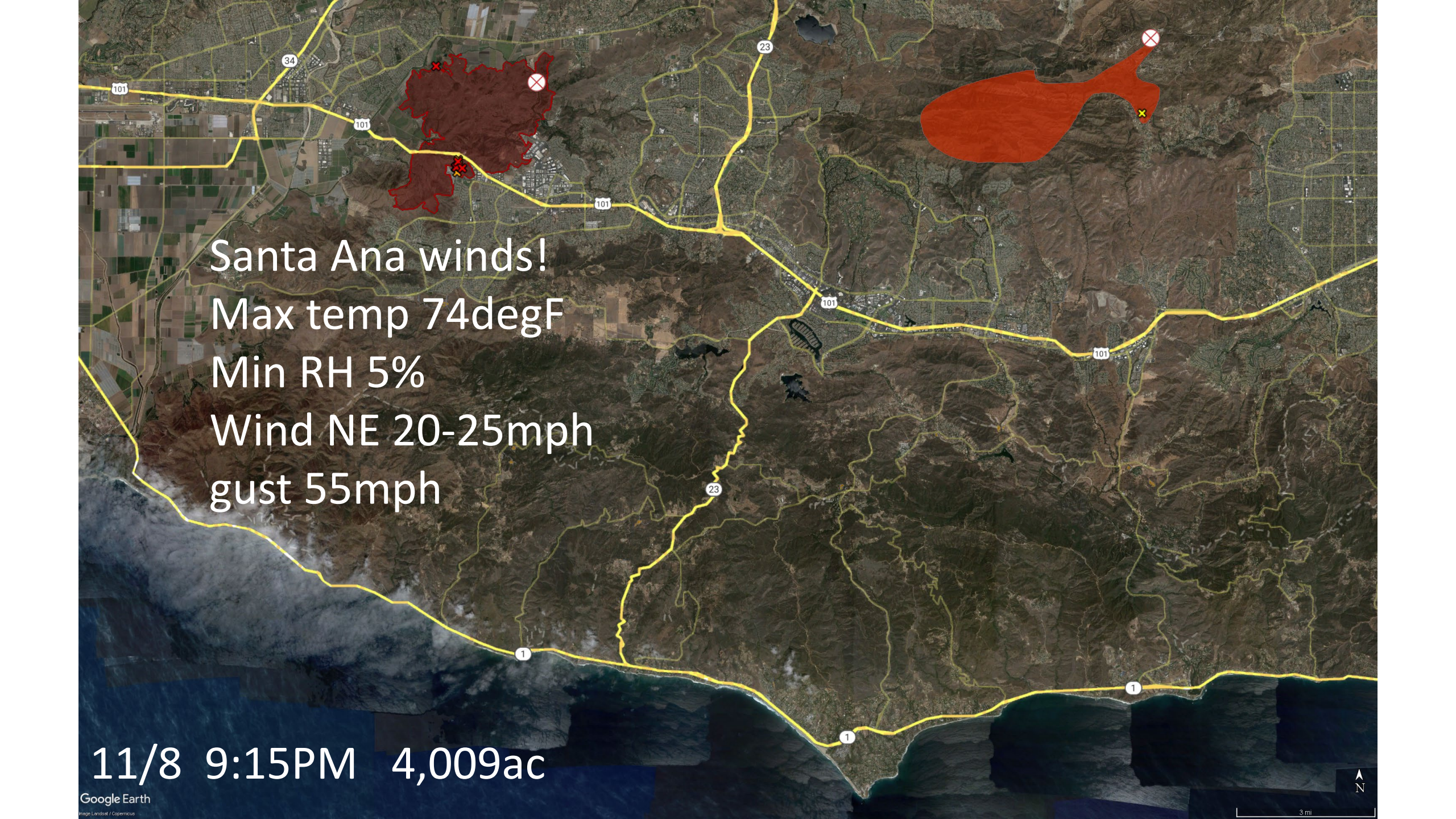




Woolsey Fire  
minutes after  
start.

