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# Community Wildfire Protection Plan



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# Preface: What is a Community Wildfire Protection Plan?



Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) are blueprints for preparedness at the neighborhood level. They organize a community's efforts to protect itself against wildfire, and empower citizens to move in a cohesive, common direction. Among the key goals of Los Tules at Warner Springs' CWPP, developed collaboratively by citizens, and federal, state, and local management agencies, are to:

- Align with San Diego County Fire/CAL FIRE's cohesive pre-fire strategy, which includes educating homeowners and building understanding of wildland fire, ensuring defensible space clearing and structure hardening, safeguarding communities through fuels treatment, and protecting evacuation corridors
- Identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatment
- Recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect the community
- Recommend measures to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan

*Note: The CWPP is not to be construed as indicative of project "activity" as defined under the "Community Guide to the California Environmental Quality Act, Chapter Three, Projects Subject to CEQA." Any actual project activities undertaken that meet this definition of project activity and are undertaken by the CWPP participants or agencies listed shall meet with local, state, and federal environmental compliance requirements.*



The Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County produced this report in partnership with the San Diego County Fire Safe Council. Funding is provided by a National Fire Plan grant from the Cooperative Fire program of the U.S. Forest Service through the California Fire Safe Council. In accordance with federal law and U.S. Dept. of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

# Section I: Snapshot of the Community



Each community in San Diego County has a unique history and identity. Below is a description of what sets this area apart, including its landscape, preparedness and firefighting resources.

## A. Overview

The Los Tules at Warner Springs Fire Safe Council (LTWSFSC) Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was developed as part of a collaboration of public agencies and private individuals residing in the Los Tules and Warner Springs area of San Diego County. This FSC is primarily located along the Highway 79 Corridor. Historically, Warner Springs was made up of ranches and homes around the Hot Springs resort. The area includes:

- Los Tules Housing area
- Warner Springs Ranch Resort
- Warner Springs Airport
- Mataguay and Lost Valley Boy Scout Camps
- Warner Springs Resource Center (Seasonal)
- Campground at Indian Flats

This CWPP excludes the Los Coyotes Reservation, which operates its own established program but does collaborate in fire protection with the LTWSFSC organizations and agencies.

The area is made up of homes and businesses, including art galleries, a gas station, and several vineyards. In the area are also St. Francis Chapel, Warner-Carrillo Ranch House, the Warner Springs Ranch Resort, Indian Flats Campground, a U.S. Post Office, fire station, multi-level school, resource center, airport, and major terminal electrical substation.

With approximately 600 individuals residing in 200 homes in this FSC region, properties average in value at \$400,000 or more, putting at least \$75 million dollars at risk to loss of wildfire.

In addition, there are over 25 small business owners, ranches, orchards and farms, the Warner Springs Unified K-12 school grounds, a Boy Scout camp, as well as historical sites/buildings.

## B. Landscape (Topography, Fire History, Key Infrastructure, Maps)

### Topography:

The Los Tules at Warner Springs FSC encompasses an area of approximately 40 sq. miles located 60 miles northeast of the City of San Diego. The sites within this region that are most densely populated are Warner Springs, Los Tules, Warner Springs Ranch, Warner Springs Ranch Resort, Warner Springs Airport, Boy Scout Camp, and campground area.

Highway 79 (Hwy 79) serves as the only North/South corridor, with no other East/West access roads in the region. As single ingress /egress accessible communities, the safety and maintenance of this highway is a priority.

Numerous businesses, restaurants, vineyards, horse/cattle ranches, small farms and orchards, schools, a resource center, and residences line Hwy 79. Among the attractions and activities that draw year-round visitors to the area are the Warner Springs Resort, Sailplane Airport, camping, and the Boy Scout Camp-Lost Valley. CAL FIRE and the California Department of Corrections jointly operate the Puerta La Cruz Conservation Camp located between Sunshine Summit and Warner Springs.

At the junction of Hwy 79/S2, SDG&E operates a large electrical substation that supplies power to the region. Hwy 79 serves as a very busy corridor for desert-bound weekend vacationers operating a variety of recreational vehicles.

This area, comprising the Los Tules at Warner Springs CWPP, is adjacent to federal lands managed by Cleveland National Forest (CNF-USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Anza Borrego Desert State Park lies directly to the northeast-east, and the Palomar Divide is to the southwest. Two Indian reservations, Los Coyotes (25,000 acres and 300 residents) to the east and Santa Ysabel to the southeast, border the FSC CWPP boundaries and utilize Hwy 79 as their primary access road.

Winters are cold, with temperatures ranging from occasional 70s to the low teens Fahrenheit. Frost and snow appear at higher elevations. Rainfall in this region can range from 10 to 20 in. or more per year. This rural backcountry area of San Diego County endures persistent summertime drought with year-round strong dry Santa Ana winds gusting to 40 mph or faster.

Summers are hot and dry, with daytime temperatures in the 90s to more than 110 Fahrenheit. The elevation is 2,683 ft. at Lake Henshaw and 6,533-ft. at the summit of Hot Springs Mountain, San Diego County's tallest peak.

The active Elsinore Fault skirts the southern end of the area near Henshaw Dam. Although the region is near earthquake faults, earthquakes are seldom felt, and damage rarely occurs.

Mudslides and floods are also rare due to the decomposed granite base, rock formations and lack of deep topsoil in many areas. Natural springs abound in some locations and are often dormant, reappearing during very wet winters.

Vegetation: The type of vegetation found in the wildland-urban interface and mountain areas varies widely depending upon local conditions and topography and includes the following in foothills, mountains, and the high desert:

- Mixed chaparral
- Chamise chaparral
- Mountain chaparral
- Grassland/meadows
- Oak Woodland
- Riparian forest
- Coniferous forest
- Riparian scrub
- Buckwheat
- Grasslands
- Other highly flammable vegetation

Vegetation not recently burned may be more than 60 years in age, greatly increasing the fire danger. San Diego County has one of the highest counts of animal and plant species on endangered species lists among counties in the United States.

