

## ■ FINAL INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

### WILDFIRE AREA VS. DISTANCE TO NEAREST FIRE STATION – SAN DIEGO COUNTY (2017)

This analysis explored whether greater distance from fire stations correlates with larger wildfire perimeters, u

#### ■ KEY FINDINGS:

- A Pearson correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) of 0.04 was calculated, with a p-value of 0.271.
- This indicates a very weak and statistically insignificant relationship between fire area and distance to the nearest fire station.
- In practical terms, fires farther from fire stations did not consistently burn larger areas in this 2017 dataset.

#### ■ ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS:

- A majority of fire perimeters were within 500–1000 km projected distances from stations.
- The most extreme outliers (e.g., Thomas Fire) were labeled and suggest that other factors (e.g., wind, terrain) influence fire size.

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#### ■ IMPLICATIONS:

- Emergency response planning should not rely solely on geographic distance from stations as a predictor of fire size.
- Other spatial variables — such as slope, fuel type, wind corridors, and time of ignition — likely have more influence on fire size.
- Nonetheless, this workflow demonstrates a robust spatial analysis pipeline combining shapefiles, projection, and distance calculations.