Photo by Stu Mundel,  
KCBS and KCAL

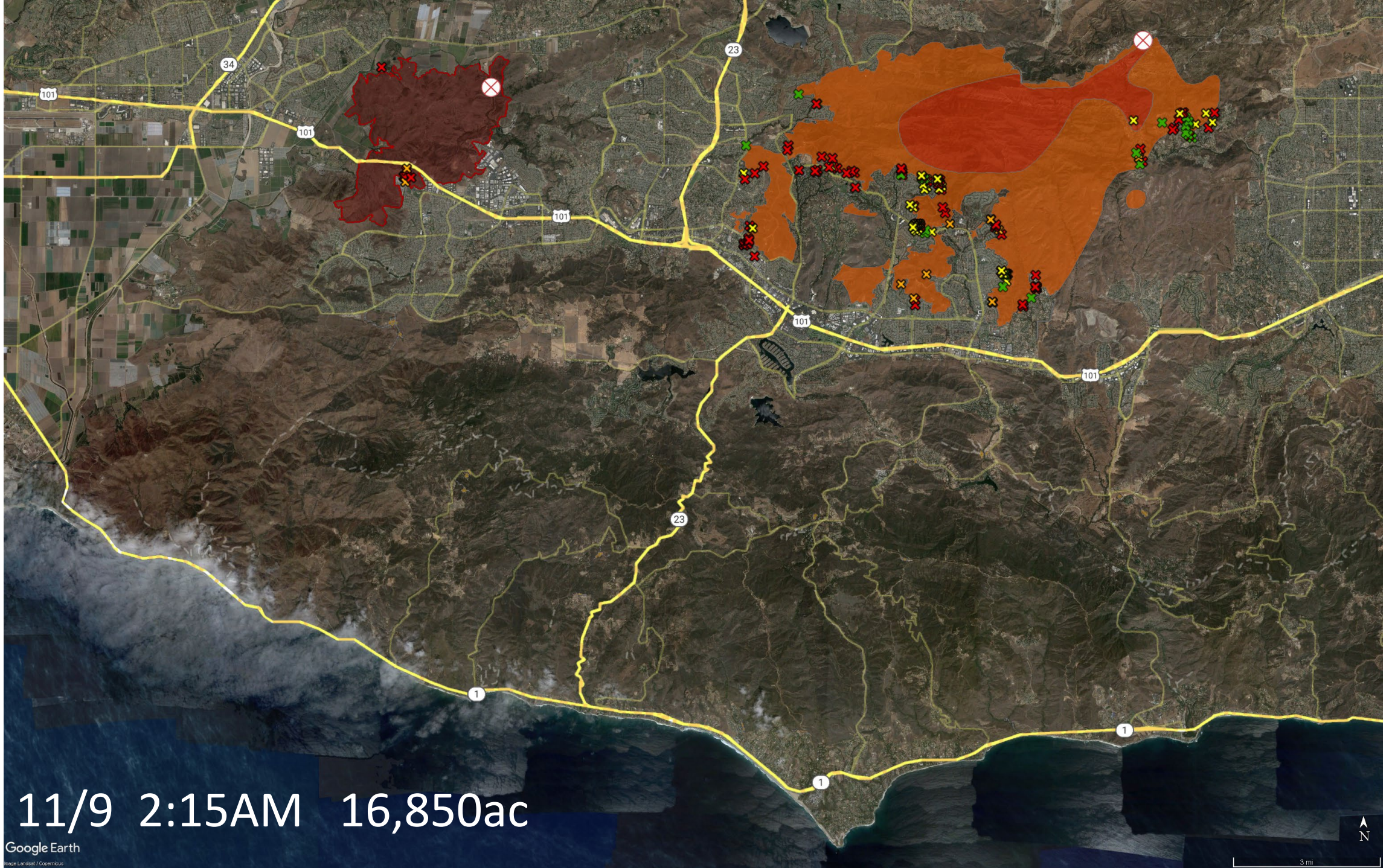




Santa Ana winds!  
Max temp 74degF  
Min RH 5%  
Wind NE 20-25mph  
gust 55mph

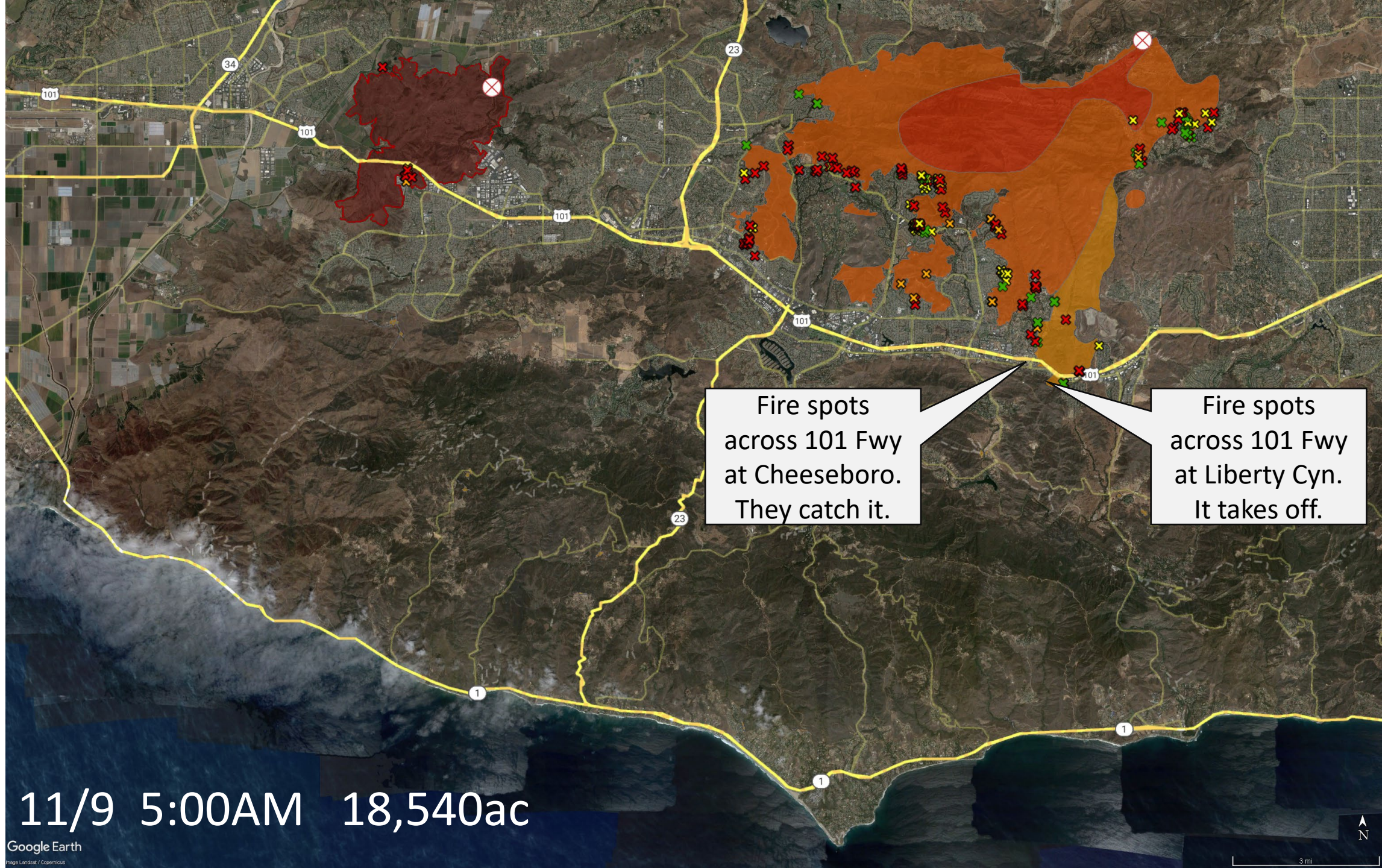
11/8 9:15PM 4,009ac





11/9 2:15AM 16,850ac





Fire spots  
across 101 Fwy  
at Cheeseboro.  
They catch it.

Fire spots  
across 101 Fwy  
at Liberty Cyn.  
It takes off.