#### Fire History:

San Diego County has experienced some of the largest wildfires in California, most notably the Cedar Fire in 2003 and the Witch Creek Fire in 2007. The map labelled Figure 3 in Appendix B outlines the County's fire history over the past five decades.

Some recent fires include the Airport Fire, Lost Fire, Hot Springs Mountain Fire, and Mataguay Fire.

Communities within the Los Tules at Warner Springs FSC are classified as a Very High or High Hazard Area by CAL FIRE. The attached fire history map (Figure 3, Appendix B), shows recorded fires in the area.

Summers are hot and dry, with little significant precipitation falling between May and November. Thunderstorms, enhanced by orographic lifting from the desert floor, commonly ignite fires in inaccessible areas, making suppression difficult. Winds are west to southwesterly, modified by the orientation of the valleys. The hot, dry desert air can move into the eastern positions causing relative humidity to fall after midnight with very low humidity occurring in the early morning hours. Wind shifts of 180° are common on the desert slopes.

Large expanses of unbroken, roadless areas with even-aged vegetation allow fires adequate room to establish headway.

The 2003 Coyote Fire (18,704 acres) and 2006 Camino fire (120 acres and 1 structure) are examples of fires burning under the typical summer high fire danger weather conditions Santa Ana wind conditions can occur year-round. Santa Ana's are characterized by strong, gusty winds from the northeast, warm temperatures, and very low relative humidity.

Fires ignited in the northeast portion of San Diego County or in Riverside County can be expected to spread to the southwest and even to the southeast as the winds are deflected by Dodge Valley. Fires burning in 60 year old chaparral under Santa Ana conditions can be expected to have average rates of spread of two-to-three miles per hour, with significantly higher spread rates in the valleys with northeast orientation and on slopes exposed to the northeast. Spotting can occur in receptive fuel beds.

The area is presently at high risk of a major fire due to the large expanse of old chaparral. The 2003 Coyote Fire mitigated some of this threat to the east. The U.S. Forest Service has prescribed-burned some of the east slope of Palomar Mountain and the Rocky Mountain area northeast of Puerta la Cruz.

The enormous 2003 Cedar Fire engulfed 270,685 acres to the south, and the 2003 Paradise Fire burned 57,000 acres. The weather, topography and regional fire history remain a reminder of what could happen again if we are not vigilant.

#### Key Infrastructure:

Roadways and Improvements: Highway 79 (Hwy 79) serves as the only North/South corridor and S2 the only East/West access road, located 4 miles south of the Warner Springs region.

The area is comprised of historic homes and sites, and businesses, a golf course, schools, a community resource center, and a sailplane airport. All are noted previously.



Water availability: Ground water and stored surface runoff (including lakes and ponds) are the only water sources in this area. Not only does this affect vegetation but it also makes water table levels vulnerable. Vista Irrigation District, which owns and manages Lake Henshaw, has experienced such low water levels that some wells are turned off indefinitely. Recovering usable water table levels can take years. Fire hydrants are common within the Los Tules housing area. Listed below are water resources available to fire agencies during wildfires:

- Chaney Ranch: Located just north of Warner Ranch, maintains wells and water storage
- Warner Springs Ranch Sailplane Airport: Operates two fire hydrants
- Warner Springs Ranch: Maintains a 375,000 gallon water storage tank that backs up all fire hydrants. The adjacent golf course contains a lake and small ponds, all of which have provided water during area fires.
- Los Tules Mutual Water Company: Maintains a 100,000 gallon storage tank that backs up community fire hydrants.
- Mataguay Boy Scout Camp: Maintains two 80,000 gallon storage tanks, one 10,000 gallon tank, a 250,000 gallon enclosed concrete reservoir, and three wells. A seasonal pond may also provide water.
- Vista Irrigation District: Operates approximately 37 wells and Lake Henshaw.
- Lake Henshaw: Contains 64 million gallons of water. Suitable for dipping.

#### Maps:

Using technology and local expertise, the sponsors of this CWPP have included a series of maps depicting the site and situation of the Los Tules at Warner Springs Community (Appendix B). The following maps are visual aids from which the Los Tules at Warner Springs FSC and community members can assess and make recommendations:

1. Area Communities Map
2. Fire Hazard Severity Map
3. Fire History (1910-2010)
4. Evacuation map
5. Fuel Treatment Projects (optional)

### **C. Firefighting Resources**

Everyone plays a role in protecting the Los Tules at Warner Springs FSC communities from wildfire. Below are the primary agencies responsible for firefighting and community emergency response:

- [San Diego County Fire/CAL FIRE](#) – structure and emergency medical service (EMS) through Fire Station 52, and wildland protection on public lands and state parks
- [U.S. Forest Service \(Cleveland National Forest\)](#) – wildland protection of federal lands

Along with the volunteers of this Fire Safe Council, there are Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members active locally. Organized Ham Radio volunteers, Red Cross programs, Animal Services' Community Animal Response Team (CART), Senior Patrol, and other volunteers all assist within the communities served by the Los Tules at Warner Springs Fire Safe Council.



This FSC supports our community members as a cooperative organized and authorized effort during emergencies and training.

Additional resources can be provided by faith-based groups and spontaneous volunteers.

## Section II: Collaboration



Strong working relationships are critical in ensuring that our communities are well-prepared. This section describes those key partners and their roles in developing this CWPP.

### A. Key Partners

The Los Tules at Warner Springs Fire Safe Council led the development of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) with guidance and support from several partners. The development team included representatives from the agencies described in the table below.