11/9 5:00AM 18,540ac



Max temp 71degF  
Min RH 4%  
Wind NE 25-35mph  
gust 55mph

One person died  
fleeing fire on foot

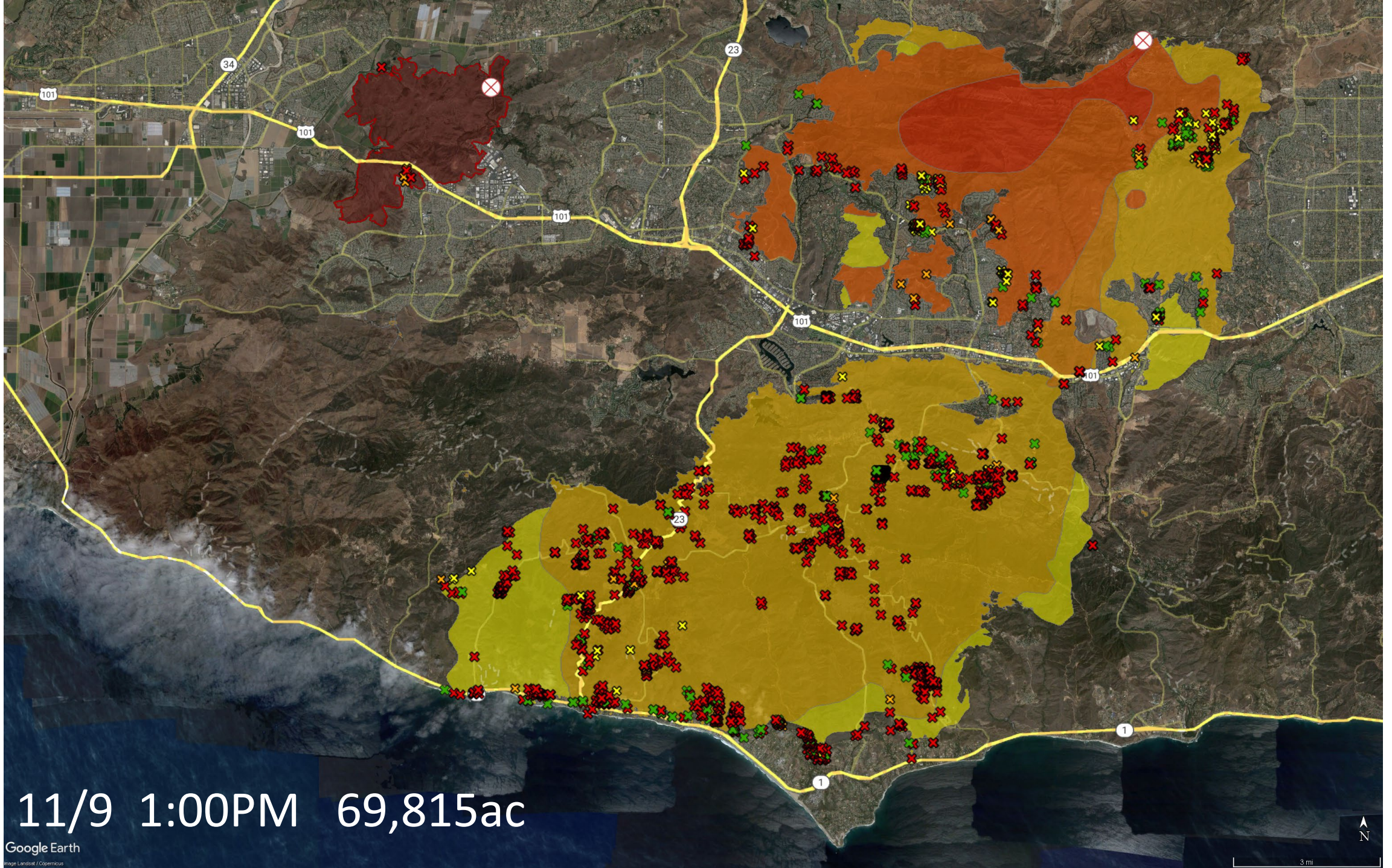
Two people  
died in vehicle

More spotfires  
across freeway  
escape control.