Organization	Roles / Responsibilities
Los Tules at Warner Springs Fire Safe Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Primary development of CWPP and decision-making, community risk and value assessment, development of community protection priorities, and establishment of fuels treatment project areas and methods.</li></ul>
San Diego County Fire/CAL FIRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Facilitation of planning process and approval of CWPP process and minimum standards. Provide input and expertise on forestry, wildland urban interface, fire, fuels and Firewise concepts.</li><li>• Provide input and expertise on County lands as well as GIS support.</li></ul>
United States Forest Service (USFS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide local information and expertise on USFS lands and the wildland-urban interface, including fire prevention, fuels treatment and land management activities.</li></ul>
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide local information and expertise on BLM lands and the wildland-urban interface, including fire prevention, fuels treatment and land management activities.</li></ul>
Los Tules Mutual Water Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide input and expertise on water systems, supply, and support.</li></ul>

Los Tules Property Owners Association (POA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide input and expertise on the POA, as well as projects, activities, and support.</li> </ul>
Los Coyotes Reservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide input and expertise on Tribal Lands, projects, and support.</li> </ul>

## Section III: Community Engagement & Education



Understanding wildfire risk is a key building block in preventing the loss of property and life. This section discusses efforts to build awareness, starting with the individual.

### A. Completed Projects

The Los Tules at Warner Springs Fire Safe Council has participated in several activities to boost community engagement and education. This Fire Safe Council provides ongoing community education to ensure that citizens are aware of critical preparedness information. Community education focuses on:

- **No-Cost Chipping Service:** This program encourages homeowners to create defensible space by removing fuel loads around structures and providing a means to dispose of all cut vegetation at no cost to property owners. The program results in reduced fuel loads in high-risk and/or unburned areas to decrease structural ignitability.
- **Defensible Space Assistance Program:** This program removes potentially hazardous vegetation within 100 ft. of the home and/or evacuation/access roads for residents throughout the county who meet specified income and age or disability requirements. This program reduces fuel loads to decrease structural ignitability.
- In cooperation with San Diego County Fire, the Fire Safe Council CWPP supports and promotes fire safe activities and supports and educates its citizens in ways to reduce structure ignitability and improve hardening, through meeting building requirements.
- In cooperation with San Diego County Fire, the Fire Safe Council CWPP supports and promotes fire safe activities and supports and educates its citizens in ways to encourage defensible space through classes, outreach, and social media.
- In cooperation with San Diego County Fire, the Fire Safe Council CWPP supports and promotes fire safe activities and supports and educates its citizens on ways to complete fuels treatment by advising customers and promoting resources within the community.

### B. Priorities

The following are top community education priorities for the Los Tules at Warner Springs Fire Safe Council:

- Establish an effective relationship with Fire Safe Council of San Diego County (FSCSDC)
- Encourage neighbors to commit to fire safety and emergency preparedness
- Encourage citizens to accept personal responsibility for themselves, their property, and their neighbors when possible
- Develop a plan – continue educational classes focused on wildfire prevention and vegetation management, and emergency/disaster preparedness exercises



### **C. Future Projects**

Future projects planned in Los Tules at Warner Springs will include community, senior and pet programs in preparedness and fire safety. These will include:

- Clarifying Los Tules at Warner Springs Fire Safe Council's responsibilities to our community members
- Setting up neighborhood clean-up projects in those areas with highest risk
- Sharing information via social media, flyers, and posters regarding mitigation and fuels management meetings
- Providing lists of fire-resistant plant species
- Sharing public educational information programs such as Community Wildfire Readiness (CWR) and Ready, Set, Go!
- Periodic assessments for future projects in neighborhoods as well as rural and remote areas
- Neighborhood and school education programs

# Section IV: Structural Hardening



Long before a wildfire sparks, there are numerous steps that residents can take to protect their homes and other structures. This section describes some of those efforts.

## A. Completed Projects

The Los Tules at Warner Springs Fire Safe Council has participated in the following activities to increase structural hardening.

Home hardening/structural ignitability reduction is one of the most beneficial and easier tasks that homeowners can perform.

In addition to the 100' + defensible space around homes, educating and assisting our community members regarding personal responsibility and precautions is essential. This includes a focus in the following areas:

- Maintain fuel reduction zone (0–5 feet): Use noncombustible materials such as gravel, brick, or concrete in this critical area adjacent to your home.
- Reduce siding risks: Maintain 6-inch ground-to-siding clearance and consider noncombustible siding.
- Clean debris from roof: Regularly remove debris from your roof, since debris can be ignited by wind-blown embers.
- Use a Class A roof covering: Class A fire-rated roofing products offer the best protection for homes.
- Clean out gutters regularly: Keep debris out of gutters since debris can be ignited by wind-blown embers. If used, gutter covers should be noncombustible.
- Reduce fence risks: Burning fencing can generate embers and cause direct flame contact to your home. Use noncombustible fences and gates.
- Keep embers out of eaves and vents: Use 1/8-in. mesh to cover vents, and box-in open eaves to create a soffited eave. Encourage ember resistant vents.
- Protect windows: Use multi-pane, tempered glass windows, and close them when a wildfire threatens.
- Reduce deck risks: At a minimum, use deck boards that comply with California requirements for new construction in wildfire-prone areas, remove combustibles under deck, and maintain effective defensible space.

## B. Priorities

The following are top structural hardening priorities for the Los Tules at Warner Springs Fire Safe Council:

- Education
- Information handouts
- Home hardening demonstrations

- Workshops
- Site visit assessments

In cooperation with state, county and local building ordinances, a collaborative educational campaign will inform and assist area residents in ways to harden structures. Los Tules at Warner Springs FSC will support and promote fire safe activities through workshops, educational materials, and demonstrations.

### **C. Future Projects**

The following are future projects that the Los Tules at Warner Springs FSC will prioritize:

- Encourage the use of ember resistant vents
- Assess community needs

# Section V: Defensible Space



Creating a buffer between buildings and the grass, trees, shrubs and other wildland areas surrounding it are essential to improving their chance of survival. This section looks at efforts to build this key layer of protection.