Fire reaches beach  
circa 11:30AM

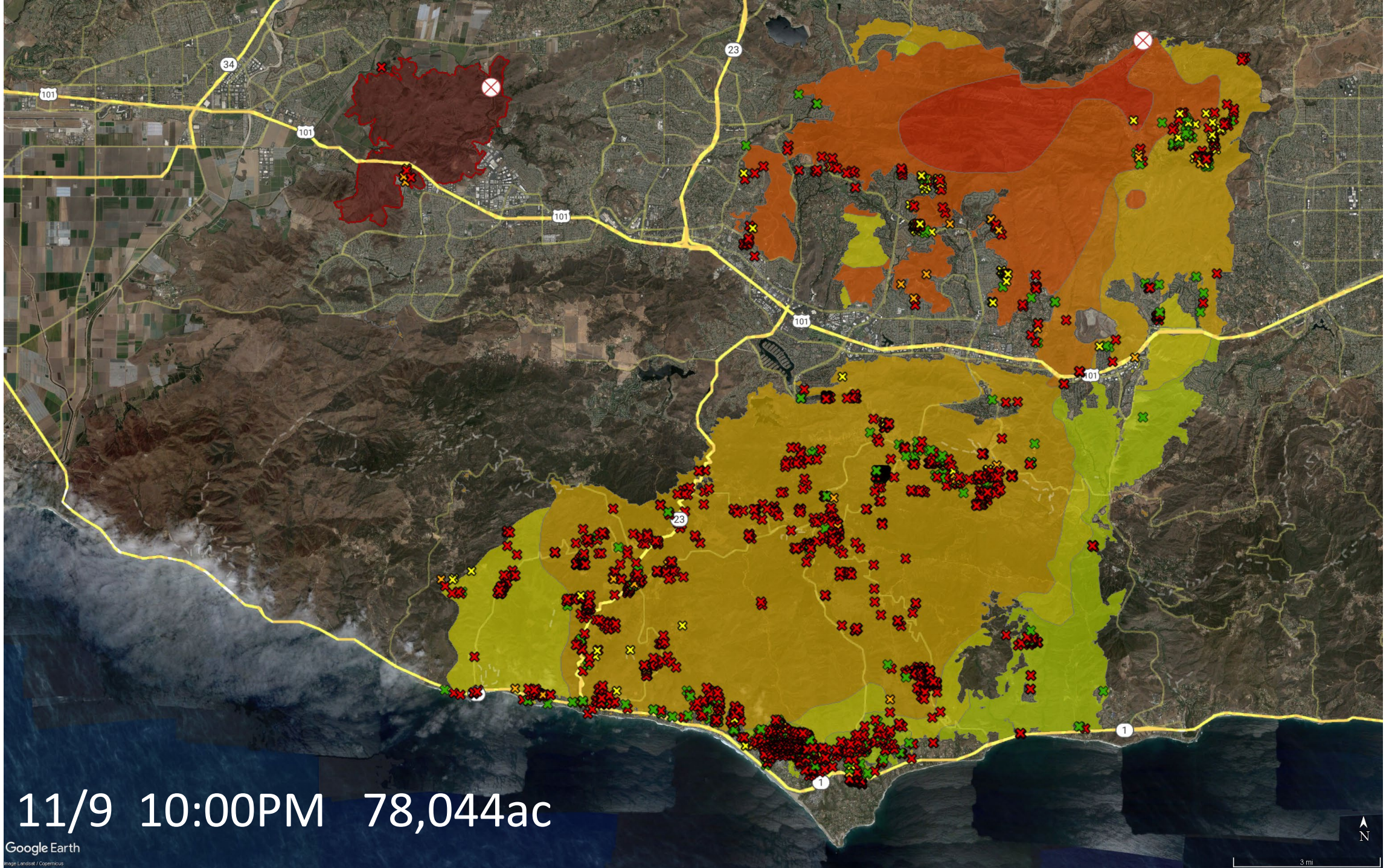
11/9 11:00AM 61,464ac





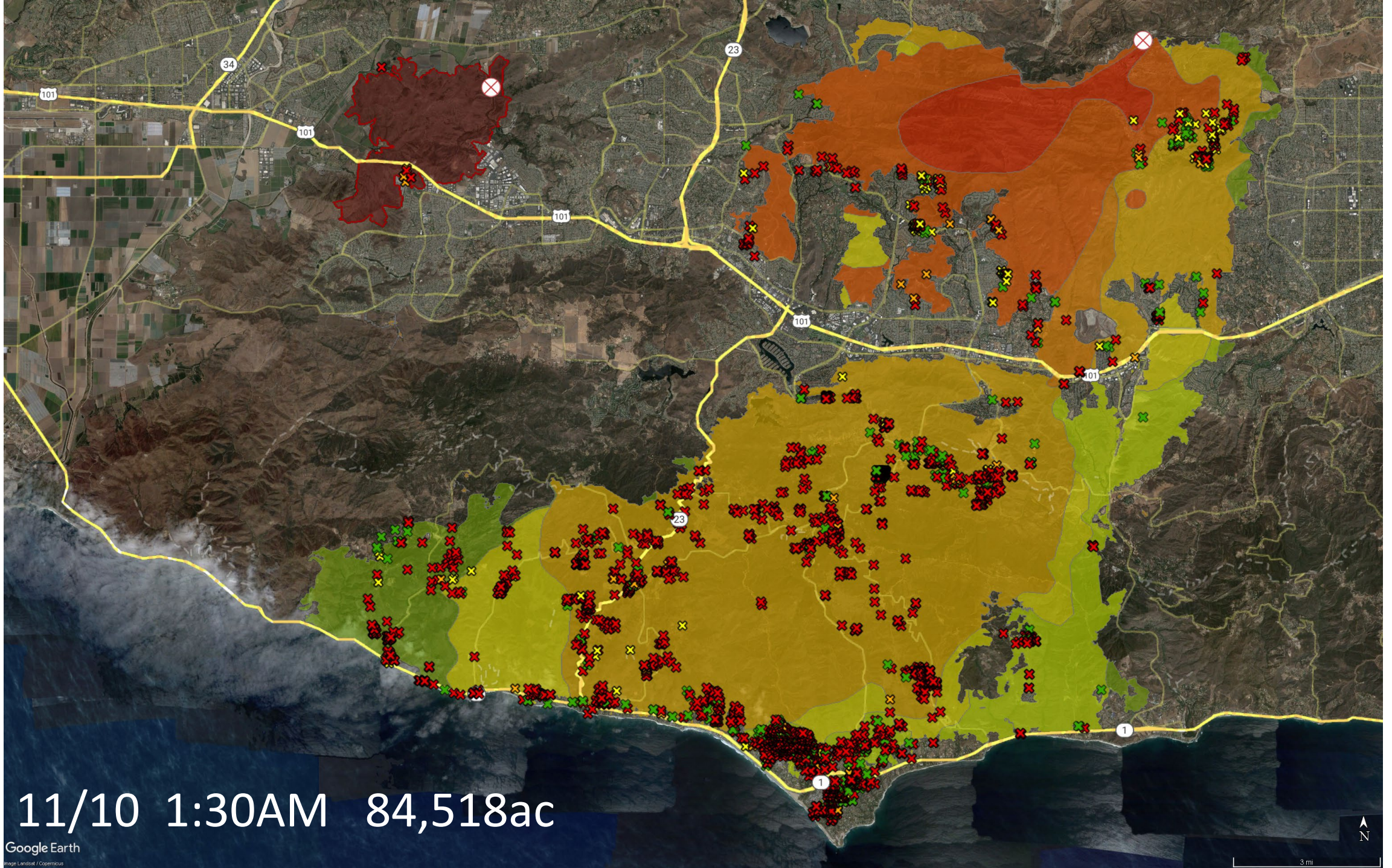
11/9 1:00PM 69,815ac



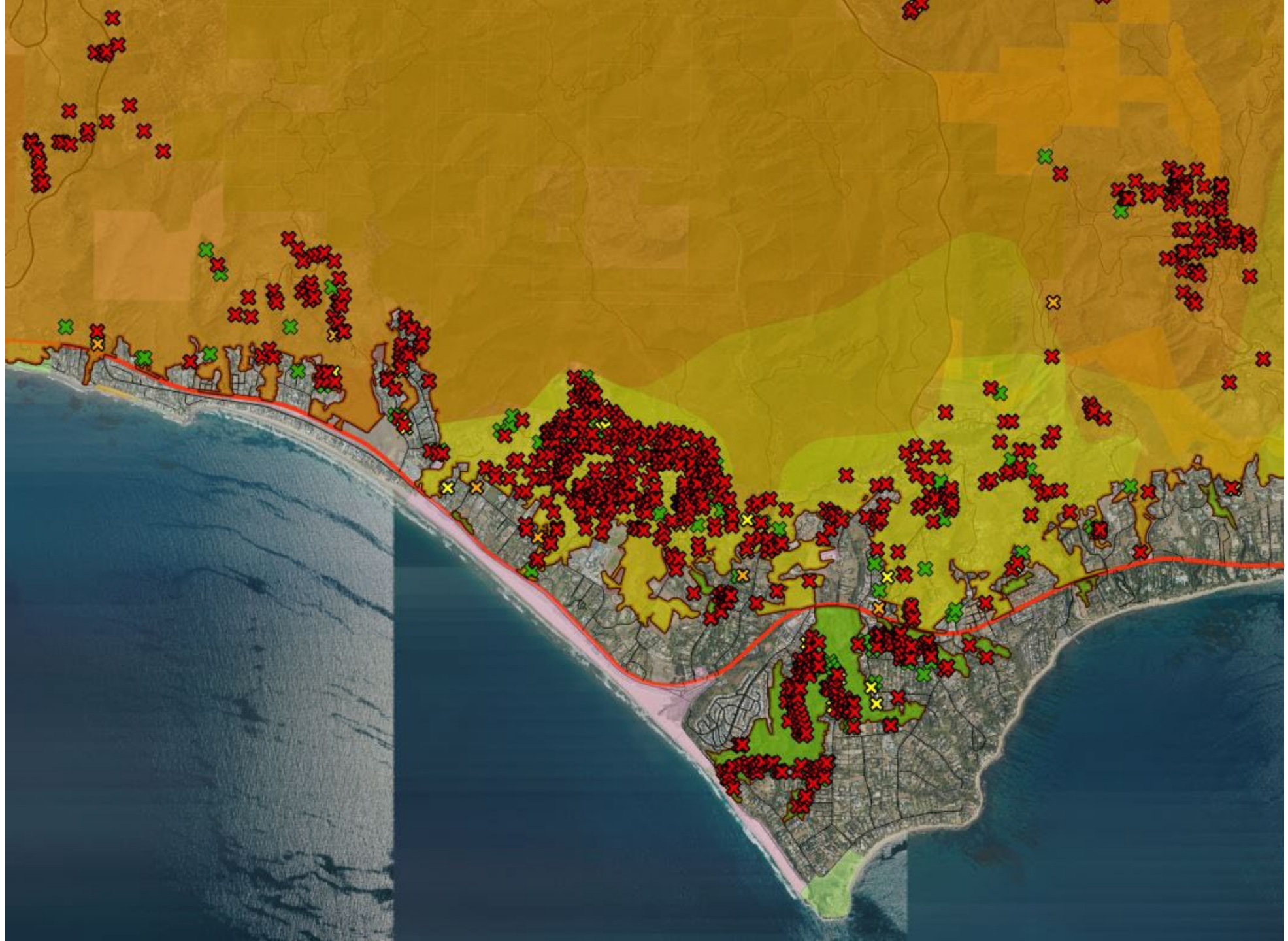