## A. Completed Projects

The Los Tules at Warner Springs Fire Safe Council has participated in the following activities to increase defensible space:

- Seasonal educational and outreach projects
- Site visits in cooperation with homeowners
- Chipping event coordination within the FSC area
- Hydrant marking campaign

## B. Priorities

The Los Tules at Warner Springs FSC participates in the following activities to increase defensible space:

- Wildland-Urban Interface workshop at Warner Springs school
- Educate and encourage community to understand and utilize defensible space practices, including clearing the following areas:
  - First 5 feet
  - Second out to 50 feet
  - Third out to 100 feet
  - Driveway and access route clearance projects by homeowners

In cooperation with the County of San Diego, the Los Tules at Warner Springs FSC CWPP supports and promotes fire safe activities and supports and educates its citizens in ways to reduce structure ignitability through meeting the requirements of the County of San Diego Building and Fire Code.

The partnership that exists between the listed organizations (federal, state, local, and citizen) will assist the Los Tules at Warner Springs FSC in reducing hazardous vegetative fuels that could potentially ignite residences and commercial facilities during extreme fire conditions. Continued brush/weed abatement must occur. The use of fire-resistant building materials, proper landscaping and maintaining appropriate defensible space is vital to protect lives and property in this unincorporated 'backcountry' area of San Diego County. These projects will be accomplished in accordance with the County of San Diego Consolidated Fire Code.

## C. Future Projects

In the future, Los Tules at Warner Springs FSC will evaluate program progress and make needed adjustments.



# Section VI: Fuels Treatment



Fuels are combustible materials such as grasses, leaves, plants, shrubs and trees that feed flames. This section describes efforts to treat and manage these materials in the community.

## A. Completed Projects

The Los Tules at Warner Springs Fire Safe Council has participated in the following activities to increase fuels treatment:

- USFS Fuel Treatment Projects: The Palomar Ranger District of CNF conducts an ongoing prescribed fire and fuels treatment program. An existing system of fuel breaks is maintained, and larger areas of chaparral are burned at intervals to reduce build-up of old and dead fuels.
- The Aguanga fuel break system initiated in the early 1970s consists of five integrated fuel breaks. Various methods are used to maintain the type-conversion from brush to annual grasses and other light fuels. The larger area prescribed burns are implemented to reduce continuous fuel-loading, but maintain a mosaic of unburned brush, generally 30-40 percent. Perimeters are treated by smaller scale burning or mechanical treatment to enable holding the main fire. Roads are utilized for holding and a large project may be burned in smaller units for better management and control.
- There is the Camp Matagua fuels project of about 60 acres.
- Along with our federal partners, there is a new fuel break along the road to Indian Flat campground, as well as portions of Puerta La Cruz TT with the BLM and Defense Zone treatments around Stoneridge.

## B. Priorities

The Los Tules at Warner Springs Fire Safe Council supports the following fuels treatment-related regional and local priorities:

- Chipping for fuel reduction and abatement
- Roadside vegetation management along roads
- Removal or treatment of dead and diseased trees
- Research and identify resources for maintaining defensible space and vegetation reduction
- Assist seniors and disabled in creating defensible space (including near power lines)
- Perform hazardous brush abatement around homes – reservoirs, tanks, pump stations and distribution facilities
- Including new private and public land acquisitions adjacent to BLM lands, in collaboration with federal, state, and local partners including our FSC
- Continue fuel break from Stone Ridge at Warner Springs Estates, in the southeast
- Conduct integrated brush management projects across the CWPP catchment area

- Maintain north-northeast Los Tules fuel break in collaboration with Los Coyotes Indian Reservation
- Proposal to create a fuel break providing protection along the south boundary of Los Tules community running approximately two miles east/west, tying into the established fuel break northeast of Los Tules. This would be in collaboration with CAL FIRE, individual private Los Tules landowners, Warner Springs Ranch, private landowners, and the Los Coyotes Indian Reservation. This fuel break would be created, based on methods deemed most appropriate by future assessments, to provide protection to the Los Tules community should fires originate from the south
- In cooperation with BLM, maintain fuel management projects integrating management techniques
- Maintenance along truck trails allowing access to backcountry sites
- In partnership with USFS and state agencies, maintain fuel breaks
- Assist with burn permits and specific fuel reduction projects on private lands
- Identify animal evacuation holding area(s) and explore ways to transport large exotic animals
- Develop a regional/community evacuation plan
- Partner with federal, state, and local agencies to develop Chihuahua Valley Fuel break
- Continue maintenance collaboration with USFS, CAL FIRE, and private landowner's fuel reduction projects surrounding this community's perimeter to ensure 100% compliance
- Completed planned brush/weed reduction within this community's boundaries using herbivores when applicable and approved
- Continue and maintain brush/weed abatement

### **C. Future Projects**

The following are future projects that the Los Tules at Warner Springs FSC will prioritize:

- Adjust the many projects above as assessments require
- Installation and maintenance of emergency water supply firefighting storage tanks, including two 10,000 gallon water supply tanks at every major intersection along Highway 79

# Section VII: Evacuation Planning



Identifying key corridors in and out of a community -- as well as temporary safe refuge areas -- is essential to being prepared for evacuation. This section provides an overview of the PACE system (primary, alternate, contingency and emergency) used to plan ahead.

Evacuation planning is a dynamic process subject to the nuances of each community. Below is an overview of the Los Tules at Warner Springs community's key entrances and exits, designated evacuation corridors, and Temporary Safe Refuge Areas. This section also addresses completed projects, priorities and future projects that relate to evacuation planning. A Los Tules at Warner Springs Evacuation Map is included in Appendix B as Figure 4.

## A. Overview of Ingress and Egress

The following are the primary roads used to access the Los Tules at Warner Springs area:

- **Highway 79** is primarily a two (2) lane (one in each direction) paved highway largely positioned in a North/South direction.
- **Camino San Ignacio** is primarily a two (2) lane (one in each direction) paved road largely positioned in a North/South direction. This is the primary road for most of the community.
- **S2 (San Felipe Rd.)** is a two (2) lane (one in each direction) paved highway primarily positioned in an East/West direction. This road ties into Highway 79 south of Warner Springs leading to desert communities.

## B. Designated Evacuation Corridors and Temporary Safe Refuge Area(s)

Using the PACE system, the Los Tules at Warner Springs community has these options designated for use during emergencies (see Appendix B for maps):

**Primary:** Main roads to Highway 79, then North or South, away from danger.

**Alternate:** S2 (San Felipe Rd.) to east.

**Contingency:** None

**Emergency:** TSRAs (Warner Elementary School, Warner Springs Ranch Resort golf course, parks, athletic fields at school, airport, large parking areas, dirt fields)

## C. Completed Projects

The Los Tules at Warner Springs Fire Safe Council has worked to encourage clearing or evacuation and fire access routes.

## D. Priorities

The following are key priorities to maintain evacuation access for residents and visitors to Los Tules at Warner Springs:

- Fire access routes, roads, and trails for emergency responders to gain access
- Fire evacuation routes
- TSRA maintenance and fuels reduction

## **E. Future Projects**

The following are future evacuation planning-related projects that the Los Tules at Warner Springs FSC will prioritize:

- Our Fire Safe Council supports Animal and Pet education, preparedness and evacuation programs utilizing guidance from San Diego County Animal Services and their staff. [https://www.sddac.com/content/sdc/das/adopt/care/pet\\_disaster\\_plan.html](https://www.sddac.com/content/sdc/das/adopt/care/pet_disaster_plan.html)
- We recommend that everyone prepares for emergency by gathering necessary supplies ahead of time and practicing your family disaster plan. For most of us, pets are part of our family, so we need an emergency plan to protect them as well.
- Our Fire Safe Council supports CERT Neighborhood Evacuation Teams, Community Volunteers assisting in Education, Planning and Evacuation preparedness for neighbors, seniors, children and those with access and functional needs.



## Section VIII: Other Mitigation & Preparedness Projects



There are countless ways that communities can act ahead of wildfires to protect themselves. This section details additional past, current and future efforts underway not previously mentioned.

### A. Completed Projects

The Los Tules at Warner Springs Fire Safe Council has participated in the following additional activities:

- Community Clean-Up Days: Working with both private companies and County recycling staff to assist our community with yard waste and debris removal.
- Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) workshops: Host and coordinate support for community education for WUI workshops in and around our community.

### B. Priorities

The Los Tules at Warner Springs FSC will continue to work on the priorities noted above and, in the future, as noted below.

### C. Future Projects

The following are future projects that the Los Tules at Warner Springs FSC will prioritize:

- Smoke Alarm Program: In collaboration with the Red Cross, Burn Institute, and San Diego County Fire, we offer all residents a free smoke alarm, including installation.
- Authorized FSC Programs: In collaboration CAL FIRE, San Diego County Fire and OES
- Grant support: Work with homeowners, property owners to assist with funding grants for our FSC projects.
- Animal Support Program: In collaboration with the San Diego County Animal Services, offer education and assistance for Pet and Animal preparedness and evacuation.
- Senior and elderly support: In collaboration with the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, San Diego County Fire, and the County Health & Human Services Agency (HHSA).
- Amateur Radio Program: In collaboration with the Community Based Amateur Radio groups, we support education and communications alternatives.
- Residential Knox Box program: In collaboration with San Diego County Fire, we offer all residents a home Knox box, including installation.
- Reflective address signs: Provide community members with highly visible reflective address signs that meet current requirements.
- Power outage support program in collaboration with SDG&E: Offer all residents education and support during planned and unplanned power outages.
- Pets Program: In collaboration with the Sheriff's Department, San Diego County Fire, and HHSA, develop a program to look after pets during evacuation events.

- Smokey Bear signs for Fire Danger warnings: Community education for fire danger awareness and limitations
- Communications back-up programs including Ham Radios.
- Emergency preparedness programs to help in survivability of our community.
- Provide outreach education workshops for Los Tules Property Owners Association (POA) members.
- Smoke alarm installations donated by the Red Cross and San Diego Burn Institute.
- Combo CO/Smoke Alarm installations from San Diego County Fire.
- Seek funding through grants and other sources to establish and maintain disaster preparedness kits.

## Section IX: Signatures



This plan must be approved by the following key parties: the local Fire Safe Council president, chief of the primary responding fire agency and chair of the CWPP review committee. This section includes these signoffs.

The Los Tules at Warner Springs Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

- Was collaboratively developed and meets the intent of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) in emphasizing the need for agencies to work collaboratively with communities in developing hazardous fuel reduction projects, and places priority on treatment areas identified by communities themselves in a CWPP. Interested parties and federal land management agencies in the vicinity of this CWPP have been consulted.
- Identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment that will protect areas within this CWPP.
- Recommends measures to reduce ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.
- Is intended for use as a planning and assessment tool only, utilizing a compilation of community issues/goals and projected fire mitigation strategies. The CWPP is not to be construed as indicative of project “activity” as defined under the “Community Guide to the California Environmental Quality Act, Chapter Three, Projects Subject to CEQA.” Per the Community Guide, Section 3.1.1, “CEQA only applies to public agency decisions to approve, or actions to carry out, a discretionary project.” Any actual project activities meeting this definition of project activity and undertaken by the CWPP participants or agencies listed shall meet with local, state, and federal environmental compliance requirements.
- Assists and encourages compliance with current county and state fire code standards.

Diane Hemelstrand

President of Fire Safe Council submitting this CWPP

04/30/2020

Date

Participating State, Local fire agency representatives (add or delete as required):

Jeff Windham (Jul 16, 2020 05:00 PDT)

San Diego County / CAL FIRE

Jeff Windham, BC

Jul 16, 2020

Date

## Signatures page 2

This CWPP was reviewed and recommended for approval by the San Diego Community Wildfire Protection Plan Review Committee as demonstrated by the signature below.