11/9 10:00PM 78,044ac











A break in the weather

Max temp 72-76degF

Min RH 5-10%

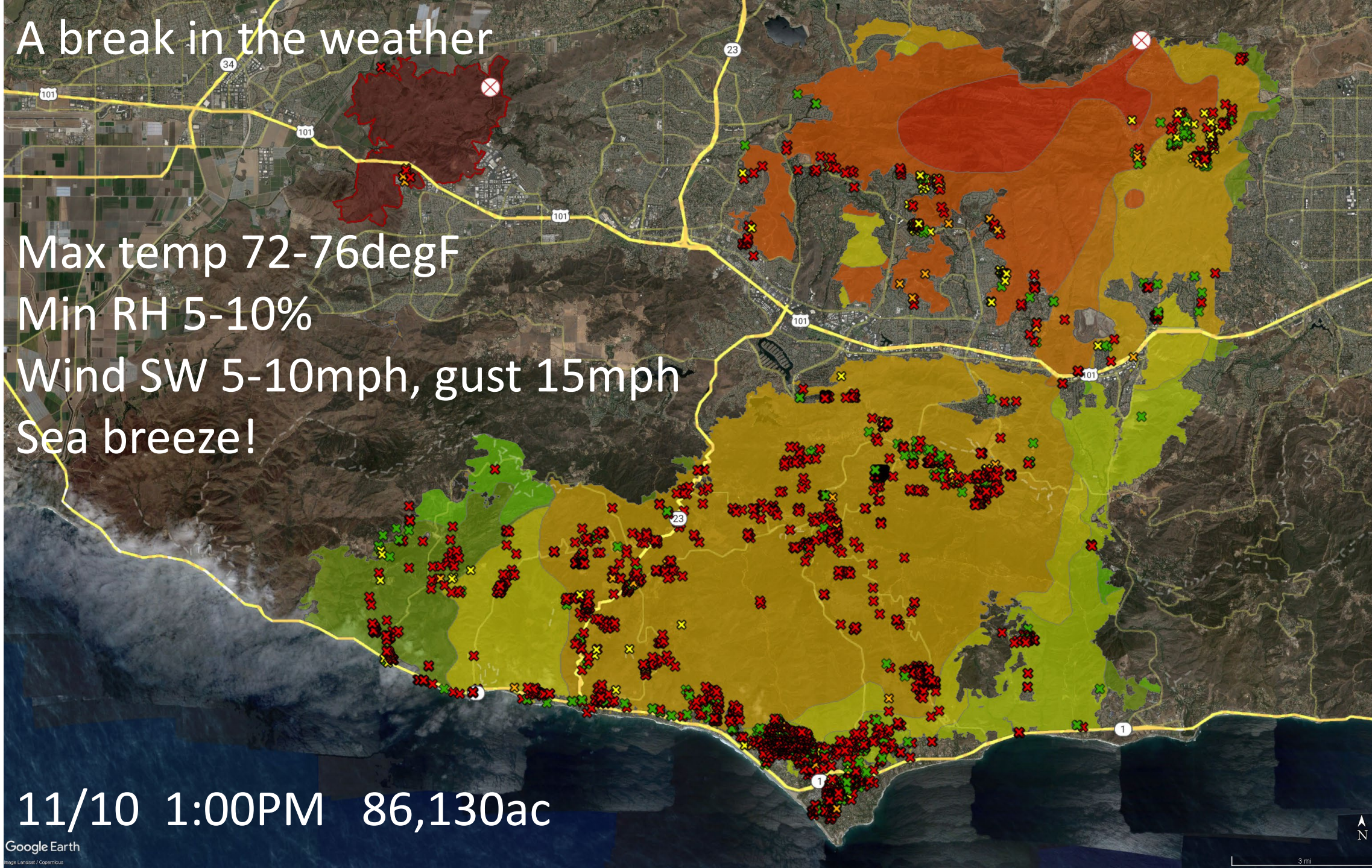
Wind SW 5-10mph, gust 15mph

Sea breeze!