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**Chair of CWPP Review Committee**

*Don Butz*

*Chief, Lakeside Fire Protection District*

*President, Fire Safe Council of San Diego County*

05/25/2020

**Date**

The CAL FIRE Unit Chief has final signing authority on CWPPs in San Diego County. The signature below attests that the standards listed in the section above and the content of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan are proposed to be met and mutually accepted:



Tony mechem (Jul 16, 2020 11:04 PDT)

---

**STATE AGENCY**

**(authorizing entity — required for finalization)**

*Tony Mechem, Unit Chief*

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

San Diego Unit

Jul 16, 2020

---

**Date**



# Section X: Appendices



This section includes important additional information that complements other portions of the plan.

## **Appendix A: Meeting Tracking Documents**

This CWPP was developed for the community of Los Tules at Warner Springs, through a series of community meetings.

### **Los Tules at Warner Springs Fire Safe Council**

#### **Members contributing to this document.**

Diane Hemelstrand

Ann Englund

Patricia Cannon

Lana Padilla

Cesar Padilla

Marguerite Apostolas

Sherrie Osborne

Sandy Gaff

Steve Grishkowski

#### **Fire Representatives:**

Battalion Chief CAL FIRE

Fire Captain Station 52, Warner Springs CAL FIRE

Fire Captain, Oak Grove, USFS

Mr. Bob Uribe, San Diego County Fire

#### **Meeting Dates:**

Nov 10, 2019 - Fire Safe Council Workshop Meeting, Lakeside Offices

Dec 12, 2019 - Initial CWPP planning meeting, Private Home, Los Tules

Jan 14, 2020 - Follow up, Update document Meeting CWPP, Warner Springs v.2

Feb 3, 2020 - CWPP contributors FSC Meeting, Section D. Station 52, Warner Springs v.4