11/10 1:00PM 86,130ac

Google Earth

Image Landsat / Copernicus





More Santa Ana wind

Max temp 74-80degF

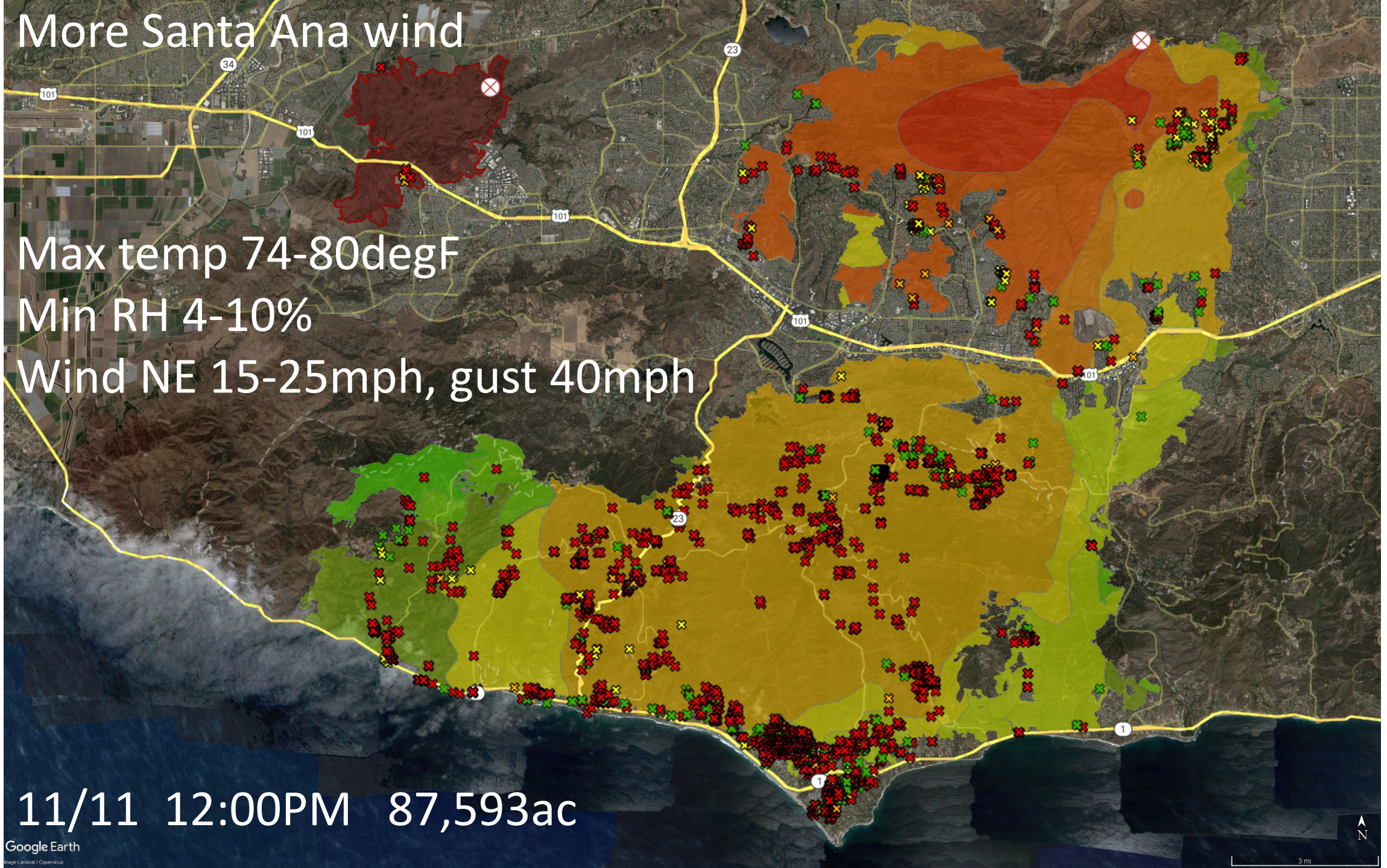
Min RH 4-10%

Wind NE 15-25mph, gust 40mph

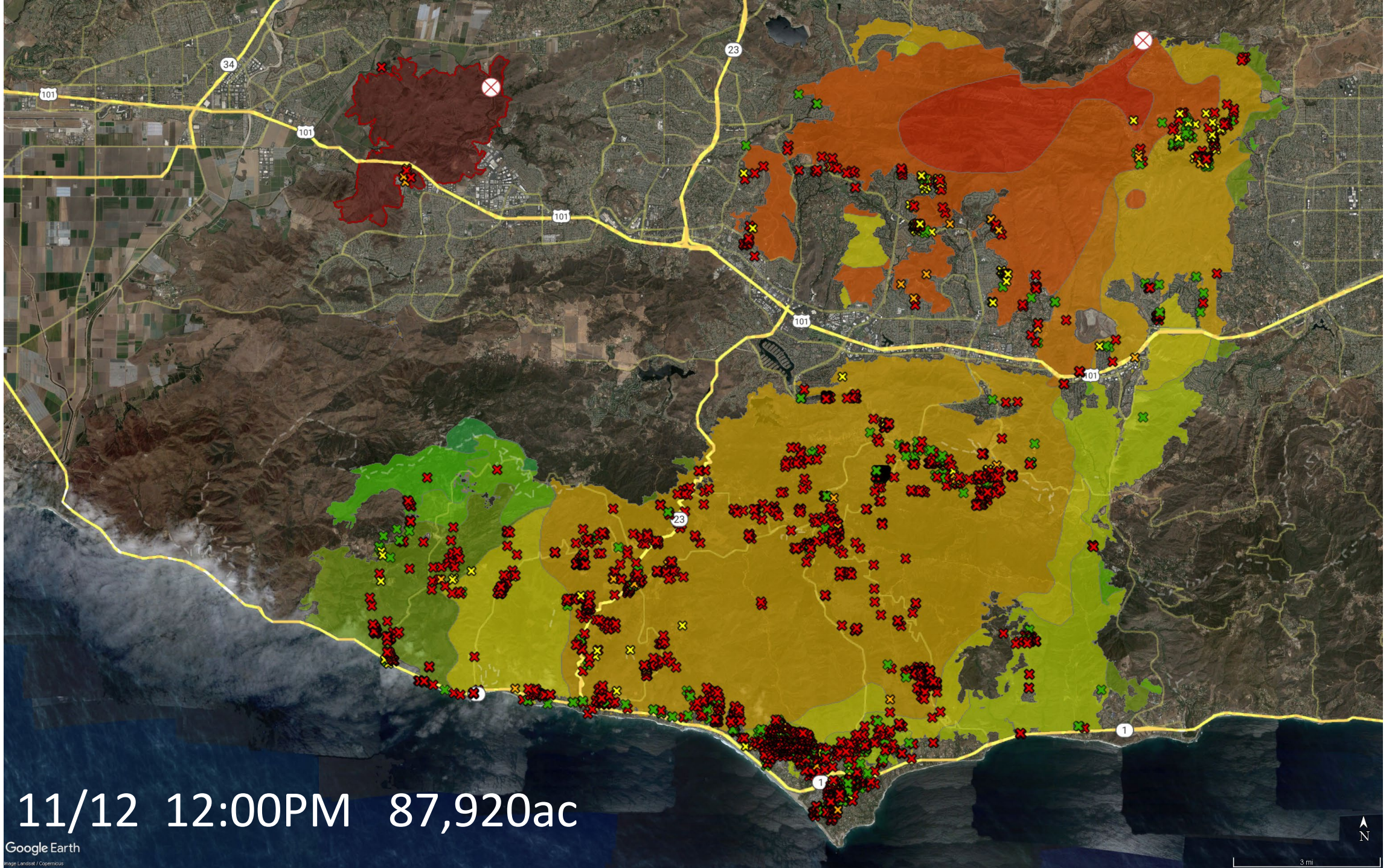
11/11 12:00PM 87,593ac

Google Earth

Image Landsat / Copernicus







11/12 12:00PM 87,920ac

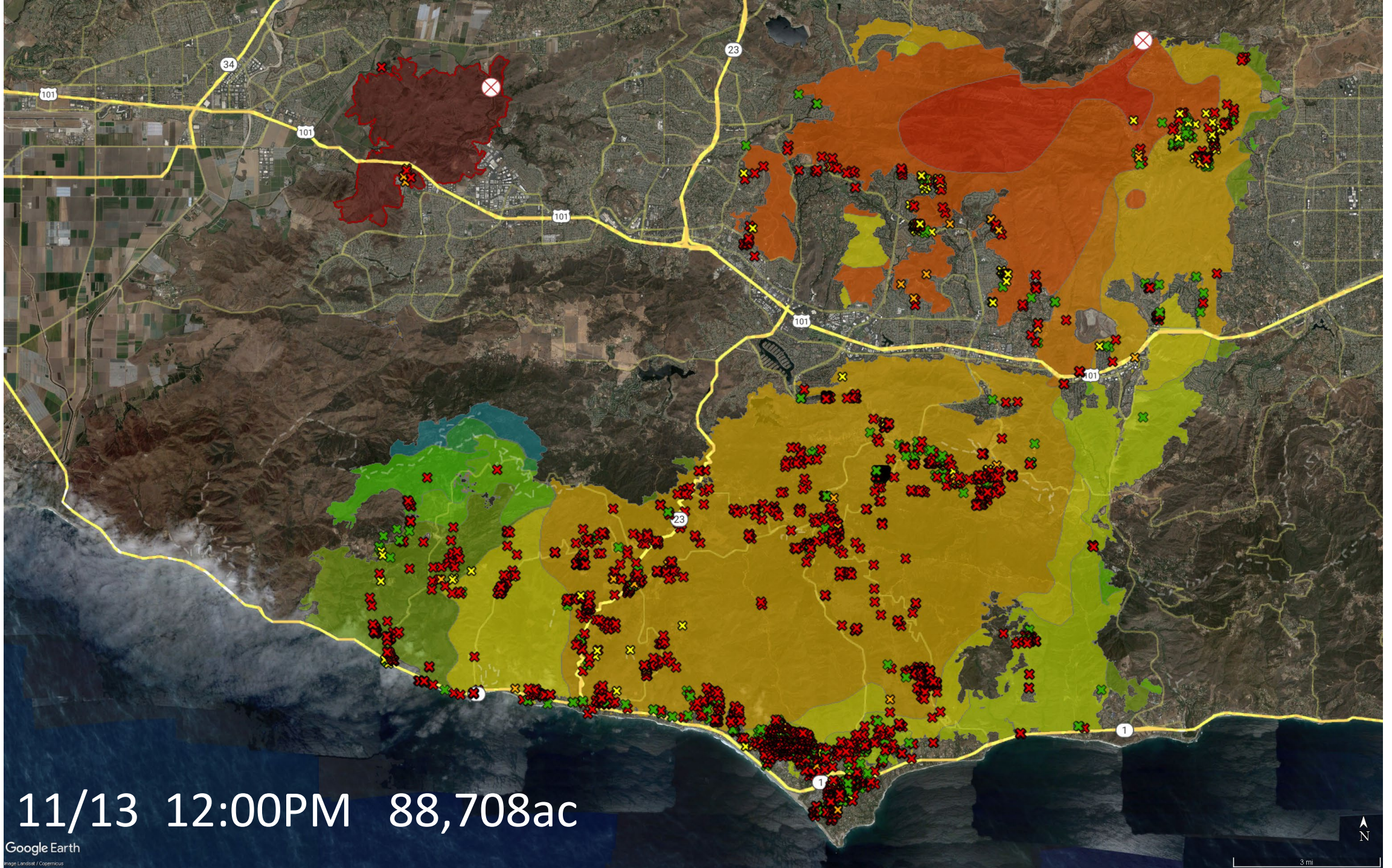
Google Earth

Image Landsat / Copernicus

N

3 mi





11/13 12:00PM 88,708ac

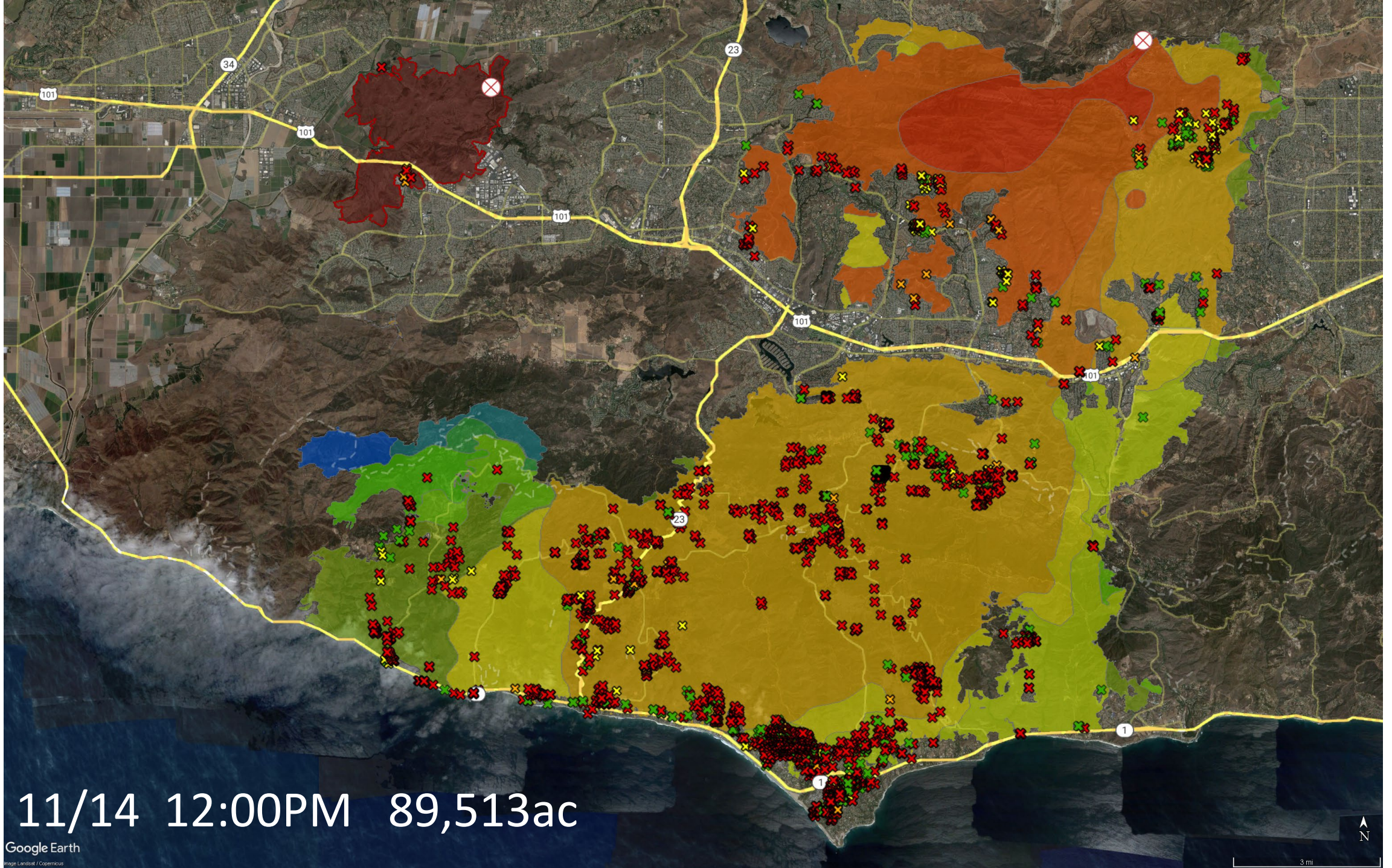
Google Earth

Image Landsat / Copernicus

N

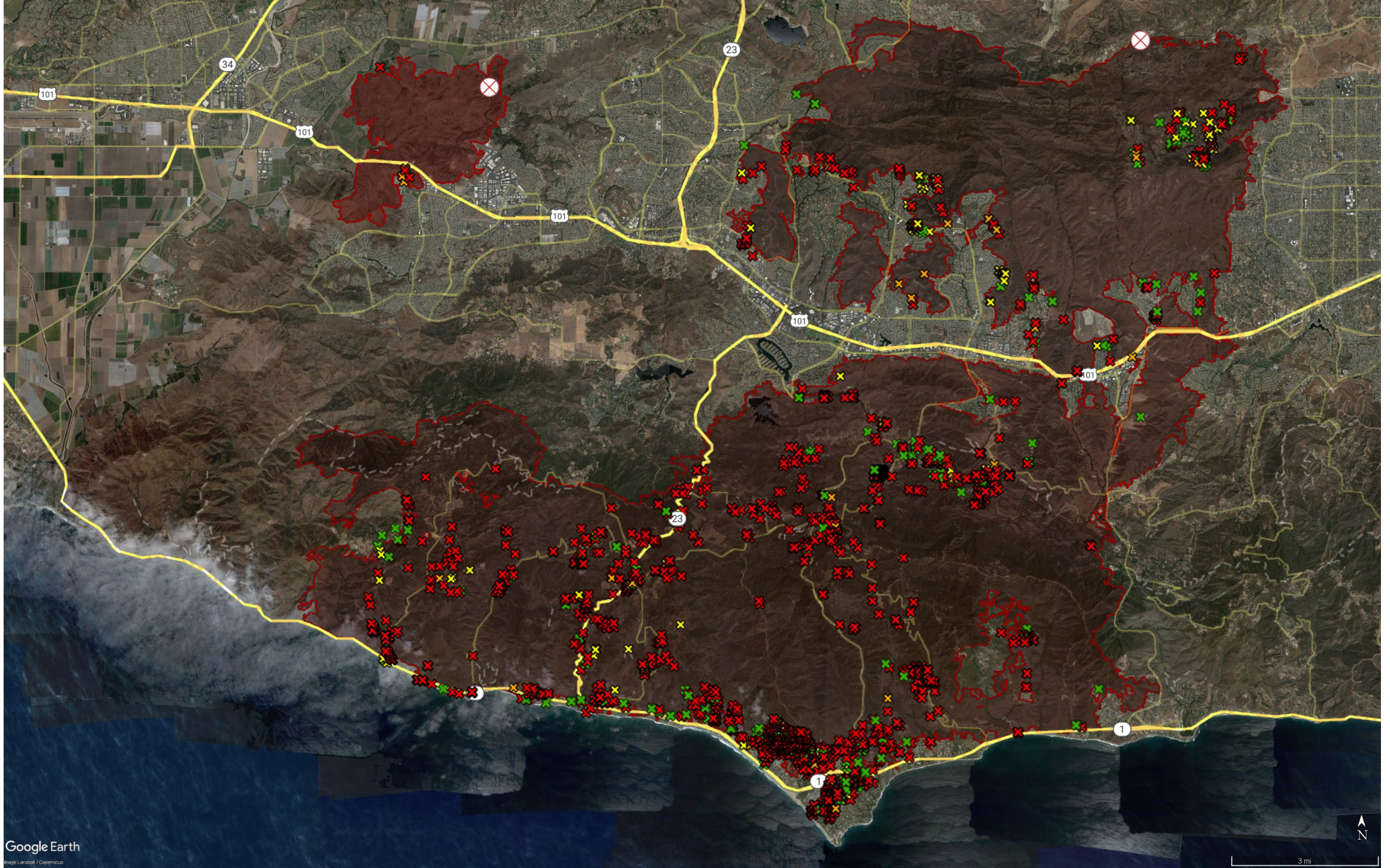
3 mi





11/14 12:00PM 89,513ac







## Woolsey Fire impacts

- **3 people killed**
- **>290,000 people evacuated** for up to 12 days
- **Total property damage: > \$6 billion**
- **Total suppression costs Hill & Woolsey Fires: \$62.1 million**

|                          | <b><u># of Structures</u></b> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Destroyed                | 1,668                         |
| <u>Variously damaged</u> | <u>365</u>                    |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>2,033</b>                  |



**Documented NPS  
wildlife fatalities:**

**P-74**

**Young male**







**Documented NPS  
wildlife fatalities:**

**P-64  
“the culvert cat”**







# Woolsey Fire impacts

- Drastic short term changes to stream channel geomorphology
  - Heavy sediment inputs
  - Pools and channels fill with mud and ash
- Reproduction of amphibians, fish, aquatic invertebrates disrupted.
  - Red-legged frog reintroduction sites were impacted.
- Sedimentation on stream terraces can create opportunities for riparian tree establishment.
  - Channels flush out over course of several years post-fire. Over time gravel bars may be refreshed. Good for steelhead trout?



# Future directions

- When all our big fires are weather-driven, fuel treatment programs will only take us so far.
- Defensible space fuel treatments can be pretty effective. Strategic fuel treatments not so much.
- Many opportunities exist to do more with fire prevention.
- Power lines and cars start many big fires. Burying power lines and armoring roadsides could help a lot.