March 2020 - Meeting cancelled due to COVID-19

## Appendix B: Maps

Figure 1: Area Communities Map

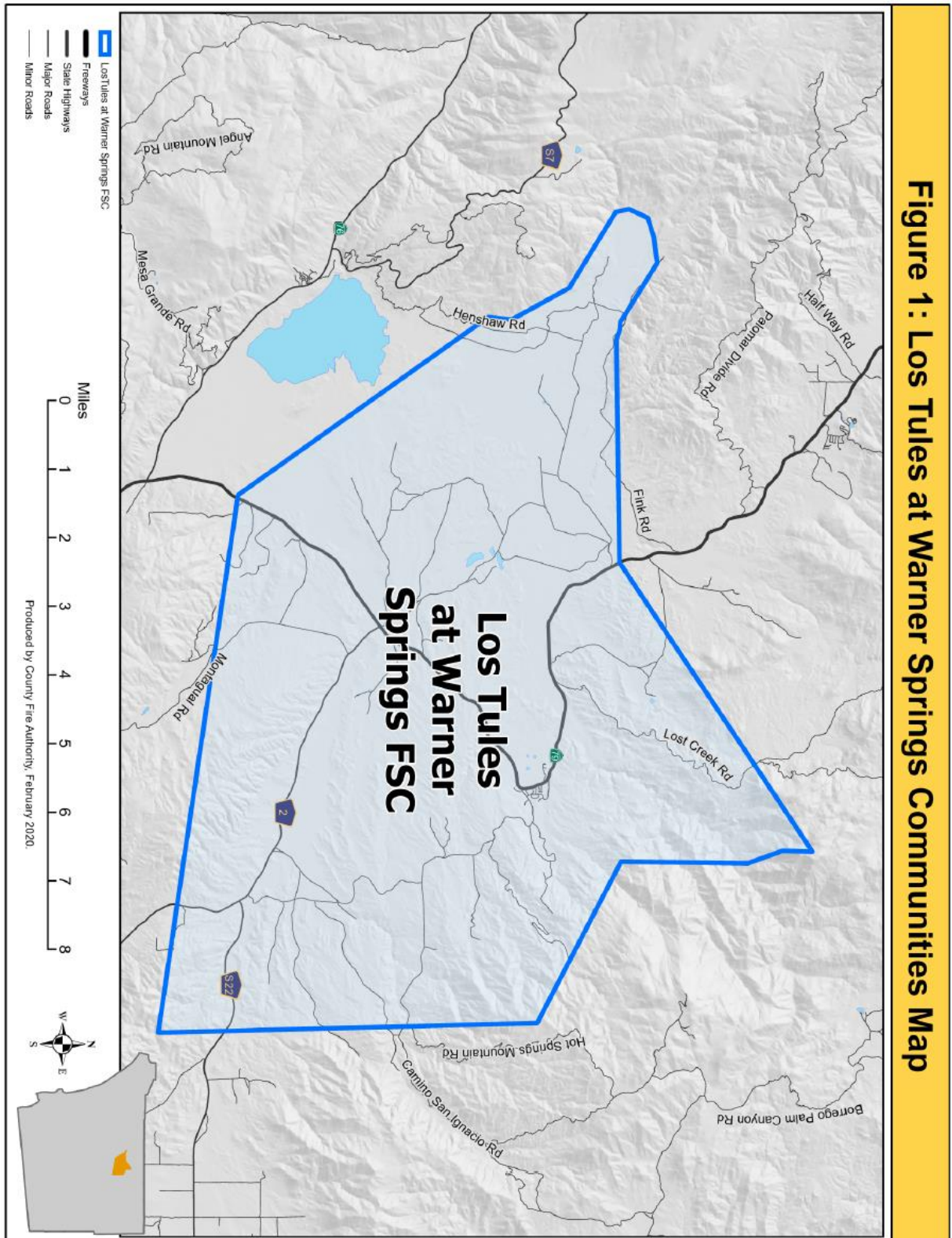


Figure 1: Los Tules at Warner Springs Communities Map

Figure 2: Fire Hazard Severity Map

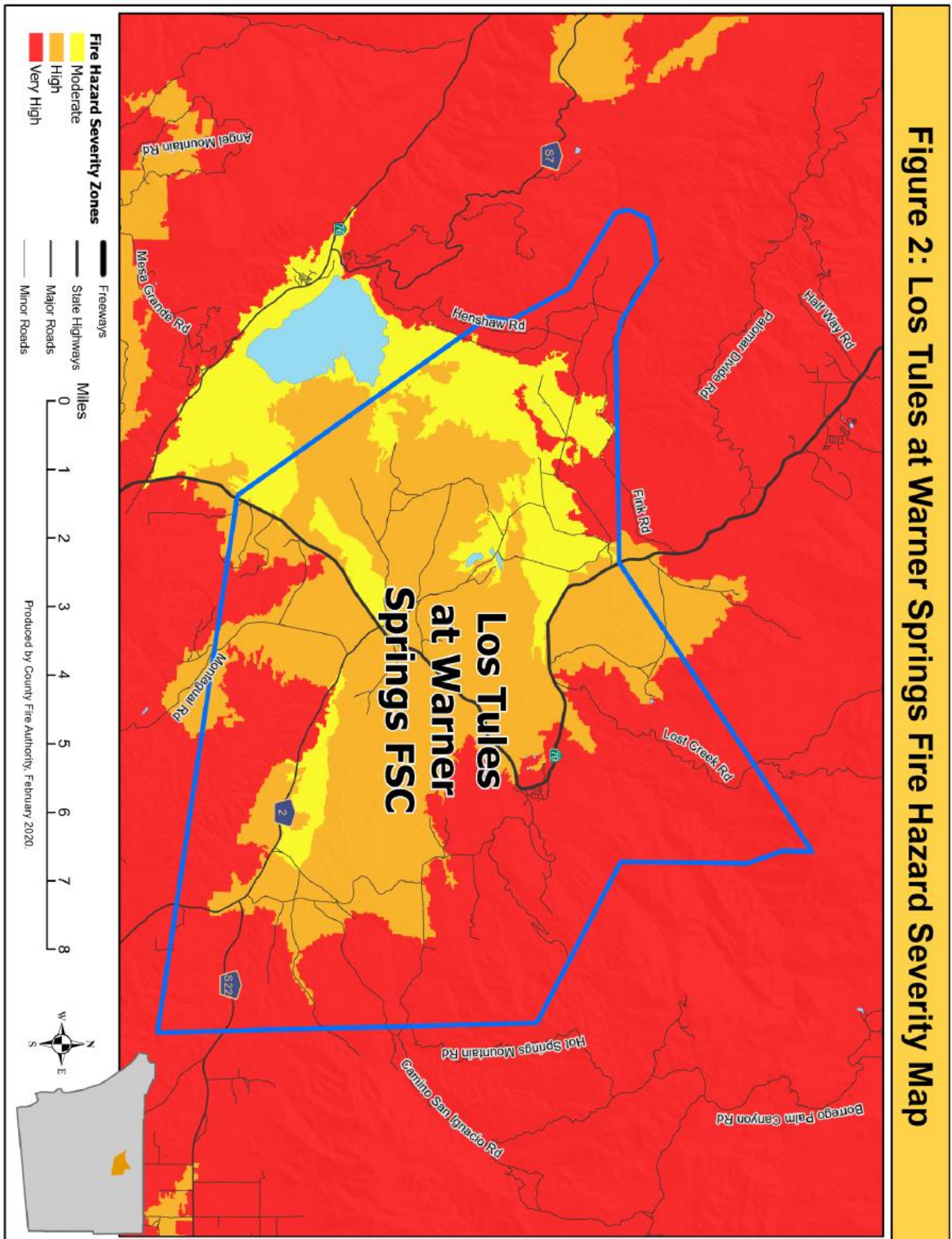


Figure 2: Los Tules at Warner Springs Fire Hazard Severity Map



**Figure 3: Los Tules at Warner Springs Fire History 1919-2018**



Figure 4: Evacuation Map

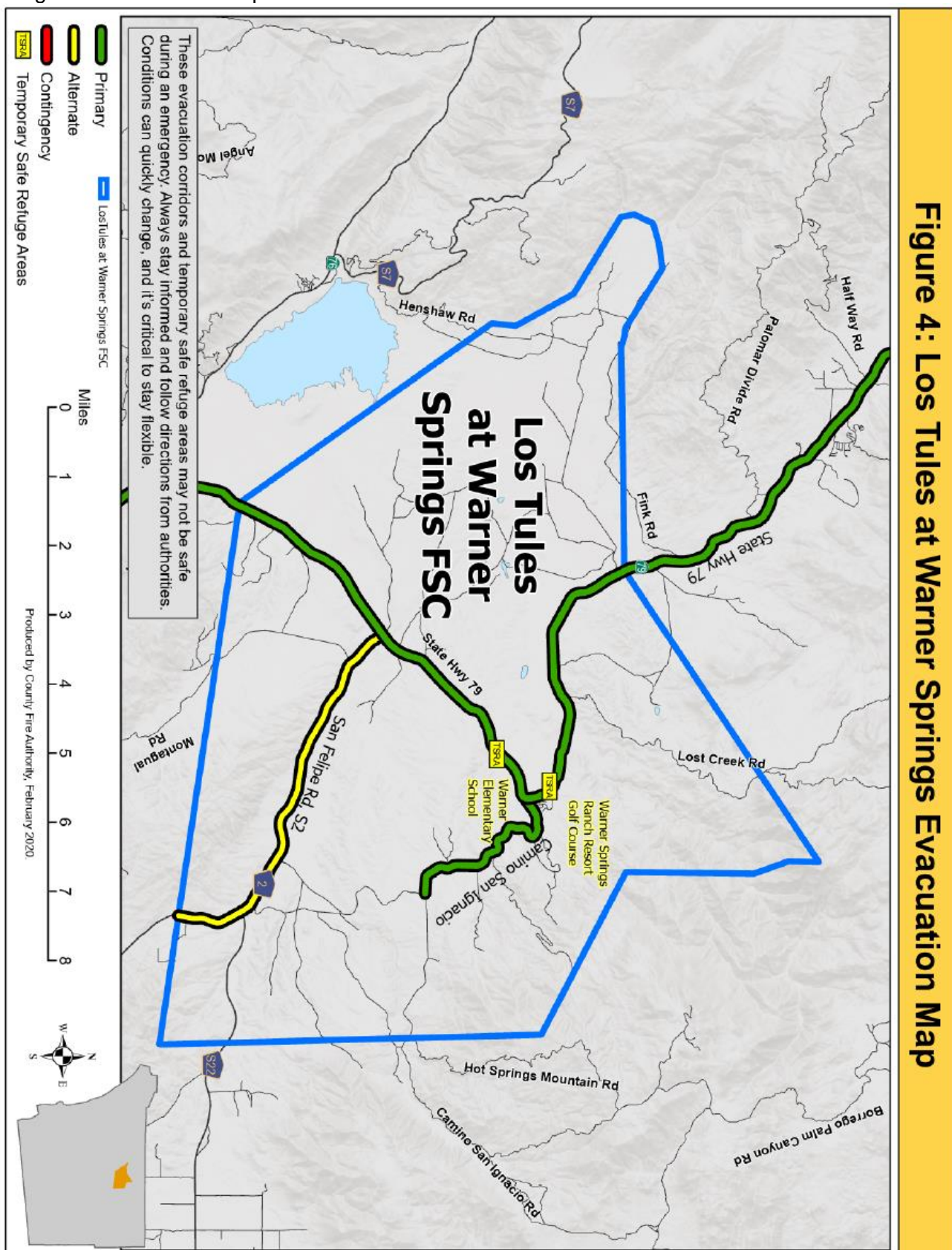
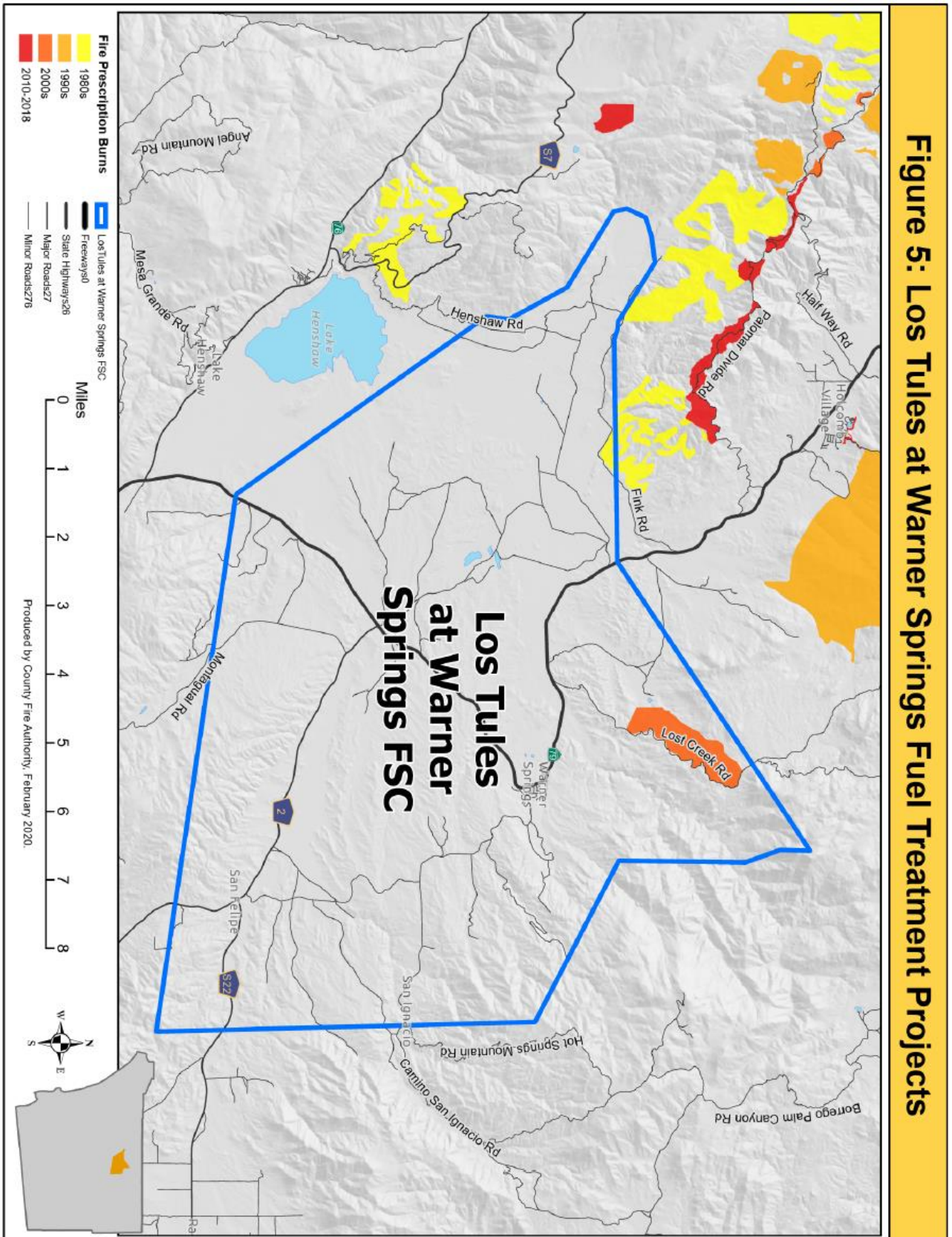


Figure 4: Los Tules at Warner Springs Evacuation Map



Figure 5: Fuel Treatment Projects (optional)



**Appendix C: 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment (as applicable)**

***Community Wildfire Protection Plan Amendment***

**For**

***(Community)***

**Date Amendment Submitted:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Appendix D: 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment (as applicable)

***Community Wildfire Protection Plan Amendment***  
For  
***(Community)***

Date Amendment Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

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